



**A look at the Obama team**  
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**Ag science:**

*"We're the one real entity where the state of Ohio invests in the agricultural sector for research and development."*  
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**Risk or reward from raw milk?**  
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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

# BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 5, 2009 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 9

## OFBF examining Ohio's metal theft law

Members say more needs to be done

BY SETH TETER

Last year, Ohio legislators tried to make it harder for unlawful owners of beer kegs, grave markers, guardrails, manhole covers and other metal materials to cash in their goods.

After a sharp rise in metal theft, the state issued a new law for scrap dealers that called for thorough recordkeeping and put restrictions on commonly stolen items.

Farm Bureau members have called on the organization to take additional action after a discussion at the 2008 annual meeting revealed farmers still struggle with metal theft; one farmer reported a \$100,000 loss when thieves targeted some of his equipment.

"As it turns out, the new law doesn't seem to go far enough," said Larry Gearhardt, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation senior director of local affairs.

Farm Bureau is analyzing metal theft laws in Arizona and California to see if they may offer additional remedies to Ohio's problems.

A major concern is that, in addition to taking metal, thieves often cause extensive damage to property. The problem became apparent when scrap metal prices reached record highs last year.

"They were going into vacant houses and stripping out anything that had copper and aluminum," said Lt. Bill Kobel of the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office.

Although scrap prices have come  
*See THEFT, pg 6*

# Damage Report

*There's a long way to go to control the deer herd, but complaining is a start*

 **1,677 COMPLAINTS**

 **1,591 PERMITS**

 **8,723 FEWER DEER**

BY AMY BETH GRAVES

Got a problem with deer damaging your crops? Take action by getting deer damage permits, which allow you to kill a certain number of deer on your property. That's the advice of David Risley, executive administrator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife's Wildlife Management and Research.

Last year, the wildlife division issued 1,591 deer damage permits after receiving 1,677 complaints, Risley said. The number of deer killed under the special permits was 8,723. He said almost every farmer who requests the permit gets one.

"The most common complaint on denial that I have heard has been with cover crops or forage. Shooting permits are sometimes denied for safety purposes," Risley said, noting that suburbs often



In addition to damage permits, OFBF policy calls for numerous methods to reduce the deer herd.

don't allow shooting. "I emphasize to our staff that they should be very liberal in issuing permits."

Ohio has more deer than it can manage, said Chris Henney, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's (OFBF) director of legislative relations. Experts estimate that the deer population is more than 700,000. OFBF policy calls for reducing that number to 250,000.

While Ohio Division of Wildlife officials don't have the final number of deer killed last year, they said more than 116,000 deer were harvested during deer gun season. Archery season didn't end until Feb. 1.

"It's good to see the deer harvest numbers continue to increase because the overall population also continues to rise," Henney said. "But ultimately we need to see the population numbers decrease."

*See DAMAGE, pg 6*

## From many farmers comes one voice

*Delegates gather to set national Farm Bureau policies*



AFBF President Bob Stallman (r) leads farmers from across the nation during the policy session at American Farm Bureau's 90th annual meeting in San Antonio.

BY DAN TOLAND

Ohio played a key role in establishing positions on farm employment, livestock and fertilizer issues as farmers established a national agricultural agenda last month.

During American Farm Bureau's

90th annual meeting in San Antonio, farmer delegates set policies that will guide the organization for the coming year.

"The main items Ohio asked for have been adopted into policy," said Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Senior Director of Legislative and

Regulatory Policy Adam Sharp.

While the 369 delegates (including 13 from Ohio) indicated that an unfinished immigration bill from 2008 should be completed, they adopted policy brought forth from Ohio requesting a way for farmers and ranchers to better use the H-2A guest

worker program. "We asked for more and better training for employers to assess whether or not they can use the H-2A program," Sharp said. "It's complicated and we have been trying to reform it for years so that it can be better utilized by those who need labor."

*See FARMERS, pg 7*

### AT THE 'PINNACLE'

During the annual meeting, Ohio Farm Bureau was presented with American Farm Bureau's new Pinnacle Award, given to the best Farm Bureaus in each membership category for overall outstanding program achievement combined with membership growth.

Also, for the third straight year, OFBF had the distinction of winning four out of a possible five President's Awards, twice as many as its closest competitor. The organization received the Award for Excellence in all five program areas – Agriculture Education and Promotion; Leadership Development; Member Services; Policy Implementation; and Public Relations and Information.

OFBF President Brent Porteus credited the success to the hard work of the organization's volunteers.

## PUBLIC POLICY

## The president's picks

## New leaders want 'sustainable' policies, vow to combat global warming

Among President Obama's more than 3,000 political appointees are his choices for the top agriculture, energy and environment posts. Here are some of the leaders that will oversee decisions that impact farmers over the next four years.

## Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

Formerly Iowa's governor, Vilsack has been a strong proponent of renewable fuels, including ethanol, and an advocate for biotechnology.

*"(USDA) must be about the work of improving profitability for farmers and ranchers and expanding opportunities in the rural communities in which they live. It must aggressively promote policies and programs that support sustainable practices to conserve and preserve our precious natural resources."*



Vilsack

## Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

Leaving his U.S. Senate seat, Salazar of Colorado will be responsible for oversight of the nation's natural resources through agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

*"The (president's) energy imperative will create jobs here in America, protect our national security and confront the dangers of global warming. I look forward to helping build our clean energy economy, modernize our interstate electrical grid and ensure that we are making wise use of our conventional natural resources including coal, oil and gas."*



Salazar

## Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson

Jackson, formerly commissioner of New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, is now the nation's top environmental regulator.

*"Now more than ever our country is in need of leadership on a host of urgent environmental challenges that face our communities, our cities, our farms and our rivers, streams, lakes and oceans. At the top of the list is the threat of climate change, which requires us to transform how we produce and use energy throughout the economy."*



Jackson

## 'Climate Change Czar' Carol Browner

Browner fills a newly-created post in the White House to coordinate energy and climate policy. She previously served as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency under the Clinton Administration.

*"We can create jobs, curb greenhouse gas emissions, reduce our dependence on foreign oil and help restore America's leadership around the world by shaping an environmentally sustainable world economy."*



Browner

## Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu

Chu is a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who has recently led the Berkeley National Laboratory in pursuit of new alternative and renewable energies.

*"(I) believe that aggressive support of energy science and technology coupled with incentives that accelerate the development and deployment of innovative solutions can transform the entire landscape of energy demand and supply. What the world does in the coming decade will have enormous consequences that will last for centuries."*



Chu

**Correction:** The Jan 15. Article "Ohio Farmers Provided \$375,000 in Emergency Conservation Funds" was outdated. In November of 2008, USDA approved Clermont and Coshocton counties for implementation of the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) as a result of tropical depression Ike. Ohio was allocated \$375,000 for producers in only these two counties to remove farmland debris, restore fences and repair conservation structures damaged as a result of the remnants of Hurricane Ike passing through Ohio. The signup period for ECP assistance in these counties closed in 2008.

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## NATIONAL

## Bocieri on House Ag Committee, Schmidt leads subcommittee

U.S. Congressman John Bocieri, D-Alliance, was recently appointed to the Agriculture Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Agriculture Committee has jurisdiction over several renewable energy matters, rural development and more. Bocieri said he intends to build on Ohio's rich agricultural past by working on renewable energy efforts that will create good-paying jobs and reward farmers for their attention to environmental concerns.

Congresswoman Jean Schmidt, R-Loveland, has been named the ranking member of the U.S. House Agriculture Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture. Specific commodities under the subcommittee's jurisdiction are fruits and vegetables, organic agriculture, horticulture and viticulture (wine production) and a variety of other issues.

## EPA changes rule on CAFO air emissions

Citing a rule change that would "enable authorities to better focus their attention on hazardous substance releases that require a response, while reducing reporting burdens on America's farms," the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it will exempt all farms from reporting to the federal government when air emissions from manure exceeds certain levels. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) will still have to report emissions to state and local governments, but all other farms will not.

EPA said existing reporting requirements have created an unnecessary burden for many farms and that the emission release reports usually weren't acted upon. The agency said farms will still have to notify authorities when hazardous substances are released to the air from sources other than animal waste.

## Grants available for rural education, healthcare resources

USDA is accepting applications through March 24 for grants through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program to provide access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. The program provides increased economic opportunity by expanding telecommunications, educational resources and computer networks throughout rural America. Materials, including an application guide and full details about the program can also be obtained at [www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm](http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/dlt/dlt.htm) or by calling the DLT program at 202-720-0413.

## Farm Bureau comments on ammonium nitrate

The American Farm Bureau Federation recently submitted comments to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on the secure handling of ammonium nitrate. A new program requires the agency to regulate the sale and transfer of ammonium nitrate by a facility to prevent the misappropriation or misuse of the product in an act of terrorism. Farm Bureau worked in support of enactment of this DHS program as it will help to further secure ammonium nitrate and keep

it available to America's agricultural industry. AFBF stressed that farmers should not be required to register if they do not take possession of the ammonium nitrate fertilizer they purchase.

## STATE

## OFBF appointed to Great Lakes Advisory Board

Ohio's passage of the Great Lakes Compact (House Bill 416) included legislation that established an advisory group made up of industry and environmental groups to help develop the new program. OFBF Director of Policy Development and Environmental Research Larry Antosch has been appointed to serve on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact Advisory Board. Antosch will represent agricultural interests in the Lake Erie Basin.

## Mark March 26 for Trends and Issues Conference

Experts' views on climate change policies and the farm economy will be part of the discussion during OFBF's annual Trends and Issues Conference on March 26 in Columbus. Full details will appear in the Feb. 26 *Buckeye Farm News*.

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## Pesticide use near water may need federal permit

An appeals court has vacated an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule that allowed pesticides to be applied to U.S. waters without a Clean Water Act permit.

EPA issued the final rule in late 2007, which states that pesticides applied in accordance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act are exempt from National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements.

While environmental advocates challenged the rule, American Farm Bureau intervened in defense of

EPA's position. The court ruling held that all biological pesticides are pollutants requiring NPDES permits if they reach waters of the United States. Similarly, any residue or excess from chemical pesticide applications that reach waters of the United States would be considered pollutants. As a result, many, if not most, ground and aerial pesticide applications near or into water will likely require NPDES permits.

American Farm Bureau is evaluating the court ruling and seeking information on how EPA will implement it.

PUBLIC POLICY

## Guest worker program got last minute change

With a new Congress and president in power, activists say they plan to continue their push for immigration reform.

Former President Bush was a strong supporter of comprehensive immigration reform. The last proposal in 2007 fell one vote short in the Senate for the required two-thirds majority.

Adam Sharp, OFBF's senior director of legislative and regulatory policy, said he would be surprised if President Obama makes immigration reform one of his first policy priorities, given the state of the economy.

"We haven't had any indication yet as to when immigration reform will come up on his agenda or on Congress' agenda," he said. "We hope, however, that this administration will revisit the issue soon."

Comprehensive immigration legislation that includes a workable guest-worker program, protection for agriculture employees and fair wages remains a Farm Bureau priority. American Farm Bureau Presi-

dent Bob Stallman said last month that the United States continues to need a reliable supply of legal workers willing to work in agriculture.

Sharp noted that just days before Bush left office that his administration made changes to the ag guest worker program known as the H-2A. The changes are intended to improve the process for hiring legal foreign agricultural workers when no U.S. workers are available, and strengthen worker protections. The changes also streamlined the guest worker application process and included a new formula for determining wages for migrant workers, said Paul Schlegel, AFBF labor and immigration specialist.

"What we want is a market-based wage so that you're paying what customarily the worker would earn in the market," he said. "We think it goes toward that but we need to look at the details to make sure."

Schlegel also noted that problems remain with H-2A, including that dairy and other ag industries can't use the program.

## It's your world

### Major issues face agriculture

Agriculture is a complex industry operating in a complex global marketplace. Consider some of these issues raised by experts at American Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

**World Hunger:** Outgoing U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer said the United States must help other countries put agriculture on more stable footing to feed the 70 million people who join the world's population every year. Improving agriculture across the globe "can bring peace to this world," he said.



**Biotech:** If the European Union doesn't accept biotech food and feed, it won't be able to support livestock and would need to import meat from animals fed biotech crops in the United States or elsewhere. That's according to EU official Dan Rotenberg, who said European attitudes about biotechnology have been shaped by one-sided, anti-biotech arguments from the environmental group Greenpeace, which wields heavy influence.

**Trade:** Mexico and Canada together buy seven times more goods per year from the United States than China, and the rate of growth to NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) partners has been more than double that of non-NAFTA partners, according to Chris Leggett, with the Canadian Embassy. Eighty percent of Canada's trade is with the United States, and trade between the two nations is valued at about \$535 billion per year, he said.

**Economy:** Former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley said America's core economic problem is that "we don't save enough, both individually and as a nation." To keep up with spending, the nation borrows from non-Americans at a rate of about \$4 billion per day, he said.



**Federal Budget:** Entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security now take 42 percent of the \$1.3 trillion federal budget, according to a panel of experts. And there are bigger strains ahead, they said. By 2047, the segment of the population that is 65 and older will jump from the 2007 number of 13 percent to more than 20 percent. Also in 2007, health care costs absorbed approximately 5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. Based upon current projections, they will amount to more than 20 percent by 2047.

**Climate Change:** Half of the existing offsets to greenhouse gasses come from the agriculture and forestry industries, and that deserves acknowledgement, said Dave Miller of the AgraGate Climate Credits Corporation. "A lot of people think that what we do in farming and forestry should be offered up for free," he explained. "We don't agree. Farmers and foresters should be compensated for planting crops and for farming practices that keep carbon in the soil."



**Biofuels:** China will go from using 4 million barrels of crude oil per day now to 10 million barrels a day by 2012, said Brooke Coleman of the New Fuels Alliance. "We need biofuels as a hedge against that," he said.



# Farm research highlights AgriPOWER Institute

Ohio scientists are using a protein that makes jellyfish glow to illuminate bacteria inside a beetle that causes Stewart's wilt in corn; they are developing Ohio-grown rubber from latex in dandelions; they are isolating genes that determine the shape of fruit; and they are working to convert gas from livestock and human waste to energy.

Those are a few of the emerging areas of research that OFBF's AgriPOWER Institute explored during three days of leadership training at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster.

"We're the one real entity where the state of Ohio invests in the agricultural sector for research and development," said OARDC Director Steve Slack.

With state funding flat, OARDC is leveraging public dollars to increase revenue from grants and other sources. In 2005, these sources represented a larger share of OARDC's funding than state financial support for the first time, a trend that continues today. Of its \$78 million budget, 53 percent comes from non-state sources.

"The state dollars really provide the infrastructure to drive the enterprise that you see," Slack said, emphasizing that public funding provides a substantial return on investment.

Also during the training, the class was briefed on farm liability issues, agriculture as economic development and how farmers have responded to change in northeast Ohio.

The AgriPOWER Institute is an intensive yearlong training program



Professor Harold Keener discusses OARDC's research on developing energy from biogas.

Photo by Seth Teter

that Farm Bureau created to develop advocates for the farming industry.

OFBF is looking for participants for the next AgriPOWER Institute. Through seven sessions, farmers and others in the agricultural industry can gain in-depth training on advo-

cacy at the local, state and national levels. Dates for the upcoming institute have been determined to respect farmers' busy calendars. For details and an application, visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org).

## Farm Bureau calls for overhauling WTO talks, keeping NAFTA intact

As the Doha round of world trade talks continues to be stalled, Farm Bureau is calling for an overhaul of global trade negotiations.

"Trade must be a tool for economic growth and not an excuse for erecting new barriers," said AFBF President Bob Stallman during the organization's annual meeting. "We will work with any partner ready to find a new path forward to create real trade growth and development. Trade talks must focus on increasing trade, not preventing it."

Farm Bureau supports the World Trade Organization (WTO) and multilateral trade negotiations that open markets for U.S. agriculture products and help establish fair trade rules. Stallman said he was optimistic that the Obama administration would welcome ideas for a new approach to advance multi-lateral trade negotiations and open markets consistent with WTO.

Farm Bureau leaders have said part of the problem with the current system is that it requires the 153

member countries to sign off on any deals.

"You have 153 countries involved in the negotiations and all are not there to improve trade flows. They have other interests and goals," Stallman said. "We can no longer sit

"NAFTA has been very beneficial to agriculture and particularly Ohio agriculture."

~Adam Sharp, OFBF senior director of legislative and regulatory policy

by while those who resist opening markets further contribute to the economic slowdown."

Farm Bureau also is against reopening the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The new administration's policy toward NAFTA is not yet clear, but any change to this agreement could have

a strong effect on Ohio agriculture since Canada and Mexico are two of the state's largest export markets.

"NAFTA has been very beneficial to agriculture and particularly Ohio agriculture," said Adam Sharp, Ohio Farm Bureau's senior director of legislative and regulatory policy. "Farm Bureau delegates at the annual AFBF meeting had a very strong message that we need to reenergize trade and not renegotiate NAFTA."

Another trade area that Farm Bureau is interested in deals with easing the restrictions on trade to Cuba. Under the Bush administration, a law that allowed food and agricultural product sales to Cuba was tightened. It was changed to require that Cuba pay for the goods before they were shipped from the United States. Economic studies show that easing trade restrictions with Cuba could be a billion dollar boost to U.S. agriculture.

American Farm Bureau policy supports normalization of trade relations with Cuba.

# COMMUNICATIONS

## COUNTY news

### Protecting family farmland in Fairfield County

Those with an interest in learning how to protect and preserve family farmland are invited by the Fairfield County Farm Bureau to explore ways to do so at a meeting to be held at Logan High School, 1470 State Route 328 in Logan on Feb. 12 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Mark Fiorni and Kristen Jensen from the Ohio Department of Agriculture will discuss the Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (AEPP), supported by the Clean Ohio Fund. Roger Wolfe of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau will elaborate on what is lost when family farmland disappears. Other presenters include Steve Goodwin of Appalachia Ohio Alliance on Land Trusts and Jim Leonard of Wright Law on Tax Incentives and Estate Planning. To register, call 800-992-3276.

### Logan County Farm Bureau assists area's needy

The Logan County Farm Bureau kicked off its "Farmers Feed Our Needs" campaign in 2008 during the Bellefontaine Christmas Parade (shown here). The Farm Bureau recently teamed up with several Logan County Girl Scout troops to hold a food drive as part of the campaign. Girl Scout troops from Belle Center, Bellefontaine, East Liberty, Indian Lake and Rushsylvania aided in the food drive.



Photo courtesy Logan County Farm Bureau

### Marion County resident earns \$2,500 reward

Trevor Fremont of New Bloomington, pictured on the right, recently received a \$2,500 reward from Ohio Farm Bureau for his work in protecting an Ohio Farm Bureau member's property from theft. Fremont submitted information to Marion County authorities that led to the arrest of two men for criminal trespassing and the theft of tools and scrap metal from a Marion County Farm Bureau member's farm. Fremont took photos of the thieves' vehicle loaded with stolen items and alerted the property owner who called police. Also pictured are Allen Douce (center), a Nationwide Insurance agent with Thomas Milligan Insurance Agency, and Marion County Farm Bureau Organization Action Team Leader Mike Ralph.



Photo courtesy of Marion County Farm Bureau

### Northwest county administrators gather

Ohio Farm Bureau's Northwest Region county office administrators gathered in Findlay in January for a session on integrating membership and sales with customer service. Featured speakers included Seneca County Farm Bureau member and recent Murray Lincoln Award Winner Dwight Clary on what works when selling memberships, and OFBF Senior Vice President of Public Policy Keith Stimpert, who highlighted public policy activities in 2008 and previewed 2009. OFBF Director of Volunteer Development Darrell Rubel also gave a hands-on presentation on hospitality.



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### Out and about

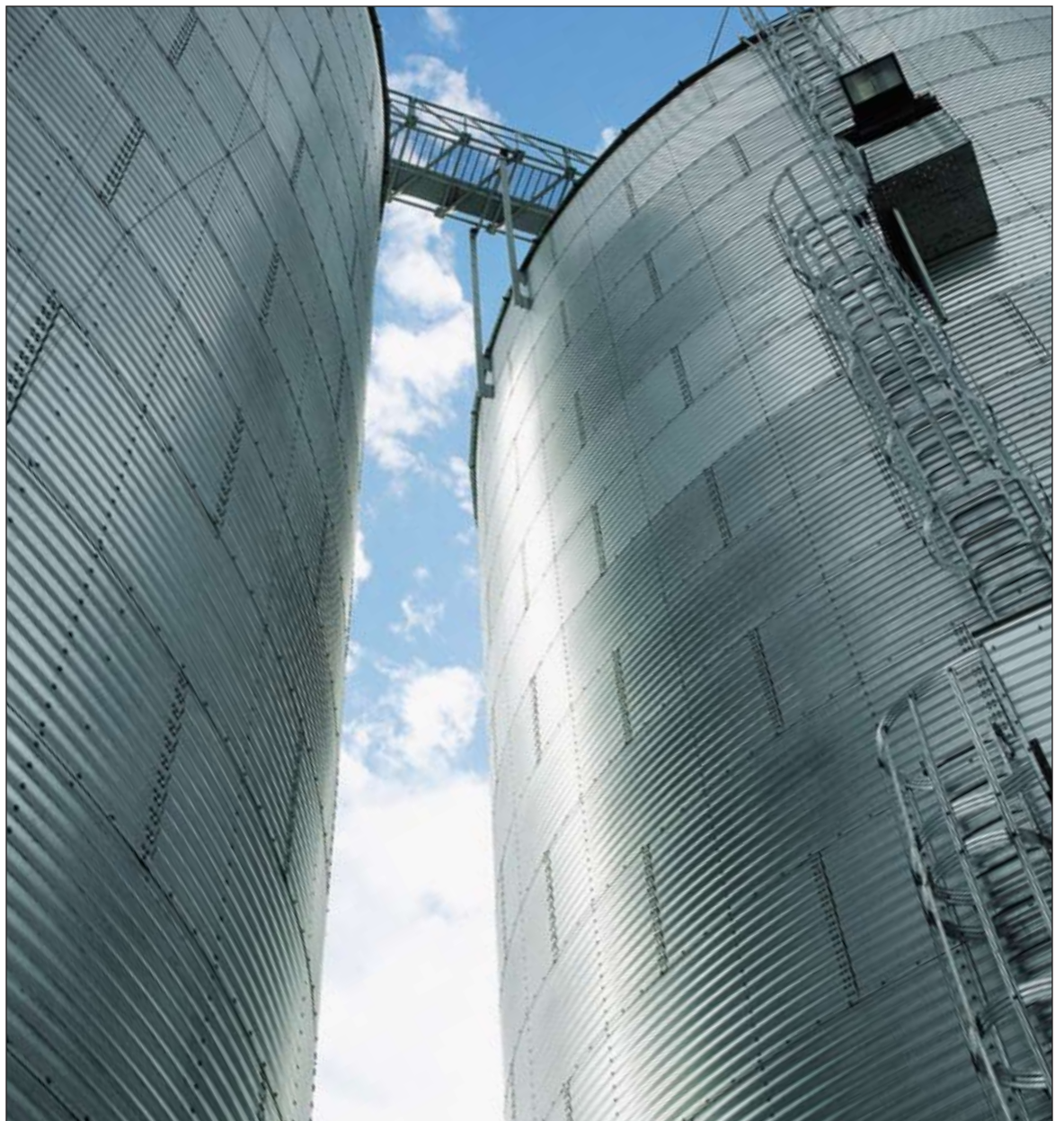
Ohio Farm Bureau staff and volunteers took part in the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association Congress in January. Farm Bureau members had the opportunity to update their profiles on the *Our Ohio* Buying Local Directory, renew their Farm Bureau membership, learn more about OFBF member benefits and pick up \$2,500 reward signs.

### Survey results

A survey of 413 visitors to the *Our Ohio* display at the Fabulous Food Show in Cleveland Nov. 14 to 16 shows 61 percent were familiar with *Our Ohio* and 52 percent said *Our Ohio* helps them better understand Ohio farms and food topics. Nearly half said they were familiar with *Our Ohio* magazine and 50 percent said they live in a suburban area. Eighty-nine percent of visitors were not Farm Bureau members, so participating in these types of events is an effective way to reach the public with information about Farm Bureau and *Our Ohio*. Of those who are not Farm Bureau members, 48 percent said they were interested in more membership information.

### Ag Day events

If county Farm Bureaus are hosting Ag Day events open to the public, e-mail the event information to [info@ourohio.org](mailto:info@ourohio.org) or complete the events online registration form at [www.OurOhio.org](http://www.OurOhio.org). Click on resources, then list an event. This is a great opportunity to promote these events on the *Our Ohio* Web site.



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# ORGANIZATION

## Workers' comp safety meeting dates

County meetings not listed are yet to be announced.

Adams	Mar. 31	Cooperative Extension Service
Allen	Mar. 30	St. Joseph Parish Hall, Wapakoneta
Ashland	Feb. 19	OARDC, Fisher Auditorium
Ashtabula	Mar. 30	St. Mary's Church, Orwell
Athens	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Auglaize	Mar. 30	St. Joseph Parish Hall, Wapakoneta
Brown	Mar. 31	Cooperative Extension Service
Butler	Mar. 19	Janet Clemmons Center
Carroll	Apr. 4	First United Methodist Church
Champaign	Mar. 5	Der' Dutchman, Plain City
Clark	Mar. 5	Der' Dutchman, Plain City
Clermont	Mar. 31	Cooperative Extension Service
Columbiana	Apr. 8	Mill Creek MetroParks
Crawford	Mar. 25	TBA
Cuyahoga	Mar. 19	EHOVE Career Center
Defiance	Mar. 26	Fulton County AG Center
Delaware	Feb. 26	Grady Memorial Hospital, Delaware
Erie	Mar. 19	EHOVE Career Center
Fairfield	Mar. 16	Ross County Service Center, Chillicothe
Franklin	Feb. 26	Grady Memorial Hospital, Delaware
Fulton	Mar. 26	Fulton County AG Center
Gallia	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Geauga	Mar. 30	St. Mary's Church, Orwell
Guernsey	Apr. 17	TBA
Hamilton	Mar. 19	Janet Clemmons Center
Hancock	Mar. 3	Public Safety Bldg, Tiffin
Hardin	Mar. 9	Ohio Hi Point Career Center
Harrison	Apr. 4	First United Methodist Church
Henry	Mar. 26	Fulton County AG Center
Hocking	Apr. 4	Hocking County Fair Grounds
Huron	Mar. 19	EHOVE Career Center
Jackson/Vinton	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Jefferson	Apr. 4	First United Methodist Church
Lake	Mar. 30	St. Mary's Church, Orwell
Lawrence	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Logan	Mar. 9	Ohio Hi Point Career Center
Lorain	Mar. 19	EHOVE Career Center
Lucas	Mar. 31	Legion Hall, Luckey
Madison	Mar. 5	Der' Dutchman, Plain City
Mahoning	Apr. 8	Mill Creek MetroParks
Marion	Mar. 25	TBA
Medina	Feb. 19	OARDC, Fisher Auditorium
Mercer	Mar. 30	St. Joseph Parish Hall, Wapakoneta
Montgomery	Aug. 1	Clark's Farm, Lytle Rd
Morgan	June 6	Reicker Building, McConnelsville
Morrow	Mar. 25	TBA
Noble	Apr. 17	TBA
Ottawa	Mar. 31	Legion Hall, Luckey
Paulding	Mar. 2	Lincolnview High School
Perry	Feb. 18	Perry Co. Senior Center, New Lexington
Pickaway	Mar. 16	Ross County Service Center, Chillicothe
Pike	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Portage	Mar. 30	Summit County Fairgrounds
Putnam	Mar. 2	Lincolnview High School
Richland	Mar. 25	TBA
Ross	Mar. 16	Ross County Service Center, Chillicothe
Sandusky	Mar. 31	Legion Hall, Luckey
Scioto	Mar. 31	OSU Jackson County Extension
Seneca	Mar. 3	Public Safety Building, Tiffin
Shelby	Mar. 30	St. Joseph Parish Hall, Wapakoneta
Stark	Mar. 30	Summit County Fairgrounds
Summit	Mar. 30	Summit County Fairgrounds
Trumbull	Mar. 30	St. Mary's Church, Orwell
Tuscarawas	Apr. 4	First United Methodist Church
Union	Feb. 26	Grady Memorial Hospital, Delaware
Van Wert	Mar. 2	Lincolnview High School
Warren	Aug. 1	Clark's Farm, Lytle Rd
Washington	Feb. 23	Waterford High School
Wayne	Feb. 19	OARDC, Fisher Auditorium
Williams	Mar. 26	Fulton County AG Center
Wood	Mar. 31	Legion Hall, Luckey
Wyandot	Mar. 3	TBA

### NATIONWIDE NEWS

## Nationwide agents recognized for Farm Bureau membership sales

Ohio Farm Bureau and Nationwide recognized the leading Nationwide agents in Farm Bureau membership sales during 2008, and Nationwide's top agent in farm insurance sales.

James Greer of the James Greer Jr. Agency (Beachwood) sold 232 memberships. Ronald Smith of R. J. Smith & Associates (Middleburg Heights) sold 208 memberships. And Dave Varner of Varner Insurance (Hartsville) sold 196 memberships.

Nationwide agents wrote more than 17,000 new Farm Bureau

memberships in 2008.

Nationwide's top agent in farm insurance sales was Greg Trent of Greg Trent Agency (Norwalk). Nationwide is the No. 1 insurer of farms in America.

"Nationwide is the leading farm writer in Ohio due to the strong partnership it has with Ohio Farm Bureau," says Steve Fino, sponsor sales director at Nationwide. "We are pleased to offer discounts and other key lines of insurance to demonstrate our support for Farm Bureau and Ohio agriculture."

Nationwide's membership sales accompany sales of auto, home, farm, boat, powersports and RV insurance with discounted rates for OFBF members, and provides additional farm coverages exclusively for OFBF members as a member benefit.

*Contributed by Nationwide Insurance. Ohio Farm Bureau sponsors and endorses the Nationwide family of companies, which insure more farms than any other group in the U.S.*

### MAY WE INTRODUCE...

*"Farm Bureau is not just for the big farmer - we support all types of farmers and agriculture businesses."*

~ Gene Phillips, Knox County

For more than 50 years, Gene Phillips has been a Knox County Farm Bureau member and remains an active volunteer today.

"I made up my mind that when I graduated from college that I was going to join and I did," said Phillips, who lives in Mount Vernon.



Phillips

Phillips took over the family dairy business until he sold it in 1994. He is now retired but busy as ever with 11 grandchildren. He and his wife, Diana, have been married 48 years and have five adult children.

He has been chairman of membership for Knox County Farm Bureau for the past six years and is currently a Clinton Township trustee. He also was county commissioner from 1963 to 1970. Phillips is a graduate of Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture with an emphasis on dairy.

"I have enjoyed it," Phillips said of being a Farm Bureau volunteer. "It's not as hard as I thought it would be. Farm Bureau is sort of a protection institution that has helped us do many things. Farm Bureau supports a lot of things and that shows with its Outstanding Young Farmer being a mushroom farmer. Farm Bureau supports all types of agriculture."

*"Agriculture affects everyone's life one way or another, whether we realize it or not. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear to the bed we sleep in, it is everywhere. If it wasn't for agriculture we wouldn't have these luxuries."*

~ Amy Hurst, Public Policy Department executive assistant

Amy Hurst is starting her eighth year with Ohio Farm Bureau and is presently the Public Policy Department's executive assistant. She provides administrative support not only for the department but for the Ohio Livestock Coalition. She started in 2001 as executive assistant for the Ag Ecology Department.



Hurst

Previously Hurst was an administrative assistant for the College of Food, Ag and Environmental Services Office of Recruitment at Ohio State University and administrative assistant for the Champaign County Farm Bureau office and Champaign Landmark. She also worked as an elementary aide for Mechanicsburg Exempted Village Schools and as assistant farm manager with the family farming operation. She graduated from Sinclair Community College with an associate's degree in applied science with a major in legal assisting.

Hurst grew up on a farm and when she got married, she helped her husband with their grain crop and livestock production operation. She lives in Mechanicsburg and has a daughter, son, daughter-in-law and grandson. She has been involved in Champaign County 4-H where she was an adviser for 13 years and served on its executive committee for three years. She is also an active Champaign

County Farm Bureau volunteer and Faith Mission volunteer.

"Farm Bureau members are great volunteers who are always there to help promote agriculture in a minute's notice, giving up a part of their lives to help accomplish a goal," she said. "I work for Farm Bureau because it is fulfilling to help other people and who better to help than the agriculture producers who provide us with so much for so little."

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# on YOUR behalf

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

## 2009 Ohio 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 the agbioresource industry

Influence trade, labor, tax, education, energy and farm policy

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

Protect personal property rights

## LIVESTOCK EXPERTS

Livestock farmers need a reliable source for all issues pertaining to their operations. OFBF responded to members' requests regarding the National Animal Identification System and environmental rules and regulations for livestock farmers.

## POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

A new legislative session presents new challenges and opportunities. OFBF attended the recent

opening legislative sessions at the Ohio Statehouse to gear up for the coming year.

## TIMBER THEFT

Tree thieves are costly to forest owners. OFBF met with the chief of the Division of Forestry to discuss timber theft issues and potential solutions.

## WATER QUALITY

Farmers must be represented as environmental policies are developed. OFBF participated in the first meeting of a workgroup to revise the Ohio Phosphorous Index, a tool to identify high risk areas for phosphorus addition to agricultural land. The effort is a direct result of discussions and recommendations made during meetings of the Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorous Task Force.

## MEETING UP

Reaching out to all sectors of the agricultural industry strengthens the organization. OFBF took part in the Ohio Produce Growers & Managers Association Congress in January. Members could update their profiles on the *Our Ohio* Buying Local Directory, renew their Farm Bureau memberships and learn more about member benefits. OFBF also attended the Ohio Christmas Tree Association winter meeting to update growers on OFBF efforts to benefit the Christmas tree sector, encourage participation on the *Our Ohio* Buying Local Directory and promote Farm Bureau membership.

Risley agreed that the deer population is too large, which is why the division added an extra weekend of sport hunting in 2007, resulting in an additional 18,049 deer being killed.

"Whenever farmers have a problem with deer, we like to work with them to solve the problem," he said. "A lot of people have damage problems and they could kill each and every deer on their property but if their neighbors don't allow it, they will have the same problem next year."

Farmers interested in getting a deer damage permit should contact the state wildlife officer assigned to their county or the wildlife specialist of the local Soil and Water Conservation District if their district has one.

## DAMAGE from PG 1

"We'll probably keep pushing the deer population back until hunters complain that there's not enough deer."

~ Dave Risley, Ohio Division of Wildlife

The officer or specialist will complete an assessment within five working days to determine if the permit should be issued but most permits are issued immediately, Risley said.

Landowners are allowed to kill up to 10 deer under the permit and can use as many as five individuals to

help shoot the deer. The permits are valid until the start of deer hunting season but officers will issue permits during hunting season for special circumstances, Risley said. The wildlife division encourages landowners to recover the animal and donate the meat to local food banks, he said.

Risley also said that landowners need to use skilled hunters who are able and willing to kill antlerless deer.

"We would like to get to the day where we never get a (deer damage) complaint but that will probably never happen," Risley said. "Our philosophy is to optimize the opportunity and minimize the conflict. We'll probably keep pushing the deer population back until hunters complain that there's not enough deer."

## THEFT from PG 1

down, Kobel said it would be safe to assume the risk of crime has increased with the poor economy.

"Farmers are known for being trusting souls, so they don't lock up their machine sheds or their barns... but if (something valuable) isn't locked up, somebody's going to walk off with it," he said.

A notable case in Madison County last year involved a man who sold stolen grain wagons as scrap. A witness said the suspect was apprehended on the interstate driving 40 to 50 mph with a wagon hitched to his small car.

More recently, a Scioto County man received Farm Bureau's \$2,500 reward for helping police track down a thief he saw pulling copper wire out of the ground and from a gas pump at a farm supply business.

The new law requires scrap dealers to record all purchases, along with the seller's name, residence, a copy of their I.D. and vehicle description.

Dealers may not accept items from individuals under age 18.

The law also flags a long list of items that should draw suspicion (a street sign, for example). Scrap dealers must photograph these materials and obtain proof of ownership from the seller. Payment for those items must be by check, creating a paper trail.

Overall, scrap dealers were on board with the new regulations, according to Joel Fogel, president of the Ohio Valley chapter of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, a national trade association. But he was displeased that the law lets local municipalities enact stricter rules that may lack uniformity.

"Our industry wants nothing more than to be part of the solution, not part of the problem," Fogel said.

He also said he was open to a wide variety of record keeping requirements, but would resist "tag and hold" provisions.

"That's really the only issue that our

industry has fought against," he said.

Such policies, which are specifically prohibited under Ohio's law, require scrap dealers to retain materials for a specified time period, in hopes that stolen items could be identified and linked to the thieves.

But because scrap metal is sold as a commodity, Fogel said dealers need to be able to respond to daily price fluctuations. Additionally, dealers may conduct hundreds of transactions each day, and stockpiling material in limited space is "just not feasible," he said.

Like any industry, there will be some businesses that simply don't follow the rules, Fogel said.

Because metal theft remains a concern in rural Ohio, Gearhardt said Farm Bureau will continue to seek solutions.

"One of our challenges is that Ohio just passed this new law," he said. "We're making the case that we may need to revisit this issue."



It's been suggested that the Sunflower 6000 Series land finishers come with a sticker: "Warning... this machine is so efficient some people might not think you're really farming." But who cares? Hey, when you have a machine that can disc, condition, incorporate, cultivate and finish all in one trip, you need to jump on that.

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# INDUSTRY NEWS

DAIRY DEBATE

## Researcher's findings could rile raw milk advocates

An Ohio State University scientist argues in a new peer-reviewed article that, even with modern testing methods, drinking unpasteurized milk carries serious risks.

In the journal *Clinical and Infectious Diseases*, Jeff LeJeune, a microbiologist and veterinary researcher at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, further states that raw milk does not offer the nutritional and curative properties that its proponents claim.

"Scientific evidence to substantiate the assertions of the health benefits of unpasteurized milk is generally lacking," he wrote. "Nevertheless, when the public is presented with a large body of conflicting information, their decision-making process does not always yield the same results as that of experts."

Raw milk supporters say unpasteurized products contain more nutrients, ease lactose intolerance and prevent and cure diseases. LeJeune counters that milk's nutrition is unaffected by pasteurization, which destroys harmful pathogens.

In Ohio, raw milk can only be consumed by the owner of the animal that produces it. The Ohio Department of Agriculture gained attention in recent years for prosecuting farmers suspected of selling raw milk. Thus, some farms have sold shares of their herd to customers, arguing this meets the ownership requirement.

Farm Bureau members have debated the issue at length, finally settling on policy that opposes "the sale of raw milk directly to consumers without proper regulations in place to ensure the highest level of food safety." During policy debates, members have expressed concerns about consumer health and said illness linked to milk of any sort would damage the dairy industry's image.

LeJeune writes that testing for pathogens can't ensure safety because contamination is sporadic and infectious in extremely small amounts. Even after testing, undetectable organisms could grow to unacceptable levels, he notes.

But Farm Bureau members have also been wary of shutting dairy farmers off from new financial opportunities and limiting consumer choice. Last month, the *Dayton Daily News* reported that, although a secretive business, raw milk continues to grow in popularity among consumers from a wide range of backgrounds. One farmer said he could earn three to four times more for a gallon of unpasteurized milk.



## Tough times hit livestock sector

The health of the livestock industry is linked to the health of the broader economy, and producers of beef, hogs and chicken may have to wait for the global recession to end before they can expect any significant price improvement.

Chris Hurt, a Purdue University professor and Extension economist, said livestock producers were hit with the "double whammy" of a recession and high feed costs in 2008. In 2009, lower feed costs will benefit livestock producers, but the recession will continue to hurt demand.

"We're going to see another year of struggle for the livestock industry," Hurt said during a seminar on the livestock market outlook at the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting.

For the past two years, meat production has declined in the United States due to higher feed costs. And because of the recession, Hurt expects another year of decline in 2009. The recession will hit beef cattle producers harder than poultry or hog producers, he said.

FARMERS from PG 1

Another adopted policy from Ohio supports continued and increased advocacy on behalf of animal agriculture. "We've asked for Farm Bureau to be proactive in attacks on the livestock industry and in animal agriculture," Sharp said. He said delegates put a "fine point" on the issue by having a "very supportive policy that we take on those who criticize animal agriculture or any part of agriculture unfairly."

According to Sharp, delegates also supported Ohio policy that asks for an independent review of the fertilizer industry that takes into account the impact of costs, how they are structured and what the impact would be if tariffs were eliminated.

Chief among the delegate's actions were policies on taxes and the environment that promote economic growth.

"Where Congress and the administration must propose and enact new laws and regulations to deal with our nation's challenges, Farm Bureau will work to ensure those new measures do not threaten farmers' and ranchers' profitability," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman, "but rather, capitalize on opportunities to maintain a strong agricultural economy and bolster rural America."

"We, the farmers and ranchers of Farm Bureau, are ready to roll up our sleeves and move forward," Stallman said in a

direct message to President Obama. "We feed the nation, and no matter which national priority – the economy, energy, immigration, trade, environment – that you choose to pursue, we are ready to hit the ground running."

Other key policies adopted by delegates:

- **Energy:** Support of America's transition to energy independence through biofuels; support of an increase in the ethanol-to-gasoline blend rate of more than the current 10 percent
- **Climate change:** Continued opposition to caps on greenhouse gas emissions that would drive up the cost of fuel, fertilizer and other farm inputs
- **Economic stimulus:** Support a proposal funding the nation's infrastructure including expanding broadband Internet in rural areas and funding the Water Resources Development Act, which authorized construction of new locks and dams on inland waterways
- **Taxes:** Support a permanent repeal of the estate tax, which impedes farmers' ability to keep farms in the family
- **Trade:** Support reinitiating stalled trade talks but not renegotiating NAFTA.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SAFETY CONGRESS

The Ohio Safety Congress & Expo will be held March 31 to April 2 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Visit the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation Web site at [www.ohiobwc.com](http://www.ohiobwc.com) for complete information about the event including registration, educational sessions, hotels and more. A policy number is required for registration. Students and federal government employees must register by phone.

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## NOTEWORTHY

## Ohio sends its best to Texas

2 counties, 4 young leaders earn recognition

OFBF programming receives acclaim year after year on American Farm Bureau's national stage. It was no different at this year's annual meeting in San Antonio. Here's a look at the county programs and young professionals who were among the nation's best.

#### Two county activities receive national recognition

Shelby and Tuscarawas counties were among 15 county Farm Bureaus nationwide to be recognized for innovative ideas in the County Activities of Excellence program.

Shelby County was recognized for its "Images from the Land, A Concert" event that featured photos of local farm families doing day-to-day activities. The photos were set to music with the audience able to follow the seasons of agriculture.

Joyce Peters, the county's Promotion and Education chair, was quick to credit others on the team effort that reached more than 6,000 people and took two and a half years to plan. More than 225 DVDs of the event have been sold.

Tuscarawas County was recognized for its "Animal Agriculture 101: An Introduction to Livestock Production and Care" event. The two-day seminar provided instruction for county animal control officers on identification of livestock,



Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau President Jerry Lahmers (l) discusses the workings of the Animal Agriculture 101 program to interested Michigan Farm Bureau members.

basic body condition, feeding, shelter, animal behavior and handling, biosecurity, proper removal and disposal and other issues.

County Farm Bureau President Jerry Lahmers said participants were impressed as the program took them "right into the middle of what was happening in real operating farms." A total of 30 attendees, including 14 animal care officers covering nine counties, participated in the two-day event.

#### Young Agricultural Professionals represent Ohio

The state's representatives in AFBF's Young Farmer and Rancher contests also highlighted the best of Ohio agriculture.

Harrison County's Wendy Chris-

man made it to the Sweet 16 round of the Discussion Meet, which tests participants ability to cooperatively discuss challenges facing agriculture.

Ohio FFA Association Program Manager Katy Endsley of Fairfield County represented Ohio in the Excellence in Agriculture competition. The award recognizes successful young people who are involved in farming but whose primary occupations are not farming or owning an agricultural business.

Fourth-generation cattle farmers Robert and Autumn Morrison of Jefferson County represented Ohio in the Outstanding Young Farmer competition, which recognized individuals for accomplishments in their farming operations and their leadership in the farm community.

Photo by Galen Ludwick-Harris

## 11 community service groups receive Foundation grants

Eleven community service groups throughout Ohio are recipients of \$30,000 in Agriculture and Awareness Grants this year from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation.

First started in 2006, the Foundation's program awards grants to support programs and projects focusing on agricultural education, ecological and/or economic development.

"Over the past four years, we've established a great record," Foundation Director Dale Arnold said. "The total amount of funding awarded each year continues to grow by an average of 20 percent. We've been able to increase maximum individual award levels from \$2,500 to \$3,000 over the same period."

This year's recipients are Seed Crops Farm Cooperative, Brandon Jaeger, Athens; Agriculture and Natural Resource Conservation Expo, Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District, Carrollton; Senior Farmer's Market Program, Hands Foundation, Brunswick; Splendor of the Valley Farm Tour, Mahoning Valley Agribusiness Focus Group, Canfield; Land Heritage Education Efforts, Land Heritage Trust of Union County, Raymond; Signage and Marketing Boost Economic Development for Lancaster Farmer's Market, Main Street Lancaster, Lancaster; Energy Sources Tours, Ohio Energy Project, Worthington; AgriPOWER, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Columbus; OhioFoodShed.org, Rural Action, Trimble; Commercial Kitchen Equipment Project, Team Monroe, Woodsfield; and Babyland - Agricultural Exhibit at the Huron County Fair, Western Reserve FFA, Collins.

"We look forward to working with our supporters to increase total amounts given on an annual basis - both collectively and for individual awards. We look forward to adding more community organizations to our group receiving awards, too," said Foundation President Jack Fisher.

One objective that won't change is that the grants will focus on funding the specific needs of smaller, community-based groups that often find the larger-scale, public and private grant solicitation process daunting.

To complement this mission, the Foundation's Community Grantsmanship workshops help small groups form leadership teams to identify local issues, leverage support and prepare effective proposals to compete for a variety of grant awards.

More information on Foundation programs and projects can be found at [www.OFBFoundation.org](http://www.OFBFoundation.org).



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