

**Project Title:** Ohio Fruit News

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**Why was this project funded?** In 2017, Ohio Fruit News (OFN) was launched with the support of the Ohio Vegetable & Small Fruit Research & Development Program and The Ohio State University. Based on positive feedback from growers through a satisfaction survey administered in 2017 additional funding was provided to support more issues of OFN in 2018. The objective of this project was to continue to offer fruit growers a high quality and informative publication and to increase readership through more issues.

**Project outline:** Newsletters were prepared for distribution six times during the project time line (February 2018-February 2019). Extension Specialists, researchers and students with fruit IPM projects were invited to submit articles to OFN. Articles were selected and/or written to reflect seasonal activities and events. The final issue (February 2019) includes research results from OVSFRDP sponsored projects.

**Take-home messages:** Ohio Fruit News provided small fruit, tree and nut fruit and hop growers throughout Ohio with current and relevant information on fruit and hop production, integrated pest management and food safety, and workshops, trainings and conferences on fruit production and pest management. We reached fruit growers in the Plain community by mailing or delivering copies of OFN directly to growers or to community hubs (i.e. Produce auctions).

### **Impacts:**

1. Due to the success of OFN and restrictions on charging for subscriptions the Department of Plant Pathology agreed to provide funding to print future copies of OFN to Plain growers.
2. There was a 15% increase in email subscriptions from 2017 and nearly a 30% increase (37 to 48) in mail subscriptions. In addition, OFN was distributed to OSU Extension personnel through the OSUE listserv, reaching over 260 Agriculture and Natural Resource (ANR) extension personnel.
3. The number of locations that OFN was delivered to remained the same in 2018 (Yoder's Produce Supplies (Fredricksburg, OH), Mt. Hope Auction (Mt. Hope, OH), Blooming Grove Auction Inc. (Shiloh, OH), and Coit Road Farmers Market (East Cleveland, OH)).

## **What was discovered?**

Through this grant and with additional support from The OSU Department of Plant Pathology we continued to provide Ohio fruit growers with timely information on fruit and hop production, integrated pest management, and food safety. Editions were published in February, May, July, October, and December. The next issue is scheduled for February 2019.

Multiple OSU Extension Specialists and Extension Educators contributed to articles in the newsletters including: Celeste Welty, Melanie Lewis Ivey, Diane Miller, Andy Kirk, Rachel Kaufman, Erdal Ozkan, Lindsey Pender, Sanja Ilic, Glen Needham, Brad Bergefurd, Elizabeth Long, and Jim Jasinski. Juliet Carroll (Cornell), Kerik Cox (Cornell), and members of the Great Lakes Fruit Worker Group also contributed to issues in 2018.

A summary of the content provided in each issue is provided below.

### ***February 2018***

- Summary of OFN readership survey
- Peach variety recommendations
- Summary of research results from 2017 OVSFRDP supported research.
- Guidelines for fruit diagnostic sample submission to the Fruit Pathology Laboratory
- Recommendations on weed control in apple orchards

### ***May 2018***

- Update on the installation of a new high-density OARDC research orchard in Wooster, OH
- Biological control of stink bugs by a natural predator
- New reports of diseases found on apple and blackberry
- Update on the NEWA forecasting systems available to fruit growers across the state
- Seasonal production and pest management recommendations for fruit crops and hop
- Pre-harvest recommendations for SWD management in berry crops

### ***July 2018***

- Fire blight epidemic in Ohio
- Update on Japanese beetle and brown marmorated stink bug
- Tips for scouting fruit crops
- Recommendations for tick protection
- Clarification of the FSMA rules for hop producers

### ***October 2018***

- Seasonal update on spotted wing drosophila incidence and management
- Announcement of a workshop for using exclusion netting against SWD
- Update on fruit diseases in the state

### ***December 2018***

- Fungicide Resistance Reported in Colletotrichum from Strawberries
- Hard Cider Research in Progress at OSU
- Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila – Exclusion Netting Video
- Chestnut Blossom End Rot: A Growing Concern for Chestnut Producers in Ohio
- Avoid Costly Problems in the Spring by Proper Winterizing of Your Sprayer Now
- Monitoring for Powdery Mildew Resistance in Ohio
- Choosing the Right Food Safety Training Class
- Pawpaw Fruit: What is Normal?

Each newsletter also included upcoming grower events and links to fruit IPM resources. The newsletter was distributed by email, Facebook, and OSU Fruit Pathology website.