Good Morning! This is Debbie Brown, Ag and Natural Resources Educator for OSU Extension, Shelby County. Farm Science Review is gonna be here soon!! You’ve still got time to get tickets at your local OSU Extension office. Buying early will save you money: $7 vs $10 at the gate! But, ya gotta hurry: Pre-sales end Monday, September 19th.

**Farm Science Review**: Tuesday through Thursday, September 20th to September 22nd at the Molly Caren Ag Center, located two miles north of London, OH at the intersection of US 40 and SR 38.

So, why go?? It’s a great opportunity to see and learn lots of stuff! Last week I talked about some of the programs at the Gwynne Conservation area. Well, the Ag Safety and Health team will have demonstrations of the Ohio Grain CART (rescue trailer) and information on the Ohio AgrAbility program. The Agronomic Crops Team will be offering programs and one-on-one consultation at their display outside gates B and C. “Ask the Expert” consists of 20-minute sessions on a number of topics over the three days: Grain Marketing Update, Veterinary Feed Directive, Busting the Myths of GMOs, Cash Rental Rates for the Long Term, Do Your Kids Want the Farm?, and Flying Legal under the new Drone Laws, to name just a few.

The Utzinger Memorial Garden area also offers programs, some of which include Container Gardening, Native Perennials, Tree ID, and Garden Soil Fertility. Some of the programs at the Small Farm Center include an Update on Growing Hops, Raising Miniature Beef Cattle, Developing a Successful Farm on 20 Acres, and Cooperative Marketing of Specialty Crops.

In addition, there are Field Demonstrations, tours of nutrient and water Best Management Practices, Turfgrass Plots, and an Aquaponics Exhibit. There’s even an area for kids to explore Science and Technology through hands-on activities. Of course, all the Departments within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences will be represented as well as the opportunity to re-connect with other Alumni of the College. Yes, it can be a Full and Busy day . . . or three! You can see all the opportunities for yourself at [fsr.osu.edu](http://fsr.osu.edu/), under “Visitors.”

Denny Riethman is holding the last **Lawn and Gardening Talk** for 2016 next Wednesday, September 14th at the Mercer County Extension office, 6p. This will deal with Lawn Care Practices and Garden Clean-Up and Winter Prep. Steve Knapke will be the presenter. Call 419.586.2179 to let him know you’re planning to attend.

There is a **Beginning Beekeeping Class Series** being held in Troy, Tuesday evenings, September 27th through October 25th. Five weeks from “How Do We Get Started” to Bee Biology to Pests and Diseases to Spring and Summer Management and Fall/Winter Management. These classes will be held from 6:30p to 8:30p at the Old Courthouse in downtown Troy. The cost is $65 and includes handouts, refreshments, and a beginner’s beekeeping book. The deadline to register is next Friday, September 16th. Go to Miami.osu.edu or contact Amanda Bennett at 937.440.3945 for more information.

As I was out and about a bit more this past week, I saw some beautiful sights: It’s September. Soybeans are turning color to that mellow yellow. Harvest will start soon!! To be sure, corn has been chopped for silage for the past month, but full-fledged appearance of tractors, wagons, combines, trucks, etc., will soon be everywhere!

So . . . What?? So . . . **Safety**!! For yourself and others!!

Safety on the farm includes avoiding pinch points, wrap points (such as PTOs), cuts, burns, and crushing in and around equipment; making sure the equipment has safety shields in place and is ready for the job; avoiding rushing to get the job done (ofttimes taking short cuts that can compromise safety); and reviewing “safe operating procedures” with the whole family and staff!

Safety on the road includes visibility, attention, courtesy, and patience. Can you be seen?? Especially at night?? Do your lights and flashers work?? Are your reflectors clean and visible or faded out? Yes, this includes that SMV decal! If I can’t see you, it’s hard to know you’re there!!

Are you paying attention? How many other vehicles are behind you? How far ahead is that next mailbox that you need to “go around” (maybe moving you further into that other lane of traffic)? Is someone starting to pass even though you’ve signaled a left-turn? Attention to details and planning ahead can go a long way to keeping us safe!

Are you frustrating other drivers?? While I know it’s not feasible to be “off the road” during the time people are going to/leaving work (“rush hour”), can you give them a little break?? Is there a spot coming up where you can pull over to let them pass?? I always like it, too, when you use your turn signals (or hand signals) to let me know you’re planning to turn. That helps me know you’ll soon be out of my line of travel and I don’t need to be looking for a chance to pass now.

Patience is a virtue . . . on the farm and on the road. Sometimes wagons just don’t “track true.” I’d rather be behind you at 15 mph with equipment traveling straight on the road than at 20 mph with wagons swingin’ side-to-side! You’re probably gonna tell me it’s not likely to happen, but there’s always the possibility that that weaving wagon could drop off the edge, flip, move into the other lane . . . .

And then there are the Slow Moving Vehicle emblems. You’ve heard me say it before: MAX 25 mph, regardless of the horsepower in that pickup truck you’re using to pull all those wagons!! No sense in teachin’ those behind you to ignore it!!

Yes, I always sound like I’m preachin’! I guess I am . . . I just don’t want to hear of any farm accidents this year! Take the time \*now\* to get your equipment ready. Review the rules of the road. Treat others like you’d like to be treated. Plan ahead. Let’s have a Safe Harvest!!

I’ll see ya next week! ‘Bye!!