

# Auglaize County ANR

News from OSU Extension

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## Should I stake my trees for Winter? It depends.....

Author Tom DeHaas, Edited by Jamie Hampton

The Fall winds are blowing, and Winter is just around the corner. The question arises on whether a gardener should stake their trees for winter? There are several things to consider. Newly planted trees are good candidates for staking as they can benefit from staking. Typically, trees can be purchased in the fall 3 different ways; Container, Balled and Burlap, and bare root. Container grown trees are typically grow in a soilless media and develop a fairly substantial root system within the container. This root mass can help stabilize the tree and may require less support from staking. But it is always a good idea to consider some support for a newly planted tree. The second way trees are sold is

Balled and Burlap. The tree is planted and grown in a field, and when harvested, has a root ball of soil and roots, typically 11 to 12 inches per one inch caliper of the tree. Similar to container grown trees, B and B trees, because of the root ball, tend to endure higher wind pressure, but still benefit from staking. The third type of tree to be transplanted is Bare Root. This transplant has no soil around the roots, just the fibrous root system. Bare Root trees are typically less expensive but require more care in planting, watering, and staking. Some bare root transplants are short and branched low to the ground. Trees that are less than 3 feet as bare root may not need to be staked. Taller

deciduous trees 3-5 feet will need at least a single bamboo stake for support. Larger trees over 5 feet will definitely need staking either a single diagonal stake, or 2 stakes with guide wires attached to a piece of rubber tubing to prevent gouging or damage to the tree trunk tissue. Another technique is 2 vertical stakes with wires on both sides. A third method is the use of tree bands with stakes. So, what happens when you don't stake newly planted trees? They can take on this bending, wind blown look. Newly planted trees can benefit from staking. Established trees are typically ok unless they are uprooted by wind and rain. Read the full article [HERE](#)

# Thanksgiving Facts to be Thankful For

By Abigail Tomalewski edited by Jamie Hampton



Thanksgiving is America's second most popular holiday, right after Christmas, and it is easy to see why. The holiday is a time to give thanks, spend time with loved ones, . . . and eat! From the main course to the sides, it's a delicious holiday. Did you know that the average American consumes almost 4,500 calories on the holiday? This includes the meal and snacking on leftovers afterward. With so much yummy food, there is more to know about this holiday. Enjoy these Thanksgiving food facts before you start cooking and wow your family members.

Many of today's traditional foods were not served at the first Thanksgiving. This includes turkey, potatoes, and pumpkin pie.

- Male turkeys are called toms and gobble. Female turkeys are called hens and cackle.
- Nearly 46 million turkeys are cooked each year.
- Around 88% of Americans will eat turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.
- Americans eat roughly 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving.
- TV dinners were invented in 1953 when leftover

turkeys were packaged in aluminum trays with various sides.

- There are four places in the United States named Turkey: Turkey Creek, Louisiana; Turkey Creek, Arizona; Turkey, North Carolina; Turkey, Texas.
- Native Americans used cranberries as a red dye.
- In 1921, the first jellied cranberry sauce was created.
- President Jefferson refused to declare Thanksgiving as a holiday.
- President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving as a national holiday in 1863 after Sarah Hale petitioned.
- Sarah Hale is known as the Godmother of Thanksgiving. She also wrote "Mary Had a Little Lamb".
- In 1989, President George H.W. Bush became the first president to pardon a turkey.



# Thanksgiving in the Barn!

## What we can share with our pets and livestock.

By Jamie Hampton



As we enjoy our thanksgiving meals, we are usually tempted to feed our 4-legged companions a little of what we are enjoying. However, most of what we eat can be dangerous for our pets and animals. I admit I am bad about slipping a little turkey to the dog and taking baking scraps to the chickens. Please use caution when sharing your meals, with a quick google search we can find a list of foods that is ok to share with our pets. Avoid fats, skins and bones.

This is a short list:

- Turkey
- Sweet Potatoes.
- Green Beans
- Carrots
- Pumpkin.
- Apples.
- Bread
- Corn.

At my house, the dog is not the only one to enjoy the

harvest. I take treats to the chickens and horses. Some of the safe things for your horses include apple pieces, carrot pieces, peppermints, oats and molasses. I make treats with ground up carrots, apples, sugar, oatmeal and some molasses. Our office associate shared with me her recipe for chicken treats that included seeds, pumpkin, oats, and spices.

Sheep, goats, swine, poultry, horses and cattle can have pumpkins that have not been treated with paint, wax or bleach. Chickens need them to be broken into pieces in order to eat them. Horses cannot have rotten pumpkins and do not feed in large amount, any new substance in large amount can cause gastric upset.

## Tow-ability; Winter Towing

by Jamie Hampton



It is time to start thinking about pulling your trailers in winter conditions. The best practice is to be prepared before you hit the road. Be sure to check your tire tread and trailer brakes. When traveling you will want to make any transitions as smooth as possible, so avoiding the cruise control may be of benefit. When speeding up or slowing down you will want to be smooth and gradual, this also applies to turning and steering. If you are going to be doing a lot of towing in snow you may want to consider snow tires or chains for your vehicle. Another thing to keep in mind is your momentum. Starting and stopping are more difficult in the snow and ice, be sure not to stop on an incline if at all possible. Use the momentum of the truck and trailer to help you up a hill. Knowing your vehicle is important when towing. A 5<sup>th</sup> wheel will pull different than a bumper hitch. Practice is a good idea when you know you will be towing in bad weather. I practice on back roads with an empty trailer to get familiar, and then I take the horse for short drives to be sure that I am an adequate and safe driver.

# Winter Tree Watering

Author John Lang, from the Arbor Day Foundation, Edited by Jamie Hampton

Although trees remain dormant during the winter, they are not immune to cold and dry conditions. Trees experience the stress of harsh winter weather – though they might not show it – and it's usually a lack of water that does the most damage. Heading into the winter with dry roots can mean major trouble for trees in the spring. Though it may be gray and wintry outside, your trees still need you. Long, dry periods without supplemental water can damage root systems and kill your trees. Although they may look normal in the spring, trees that have been weakened over the winter will usually die back later in the summer.

Keep watering trees on a regular schedule through the fall and until the ground begins to freeze (usually late October or November). Once the ground freezes, continue to monitor weather conditions throughout the winter months.



Trees which are dormant don't need to be watered as frequently as during the growing season. When there is little to no snow cover and little precipitation, plan on watering your trees one to two times per month until they begin leafing out in the spring. If the site is particularly windy, your trees may need more water. Once the ground thaws in the spring, you can resume your regular watering schedule. Water only when the temperature is above 40 degrees F and there is no snow or ice on the ground near your trees. Water early in the day, so the plants have time to absorb it before the temperature drops at night. Trees like their water slow and deep. Newly planted trees will require more frequent

watering. You can check soil moisture by using a garden trowel and inserting it into the ground to a depth of 2", and then move the blade of the trowel back and forth to create a small narrow trench. Then use your finger to touch the soil. If it is moist to the touch, then they do not need water. Be careful to apply water all the way out to the edge of the tree's root spread. Most established trees have a root spread equal to their height. Water deeply with a soaker hose, if possible, and avoid spraying on foliage if watering an evergreen tree. You can read the full article at <https://arbordayblog.org/tree-care/winter-tree-watering-tips/>



# December Events



## **Auglaize County Events:**

- **December 6<sup>th</sup>, Office will be closed due to annual conference**
- **December 9<sup>th</sup>, Cover Crop Roundtable Discussion at Happy Daz in Wapakoneta at 8:30 am.**
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>, Full Succession Planning at the palazzo in Botkins. 8:30 am – 4 pm. PLEASE RSVP by December 9th by email at [Hampton.297@osu.edu](mailto:Hampton.297@osu.edu) or call 419-910-6062**
- **December 20<sup>th</sup>, Ag Breakfast with Destinee Gaerke from Sunrise Coop. 8:30 am at RJ's Coffee Cup**
- **December 21<sup>st</sup>, Western Ohio Dairy Luncheon at speedway lanes in New Bremen, speaker will be Scott Higgins. Lunch is provided! Meal at 11:00 am and presentation at 12:00 pm**
- **December 23<sup>rd</sup>- January 2<sup>nd</sup> Office will be closed for Christmas.**

## **Nearby Happenings:**

- **December 16<sup>th</sup>, Growing Backyard Mushrooms 9 am-11 am, located at the North Star Community Center. To register email Taylor Dill at [dill.138@osu.edu](mailto:dill.138@osu.edu)**



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

EXTENSION

**OSU Extension Auglaize County**

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