



Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

Interstate Meat Shipment

Will you or someone you know benefit from this change in policy? If yes, please describe what new opportunities will become available for the livestock and meat processing industry.

Do you think this will provide consumers with more or less confidence in the meat products they purchase?

H1N1 Questions

H1N1 continues to receive a lot of media attention. It is often misidentified as “Swine Flu” and this has caused confusion among many consumers. What can we, as an agricultural community, do to ensure that the media, the consumer and government agencies are using the proper terminology?

SWCD Funding

How will you or members of your council be affected if Soil & Water Conservation District funding is not restored? Please share examples of help you’ve received from your county SWCD.

A selection of responses from the September 2009 guide Restoring Prosperity to Ohio

Picture back to a time when your county seat or nearby urban area was vibrant. Describe the qualities that made it prosperous. ▶ Family oriented Ma & Pa stores. People didn’t travel as far and there was more loyalty to local merchants. ▶ Bus and streetcar transportation. ▶ People were loyal

to their local towns. ▶ Wages were a living wage, not so many minimum wage jobs. ▶ Wartime industries, auto industries, local retail, grocers and bars. ▶ Essential services were all there; from clothes to restaurants. Prosperity made school levies pass easier. ▶ Downtown area was busy – no malls, no franchises, no big chain grocery stores. ▶ Day and night, downtowns were busy, clean and safe.

▶ Family owned stores, soda shops, less crime, theaters and clothing stores. ▶ You could buy everything you needed on Main Street. ▶ Each businessman supported the other businessmen. ▶ Our economy was based on small businesses that were operated by an owner who cared about his/her customers. ▶ We had manufacturing jobs rather than service only jobs.

Why are young adults leaving our towns today? What has changed from the past to today that causes them to leave? ▶ Jobs, jobs and more jobs!!! ▶ Lack of economic diversity, new technology and no opportunity to join the family business. ▶ Pay is lower in rural areas. ▶ Our young people are more mobile and better educated. ▶ Farming is hard work; income for self employed farmers is lower. ▶ Young people don’t want to start out at the bottom and work up. ▶ Specialty professions require relocation to larger cities. ▶ Companies transfer people; individuals must go where a job is available. ▶ The ones who stay here are involved as business partners in

the family farm or other family business. ▶ It used to be that kids could graduate from high school and get good paying jobs in the steel mills, etc. The only jobs left seem to be low paying service industry jobs.

In light of the changes of our 21st century economy, what do we need to change to make our county seats and urban areas vibrant and vital again? ▶ More jobs – skilled and unskilled. ▶ Bring back and support small business. ▶ Change our tax structure. ▶ Return to community and neighborhood schools, mom and pop stores and local bus transportation ▶ Give smaller businesses the same tax abatements as given to bigger industries. ▶ Bring back the jobs that moved out of the USA ▶ Need a diverse economic base. ▶ Get back to basics. Learn to live within your family’s means. Recycle, take care of the land and be self sufficient. Learn to be a neighbor again and build a strong sense of community. ▶ Regulations need to change so small businesses can come back. ▶ We need to save tax dollars by going to a regional government instead of wasting money on duplicate jobs. ▶ More people going to church; people shouldn’t be so greedy. ▶ Don’t make it so hard for small businesses to operate.

November Honeybaked Ham winners: Top B’s Advisory Council, Delaware County