

New program matches farmers and hunters
PG 3



ISSUE 2 AND THE CONSTITUTION
"Everything from how we spend money on parks and natural resources to how we handle economic development in our state is addressed in the Ohio constitution."
PG 6

How to stay safe when working alone on the farm
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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 3

TAXING QUESTION

What's behind the recent increases in CAUV?

BY DAN TOLAND

Some rural landowners may be surprised when discovering their latest CAUV (Current Agricultural Use Valuation) values have increased some several hundred percent over the last three years.

Established in 1972, CAUV allows qualified agricultural land to be valued at its current agricultural use value for real property tax purposes rather than fair market value.

While Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OBF) Senior Director of Local Affairs Larry Gearhardt said many are upset over the increase, he asserted there is no problem with the formula used to determine CAUV.

"Its purpose is not to guarantee the lowest values for landowners, but to accurately reflect what is happening in the farming community," he said.

He said the same formula gave Ohioans the lowest values in CAUV history in 2005, which is one of the reasons for the increase. After hitting the bottom in 2005, 2006 values went up slightly, but now values are trending back up. "It doesn't take much of an increase to represent a 200 percent to 300 percent increase over those low values," Gearhardt said.

The calculation of CAUV is based upon a formula taking into account the last seven years of crop prices, crop yields, non-land
See CAUV, pg 2

Farmers of Ohio Unite



□ Farmers find common ground with Issue 2

BY SETH TETER

An often used tactic of the animal rights industry is to segment agriculture, pitting larger farms against small, the cattle farmer against the hog farmer.

But when out of state activists began questioning the integrity of Ohio's farming community, they were met with a united response.

Not only have hog, cattle, dairy,

poultry and sheep farmers come together to show their dedication to the well-being of their animals, grain farmers are standing up with them.

Their message: enough is enough. No longer should the farmers' character be dragged through the mud as animal rights groups perpetuate horrific imagery and half-truths. And animal care decisions should never be held at the mercy of emotional campaigns that are a disguised effort to turn people away from eating meat, milk and eggs. Not in Ohio.

The result was the creation of

Issue 2, a ballot measure that will ensure animal care standards in the state are based on comprehensive analysis by knowledgeable Ohioans through the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, which includes family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert and others.

The Ohio Corn Growers Association and the Ohio Soybean Association each have emphasized that Issue 2 will help ensure viable livestock farms, which are a major customer of Ohio-grown grain.

See FARMERS, pg 2

ADD YOUR SUPPORT FOR ISSUE 2

Rally to Support Issue 2

Regional rallies are being held throughout Ohio in the coming weeks to encourage a "Yes" vote on Issue 2. Visit www.ohiolivestockcare.com for dates and locations. Join other farmers to show your community that you support Issue 2.

Contribute

Campaign contribution envelopes have been sent to farmers throughout Ohio. Every contribution matters as the Ohioans for Livestock Care Campaign gears up to encourage the public to vote "Yes" for Issue 2. You can also contribute online at www.ohiolivestockcare.com or by sending a check to Ohioans for Livestock Care, 280 N. High St., Columbus, OH, 43218

Yard Signs

The Ohioans for Livestock Care campaign is asking farmers to begin displaying yard signs starting Oct. 1 as a coordinated effort to show support for Issue 2.

Get Involved

Contact your county Farm Bureau for volunteer opportunities and materials that are available to encourage a "Yes" vote for Issue 2.

Tell Everyone

Host a barbecue on your farm, talk with your neighbors or tell family and friends to support Issue 2 because it will ensure strong family farms, excellent care for animals and safe, affordable, local food in Ohio. Make sure everyone you know plans to vote, and that they vote "Yes" for Issue 2.

Farmers want changes as climate bill goes to Senate

BY SETH TETER

Saying that it could reduce net farm income by more than \$5 billion over the next 10 years, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OBF) President Brent Porteus recently told a panel of lawmakers that farmers were concerned about cap and trade legislation passed by the U.S. House.

Under a cap and trade program, the government would set limits on carbon emissions. Companies would then buy or sell permits based on the amount of carbon they produce.

During the American Energy Solutions Group summit, Porteus said the bill will impose enormous

constraints on the Ohio economy, including Ohio agriculture, resulting in a net cost to farmers across the state. The cost of fuel, fertilizer and electricity are expected to increase as a result of the proposed legislation.

Porteus said the bill clearly ignores the principles that Ohio farmers identified as critical to the future of agriculture. Among them is that the legislation does not plug the hole created by lost energy sources.

"Cap and trade, and its artificial mechanisms, creates the shortages but does not provide the replacements," he said.

Porteus also said that it would be a critical policy failure if the U.S.



Ohioans signed their names to express opposition to House climate legislation during a rally in Lima last month.

Photo by Seth Teter

Congress adopted an aggressive program to curb carbon emissions without similar commitments from other countries such as China and Brazil. American Farm Bureau has said increased costs would provide

an incentive for U.S. companies to relocate overseas.

Farm Bureau believes any bill must also recognize and support the benefits that agriculture and

See CLIMATE, pg 2

PUBLIC POLICY

NEWS *briefs***Farm income, expenses forecast to drop**

USDA's latest farm income forecast is predicting a 38 percent drop in farm income this year. Forecasted to be at \$54 billion, 2009 farm income would be \$9 billion below the 10-year average of \$63.2 billion. Net cash income is also expected to drop 30 percent from 2008 to \$68.2 billion; \$3 billion below its 10-year average. Cash receipts, crop receipts and livestock receipts are all expected to drop in 2009 after reaching record or near-record



levels last year. Conversely, expenses are also expected to decline in 2009 for the first time since 2002. From record high levels last year, expenses are forecast to be down 3.2 percent, still making 2009's expenses the second highest level on record. Petroleum costs lead the decline in expenses, expected to drop about 30 percent from 2008, while fertilizer costs are expected to be 25 percent lower than last year.

2,200 seek broadband funds

USDA and the Commerce Department recently received nearly 2,200 applications requesting \$28 billion in funding for proposed broadband projects from all states and territories in the United States. The initial round of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided a total of \$7.2 billion to expand broadband access to underserved areas. Applications were received from state, local and

tribal governments; nonprofits; industry; libraries, universities, community colleges and hospitals; public safety organizations and other rural, suburban and urban entities.

New commission to address new and emerging human/animal diseases

One Health Commission, a new national commission, has been established to spotlight the connections between human, animal and environmental health, as well as the benefits of proactive and collaborative approaches toward better health for all.



According to the commission, it is estimated that 75 percent of all emerging diseases are zoonotic, meaning that they can be transferred between animals and humans. The One Health Commission will address new and existing zoonotic diseases, such as avian influenza and West Nile Virus, through unified, collaborative efforts between veterinary medicine, human medicine and environmental sciences. Roger Mahr, former president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, was named CEO of One Health Commission in August. Learn more at www.onehealthcommission.org.

Stallman stresses pork support to Obama

AFBF President Bob Stallman recently asked President Barack Obama to initiate and

continue to provide relief to America's pork producers. "Pork producers are facing dire circumstances and need the government to step up to purchase more product," Stallman stated in a letter to the president. "The recent (price) for hogs is down \$25 per head in only the last four months. If the...futures price is an accurate forecast of where hogs will be priced at year's end, producers will be losing \$50 per head. Even the futures price for next April indicates a \$25 per head loss." Stallman asked Obama to transfer \$100 million (from a \$1.85 billion package to fund the government's response to issues related to H1N1 influenza) to USDA to purchase pork for domestic food and nutrition programs. He pointed out that part of the decrease in pork prices is due to misuse of the term "swine flu." USDA has announced intentions to purchase an additional \$30 million in pork products in 2009.

Value-added producer grants available

Through Nov. 30, USDA is encouraging farmers, ranchers and other business owners to apply for \$18 million in grants to help add value to the commodities they produce. USDA plans to award Rural Development Value-Added Producer Grants of up to \$100,000 and working capital grants of up to \$300,000 to successful applicants. Applicants are encouraged to propose projects using existing agricultural products in non-traditional ways or merge agricultural products with technology in creative ways. Priority will be given to operators of small- to medium-sized farms operating as a family farm with average annual gross sales of less than \$700,000. Applicants must provide matching funds equal to the amount of the grant requested. For complete information, visit <http://bit.ly/DZLV6>.

Web site to assist beginning farmers in Ohio

Ohio's new and beginning farmers now have a Web site dedicated to their unique needs at www.beginfarmingohio.org. Part of the Web site's purpose is to provide listings of events of special interest to Ohio's beginning farmers and facilitate searches for educational and funding resources to assist beginning farmers with challenges related to production, marketing and business management. The site is a collaborative effort of the Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy; Ohio Department of Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture; Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA); the Organic Food and Farming Education & Research Program of the OSU Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center, and Ohio State University Extension. Ohio Farm Bureau is an affiliated partner in this effort.

Country of Origin labels requested for gas stations

Ethanol group Growth Energy wants lawmakers to craft legislation requiring gas stations to inform customers what country their fuel came from, with hopes it increases awareness about money spent on oil imported from overseas. Retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark, Growth Energy's chairman, said the United States spends tens of billions of dollars per year on protecting shipping lanes for oil and noted that some of that money could be saved by increasing domestically produced oil and developing alternative fuels.

**FARMERS** from PG 1

"Now is the time for all farmers, regardless of what they produce, to come together in a unified effort to protect Ohio agriculture," said Ohio Corn Growers Association Executive Director Dwayne Siekman.

The Ohio Soybean Association issued a statement saying it has "always supported animal agriculture and supports Issue 2 because establishment of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board will ensure that guidelines for animal care will be under the expertise of Ohio-based experts who will use their best knowledge in making decisions affecting animal agriculture and that make sense for Ohio farmers and Ohio consumers."

Livestock organizations, knowing farmers are fully committed to the well-being of their animals, have said farmers are willing to do more than what is expected of them.

"Our consumers can be confident in the care that Ohio hog farmers are giving their animals and in the safety and quality of the food we produce. It is our livelihood and our responsibility. Our support for the Board further illustrates our commitment to do just that," the Ohio Pork Producers Association said in a statement.

In addition to the corn, soybean and pork associations, Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Ohio Poultry Association, Ohio Cattlemen's Association, Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and the Ohio Livestock Coalition are all supporting Issue 2.

"Cattlemen see this...as everyone's issue, including consumers who have a right to know more about how their food is produced and to be reassured that in addition to our livestock receiving excellent care that we also continue to provide safe and affordable food," said Elizabeth

Harsh, executive director of the Ohio Cattlemen's Association. "We see this discussion as important to everyone in this country because an abundant supply of safe and affordable food is a priority for us all."

The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, which described itself as "an advocate for meaningful, responsible animal care and well being" said voters should approve Issue 2.

"Veterinarians convey sound scientific knowledge, animal behavioral understanding, and appropriate focus on balancing the tenets of food safety, animal well being and production efficiency," the group said.

Add to that the overwhelming bipartisan support that Issue 2 has received, including both chambers of the legislature, Gov. Ted Strickland and Sen. George Voinovich.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food banks and the Ohio Restaurant Association have endorsed the issue. The Ohio Chamber of Commerce is backing the measure.

Hundreds of endorsements from local leaders and community organizations are also rolling in.

"From farmers and veterinarians, to hunger advocates and consumers, once you see Issue 2 for what it is, it really makes a lot of sense for Ohio," said Doug Foxx, OFBF director of political education. "This is an extremely positive and proactive step for the state to take. Everybody who supports care for animals, a strong local food supply and the viability of Ohio's family farms should vote 'Yes' for Issue 2."

Find more information and resources at www.ohiolivestockcare.com.

CAUV from PG 1

production costs and capitalization rates to determine the net profit per acre for each of the 3,560 soil types in Ohio.

County auditors are required by law to reappraise every parcel of land in their county every six years to establish the fair market value, while also required to adjust property values (based upon sales of property in the county) every three years. The Ohio Department of Taxation annually determines and sends CAUV values to county auditors, which they then use in years when a county does one of these reappraisals or updates.

Gearhardt said the biggest factor in the increasing land value is an adjustment of crop yields. In 2005, it was discovered that the Farm Service Agency hadn't adjusted its crop yields data since 1984. The implementation of a system to adjust to current yields starting in 2006 led to an increase in CAUV value.

In addition, the capitalization rate has decreased. Since formula values are divided by the capitalization rate, a lower rate equates to higher land values.

According to Gearhardt, some of the dramatic increases come down to timing. "There is a lag time in how some of the values are calculated," he said. "It takes two years to collect the costs of growing, so the high fertilizer costs from last year are not included in this year's valuation."

Despite the increase in values, he said it's still the best thing going for rural landowners, noting it's an 80 percent reduction of fair market value.

"It's a program farmers must have to survive."

ONLINE VIDEO EXTRA: Gearhardt further explains CAUV values and increases on YouTube. Visit www.YouTube.com and search for "Why are CAUV values increasing?" to see the video.

CLIMATE from PG 1

farmers can provide by creating an offset program for farmers who implement practices that capture carbon.

"The inclusion of the offset program is not the complete answer because even with some of the things included in the current bill it doesn't make economic sense," Porteus said. "If participating depends a great deal on where you're located, what you grow and how you operate, it won't work for every farmer."

He said Ohio farmers support a diversified energy portfolio that includes both renewable and fossil fuels and incorporates existing and emerging technologies.

Last month, hundreds of Ohioans rallied in Lima against the legislation, saying it would kill jobs, raise consumer costs and make America less competitive.

"Being high energy use customers, we're very concerned about the bill and want to see a bill that's more favorably written for Ohio's farmers," said Ohio Farm Bureau State Trustee Mike Schumm before he addressed the crowd.

He said the increased costs of electricity and fuel "is going to affect our bottom line greatly."

Schumm also said that an offset program for agriculture is not a solution for the increased costs farmers will face.

"In my instance, we have a lot of livestock, so no-till isn't always viable for us. And if we plant trees, we can't grow the crops that we need to produce the grain to feed the livestock or feed the American public," he said. "(The bill) is not enough to keep us going the way we need to go."

Paid for by Ohioans for Livestock Care Political Action Committee, John C. Fisher, Treasurer, 280 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215

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PUBLIC POLICY

Three bills farmers need to watch

Congress may take action this fall on three bills of critical importance to farmers. According to the American Farm Bureau, here is what you should know.

Estate Tax

Set for repeal for 2010, the Estate Tax will return in 2011 at a \$1 million exemption and 55 percent tax rate. Farm Bureau is seeking a higher exemption for agriculture operations, so farms and ranches are not harmed. Because estate taxes influence the sale of land, this tax can interfere with the orderly transfer of farmland to the next generation of farmers and ranchers.

AFBF says it takes 2 1/2 years of farm returns for a moderate-sized farm operation to pay off the Estate Tax owed.

Climate Bill

The agriculture sector is being asked to accept higher costs from the Climate Change bill; while all farmers and ranchers will face potentially higher costs, only a few stand to benefit. While some claim the legislation is good for agriculture, most fruit and vegetable producers will not qualify for offset benefits. Not all farmers will have the capacity to site wind turbines. Western ranchers whose operations are dependent on the use of federal lands for livestock forage have very limited offset opportunities. Not all areas of the country are able to productively adopt conservation tillage practices, thus restricting their offset possibilities. Yet all producers will incur the same increased fuel, fertilizer and energy costs as all Americans.

Clean Water Restoration Act

This bill would greatly expand the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act to the detriment of U.S. economic growth and agricultural operations. The Clean Water Act currently gives the government oversight over "navigable" waters. This bill removes the term navigable, expanding oversight to all waters.

If passed, AFBF says nearly every wet area in the nation — even if water is only present for a few days — could become regulated by the federal government. This could include everything from ditches to farm ponds to prior converted cropland and possibly groundwater.

This proposal would move the CWA beyond protecting wetlands and waterways and create a regulatory burden for farmers, ranchers and property owners.

Web site to match farmers with desired hunters

It's not quite E-harmony.com, but a new Web site is hoping to match farmers and hunters in four Ohio counties.

OFBF and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' (ODNR) Division of Wildlife announced last month the launch of the Web site www.huntohiofarms.com, a two-year pilot program aimed at providing farmers in Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson and Tuscarawas counties with pre-screened hunters. The program is an effort to assist Ohio farmers whose crops have been damaged by foraging deer.

Hunters from anywhere inside or outside Ohio may register at the site, providing information including hunting preferences, availability, hunting implement of choice, etc. Then farmers who own land in the pilot counties can search hunter profiles and find a good match for their farm and circumstances. More than 1,000 hunters had registered on the site after just one week.

ODNR Director Sean Logan said the program will "expand hunter access, improve herd management, strengthen local economies and protect valuable cropland, all while opening an important new avenue of cooperation between landowners and Ohio's sportsmen and women."

OFBF Director of Legislative Relations Chris Henney said



The Web site www.huntohiofarms.com matches farmers and hunters in an effort to reduce the deer population.

Farm Bureau is committed to the program.

"We encourage farmers in the pilot area to go to the site and participate. It's a good opportunity for farmers and landowners to identify ethical hunters that are willing to help with deer population issues on their property."

Henney stressed Farm Bureau's appreciation for state Reps. Mark Okey, D-Carrollton, and Allan R. Sayre, D-Dover, and their support of the development of the program and commitment to reduce the deer population in Ohio.

"This project is not only exciting

for hunters and farmers, but there is also the opportunity to help the less fortunate through venison donation programs," Sayre said. Information is available on the Web site for hunters to learn more about donating should they wish to hunt more than they can consume.

Another positive is that the Web site will connect owners and farmers with hunters who share common ideas on how to manage the wild deer population on their property, Okey said.

Other partners include White-tails Unlimited and the Quality Deer Management Association.

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COUNTY news

Animal care promoted in Mercer County

The Mercer County Farm Bureau made a strong statement about animal welfare issues with its county fair display in August. The county Farm Bureau created an "animal care" area at the fair that featured a calf, pigs, chicks and a goat. The display included several interactive areas with the animals, a corn play area and an information station featuring materials about Issue 2 and the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. "The display was a great way to bring in families," said Steve Zumberge, Mercer County Farm Bureau president. "While the kids interacted with animals, we talked with parents about Issue 2." More than 2,000 people visited the display during the fair. In the photo below, one of the signs in the display explains responsible animal husbandry to visitors.



Photo courtesy of Mercer County Farm Bureau

Proactive livestock display travels to Delaware County

Delaware County Farm Bureau took notice when an animal activist group recently displayed anti-animal agriculture information in the Delaware Library. In an effort to help educate the public about the positives of animal agriculture, the board formed a committee to put together its own display for the library. Called "Pleased to Meet You," the display featured five area livestock farm families throughout the month of August and invited library patrons to learn more by visiting the Farm Bureau's animal display at the county fair and the www.FarmersFeedUS.com Web site. According to Organization Director Katie Grove, it was estimated that more than 5,000 people viewed the display. It was such a success that it is being displayed in another county library in Ashley this month and a modified version is being made available in a poster format to display in other local businesses in addition to Issue 2 information.

Diving into his work

Some of OFBF's organization directors really dive into their work, literally. Ashland, Medina and Wayne county Farm Bureau Organization Director John Fitzpatrick, on bottom in the photo at right, recently celebrated his birthday in style by jumping out of a plane from 8,000 feet. Fitzpatrick is pictured skydiving into Milton Township in Wayne County. As any good seasoned organization director could do, Fitzpatrick said he could name nearly every farm below him as he dropped at 200 mph.



Photo courtesy of Wayne County FB

'Leadership Buffet' helps OFBF members improve leadership, public speaking skills

Ohio Farm Bureau's Leadership Buffet is continuing to grow with hundreds of members participating in seminars that work at improving their leadership skills.

A seminar was offered this summer so OFBF members could effectively talk about their operation as they highlight the importance of having state Issue 2 pass, creating the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board. The seminar, "Speak Up Guide to Speaking Your Mind Without Losing It First", was held in northeast Ohio and at Leadership Conference.

"Counties had asked for this - they wanted a public speaking workshop," said Darrell Rubel, Ohio Farm Bureau's director of volunteer development.

Rubel led the workshop, using material he had learned from teaching an ag communication class at Ohio State University.

"We condensed a quarter's worth of information into a two-hour workshop," he said.

During the seminar, participants learned how to talk and listen to au-

dience members and how to respond to their questions or criticisms. They learned why eye contact, facial expressions, voice volume and hand gestures were important for public speaking and how to captivate an audience.

"They learned how to boil down a speech, how to say it in six minutes or less and get their major points across," Rubel said. "It really boils down to that you have only 90 seconds

as a speaker to make that first impact. If you don't make that impact, you'll probably lose them and it's very hard to get them back."

Other popular workshops this summer dealt with topics on how to set goals, how to get new people involved, how to make volunteering attractive and how to build an effective team. Rubel said etiquette was another area that counties had asked for help with.

"Etiquette is such a huge topic. It

ranges from formal dining, dressing for success, how to deal graciously with a social faux pas, how to engage other people in conversation, e-mail and telephone," he said.

"You have only 90 seconds as a speaker to make that first impact"

~Darrell Rubel, Ohio Farm Bureau director of volunteer development

Rubel also said the Higher Ground program, for youths age 10 to 18, was revamped this summer to include Leadership Buffet-type seminars. For example, one day the youths had speakers in to talk about livestock issues and

then they discussed the topics as was done for advisory councils. They would write policy suggestions, and the next day would be a mock annual meeting with a policy meeting. On the third day, the youths learned how to testify in front of legislators and how to write letters to them.

For more about Leadership Buffet, check out the blog and Facebook page, which can be accessed at www.ofbf.org. Click on "Get Involved" then "Leadership Development."



Our Ohio Telling Agriculture's Story

'Our Ohio' out and about

Our Ohio had a display at the From Field to Table Festival at Franklin Park Conservatory and will have displays at the Cincinnati Fall Festival Oct. 2 and 3 and at the Bob Evans Festival in Gallia County Oct. 9 and 10. The events are an opportunity to reach out to consumers about *Our Ohio's* television, magazine and Internet presence and also an opportunity to provide membership opportunities.



Marilyn Suzko, center, was a featured chef at the From Field to Table event.

Photo by Cara Lawson

'Our Ohio' Web site updates

OurOhio.org now has social media sharing capabilities. With the click of a button it is possible to share favorite content from OurOhio.org on Facebook and Twitter. Look for the share feature at the top of each article.

Also, there is a new recipe section devoted to Bob Evans recipes. Each month through December, new recipes will be added to the section. Visit OurOhio.org, "Food/Cooking," then "Recipes," then "Bob Evans Recipes."

SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10 of Article II of the Bylaws of Southern States Cooperative, Incorporated (the "Association") of the Annual Meeting of the members of the Association to be held on Friday, November 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Association's corporate headquarters at 6606 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. The purpose of the meeting is to hear reports from the Board of Directors and Management and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

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a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		65,112	61,695
b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation			
(1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)		60,620	60,078
(2) Paid In-County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)		N/A	N/A
(3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution		N/A	N/A
(4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		N/A	N/A
c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		60,620	60,078
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)			
(1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541		3,992	1,117
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541		N/A	N/A
(3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS		N/A	N/A
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		319	89
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e.)		4,311	1,206
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f.)		64,931	61,284
h. Copies not Distributed		141	399
i. Total (Sum of 15g and h.)		65,112	61,695
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g, times 100)		93.3%	98%
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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Pat Petzel, Executive Editor		Date September 18, 2009	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			
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6. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.			
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PS Form 3526, October 1999 (Reverse)			

ORGANIZATION

MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"We need Farm Bureau to always be a proactive voice for agriculture so we can continue to feed ourselves and not rely on other countries."

~ **Bill Johnson, Franklin County**

About 12 years ago, Bill Johnson was at the Franklin County Fair and stopped by Farm Bureau's booth. An avid gardener in suburban Columbus, Johnson was impressed by OFBF's efforts to promote and support agriculture and joined. He has been active with the Franklin County Farm Bureau ever since, working membership and as a trustee for the past four years.



Johnson

Johnson grew up in Portage County near Kent. At age 12 he started working on a nearby dairy farm, helping out not with the cows but fruit trees and the garden. Today, he lives in Upper Arlington where he has planted more than a dozen fruit trees on his 1-acre property and grows a wide variety of produce that goes to a nearby farmers market and restaurant.

Johnson sells computer systems and technical services and has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio University and master's in business management from the University of Dayton. He and his wife, Denise, have three grown children and are members of Upper Arlington Lutheran Church. He is an Eagle Scout and remains active with Scouts. He also is a present president of the Organic Gardening Club of Central Ohio and a member of the Ohio Ecological & Farm Association and the Central Ohio Beekeepers Association.

As a small, organic grower, Johnson said he appreciates how Ohio Farm Bureau represents all sectors of agriculture.

"I really believe in what Farm Bureau does," he said. "I'm always telling people that Farm Bureau is nothing like painted in the media as being only for big businesses."

"I like the feeling I get from working on a project and knowing that it will benefit our members and the industry of agriculture."

~ **Chip Nelson, communications specialist**

Communication Specialist Chip Nelson has been with Ohio Farm Bureau since 1995 when he was hired as an organization director for Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties. He was then OFBF's director of advisory councils for four years and director of research and program development for two years. He currently produces video segments for Farm Bureau's Web site, YouTube site and for other projects. He also produces the award program for annual meeting and Leadership Conference.



Nelson

Before starting at OFBF, Nelson was an agriculture education teacher for eight years and farm director of WKFI Radio in Wilmington for three years. He has a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from Wilmington College.

Nelson grew up on a 10-acre farm in Warren County near Blanchester where the family raised vegetables, freezer beef and hogs. He also worked on a dairy farm while in high school and college. Nelson and his wife, Charla, live near Circleville and have two adult children. He attends Circleville Nazarene Church and is a certified instructor for Centershot Ministries, an archery based program for young people.

"Farm Bureau is a great organization that truly cares for the members," he said. "I've enjoyed meeting so many people from all regions of the state with various backgrounds but all with the passion to promote the agriculture industry in this state."

NATIONWIDE NEWS

Nationwide's equine insurance addresses horse owner liabilities

AgriChoice a new breed of equine insurance

There are thousands of horse operations in Ohio. It's an industry that is growing each year. Along with the growing numbers of horses, the need for liability coverages to protect horse owners is increasing across the state.

In response to requests from Farm Bureau members in eastern states, Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company has developed an equine liability program endorsed by Ohio Farm Bureau. These coverages, added on to the AgriChoice farm policy, can help tailor the farm policy to include equine operations.

The additional coverages protect against liabilities members face from horse boarding or breeding operations. The program also helps protect farmers who provide training on the farm for horses that belong to others, whether incidental to breeding operations or ongoing.

An optional coverage can be added to protect against liability for the injury or death of other people's horses that are in the care, custody and control of the farmer.

"We are very pleased to be able to expand our coverage options to meet the needs of this growing segment of the agricultural community," said Jerry Hillard, Nationwide Agribusiness. "We value our relationship with Ohio Farm Bureau, which endorses the company, our products and people."

"The AgriChoice farm policy is one of the most comprehensive farm insurance policies available," Hillard said. "It contains standard features not offered by many other companies, including equipment breakdown and rental reimbursement on farm equipment."

Farm Bureau members automatically receive additional coverages not available to non-members, such as lock replacement and identity theft expense coverage, Hillard said. Members receive a preferred price, 10 percent discount, on AgriChoice



File Photo

The new equine liability coverage was developed as a result of input from Farm Bureau members.

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Care, Custody, and Control

- Provides coverage for liability for injury or death of other people's horses that are left in your care, custody or control.

coverages as well.

For further information about the Nationwide Agribusiness equine liability program, contact your local Nationwide Insurance agent, or visit www.nationwide.com/OFBF.

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Four will head to Discussion Meet finals

Pam Haley of West Salem, Cassandra Palsgrove of Pickerington, Andrew Spiker of Adamsville and Kelly Staley of Fredericktown have been named the four state finalists in OFBF's 2009 Discussion Meet.

The annual contest tests participants' subject knowledge, problem solving abilities and personal and small group communications skills. The young agricultural professionals will participate in the finals of the competition during OFBF's annual meeting held Dec. 2 to 4 in Cincinnati.

The finalists were named after discussing the following topics during preliminary competition at OFBF's annual Leadership Conference in Columbus:

"How can agricultural producers reach out to the public to gain their support on important issues impacting agriculture?"

"The U.S. has the safest food supply in the world. How do farmers



Haley



Palsgrove



Spiker



Staley

continue to improve the public's perception of their products?"

Haley is an 11-year member of the Wayne County Farm Bureau, where she is active in membership recruitment. She lives on a grain and Simmental cattle farm with her husband Mike. Haley has a bachelor's degree in agribusiness and applied economics from Ohio State University, works as a crop insurance adjuster and is secretary/treasurer of the Ohio Simmental Association.

Palsgrove is a member of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau, where she participates in a Farm Bureau

advisory council. She is an agricultural education instructor at Bloom-Carroll High School and resides with her husband Brent. Palsgrove has a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural education from Ohio State University.

Spiker, his father, uncle and brother operate a grain and cattle farm in Muskingum County, where he is a seven-year member and current vice president of the county Farm Bureau. A current agriculture education instructor and graduate of Ohio State University, Spiker has also been active as the president of

the Adamsville Community Progressive Council and the Muskingum County Livestock Committee.

An eight-year member of Richland County Farm Bureau, Staley is a sixth-grade teacher at Clear Fork Middle School in Bellville. Staley has a bachelor's degree in psychology and animal science and a master's in education from Ohio State University. She and her husband Adam live on a hay and cattle farm with their children Ethan, 5, and Dawson, 2.

The Discussion Meet is hosted by Ohio Farm Bureau's Young Agricultural Professionals and is for singles and married couples age 18 to 35 who are interested in improving the business of agriculture, learning new ideas and developing leadership skills. For more information, visit www.ofbf.org and search "young ag professionals."

Northwest county offices adjust locations, hours

To make the best use of member resources, the Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood county Farm Bureaus have adjusted their operations. Lucas, Ottawa and Wood county Farm Bureaus, having previously shared an office, recently moved to a new location, where they are now joined by Sandusky County Farm Bureau. The new four-county office will combine staff from both offices, allowing Sandusky County Farm Bureau to add another day of service and additional office hours. All four county offices will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. "This is an all-around win for all counties involved," said Northwest Regional Supervisor Connie Ward. "Members in all four counties will continue to expect the same great service they have always had." The new office is located at 109 Portage Street, Woodville, OH 43469; phone number 419-849-2128.

on **YOUR** behalf

Here are some additional activities in which your support of Farm Bureau helped strengthen agriculture and rural Ohio.

2009/2010 Farm Bureau Goals

Market Farm Bureau to achieve membership growth

Increase grassroots involvement by creating a volunteer-friendly Farm Bureau

Expand relations with Nationwide and other affinity organizations

Promote farming and the agbioresource industry

Influence the adoption of OFBF and AFBF policy

Speak out and stand up for animal agriculture and the food industry

Protect personal property rights

Engage members in the 2009 and 2010 elections

State office support of county Farm Bureau projects ensures consistent messages. ➔ OFBF assisted multiple county Farm Bureaus in preparing signage and messaging for county fairs and upcoming dog and horse shows.

Being an advocate for agriculture is part of everyday life for Farm Bureau members. ➔ Members of OFBF staff facilitated meetings with Young Agricultural Professionals with members of Congress and USDA in Washington D.C.

Strategic resource management leads to responsible environmental stewardship. ➔ Staff met with local Farm Bureau leaders to discuss nutrient management options in the Grand Lake watershed.

Preparing the next generation of agriculture professionals for what lies ahead. ➔ Staff informed local ag students about careers available in agricultural communications and raised awareness of State Issue 2 during a career day hosted by the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Link Up

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What's in the Ohio Constitution and why Issue 2 is a good fit

There a number of reasons why Ohioans should vote "Yes" for Issue 2. It ensures safe, quality, locally grown food, strong family farms and excellent care for animals.

This will be done through an Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board which will provide a comprehensive, ongoing, reasonable and flexible mechanism to address animal care issues.

But some may ask, "Does this sort of thing fit in Ohio's Constitution?"

Simply put, the answer is "Yes."

"Advocating an amendment to Ohio's Constitution is not something that the Ohio Farm Bureau took lightly," said Beth Vanderkooi, OFBF director of state policy. "In fact, we did not come to the decision until after a significant amount of discussion had taken place between lawmakers, consumers, constitutional experts and farmers. Once we looked at the issue as a whole, we began to feel very strongly that the Ohio Constitution was the best place to put the Livestock Care Standards Board."

Because Ohio's farmers play an essential role in ensuring a safe, affordable supply of local food; in shaping the fabric of local communities; in providing jobs in both rural and urban areas; and in contributing billions of dollars to Ohio's economy, it is right to allow Issue 2 – and the

foundation it lays for preserving Ohio's agricultural future – to be considered by all Ohio voters. In this way, state officials will know there is broad public support for Ohio's collaborative approach to resolving animal care issues.

"Advocating an amendment to Ohio's Constitution is not something that the Ohio Farm Bureau took lightly."

~Beth Vanderkooi, OFBF
director of state policy

It is often noted that constitutional law is inflexible and hard to change as events and circumstances evolve. But Issue 2 is written to preserve flexibility by providing an ongoing mechanism for making important animal care decisions, and updating them over time as necessary.

According to Vanderkooi, the Ohio Constitution establishes about a dozen boards and commissions, including the Board of Education and the Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Farm Bureau believes preserving Ohio's locally grown food supply and the livelihood of its agricultural community is of equal importance. Additionally, Farm Bureau believes public policy that so deeply impacts fundamental issues of food availability and affordability, food safety, self governance, the economy, jobs and consumer

choice should be determined by a direct vote of the people.

"In the existing cases, the Constitution establishes the basic guidelines for the board or commission to function and then authorizes the General Assembly to develop more specific laws via statute. That is exactly what is being done in the case of the Livestock Care Standards Board," Vanderkooi said.

Vanderkooi also notes that Ohio's Constitution is more complex than the U.S. Constitution, which leaves many decisions up to the states.

"Everything from how we spend money on parks and natural resources to how we handle economic development in our state is addressed in the Ohio Constitution," Vanderkooi said. "In Ohio, agriculture is our largest industry, and farmers use our natural resources every single day to bring us safe, affordable and locally grown food. In this sense, it is perfectly logical to put the Livestock Care Standards Board in Ohio's Constitution, because so many related issues are already there."

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INDUSTRY NEWS

A GREEN SOLUTION FOR A BLACK AND WHITE WORLD

Bio-based toner resin offers eco-friendly alternative

Advanced Image Resources Inc. (AIR) is giving consumers a choice to use their printers and copiers and be environmentally friendly while doing it. AIR now offers the world's only bio-based toner resin, called BioRez, made using soybeans and other renewable resources.

Resin, as the main ingredient in all printer toners, comprises 50 to 90 percent of toner. The use of renewable resources is significant as toners currently being produced using BioRez have biomaterial content of at least 35 percent. In contrast, all other commercially available toners are petroleum-based products or have insignificant amounts of biomaterial content.

Bio-based toner is comparable in quality and cost, does not require any modifications to printers or toner cartridges and can be used in any laser-jet printer or copier. Consumers can look for toner cartridges marked BioBlack™ or BioRez to ensure they are purchasing environmentally friendly toner.

More than 400 million pounds of electrostatic dry toners based on petroleum-derived resins are consumed in the United States annually. At 25 percent market penetration, this technology could save 9.25 trillion BTUs per year and eliminate

more than 360,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, which equates to taking 100,000 cars off the road for a year.

AIR licensed this technology from Battelle, which received funding from the Ohio Soybean Council (OSC) for the development of this technology. For more than a decade, using checkoff dollars, OSC has worked with Battelle to develop an environmentally friendly resin utilizing soybeans. This bio-based resin is an example of OSC's ongoing efforts to discover new uses for soybeans and soybean byproducts.

"We are pleased to see this project come to fruition," said Keith Kemp, OSC chairman. "OSC continues to be a strong innovator and leader in funding research to develop soy bio-based products and the toner project has been by far our biggest success."

According to Battelle, the 2007 worldwide toner market was \$17 billion. Using this figure, if the entire market were to utilize soy-based toner, 302.4 million pounds of soybean oil would be needed. This equates to 26.8 million bushels of soybeans and increased potential for the commodity crop.

"When our scientists started working with the Ohio Soybean Council on developing a bio-based

toner made with soy, it was a logical extension of our bio-based capabilities," Battelle President and CEO Jeff Wadsworth said. "We are pleased to license the technology to AIR, which is actively taking the bio-based toner to market. It's quite gratifying to know that, in the near future, people everywhere will be able to use a product that was developed here."

The technology utilized to produce bio-based resin made from soy has been nationally recognized with an R&D 100 award in 2003 and a Presidential Green Chemistry Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2008.

A leading manufacturer of after-market imaging supplies has realized the promise of soy-based toner.

West Point Products has announced the release of AgriTone premium replacement toner cartridges, a series of remanufactured laser toner cartridges containing toner that is 35 percent or more bio-based through the use of the BioRez technology. In 2008 alone, the company collected more than 900,000 cartridges through its Empty Core Collection Program and recycled more than 1 million pounds of raw materials from its manufacturing process.

Article contributed by the Ohio Soybean Council.



Photo by istockphoto.com.

Council report aims to boost local, nutritious foods

The Ohio Food Policy Council released its progress report that sets final recommendations and goals to help improve the local food system in Ohio and advance access to healthy food.

The council was created by Gov. Ted Strickland in 2007 to analyze food production, processing and consumption in Ohio; link producers and consumers in local food systems; and ensure that citizens in need have greater access to fresh and nutritious food. OFBF is a member of the council.

Council recommendations include:

- Implement a mobile poultry processing unit in the state.
- Incorporate the Farm Bill Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program in Ohio elementary schools
- Create a directory of existing low or no interest loans, grants and tax incentive programs available for agricultural businesses focused on local food systems
- Increase support of agricultural economic development in the state
- Direct resources toward improving the Ohio MarketMaker program, which links farmers to food businesses, to encourage more producer participation that will facilitate local food business development.

"This council is doing its part to help support local producers and communities, create jobs, and provide nutritious food to Ohioans," Strickland said.

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NOTEWORTHY

Take breaks, keep phone and radio nearby when working alone

All Jim Westfall wanted to do was clean up his tractor and get the lime off it. But the way he did it almost killed him.

"The doctor said I was lucky to be alive," said the Miami County Farm Bureau member who has farmed all his life. "I thought my experience was scary enough that I wanted to share my story and let others know during this harvest season."

Last fall Westfall had lime plowed into his field and decided to clean his tractor a few days later. Because it was chilly out, he didn't use his power washer but a long nozzle air hose, which stirred up the lime dust and he breathed it in. Westfall said he felt like he was going to pass out and managed to make it back to the house where a caretaker was looking after his mother-in-law. She insisted he go to the ER.

There, the doctor had to call a specialist to figure out how to get the lime out of Westfall's lungs. With time, the lime would turn into paste and burn the interior of his lungs. He breathed in a solution, which helped wash the lime out of his lungs.

"I never gave washing (the lime) with an air hose a thought. I've told a few neighbors and they're never heard of the danger – not even the guy who put the lime on," said Westfall, who has since recovered.

Dec Jepsen, a farm safety expert at Ohio State University Extension, said that with the start of harvest season farmers need to be careful, make

sure they know how their equipment operates and be prepared to handle any type of emergency. Statistics show that workplace fatalities in the farming industry rose by 11 percent last year to a total of 651 deaths in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industries. The increase was led by worker deaths in production, which rose 18 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many farm-related traumatic injuries are caused by tractor accidents, accounting for an average of 96 deaths annually, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

"The tractor is always the bad boy of state fatalities," Jepsen said noting that the state has averaged 23 fatalities over a 10-year period.

"Farmers need to have the mindset that anything can happen to them anytime, and they need to be prepared for all situations," she said. "Things on the farm should be run

the same way as a business – there should be scheduled breaks."

Farmers often have the luxury of working alone and not having anybody looking over their shoulders, Jepsen said. The drawback is that often they are alone and don't have anybody to help them in an emergency. Jepsen recommends farmers carry not only cell phones but two-way radios in case phone coverage is spotty. They should tell a friend or family member where they will be and have a designated time to check in. Farmers should have a first aid kit, complete with bee sting ointment, sun block and pain medicine, and directions to the nearest emergency facility with them at all times.

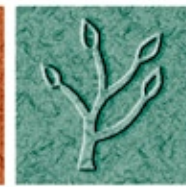
Workers shouldn't take shortcuts or overexert themselves as it starts to get dark, Jepsen said.

"While farmers have the training and understanding they need for their job, they also need to recognize their own limitations," she said.

ROLLOVER PREVENTION

- Steep slopes — back up
- Uneven ground — check ground for debris, rocks, etc.
- Stuck or mired wheels — avoid wet/muddy fields
- Front end loaders — keep loads low; Tractors — hitch low and only to draw bar
- Most rollover injuries can be prevented or reduced if a tractor has a ROPS (rollover protective structure) and the driver wears a seatbelt. The ROPS alone will not protect a person. The driver must wear the seatbelt to keep within the "protected zone" of the ROPS in the event of a rollover. Tractors without a ROPS should not have a seatbelt.

Source: National Ag Safety Database



Ohio Farm
Bureau Foundation

Grants available through OFB Foundation

Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation (Foundation) is inviting community service groups in rural, suburban and/or urban settings, as well as independent producers and agribusinesses, to apply for a series of grants to fund programs highlighting agriculture and its impact on the community.

The competitively awarded \$1,000 to \$3,000 Agricultural Action and Awareness Grants are designed to support programs and projects focusing on agricultural education, ecological and/or economic development.

Since its creation in fall 2005, the program has awarded more than \$60,000 to community action organizations, schools, producer organizations, non-profit service organizations, neighborhood groups and individuals.

"Agricultural Action and Awareness Grants focus on funding needs for smaller, community-based groups that often find the larger-scale public and private grant solicitation process daunting," Foundation President Jack Fisher said.

Grant application forms and proposal instructions may be downloaded at the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation Web site, www.OFBFoundation.org. All completed forms and proposals must be received by Nov. 16. Participants will be selected and awards given in January 2010.

Small groups wanting to gain better insight and experience in the grant planning and solicitation process can participate in the Foundation's Community Grantsmanship program. The program helps local organizations form leadership teams, complete a community needs assessment, write a proposal, budget resources and initiate the planning required to fulfill grant acceptance agreement obligations.

"We have a great combination here," Fisher said. "We have a source of funding available for small groups, plus a process to help get further involved in grant solicitation, funding and program management."

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