

GREEN THUMB PRINTS

Gardening is our Passion Education is our Purpose

September 2022

Upcoming Events

- September 1-5.....Hancock Co. Fair
- September 6.....Fair Tear Down
- September 6.....Fall Colors of Hancock County-50N
- September 13.....End of Season Garden Preparation
- September 17.....Native Plant Program



Paige Badertscher-Intern
50N Presentation

There Will Be No Monthly Meeting in September

2023 Officer Election

Nominations are being sought in September for the offices of MGV *President* and *Treasurer* whose terms expire this year.

Reuben DeBolt currently serves as President and Ann Woolum as Treasurer.

While there are no term limits, we are always looking to involve new volunteers for the future.

If you are interested in serving in either of these positions or would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact Lisa McClain at 419-722-6235 or enjymzk@gmail.com.

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- Upcoming Events.....Pg 1
- Reuben's Ruminations.....Pg 2
- Meeting Minutes.....Pgs 3-5
- Native Plant Program.....Pg 6
- MG Happenings.....Pgs 7-9
- Harvesting Grapes.....Pg 10
- Harvesting Apples.....Pgs 11-12
- It's Time To.....Pgs 13-14

Reuben's Ruminations ***September 2022***

President's Notes for September, 2022

County Fair time! Maybe over by the time you see this. Rose and her committee are organizing and have some new things in the works for this year. Please be sure to let her know how you can help.

And a couple of weeks after the fair, on September 17 we'll be teaming with Hancock Parks District to showcase native plants at Oakwoods Nature Preserve. This will be a show-and-tell of native plants in Oakwoods by HPD's Chad Carroll as well as an opportunity for the public to purchase some native plants from us (on consignment to us from Dave McPherson of Star Farms). Net proceeds will be split with the HPD. Tim Brugeman is organizing and will need a few volunteers for plant sales.

Thank you to Kay Sidaway and to Linda Laux for all that you have done for our organization over the years. Your new Emeritus status is well-deserved!

It's hard to believe that it is virtually election time. We will vote for new officers in November from the field nominated at our October meeting. As VP, Lisa McClain is in charge of nominations. Please let her know if you are interested in serving or have someone you would like to recommend for President or Treasurer, the two offices that are due for election this year.

Projects & Programs – brief summaries

- *Community Garden – Brint Simmons and his team are in full harvest mode. I'm sure he can use more hands to help with the harvest. This will be out of date by the time you see it, but so far, we have donated 561 lbs of produce to CHOPIN Hall and City Mission. And, don't forget that you can also add to the number by donating produce from your own garden.
- *Thanks to intern Paige Badertscher for her presentation to 50 North participants on arranging cut flowers. We hear that it was very well-received
- *Thanks to Peggy Biolchini August *Courier* article on native plants
- *Thanks to Ann for organizing the field trip walk in the park with Joe Puperi explaining tree identification
- *Great brown bag presentation on monarch butterflies, Sharon Milligan

Monthly repeat: Let's all be sure to record our Volunteer and Education Hours in HOC. Don't forget that Nicole in the Extension office can help if necessary. For interns who are not yet on the system, be sure to keep track of your hours – paper, or Excel, or whatever suits you. And send those hours to Ed monthly! Attendance at meetings (including transportation time) counts as Volunteer hours; Brown Bag counts as Education.

See you at the fair.

Happy gardening!

Reuben DeBolt

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022**

Peggy Biolchini introduced the Brown Bag speaker at 6:08 PM

Brown Bag: Sharon Milligan gave a presentation about Monarch Butterflies.

Break for snacks at 7:00

The formal meeting began at 7:17 PM with 23 people in attendance.

President Reuben DeBolt welcomed the group and discussed some projects being done by another Master Gardener group, suggesting it as a possible project if anyone is interested in taking it on. He will send out information to the group via email.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the 6/9/2022 meeting were approved; motion: Tim Brugeman; second: Peggy Biolchini.

NOTE: There were no minutes taken in July at the annual picnic.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Woolum

Unrestricted cash \$4,388.61

Community Garden \$ 489.07

Total Cash \$4,877.68

Expenses this month were \$294.09 unrestricted and there was no income

President's Report: Reuben DeBolt

*Kay Sidaway and Linda Laux have asked to become emeritus members.

*Thank you to Marlene Brunswick for hosting the group picnic in July.

*Everyone should be certain they are keeping track of their volunteer and education hours and entering them into Hands On Connect. If anyone needs help with that contact Elaine Reynolds.

OSU Report: Ed Lentz

Lowe's has made a donation to the group of boxes containing thousands of seed packets and packages of starter soil. The soil packets will be used to start next year's Community Garden seeds. The seeds are available for any interested member after the meeting or see Ed Lentz. Ed will contact Lowe's to verify that they don't have a problem if we give away seeds at the County Fair or other events.

Committee Reports:

*Administration-Lynn Farwig

-Apparel – Debra Evans - The apparel is in production and will be distributed as soon as it arrives.

-Historian – Debra Evans – There will be a poster at the Fair announcing that this year is the 30th anniversary of the group.

*Social-Rose Morrison – Nothing new to report

(Continued)

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
(Continued)**

Committee Reports: (Continued)

*Service Committee-Tim Brugeman

- Ag Center Garden – Peggy Biolchini –A volunteer is needed to cover watering and weeding between September 9th and the 24th. There were several volunteers.
- Community Garden – Brint Simmons – They have harvested just under 200# as of today. The tomatoes & peppers are just starting to ripen. Volunteers are always needed to help harvest. The food is donated to CHOPIN Hall or City Mission and is weighed by them. Any food grown by individual members and donated, should be weighed and the amount reported to Brint so it can be recorded for the Grow Ohio program.

*Teaching-Judi Clymer

- Speakers – Linda Finsel – The following presentations are scheduled at 50North. Presentations will be at 10:30 am. The Treasurer has requested that she be notified of the value of any items given away at this, or any event.

9/6/22 Fall Colors of Hancock County. Presented by Rob Biolchini and Tim Brugeman

10/4/22 Fall Fun in the Garden. Presented by John King and Craig Lamme. Registered attendees for this presentation will receive free spring bulbs.

-Fair Booth – Rose Morrison

- 1) The committee has had their first meeting.
- 2) Schedules for volunteers to work at the Fair will be Wed – Sat: 10-1, 1-4 & 4-7; Sun: 1-4 & 4-7; Mon 10-1 & 1-4.
- 3) Set up will be on 8/30/22; Bill Jones is providing truck transportation and needs some volunteers to help load and unload
- 4) A free wreath class will be given away this year on each day of the Fair, instead of the gift basket that's been given in the past.
- 5) Debbie Brumley of the Fair Board, has indicated that we will have five 8 ft tables and will be set back away from the door to help prevent the wind from knocking over the posters
- 6) There will be a 20 to 30 minute presentation each day covering such topics as roses, spotted lanternfly, native plants and monarch butterflies. They will be at 2:00 pm on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and at 4:00 pm on Friday
- 7) Volunteers are needed to update the posters
- 8) Seed packets will be given away to any interested children
- 9) The theme for this year is “In Full Bloom”
- 10) Tear down will be 9/6/22 at 9:00 am at the fairgrounds
- 11) Pete Reynolds is checking that the interactive box used in the past is in working order.
- 12) Ed Lentz will get Fair passes for any volunteers who need one. Notify Rose if you do.
- 13) If anyone has any blooming plants they would like to display at the fair, please notify Rose
- 14) The signup in Hands On Connect, to work a shift at the Fair, is not currently set up correctly.
Ed Lentz and Nicole Hoffman will work on this.

(Continued)

**Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteer
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2022
(Continued)**

Committee Reports: (Continued)

*Education Committee-Peggy Biolchini

- Ask A Master Gardener – Peggy Biolchini – Peggy has taken over managing this program for now while Doris is dealing with health issues.
- Spring Seminar – Peggy Biolchini - One is being planned for next March.
- Field Trips – Ann Woolum – A Tree ID walk was held last week and was very informative.

Old Business:

- *Audit Report – Reuben DeBolt - The audit was conducted by Bill Jones and Randy Greeno. The report commended Ann Woolum’s work as Treasurer. A finding was made about the number of signatures on a check – the Executive Board will look into necessary policy changes. There will also be changes made to procedures for keeping the Treasurer’s records. A question was raised about record keeping for the Wreath Class – the Board will tighten up the policies concerning how to track complimentary guests at and event.

New Business:

- *A vote was taken and passed, concerning Emeritus status for Kay Sidaway and Linda Laux. Motion: Rose Morrison; Second: Barb Phillips
- *Native Plant Sale – Tim Brugeman
 - A presentation was made, and handout distributed proposing a joint native plant sale in coordination with Hancock Park District (HPD).
 - Plants will be supplied at wholesale by Star Farms, as they are the only known native plant dealer in the area. There will be no up-front cost to us for the plants.
 - Date will be Saturday 9/17/22, 11 am to 1 pm, at Oakwoods Nature Preserve.
 - Chad Carrol of HPD will give tours around Oakwoods to see the native plants they have put in
 - No charge to us for use of the park
 - Profits will be split between HPD and Master Gardeners. This is not expected to generate much profit. It will be mostly educational.
 - HPD will advertise the event and we can promote it at the Fair.
 - Volunteers will be needed for plant sales.
 - Motion was made by Linda Finsel and seconded by Rose Morrison to hold event. Motion passed
- *A question was raised by Margi Habegger about Roma tomatoes dropping off of plants when they are still green. Several members agreed that it was probably due to the recent heat wave.
- *Tim Brugeman noted that Jeri Wenger is having health issues and wishes to go to Inactive status for a while.
- *Items available for members after the meeting: seed packets donated by Lowes, plus tomatoes and gladiolus flowers donated by the Farwigs.

Motion to Adjourn: Rose Morrison; second Lynn Farwig. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Reynolds

Native Plants-Education and Sales Event

We are in need of MGV's to help set up, cleanup, assist visitors with questions and handle sales.

Please call Tim Brugeman (418) 672-8897 or tbrugeman@woh.rr.com if you are interested in helping.

HELP OUR POLLINATORS, BEAUTIFY YOUR LANDSCAPE



Saturday, September 17, 2022 • 11 am – 1 pm

Native Plants Education & Sales Event

Oakwoods Nature Preserve Discovery Center

1400 Oakwoods Avenue, Findlay, Ohio

-  Learn about local native plants
-  Educational exhibits
-  View native plants in bloom around Discovery Center gardens
-  See native plants on short hikes to new wetlands 
-  Questions? Ask Master Gardeners & Park District Representatives

Plant Sales

- Small native trees, shrubs & perennials
- Bring boxes or trays to carry home
- Plants available as supply lasts
- Cash or check (no credit cards)



In cooperation with Star Farms Native Plants Nursery, Kenton, Ohio

Proceeds benefit Master Gardeners & Hancock Parks Foundation

Sponsored by

Hancock County Master Gardeners & Hancock Park District

MG Happenings



2022 Hancock County Fair

Thank you to all who are making this year's Master Gardener Fair Booth a success!!!
A special thank you to Rose Morrison for taking the lead in this important activity.

Two new activities this year include daily presentations and daily drawings for a Wreath Class ticket.

Presentations:

Thursday, Sept. 1st	2:00 PM	Spotted Lantern Fly	Debra Evans
Friday, Sept. 2nd	4:00 PM	Sun/Shade Plants	Margi Habegger and Peggy Biolchini
Saturday, Sept. 3rd	2:00 PM	Poison Plants	Linda Finsel
Sunday, Sept. 4th	2:00 PM	Monarch Butterflies	Sharon Milligan
Monday, Sept. 5th	2:00 PM	Native Plants	Rose Morrison

Tear down is Sept 6 at 9:00 AM.

Help is needed to load and unload all the fair booth items.

Tree ID Walk



On Tuesday, August 9th Joe Puperi, a local arborist, led a group of Hancock County Master Gardeners on a Tree Identification Walk around Riverside Park. He is a wealth of information and much was learned by those attending.

Thanks to Ann Woolum for organizing this event!!!



(Continued)

MG Happenings

(Continued)

“Gardening in Our Golden Years”

18 people enjoyed Paige Badertscher and Linda Finsel’s presentation, “Cut Flower Arranging From the Garden”, on August 2nd. Participants learned what flowers are best for arranging and how to make them last longer. Each participant made their own arrangement using cut blooms from the garden. Thanks Paige, Linda and Tim!!!



Upcoming “Gardening in Our Golden Year” Presentations

September 6 at 10:30 AM **“Fall Colors of Hancock County”**

What trees have the best fall color, how and why they turn colors, and where to find them. A brief virtual tour around the county will be given by Master Gardeners Rob Biolchini and Tim Brugeman. Enter for a free drawing for a tree planted in your yard. Pre-registration required; no charge.

October 4, 10:30 am (Tuesday) **“Fall Fun in the Garden”**

Make fun of fall landscaping cleanup, getting outdoors ready for winter and planting for spring bulbs by Master Gardeners John King and Craig Lamme. Each person will receive spring bulbs to take home and plant. Pre-registration required; no charge.

MGV’s do not have to register and may attend with name badge to help or just learn about the topics.

Fall is a Great Time to Plant Natives

The Courier-August 6, 2022

Peggy Biolchini

<https://mynewsonthego.com/courier/Reader/Story.aspx?id=ad20cb5e-f027-4d76-94b4-385054180ede>

(Continued)

MG Happenings

(Continued)

Community Garden

Brint Simmons



The harvest continues!! We are currently picking tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini and cucumbers. To date, our total harvest is 821#.

If anyone donates items from your personal garden, please let Brint Simmons know the weight so it can be added to our total. If anyone has produce to donate, Tim Brugeman is willing to pick it up and deliver it to City Mission or CHOPIN Hall. Just call or text Tim at 419-672-8897.

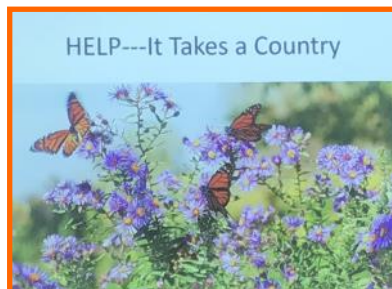


Our final teaching program for the season will be September 13, 9:00 am at the garden. Brint Simmons will talk about end-of-season tasks and preparing the garden for winter.

August Brown Bag

Sharon Milligan did an awesome job presenting the August Brown Bag on *Monarchs*. She has become very passionate about spreading the word on this endangered species and the monarchs' importance to our environment.

Thanks Sharon!!!



Intern Opportunity Hours Still Available for 2022

- Assist at the Community Gardens
- Attend/Assist at 50 North "Gardening in Our Golden Years" program
- Attend monthly meetings
- Assist with wreath workshops starting in late November

Please remember to send hours monthly to Ed Lentz at lentz.38@osu.edu.

Harvesting Grapes

Rosie Lerner-Purdue University

One of the toughest things about growing your own grapes is beating the birds to the harvest! So understandably, gardeners can get in a big hurry to cut those beautiful clusters from the vine. But don't be too hasty in cutting the fruits just to one-up the birds. Make sure your grapes are ripe before you harvest.

Although color change is important in determining when to harvest grapes, it should not be the only consideration. Grapes change color from green to blue, red or white (depending on the cultivar) as they approach maturity. But most grape cultivars color up long before they flavor up. When fully ripe, the natural bloom or whitish coating on the berries should become more noticeable. The color of the seeds changes from green to brown.

One of the other factors to consider in determining harvest time is the size and firmness of the berry. It's helpful to be familiar with your cultivar's individual characteristics, but most grapes should become slightly less firm to the touch.

The best telltale sign of ripeness is the grape's sweetness, and, of course, the most reliable method for homeowners to test this is to taste them! Unlike some other fruits, once the grapes are cut from the vine, they will not ripen any further. So be sure the grapes are ready before you harvest.

Grapes don't require direct sunlight on the fruits to ripen and develop good color. Rather, it is the amount of light that reaches the plant's leaves that governs the quality of the fruit. The leaves manufacture the sugars that are then translocated to the fruit.

Netting can be placed over a grape arbor to keep the birds away from the fruits. Or you can place bags over individual fruit clusters, beginning when the grapes are about half grown. Use a sturdy brown paper-type bag that will allow enough room for the bunch to develop, and tie securely to the grape cane. Bagging also might help protect the fruits from inclement weather, as excessive rains close to harvest time can cause the grapes' skins to split. Of course bagging is not very practical for larger plantings, in which case netting is the best alternative.

Some grape-growers have experienced uneven ripening this year, particularly with their Concord grapes. According to Purdue Small Fruit Specialist Bruce Bordelon, this condition primarily affects only the Concord variety and occurs occasionally, especially in warm years. Uneven ripening is when some of the berries in the cluster remain sour, hard and green while others develop the purple color and soften during the ripening process. The green berries will be full-sized, but will not be sweet. For some reason, those berries never go through the increase in sugar and decrease in acids that commonly occurs during fruit ripening. It is not clearly understood why this phenomenon occurs, but hot weather is partly responsible.

Once you've made the decision to harvest, you can store the grapes, possibly up to eight weeks, depending on the cultivar and storage conditions. Ideally grapes should be stored at 32F with 85 percent relative humidity. If you have an abundance of grapes, a good alternative could be to process them into jellies, jams, juice and wine.

Harvesting Apples

Mary Ann Ryan-Horticulture Program Coordinator-Penn State Extension



I live in the fruit belt of Pennsylvania and when I think of fall, I think of apples. Adams County has been my home for most of my life. Driving through orchards in the spring, enjoying the beautiful flowers, and taking that same drive in the fall while the red and yellow apples hang from the trees—nothing beats the color provided by those delicious fruits!

Picking fruit for fresh eating can be a guessing game for those of us that don't do it on a regular basis. The first step is to know when the variety typically matures in your area.

This will allow you to have a general time frame when the fruit should be ripe. Although temperatures, moisture, and sunlight will all play a key role in the ripening of apples, knowing the average time frame in which a variety ripens will be a great help. Depending on the variety, maturity dates can start in south central Pennsylvania as early as July with 'Yellow Transparent' or as late as November, as with 'Pink Lady'.

Fortunately, help is available from many resources. Orchards throughout the state may advertise ripening times on their websites, Facebook, or mailing lists. It would be best to use estimations from a nearby orchard as it will likely be more appropriate for your region.

The color of the apple also plays a key role in knowing if it's ripe. Fruit coloration, of course, depends entirely upon the variety and should be "true to type": the characteristic foreground (flush) and ground colors for the variety should be fully developed and match what is expected. Numerous sources provide this information including Adams County Nursery (acnursery.com) and most tree fruit nurseries, [Orange Pippin](#), [Adam's Apples blog](#), and—for the advanced enthusiast—[Fruit ID](#).

Observing the foreground color is easy. The ground color, not so much. Ground colors vary from white to yellow to green when mature. Apples with a strong, consistent foreground color like 'Red Delicious' or 'Nittany', or those with a tendency for russetting in the basin (bottom indentation where the flower was) or cavity (area near the stem) may make observing the ground color a challenge.

The "feel" of an apple is another indicator. The apple should be firm, but not hard. There may be some slight indentation when pressing into the apple but using this method alone could cause a person to keep the apple on the tree too long. Overripe fruit quickly becomes soft and mealy.

In mature fruit, the seed coats should be brown. Cut open an apple and take a look. And while you have the apple cut open, taste and smell it. If it's too starchy and not sweet, then the rest of the apples may need to stay on the tree for a few more days. It should smell like an apple. The fragrance should be apparent when the apple is ready to be picked. Of course, personal preferences affect the ability to appreciate the flavor, but it should closely match the flavor profile expected of the variety.

(Continued)

Harvesting Apples

(Continued)

Any one of these techniques, alone, will not determine the ripeness of an apple. However, using all these methods should help you make the right decision when picking this delicious fruit.

After determining whether the apples are ready to be picked, how do you pick them? Secure the fruit in the palm of your hand, with your thumb near the stem. Twist and lift upward, and the apple should release from the tree.

You should not need a lot of force to remove the fruit if it is ready to be harvested. The stem of the apple needs to stay on the fruit. Releasing the stem from the fruit will cause you to be eating, and not storing, lots of apples as they will not keep for long. While picking, take care to not break or remove fruiting spurs! Spurs are short, compressed stems that produce flowers annually and are found on many varieties. Loss of a spur means loss of fruit next year. When picking the apples, gently put them in a bucket; never drop them into a bucket. Bruising the fruit will reduce storage time and increase rotting.

Storing apples require refrigeration. Temperatures should be kept between 34°F and 40°F. Keeping them in a plastic bag with holes will increase the humidity, which is important for long-term storage of apples. Also note that storing any other fruit, seeds (for example garden seeds left over from the summer crop) or bulbs (if you are forcing daffodils, tulips or other spring bulbs for winter color) with apples is not OK. Apples release ethylene gas that will kill the embryo of the seed and the embryotic flower of the bulb. Also, the ethylene gas will cause other fruits and vegetables sharing the refrigerator to ripen and rot more quickly.

Once the fruit is off the tree, what do you need to do with the tree? That's an easy answer—nothing—at least for now. However, when the leaves drop from the tree in November, including any apples that may have fallen, rake up those leaves and fallen fruit, remove any fruit mummies still attached to the tree, and discard them. This will help to reduce overwintering spores that live on the dead debris.

Although growing apples isn't an easy task, it is rewarding when you can pick the fruit you have grown in your own yard! Understanding how to manage these trees and fruit throughout the year will help you be successful.





IT'S Time To.....September

Ohio State University Extension

September 4

- Plant trees, shrubs, and ground covers this month.
- Establish a small grain cover crop on empty vegetable garden space.
- Begin moving houseplants indoors.
- Compost garden debris.
- Potatoes are ready for harvest when their tops begin to turn brown.
- Order spring-flowering bulbs now.
- Have your soil tested before applying lawn fertilizer.
- Test grapes for ripeness by tasting.

September 11

- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs.
- Allow gourds to remain on the vine as long as possible without exposing them to frost.
- Water evergreens when the soil dries.
- Ripen green tomatoes away from the sun.
- Harvest seeds of dill, coriander and caraway by hanging stems with the seed heads enclosed inside a paper bag.
- Aerate the lawn where soil is compacted.
- Cure pumpkins for two weeks at 75 to 80 degrees F before storing them.
- Broken and diseased branches may be removed; delay other pruning until early next spring.
- Record gardening successes and failures now for reference next growing season.

(Continued)



IT'S Time To.....September

Ohio State University Extension (Continued)

September 18

- Harvest green tomatoes before a killing frost.
- Ripen green tomatoes in a warm place away from direct sunlight.
- Purchase spring-flowering bulbs while supplies are in-stock.
- Dig tender bulbs, such as cannas, caladiums, tuberous begonias and gladiolus, before frost.
- Harvest Brussels sprouts, carrots, and parsnips after they have been exposed to frost.
- Continue to weed.
- Share your harvest with those in need.
- Provide food, water, and habitat for wildlife.

September 25

- Harvest apples, pears, grapes, and everbearing strawberries and raspberries.
- Remove raspberry canes after they bear fruit.
- Reseed bare spots or new lawns using a good-quality seed mixture.
- Dig onions and garlic after tops fall over naturally and necks begin to dry.
- Harvest winter squash when mature (skin is tough) with deep, solid color, but before hard frost.
- Plant, transplant or divide peonies, daylilies, iris and phlox only if you can apply irrigation during dry spells.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs beginning in late September.
- Bring houseplants moved outside for summer indoors before night temperatures fall below 55°F.
- Poinsettias saved from last year can be re-flowered for this year's holiday by providing complete darkness for 15 hours daily from about Oct. 1 until about Dec.10.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Ohio State University Extension
Hancock County
7868 County Road 140 Suite B
Findlay, OH 45840
419-422-3851
Facebook: Master Gardeners of Hancock County Ohio
hancock.osu.edu

Note to self:

Do not kneel in the
garden without a
plan to get up.



The Master Gardener “Green Thumb Prints” is a publication of the Ohio State University Extension, Hancock County, 7868 County Road 140 Suite B Findlay, OH 45840 419-422-3851.

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.