

HOPS BULLETIN

The Ohio State University South Centers and Local Ohio Hops Growers Updates

SPRING 2018



OHIO HOPS CONFERENCE, BUS TOUR, and TRADE SHOW SUCCESS CONTINUES INTO THE FIFTH YEAR

Ohio hops growers experienced continued strong market demand in 2017 for locally grown hops many reporting being sold out before the end of 2017 and the demand isn't likely to decline soon with almost 300 breweries operating or soon to be in Ohio. The Ohio State University South Centers in cooperation with the Ohio Hop Growers Guild for the fifth year in a row held another sold out Ohio Hops Conference and Trade Show at the OSU South Centers at Piketon on March 23 and 24, 2018 to help new and experienced growers learn the newest hop production techniques and included networking with over 200 hop growers in attendance as well as

20 hop industry vendors and exhibitors who showcased the latest in hop technology and innovations..

This year's Conference included Ohio brewers panel who currently are or are interested in purchasing Ohio. These brewers included A Butcher and a Brewer from Cleveland Ohio and Portsmouth Brewing Company from Portsmouth Ohio. The panel included a tasting of Ohio beers brewed with Ohio ingredients. For the first time, we incorporated a bus tour to southern Ohio hop farms including the only certified organic hop farm in Ohio and a tour of a newly constructed and operating hop processing, drying, pelletizing and packaging

operation in Georgetown, Ohio. Attendees were able to tour the hop fields of these growers and gain knowledge from them on various techniques of growing this specialty crop.

The event also featured hop experts with Ohio State University Extension, OARDC and OSU South Centers, University of Kentucky, Michigan as well as other agriculture industry professionals. Attendees also participated in hands-on field training and activities in the hop yards at South Centers. These trainings included drip irrigation design, trellis construction, mechanical harvesting and fertigation & chmigation techniques.



Currently hop farmers need to endure the expense of building a hop drying facility or barn to dry their hops to the correct moisture percentage before they can be pelletized. A big highlight of the Ohio Hops Conference included a demonstration of a mobile hop drying system that was designed and built by Dave Volkman owner of Ohio Valley Hops in Maineville, Ohio. Dave was able to secure funding for the development of this new to Ohio hops drying system through the North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Farmer Rancher grant program, a grant program open

to any farmer to conduct their own on farm research and educational programming. For more information on how you can apply for funding visit northcentralsare.org/Grants/Our-Grant-Programs/Farmer-Rancher-Grant-Program. With Ohio Valley Hops new mobile drying system the dryer can be towed behind a pickup truck anywhere in the state and hops can be dried immediately after they are harvested out in the hop yard, saving new and smaller acreage growers the expense of building and managing a on farm drying facility. For more information on the mobile hop

dryer contact Dave Volkman at ohiovalleyhops@gmail.com. The 6th annual 2019 Ohio Hops Conference will be organized, planned and managed by the Ohio Hop Growers Guild and details are currently being finalized, look for information by this fall. For more information on the 2019 Ohio Hop Conference, contact Dave Volkman at Ohio Valley Hops at ohiovalleyhops@gmail.com or Jenny Napier at Barn Talk Hops jennynapier@roadrunner.com.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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