



## SDN.15.Apr6

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A week ago Saturday I got a call from my sister wanting to know if they could bring the grandkids over to the farm. The two “future grandkids” are from Columbus and haven’t been with farm animals before. They enjoyed getting “nosed and licked” by the calves and feeding the chickens. Just as we were getting ready to go through a gate, one of the hens flew up on the fence and startled us all. She just cackled!! After the shock resided, Micah, from Columbus, wagged her finger at the hen and said “That’s Not Funny!!!”

Our Cover Crop Strategies Field Day is tomorrow, Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. This follow-up to last fall’s field day will allow us to see what’s happened \*below\* the soil surface. Some of the specific points to be discussed will include managing cover crops in the spring, preparing to plant the next crop, and year-round tips for effective cover crop use. This Field Day will be held southwest of St. Marys on SR 364, just north of SR 219. Look for the signs! The “Open House” is from 2p to 7p with informational tours scheduled at 2:30p, 4:30p, and 6p. There is no cost to attend.

There is a newly updated publication for grape growers and small fruit farmers to learn about updated pesticide application tips and small fruit management. The *2015 Midwest Small Fruit and Grape Spray Guide* is for growers who plan to use restricted pesticides and must be certified as private applicators.

The spray guide covers the following topics: management tips for safety, pesticide use and the law, pesticide use in greenhouses and high tunnels, determining spray volume and rate, calibrating single nozzle and boom sprayers, calibrating air-blast sprayers, insecticide resistance management, and conversion factors for weight and measures. The book also includes a sample records sheet for recording restricted-use pesticides.

This Guide can be ordered through our county OSU Extension office or online through OSU Extension’s eStore at [estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=506B2](http://estore.osu-extension.org/productdetails.cfm?sku=506B2).

Well, last week was busy, but in a different way. I have to admit there were only a couple of days when I thought about work (which is extremely unusual!). The visitation and funeral for Stanley’s mom were Tuesday and Wednesday; James, Kimberly and the grandkids came and stayed through yesterday. One of the highlights of the week was Wednesday evening, after supper and the busyness of the day: Stanley got his old slide projector and (some of) the boxes of slides out. We spent almost three hours watching James as a six- and seven-year-old, along with his Brown extended family – grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins. After an intense couple of days, it was a great chance for Stanley to reminisce and remember the good times . . . and for the little ones to learn a bit more about their father. More memories were made!

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