

# OSU Extension Center at Lima Update!

October 2005 Issue

*An entrepreneurial team of professionals that improves the quality of life in Ohio by developing educational programming, conducting applied research, and providing services to solve societal problems and create new opportunities for Ohioans.*

## Welcome

Welcome to the October issue of the Extension Center at Lima Update. As always, feel free to direct feedback to me or any other ECL professional. Feel free to tap into any ECL professional as a resource for programming or research ideas.

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**Statewide Conference Announcement- Save the Date- December 1, 2005**  
**Lorain County Community College-John A. Spitzer Conference Center**  
**The Future of Ohio's Lake Erie Basin: Balancing Land Use and Water Quality**

By: Joe Lucente,  
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One of the most important challenges facing communities throughout the State of Ohio today is the struggle of addressing sustainable growth, conservation and development. The Ohio Sea Grant College Program, OSU Extension and various agency partners have teamed up to offer an in-depth look into these challenges through a one day conference that will examine a history of land use and water quality in the Lake Erie Basin, where we are now and implications for the future. The State of Ohio has recently launched the Lake Erie Balanced Growth Initiative which will be highlighted during lunch and is seen as a means to develop strategies that will balance the protection of the Lake Erie Basin with continued economic growth. In the afternoon, twenty interactive breakout sessions will be offered to explore the many facets of what programs and projects are present in the state and how public officials, planners, water quality groups, business, community and environmental leaders, educators, developers and building industry leadership can understand others roles and work to address these critical issues. Registration is available at [www.northcoastbia.com](http://www.northcoastbia.com). For more information, please contact [Joe Lucente](mailto:Joe.Lucente) or [Joe Konen](mailto:Joe.Konen).

## Ohio Farm Business Summary 2004 Released

By: Don Breece  
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The Ohio Farm Business Summary 2004 is being published and distributed to county Extension offices. This report summarizes 54 Ohio farm businesses which used the FINPACK program FINAN for year end analysis. The report represents farms from 17 Ohio counties. Participation in this summary was voluntary, through educational programs offered by Ohio State University Extension and several Farm Business Planning and Analysis programs.

FINPACK is a comprehensive financial planning and analysis system developed and supported by the Center for Farm Financial Management, University of Minnesota. It is designed to help farmers understand their financial situation and to make informed decisions. RANKEM2005 was the summary program used to compile the data and describe the averages for all farms, the lower third and upper third of farms. The whole farm analysis was sorted by net farm income. Enterprise data was sorted by return to overhead.

**Cost of production continues to be the one variable that has consistently separated the lowest, average and highest profit producers.** This report details production cost data for crops and dairy from these Ohio farms, and comparison data from other states as well.

The average return to assets (ROA) reported for the past six years is 4.0%. The ROA average was 6.9% for the top third of farms. The average net worth change per year was \$50,143 from 1999-2004. For the top third of farms, net worth change per year was \$89,173 for each farm business over the past six years. In 2004 the average net farm income per farm was \$80,515 for 1.5 families (\$53,677 per farm family). Also, the average non-farm income per family was nearly \$17,000 with an average family living cost per farm family at \$32,444. The farms averaged \$356,500 in the value of farm production for 2004 and had an average Rate of Return to Assets of 5.3%.

The 2004 summary is the twelfth year to summarize Ohio farm data. It serves as a useful demonstration of the power of FINPACK to analyze farm financial data for educational purposes. Extension Educators, Agriculture NR may find within the report bench mark data from not only Ohio, but from several midwestern states complying farm data with the Center for Farm Financial Management FINBIN program, University of Minnesota: [www.cffm.umn.edu](http://www.cffm.umn.edu) .

The data within this report, however, was not collected from a scientifically chosen sample. Therefore, the financial information cannot be used to generalize the overall

situation of Ohio farmers.

### **Specialist/Educator Spotlight**

James J. Hoorman  
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My current assignment focuses on five major areas/programs: 1) Custom Manure Applicator Grant, 2) Research on Preventing Preferential Flow of Manure to Surface Water, 3) Training Extension Educators on Grant Writing, 4) Equine Exercise grants (2 grants) and 5) Writing grants.

The Custom Manure Applicator grant organizes and educates custom manure applicators on practices to prevent manure runoff to surface water. We are conducting preferential flow research using annual ryegrass (ARG) as cover crops to absorb and recycle manure nutrients with 10 ARG plots in 2005/2006. We have developed two PP presentations, a notebook, several fact sheets, and several research papers on preventing preferential flow. Working with local agencies (EPA, ODA, NRCS) to categorize manure violations and writing 2-3 journal articles from a recently completed Ohio Manure Application Survey.

I am advising and consulting with Extension Educators on finding ways to applying for grant and foundation money. I am taking a 6-month course on grant writing through OARDC. Working with Gary Wilson on two Equine Grants to study grass species and best management practices using geo-textile fabrics to prevent manure runoff in equine exercise lots. We recently completed 5 fact sheets on livestock grazing effects on riparian areas. I have written 8 grants (totaling \$1.2 million) for the various projects mentioned and rewriting/revising several grant applications. I plan to start on a PhD program in Environmental Sciences in the Fall 2005 and I am applying for an EPA Star Fellowship.

### **Things to Watch For**

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Over the next few weeks a team of ECL professionals expect to post an online survey to determine how Extension professionals across Ohio create and develop posters for programming and conferences. The results will be used to help make choices for the ECL about plotter and/or laminator purchases that could be used by Ohio Extension professionals, and for future training needs.

We are also in the process of beefing up our web presence by moving our current pages over to the new Plone system. Look for new changes over the next few months.