Good Morning! This is Debbie Brown, Ag and Natural Resources Educator for OSU Extension, Shelby County. Well, William turned six Wednesday! He was \*so\* excited!! That evening, Kimberly made supper with a special cake; there were cards and gifts . . . lots of “Yeas” and cries of delight! It \*was\* a special night!!

The **Shelby County Forestry Field Day** will be held on Sunday, October 16th from 1p-4p. This FREE Family Event will provide the opportunity to walk woodland trails, watch chainsaw sculpting, see a portable sawmill in operation, and view pollinator habitat. There will be Woodland Crafts for kids, a “Candy Scramble” at 2:15p and Smokey Bear is scheduled to arrive at 2:30p!!

An ODNR Forester will be onsite to walk the woods and answer questions about timber management, dying ash trees, and tree identification. There will also be a Pheasants Forever Wildlife Biologist present to talk about habitat improvement. There will also be hot dogs, apples, and beverages.

This Field Day will be held at Jim and Karen Scheer’s Farm, using the gravel lane across the road from 8800 Tawawa-Maplewood Rd., south of SR 47 on the east side of the county. Watch for signs.

An **Introduction to Aquaculture and Aquaponics Workshop** will be held on Saturday, October 29th, 8a-4p at the OSU South Centers in Piketon. Some of the topics to be addressed include introduction to pond and recirculating aquaculture systems, aquaponics basics, water quality management, business planning, marketing considerations, and fish and plant selection for aquaponics.

The cost for the workshop is $45 per person ($75 for two from the same farm), which includes a light breakfast, lunch, and materials. Attendees will tour the OSU South Centers facilities that include outdoor ponds, an indoor recirculating system, and more. You can pick up a flier at your local extension office or go to <http://ohioaquaculture.org/introaquaworkshop2016.html> for more information. Registration deadline is October 22nd.

Now, for some **Fall Weed Control Odds and Ends** from our Extension Weed Specialist Mark Loux: Cressleaf groundsel, which is poisonous to livestock, caught some hay and livestock producers by surprise last spring when they discovered it in hay or pasture fields.  Cressleaf groundsel is a winter annual weed that emerges in the fall and flowers in May.  Plants become considerably more difficult to control in the spring. It is a problem in no-till corn and soybean production, but not that difficult to control.

Cressleaf groundsel is most easily controlled with herbicides in the late fall. Most of the plants will have emerged by late October, and will be small enough to be controlled with 2,4-D or other low-cost treatments. If you are doing no-till wheat this fall, you can use an application of glyphosate before the wheat emerges to reduce the population of cressleaf groundsel.

If you have waterhemp in your fields, you can take advantage of a $50 service offered by the University of Illinois to screen populations for resistance to glyphosate and site 14 herbicides such as Flexstar, Cobra, etc.  Where Roundup Ready soybeans will be planted, these are the only POST options for waterhemp, so it’s necessary to know whether they are still effective.  This involves the overnight shipment of \*leaves,\* not seed ~~(time is running out . . .)~~.  For more information, see the July 26 edition of the C.O.R.N. Newsletter at <http://agcrops.osu.edu/newsletter/corn-newsletter/2016-22>.

Fall is also an important time in **Landscape Maintenance**.  Many pest problems and diseases encountered this season may survive until next year either on or in plant debris.  Cultural practices completed prior to the beginning of winter will ensure a healthier landscape for next spring.

Take advantage of the autumn sunshine (when it comes back!) and spend some time in your annual and perennial beds. Annuals should be pulled out of the ground with the roots included.  Dead stems and foliage should be pruned on most perennials and wildflowers. Of course, this task is garden specific as some people prefer to leave certain herbaceous ornamentals such as tall grasses uncut to enjoy their winter interest. Seed heads of yarrow, Echinacea, and rudbeckia and other perennials are also important food sources for many of our overwintering bird species.

Fall is a great time to divide perennials and plant new ones.  Applying 2” of organic mulch to these newly planted perennials will help retain the soil temperature to encourage root growth and prevent heaving of plants over winter’s freeze and thaw cycles. Tender bulbs and tubers such as tuberous begonias, cannas, and dahlias should be dug up and stored after the first frost.

~~Fall is also an excellent time to do corrective pruning of your trees and shrubs. Corrective pruning includes removal of dead, damaged, or diseased branches and the elimination of limbs that may be causing structural problems such as branches that may be rubbing, those that are growing back to the center of the tree, and those with abnormally narrow crotch angles.  As the leaves drop from these woody plants, it’s easy to inspect and identify canker formations, rubbing branches, and splits or cracks in wood.~~

It’s hard to believe that October starts tomorrow! This is one of my favorite times of the year! The weather starts to cool off and the humidity drops; skies are usually crystal clear, and there’s that smell of harvest in the air! ~~Wow!!~~

Be safe in the fields and on the roads!! I’ll see you next week. ‘Bye!!