

WILL U.S. FARMERS BE ABLE TO COMPETE?

“Unless we are more aggressive, we will find that our share continues to drop around the world.” PG 3

From vehicle fees to food safety, dozens of issues farmers should watch PG 4



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BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 12, 2010 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 1

Agreement doesn't get rubber stamp from livestock board

However, board members say deal was a positive step

BY SETH TETER

Members of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board welcomed a recent agreement to keep animal care issues off of the fall ballot but said it is just one of the factors it will consider.

“We have to do what we feel is right,” said Ohio Department of Agriculture Director and Board Chairman Robert Boggs during a recent board meeting. Farm organizations and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) would have to decide what that meant for the deal, he said.

Farm groups are standing behind recommendations to the board that

See Agreement, pg 2

Remembering Debbie Porteus



Debbie and Brent Porteus

The Farm Bureau family expresses its condolences to the family of Debbie Porteus, wife of OFBF President Brent Porteus, who lost her valiant battle with cancer Aug. 9.

Debbie was a supporting member in the family's agricultural business, as well as a facilitating supporter and active participant in their various community and agricultural organization involvements. She provided inspiration and support for many through the manner in which she fought and handled her 13-year challenge with breast cancer.

She is survived by her husband, two daughters, Amy and Beth, plus many other family members.

Cards of condolence can be sent to: Brent Porteus and family C/O Ohio Farm Bureau Federation PO Box 182383 Columbus, OH 43218

Lake Effect

Farmers taking action to help long-troubled Grand Lake St. Marys

History

Grand Lake St. Marys was created in the 1840s when Beaver Prairie was flooded to provide a source of water for the canal system. The shallow lake later became a popular destination for boaters and anglers as well as associated residential and commercial development.

Location

The lake is located in Mercer and Auglaize counties in western Ohio. About 80 percent of the lake's watershed is farmland with a high concentration of livestock. Wetlands that provided a natural filter have disappeared over the years as lakeside development has increased.

At Issue

Phosphorous that becomes trapped in the lake feeds blooms of toxic blue-green algae. The blooms became bad enough this year for the state to issue a warning to stay out of the water.

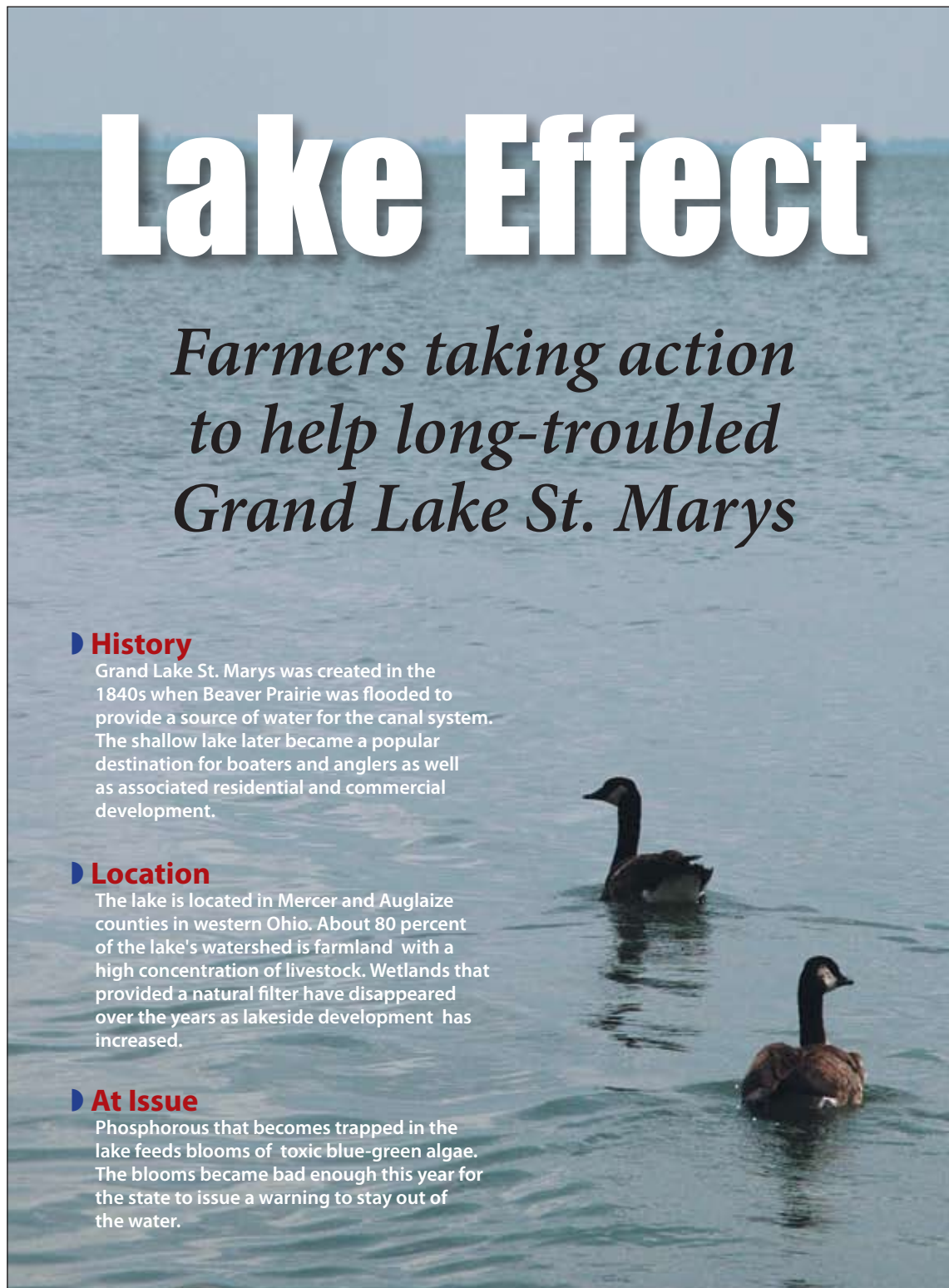


Photo by Seth Teter

BY SETH TETER

It's a problem that has been brewing for more than a century.

Now the trouble has caught up with those who live near Grand Lake St. Marys, a former marshland in western Ohio that was flooded to feed canals more than 150 years ago.

With 13,500 acres, it is the largest inland lake in Ohio. But it is only seven-feet deep and traps

as much as 30 percent to 40 percent of the nutrients and sediment that flow into it.

High phosphorous levels have produced blooms of algae that emit toxins that are dangerous to people and pets.

“You have the internal phosphorous loading – what's in the sediment – plus the additional materials that are being washed in during storm events,” said Larry Antosch, OFBF senior director of program innovation and environmental policy.

The algal blooms have become so bad that the state is now cautioning against contact with the water, which has all but eliminated visitors to the lake.

Tensions are running high as local businesses and homeowners are dealing with the loss of a recreational destination that is an important economic driver.

“It's purely devastation,” said Tim Lovett, president of the Lake Improvement Association during a recording of OFBF's radio program *Town Hall Ohio*.

Because 80 percent of the 92 square-mile watershed is agricultural land, farmers are recognizing

See Lake, pg 2



GROWING PARTNERSHIP

Bob Evans, OFBF invest in youth with hog purchase

Bob Evans Farms returns to Sale of Champions

BY STAFF

Bob Evans, in partnership with Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF), purchased this year's reserve grand champion market barrow at the Ohio State Fair, which will help support youth involvement in agriculture.

The hog was exhibited by Alec Bremek of Logan County.

Under Ohio State Fair rules, the bulk of the proceeds from the sale will go back into carcass contests, scholarships, the Outstanding Market Exhibitor program, showmanship awards, skillathon awards, dairy cattle, breeding animals, FFA and 4-H.

At the 2010 Sale of Champions, a total of \$204,500 was raised for the youth programs.

“This was a great opportunity for Farm Bureau to promote agriculture and advance our commitment to youth and the fair,” said Janet Cassidy, OFBF senior director of marketing communications. “Our support of the Sale of Champions was another step in our growing partnership with Bob Evans. I encourage members to keep their eye out for more exciting news from this partnership in the future.”

Mike Townsley, president of Bob Evans Food Products, said the company was happy to return to the Sale of Champions this year.

“Our founder truly drove the Grand Champion competition at the Ohio State Fair, purchasing 20 out of 23 Champion Barrows at the



Photo by Todd Yarrington

Mike Townsley (in red), President of Bob Evans Food Products Division, is seated next to Steve Hirsch, OFBF First Vice President, at this year's Ohio State Fair Sale of Champions. Bob Evans Farms and Ohio Farm Bureau partnered together this year on the purchase of the reserve grand champion market barrow.

Ohio State Fair from 1957-1984. We are committed to honoring his tradition of giving back to Ohio's youth and Ohio agriculture.”

'Free Breakfast for a Year'

Ohio farmers and Bob Evans Farms are also teaming up to

See Bob Evans, pg 2

THE MESSAGE BOARD

By the Numbers: 56%

That's the percentage of registered voters who cast a ballot in Ohio's last gubernatorial election in 2006.

This fall, Ohioans will again be selecting their governor as well as a U.S. senator, many state and national lawmakers and local officials.

The deadline to register to vote in the Nov. 2 General Election is Oct. 4. You may obtain a form and register in person at many locations including your county board of elections office, Bureau of Motor Vehicles Deputy Registrar offices, public libraries, public high schools or vocational schools. Voter registration forms can also be found online at www.sos.state.oh.us.

2010 CAUV values went up

The CAUV values for 2010 have been published by the Department of Taxation and, once again, there has been a substantial increase. The increase is attributable to increased crop prices and a reduced capitalization rate. While there has been an increase in the cost of inputs, crop prices increased 2 ½ times the cost of inputs. The capitalization rate decreased from 8.4 percent to 7.8 percent, adding to the increase in values. Counties being reappraised in 2010 are Adams, Columbiana, Hancock, Hocking, Holmes, Lawrence, Meigs, Monroe, Paulding, Scioto, Tuscarawas and Washington. Updated counties include Carroll, Champaign, Clark, Fairfield, Logan, Marion, Medina, Miami, Ross, Union and Wyandot.

“Their Words

“You’re going to have to put a chain on me or I’ll pick up a hoe.”

~ Retiring farmer Will Tuttle, talking about his life after farming, in the *Boston Globe*.

Due to an uncertain future for agriculture, Tuttle is selling his Massachusetts farm, which has been in the family since 1632 and is believed to be the oldest continually run family farm in the country.

“The brush starts to rotate on contact at an animal-friendly speed. It swings freely in all directions, smoothly up, over and alongside the cow.”

~ A spokesperson for a Swedish company describing a large automated brush, similar to those seen in carwashes, that is designed to stimulate blood flow in dairy cows. The company said it has sold 30,000 cow brushes, which can increase milk production by 3.5 percent while reducing cases of mastitis.

Save the date: Sept. 21-23

The Farm Science Review will be held at the Molly Caren Agricultural Center in London. Be sure to stop by the Ohio Farm Bureau building at Friday and Beef Streets. Tickets are \$5 in advance from OSU Extension county offices and Ohio agribusinesses and \$8 at the gate.

‘Because I Care’

What could you or your organization do with an extra \$1,000? That's what's up for grabs in the “Because I Care” video contest, coordinated by OFBF's Center for Food and Animal Issues. Contestants are asked to submit a 90-second to 120-second video of themselves and/or their organization showcasing how they best care for their animals. Contestants must also post their videos to YouTube.com. Finalists will be awarded a \$500 pre-paid gift card and be eligible for the \$1,000 grand prize gift card.

Videos can be in one of three categories: Individual, County Farm Bureau, Youth Organization (4-H, FFA or Farm Bureau).

Contestants in the individual contest and county Farm Bureau contest must be 18 and older. Entries in the youth organization category must be submitted by a responsible adult or adviser age 18 or older. All contestants must have permission of all persons appearing in submitted entries.

For complete rules and details, visit <http://bit.ly/BecauseICare>

Need a video camera?

All OFBF organization directors have been provided with a Flip video camera for use in their region of the state. Contact your county Farm Bureau for details on how you can secure the use of one of these cameras for your video.



AGREEMENT from PG 1

outline what they believe to be acceptable ways to handle several contentious animal care issues. As a result, HSUS has withdrawn its ballot initiative for 2010 and publicly supported the board's mission.

But farm groups were also adamant that the Livestock Care Standards Board should keep its authority to determine animal care policy, as called for by Ohio voters.

“A recommendation is just that. No more, no less,” Ohio Farm Bureau Executive Vice President Jack Fisher told the board.

Farm Bureau also believes it is important to allow others to continue to offer ideas for consideration.

“Citizen input must be allowed and the privilege protected,” Fisher said.

As a result of 2009's Issue 2, the board is required by law to base its decisions on certain factors such as best management practices, veterinary standards, animal health data and the protection of local food supplies.

Several board members indicated that it will be those guidelines, not the specific terms of the agreement, that will remain their focus. Perhaps the biggest change stemming from the agreement is that the board will not be racing against a fall ballot issue.

“Quality work can be done. We're not rushing something to show something (by Election Day),” said board member Dominic Marchese. “It will be better for Ohio.”

While the board plans to consider the agreement as part of its broader discussions on animal care, some members cautioned against basing decisions on external politics.

“I think it's important that we maintain our independence,” Bill Moody said.

And Jerry Lahmers noted that the agreement allows the group to go about its work without additional mandates.

“We're still a separate entity; our integrity is intact,” he said.

Boggs said board members were rightly left out of the discussions leading to the agreement, because they are charged with judging the recommendations. In fact, engaging in political negotiations could have set them up to violate ethical standards.

“My initial reaction was that the rug had been pulled from underneath us. But as I look at it now, I think it's a blessing in disguise,” said board member Robert Cole, acknowledging that a looming ballot campaign was placing pressure on the group.

Board member Jeff Wuebker, whose Darke County hog farm would be affected if certain recommendations in the agreement are adopted, said farmers in his community view the agreement favorably, and he believes it allows the industry to plan for the future with more certainty.

“It could set Ohio up as a leader. I think it will,” he said.

Some critics of the agreement point out that if the board ultimately doesn't give HSUS what it wants, the group could return to Ohio with its ballot initiative.

But supporters say that was guaranteed to happen without the agreement. The difference now is that the Livestock Care Standards Board has time to do its work and prove itself to voters.

If HSUS plans to use its petition signatures in the future, it will have to keep its identical ballot language and timelines, which could become less relevant as the livestock board continues its work.

BOB EVANS from PG 1

provide two Ohio families with “Free Breakfast for a Year.”*

Through Oct. 15, Ohioans can register at www.FarmersFeedUS.org to win one of two grand prizes of “Free Breakfast for a Year” at Bob Evans Restaurants. Visitors to the site will be guided through registration by an Ohio farmer, who will also explain how he or she produces safe, nutritious and affordable food. Consumers can register with each of seven farmers daily through the end of the program.

The website features beef, dairy,

pork, lamb, soybean, egg and turkey farmers from across the state sharing information about their farms and their families. The site also features nutritious recipes and fun farm facts.

More information and complete rules for the sweepstakes can be found at www.FarmersFeedUS.org.

*The contest will award two prizes in the form of individual gift cards, each worth approximately \$1,700, which is equal to the cost to provide four (4) Rise & Shine breakfast meals per week for 52 weeks to two winners.

they have a responsibility to help with clean-up efforts. But they say there are no easy fixes as the lake's problems extend beyond agricultural runoff.

“We have a share in the blame and the problem, but there are many problems with the lake,” said Dennis Howick, president of the Mercer County Farm Bureau.

Howick said farmers are taking action by improving soil conservation and nutrient management efforts. In fact, millions of dollars in conservation funds have been utilized by farmers to implement practices such as hay buffers and manure storage.

“It's a situation where being good is no longer good enough. We're being asked to be great,” said Jill Smith, OFBF's organization director for Mercer, Auglaize, Shelby and Logan counties.

This year, the Mercer County Farm Bureau has proposed strengthening its local policy, calling for all livestock farmers in the watershed to develop nutrient management plans. Such plans detail where and when manure and fertilizer should be used to avoid excess application.

Nikki Hawk, administrator for the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District, said she is encouraging farmers to control what they can.

LAKE from PG 1

“Agriculture may be the predominant land use, but it doesn't need to be any part of the problem,” she said. “(We should) do everything in our power as an industry to take ourselves off the radar, out of the equation. If you take care of your house, then it will make a difference.”

Livestock farmer Ivo Post says most farmers are willing to voluntarily work toward the recovery of the lake. His biggest concern is that regulations and the associated paperwork could burden the many small and medium-sized family farms in the area.

“I want to be a farmer. My worst day of the week is when I'm in the office,” said the former Mercer County Farm Bureau president.

But the issue has become so heated that farmers have known additional regulation was likely. Gov. Ted Strickland's administration recently proposed new rules that would, among other things, limit winter application of manure.

As farmers ramp up their efforts, others are looking at how to fix problems with the lake itself. Dredging out sediment would be an enormous and expensive undertaking. Other efforts look at restoring wetlands that have been lost over the years.

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

Lovett, of the lake association, said it's not the time to place blame.

“At some point in time we've got to quit saying who's guilty and we've got to say we need to get this fixed,” he said.

TOWN HALL OHIO

Thoughtful talk about life in Ohio

Hear more about issues impacting the lake on *Town Hall Ohio*. The show will be available at www.townhallohio.org the week of Aug. 15.

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ANALYSIS

Stalled trade deals could lead to loss of market share

After years of being a leader in world trade negotiations, the United States is now sitting on the sidelines.

Congress still has not taken up any of the hard-fought free trade agreements that were negotiated years ago. Instead of waiting for the United States to finalize its preferential agreements, other countries have started to negotiate their own agreements. The United States will be at a disadvantage and lose market share and opportunities if its competitors have their agreements in place before the United States does, said Adam Sharp, Ohio Farm Bureau's senior director of legislative and regulatory policy.

"The Obama administration says it wants to expand trade but in Congress, they are still sitting on important trade agreements for agriculture," he said. "We haven't been able to ratify free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea and now our competitors are moving forward with their own negotiations and some are close to being finalized. It's critical that we get those agreements ratified."

In November 2006, the United States signed a free trade agreement with Colombia, known as the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement or CTPA. Colombia is the United States' largest market in South America. Under the agreement, Colombia would immediately eliminate duties on 53 percent of current U.S. trade upon implementation, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Two years after that agreement was signed, Canada and Colombia signed a free trade agreement that would lower barriers to trade between the two countries. Last March the government of Canada introduced legislation to implement that free trade agreement. If it goes into effect before the CTPA, Canadian exporters will gain a significant competitive advantage over the United States in the Colombian market for products such as beef, pork, wheat, barley, apples, peaches and berries, according to American Farm Bureau Federation.

Canada is not the only country that is currently negotiating with Columbia. The European Union has concluded a free trade agreement that could go into effect as early as 2012.

The U.S. corn market share in Colombia has already started to drop because the South American country implemented a free trade agreement last year with Mercosur, a South American regional trade group that includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Because the United States' tariff rate is now higher than that of Mercosur, the U.S. corn market share has dropped from 80 percent in 2008 to 37 percent last year, according to AFBF. Under the CTPA, U.S. corn exports would immediately face a tariff of zero percent, allowing the United States to regain and maintain some of its lost agricultural market share.

"We are seeing our competitors negotiating FTAs and preferential agreements and so increasingly they



If competitors put trade agreements in place before the United States, farmers could lose opportunities to export products to foreign markets.

File Photo

are moving into markets that we once held and unless we are more aggressive, we will find that our share continues to drop around the world," said Rosemarie Watkins, AFBF's director of international policy.

In June 2008, the United States signed free trade agreements with both Panama and South Korea. Under implementation of the Panama Trade Promotion Agreement, U.S. exporters would receive duty-free treatment on products accounting for more than 60 percent of current trade, with tariffs on most remaining agricultural products phased out within 15 years. Last year Canada and Panama completed negotiations of a free trade agreement that if in place before the United States would give Canada a competitive advan-

tage in the Panamanian market for products such as beef, frozen potato products, beans, lentils, pork, malt and other processed foods.

U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk has said that if the U.S.-South Korean agreement (KORUS-FTA) is approved, it would be "the United

States' most commercially significant free trade agreement in more than 16 years." The U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that the reduction of Korean tariffs and tariff-rate quotas on goods alone would add \$10 billion to \$12 billion to the annual U.S. Gross Domestic Product and around \$10 billion to annual merchandise exports to Korea, according to Kirk's office.

Last year the European Union signed a free trade agreement with Korea that is similar to that negotiated with the United States. The European Union agreement would eliminate 82 percent of Korea's tariffs immediately and 94 percent in five years. In comparison, KORUS-FTA would eliminate 94 percent of tariffs in three years and virtually all tariffs in 10 years.

"In Korea many of our competitors are negotiating agreements or looking to finalize agreements," Watkins said. "We have overall gone from the No 1 exporter to Korea to No. 4."

AFBF releases proposal on how to double U.S. exports in 5 years

American Farm Bureau and two other groups released a comprehensive proposal last month on how to double U.S. exports in five years, one of President Obama's key goals.

The recommendations were to:

- Enact pending trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea.

- Pursue new trade agreements.
- Reduce non-tariff barriers.
- Improve competitiveness with investments in infrastructure and trade facilitation initiatives.
- Pursue a Doha Round agreement that expands world trade.
- Improve export promotion efforts and financing policies.

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POLICY & POLITICS

Work for farmers continues on many fronts

Livestock care issues have been receiving a lot of attention in Ohio recently. But OFBF has continued to represent its members on a host of other issues.

Following are just some of the highlights from OFBF's current public policy work and a look at other areas where the organization is engaged.

Federal Issues and Legislation

Farm Bill ➤ Congress has been holding hearings regarding the 2012 Farm Bill. American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is seeking policies for consideration at its January annual meeting. OFBF is engaging with Midwestern state Farm Bureaus, university specialists and AFBF in an effort to develop a regionally supported set of farm policy recommendations. OFBF will hold several farm bill discussion sessions in September with our members focusing on farm support programs, dairy policy and conservation.

Death Taxes ➤ With the current federal death tax exemption expiring at the end of the year, AFBF and OFBF launched a summer-long campaign encouraging members to sign postcards that state "Put Death Taxes to Rest." These cards will be delivered to Congress this fall.

Climate Change ➤ OFBF and other Ohio farm groups recently sent a letter to Congress stating opposition to current climate change measures and warning that Congress must be careful not to act simply for the sake of acting.

Food Safety ➤ OFBF participated in an Ohio farm tour that educated staff of the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on farm food safety and production. OFBF staff also have met with FDA staff in Washington regarding FDA's proposed rule regarding on-farm produce production practices. OFBF filed joint comments on the measure with the Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association and others. OFBF met with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Administrator regarding our concerns with the Department's proposed National Leafy Green Marketing Agreement. OFBF has also been working with Sen. Sherrod Brown regarding pending federal food safety legislation (S. 510). Neither OFBF nor AFBF has an official position on this bill to date, and we continue to work to improve the bill for agriculture.

State Issues and Legislation

Ag Linked Deposit ➤ HB 483/SB 250 would expand the funds available in Ohio's agricultural linked deposit program from \$125 million to \$200 million and increase individual loan availability from \$100,000 to \$150,000. OFBF strongly supports the bill.

Animal Cruelty ➤ HB 55 proposes an increase in penalties for repeat offenses of animal cruelty against livestock from a second to first degree misdemeanor. OFBF is monitoring this bill.

Dog Breeding ➤ SB 95 proposes stringent regulations on Ohio's dog breeders, particularly those deemed as "high volume." OFBF is working to ensure that all voices are heard on this measure and that accepted animal husbandry practices are protected.

Animals at Large ➤ HB 503 aligns with policy adopted by OFBF delegates at the 2009 Annual Meeting and ensures that non-negligent livestock owners whose animals escape confinement through no fault of the owner are not charged under criminal liability provisions. The legislation will codify the longstanding practice that has recently been challenged by several local court decisions. OFBF supports this bill.

Immigration ➤ SB 35, SB 150, and SB 238 propose various changes to Ohio's immigration laws and may impact employers. OFBF provided background information to lawmakers on potential unintended consequences of enacting state-by-state immigration policies and urged lawmakers to encourage federal solutions to immigration problems.

State Budget ➤ The OFBF State Budget Task Force met for the first time on June 3rd. Discussion included an in-depth review of the state budget process, a frank look at the challenges in budget negotiations, the impact of the budget on OSU/Extension/4-H, the impact of the budget on rural hospitals and a thorough look at federal health care reform, its impact on Ohio employers and employees, and how it will affect state budgeting. The task force will produce a report for the board in late August.

Public Utility Regulations ➤ SB 162 revises the state regulation of telephone companies, removes telegraph companies from utility regulation, and revises the law concerning confidential information of public utilities. Failure to upgrade these laws could hinder new investment in our state including broadband deployment. The bill has passed both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor. OFBF supported this bill.



Transfer of Development Rights ➤ HB 471 allows local governments to establish transfer of development rights programs. OFBF is monitoring this bill.

On-farm Energy Production ➤ HB 485 would include the production from certain feedstocks of biodiesel, biomass energy, electric or heat energy and biologically derived methane gas in the definition of "agriculture" for purposes of laws governing county zoning, township zoning and current agricultural use valuation. This change would facilitate on-farm energy production using agricultural byproducts such as methane captured from manure. OFBF supports this legislation.

Farm Vehicle Registration Late Fee ➤ HB 528 exempts farm trucks and farm buses from the vehicle registration late fee, establishes a mandatory waiver of the registration late fee for vehicles used on a seasonal basis and would allow the director of public safety to approve a course in remedial driving instruction that is conducted entirely by video teleconferencing or the Internet under specified circumstances. OFBF supports this legislation.

Hunting Near Parks ➤ HB 531 eliminates the prohibition against hunting or shooting game within one-half mile of a township park. This legislation repeals a section in the Ohio Revised Code that doesn't appear to have any relevance to hunting safety or the enhancement of nuisance wildlife and overabundance of wildlife controls, and it drastically infringes on the rights of adjacent landowners. OFBF is monitoring this legislation.



Agricultural Deer Licenses ➤ HB 410 proposes to establish an agricultural deer propagating license, an agricultural deer hunting preserve license and corresponding requirements under the authority of the director of agriculture. This legislation is supported by the Whitetail Deer Farmers of Ohio, Inc. but is opposed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Department of Agriculture and various Ohio sportsmen's groups. OFBF is monitoring the legislation.

Wind Energy ➤ SB 232 will replace current utility tax rates with payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) assessments. The focus is to ensure resources for local government and schools, while putting Ohio's tax structure for renewable energy facilities in a competitive position relative to neighboring states. OFBF provided testimony as a supportive interested party.

Rural Broadband ➤ Ohio Farm Bureau continues to work with both Connected Nation and Connect Ohio on greater broadband affordability and availability. Ohio is recognized as a leader in broadband mapping and public/private partnership deployment programs.

Hunter Access Pilot Program ➤ This program, which sought to connect farmers and hunters to reduce deer damage, was evaluated by OFBF and ODNR and an expanded program is expected to be launched this fall.

International Container Shipping ➤ As a result of ongoing discussions amongst interested parties, including OFBF, the Ohio Department of Transportation announced it will file a new rule to permit overweight international shipping containers be transported on Ohio roadways. This is a great breakthrough and will put Ohio in a much more competitive position for exporting Ohio grain via shipping containers.



Nutrient Management ➤ Nutrient management and water quality related to agriculture is coming to a head on several fronts in Ohio. The Ohio Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force released its report suggesting that currently acceptable agricultural management practices may be the cause of excess dissolved phosphorus loading to Lake Erie. Grand Lake St. Marys continues to be an issue of local and statewide concern.

Ohio Great Lakes Compact ➤ Efforts continue for the Ohio Great Lakes Compact Advisory Board to complete its work and provide its recommendations to the governor and General Assembly. While many details are yet to be worked out regarding the regulation of new or increased withdrawals, advisory board members have reached a consensus on several general principles.

Power Siting Board ➤ OFBF was recognized as an official, intervening party of record with the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) in seven cases concerning approval of new wind farm construction projects in northwest and north central Ohio. OFBF continues to work with county Farm Bureau leaders to address local policy concerns and prepare for public hearings.

Solid Biofuels ➤ OFBF is helping several county Farm Bureaus in eastern Ohio form a task force to identify/recruit a solid biofuel processing company to establish operations in the region. OFBF is working with the Ohio Department of Development and other government agencies to arrange farmer-processor discussion sessions in northwest, northeast and southwest Ohio.

Nuclear Energy ➤ OFBF is working with a stakeholder group formed by Duke Energy to evaluate intermediate and long-term energy requirements for southern Ohio consumers, and the possibility of developing nuclear generation capacity in the region.

Utility Tariff Issues ➤ A number of farmers in certain service areas are discovering that as they refit their farm facilities to become more energy efficient, they are tripping electric usage thresholds that bring demand meters and higher rate structures to the farm. OFBF is conducting legal research on tariffs and working with the incumbent utilities to implement better information programs advising farmers on the issue.



Pollution Abatement ➤ OFBF staff met with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to review its proposed changes to agriculture pollution abatement rules. ODNR-DSWC will soon begin its required five-year review of agriculture pollution abatement rules.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Facilities ➤ The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Concentrated Animal Feeding Facilities advisory committee, which includes Ohio Farm Bureau, announced that it would be conducting a required five-year rule review.

Dairy Labeling ➤ The Ohio Department of Agriculture's dairy labeling rule is now being heard by a federal appellate court, and both plaintiffs and defendants appeared before the court to make their oral arguments in early June. Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio Dairy Producers Association each filed amicus briefs on the subject(s). The court is expected to render a decision in mid fall.



Ag Law Coalition ➤ Ohio Farm Bureau attorneys have assisted agricultural attorneys around Ohio with the goal of establishing a good body of case law on agricultural issues and avoiding outcomes which would set bad precedent for agricultural law.

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POLICY & POLITICS



Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

Grand Lake St. Marys - See article on page 1

Regulations on nutrient management that have been proposed in the Grand Lake St. Marys Watershed could have ripple effects for farmers across Ohio. Consider the following issues:

- 1) Nutrient management plans provide a blueprint for how and when farmers will apply manure and fertilizer. If more farmers were required to develop and follow these plans, how would this affect members of your community? What are the potential positives and negatives?
- 2) What is the responsibility of individual farmers to manage nonpoint source pollution, such as farm runoff? Should the public help fund efforts to take land out of production and implement conservation practices such as buffer strips? What policy suggestions does your council have for dealing with nutrient management issues?
- 3) Regulations are often driven by public opinion. If farmers are already following best management practices on a voluntary basis, how can we assure the public that appropriate measures are being taken to protect the environment without additional regulation?

OUTREACH

You posted, we listened. Others will too

Farmer voices need to continue online



In the summer of 2008, Ohio Farm Bureau staff considered what needed to be included in a redesign of an OFBF.org website that, in terms of Internet standards, was stuck in 1998. Sitting atop that list was the voice of the Ohio Farm Bureau member.

Since spring of 2009, members have been able to create a free user account at OFBF.org, allowing them to comment on stories, vote in reader polls, easily access their county Farm Bureau and check and renew their membership status.

In the summer of 2010, the online voice of the Ohio Farm Bureau member played a vital role in our communication on an important issue in which many were actively involved.

When news broke of the agreement between Ohioans for Livestock Care, Gov. Ted Strickland and the Humane Society of the United States, many of our members discovered these features and used them to let us know their thoughts and questions about the agreement.

And it wasn't just on OFBF.org. Ohio Farm Bureau members spoke out throughout the web with comments and concerns about the agreement posted on news stories, blog posts, Facebook pages, Twitter and other content.

And we know that, because we are listening.

A proactive focus on social media allows OFBF to give real-time information, receive real-time feedback, and answer your actual (and sometimes tough) questions that need to be answered. Thank you to all who comment on OFBF.org and throughout the web. Your online

voices let us take a timely pulse of our membership and provide information you need. This is the essence of social media.

We've never had an easier way to make our voices heard, and as proven this summer, OFBF members are quickly learning to use it, and share it, online.

According to comments and concerns, many were itching for a fight at the ballot this fall and were prepared to invest significant personal time toward the cause.

With a ballot issue off the table, now is the ideal time for Ohio farmers to reinvest that momentum and passion toward OFBF's forward-looking mission to forge a partnership between farmers and consumers.

You told us how you feel on OFBF.org, and we're in the business of keeping you in business. But is your voice as loud in spaces where those with ulterior motives are telling consumers how to feel about what you do?

Like the OFBF.org website, a little bit of personal online investment toward being proactive, transparent and responsive to consumer concerns can help us all move beyond 1998.

Sign up for your personalized account and enable your voice at OFBF.org.

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FARM BUREAU NEWS

MAY WE
INTRODUCE...

"It's important to have that voice in Washington D.C. because they don't understand farming and what it's all about."

~ Jayne Wallace, Harrison County

Jayne Wallace has never missed Farm Bureau's annual trip to Washington, D.C. since becoming Harrison County's president in 2001.

"My biggest thing with being a Farm Bureau member is having someone speak up for us in Washington, D.C.," she said.



Wallace

"So many don't realize what all Farm Bureau does. They hear Farm Bureau and think it's just farmers and it's not – it's so much more because

Farm Bureau speaks for a lot of (different groups of) people."

Wallace has been a Farm Bureau member for about 30 years, and she and her husband, Keith, raise Angus beef cattle and have a small flock of dropper sheep. She worked at a BP service station for years. They have three grown children and four grandsons.

Wallace has also served on Harrison County's women's committee and membership. She currently serves on the Harrison County Junior Fair Livestock Sales Committee and the county's Democratic party.

"We're trying to feed the world and if we're not careful we won't be able to meet those needs," she said.

NATIONWIDE NEWS

Inviting the public onto your farm can
increase liability along with income

Corn mazes, hayrides, boo barns and pumpkin patches. There are lots of ways to attract visitors and extra income to farms in the autumn.

Tens of thousands of U.S. farms now earn income from agritourism. The attractiveness of agritourism continues to grow as more consumers turn to farmers and ranchers for local products, as well as for interactive social, educational and outdoor activities.

Besides adding income, farmers are encouraged by how these sideline businesses increase the public's understanding of and appreciation for the role of farming in the American economy and food supply.

However, it's also important for farmers to understand the increased liability that comes with inviting the public onto their premises.

Agritourism can encompass a wide range of activities, from u-pick operations to petting zoos and farm markets – all designed to bring increasing numbers of urban dwellers onto farms for leisure, education and entertainment.

Legal responsibilities for agritourism exposures are unique compared to those associated with traditional production farming.

"Studies have shown that farming is one of the nation's most dangerous occupations," said Jerry Hillard, farm sales director for Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance, which is endorsed by Ohio Farm Bureau. "That risk increases dramatically



Farms that provide agritourism opportunities can face unique legal risks that can be managed through liability insurance.

when producers market their farms to attract the public. And the risks are especially high when children are involved."

Farmers who become involved with agritourism activities need to discuss their specific types of businesses with their insurance agent. "Usually, the policy that provides liability for the farm business does not extend to liability from other profit-making activities," Hillard said. "So it's important that they get coverage for these additional activities."

"Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance, with its roots in agriculture and

strong ties to Farm Bureau, recognizes that we must make changes to continue properly serving our policyholders," he added. "That's why we offer additional liability coverages that can be written as a package, in conjunction with a farm policy, to cover agritourism ventures."

Nationwide Agribusiness is the farm and agricultural arm of the Nationwide group of companies, and is the No. 1 farm insurer in the United States. For more information about farm coverages, contact a nearby Nationwide Insurance agent.

on **YOUR** behalf

Through your support, here are some of the day-to-day activities Farm Bureau staff engage in to promote agriculture and strengthen rural Ohio.

David Rule is OFBF's senior director of human resources and technology. He is responsible for making sure the organization is



Rule

staffed with people who fit Farm Bureau's culture, are passionate about their work and are properly trained to serve our members. He makes sure Farm Bureau uses technology to maximize the effectiveness of its work force in a financially sound manner.

Rule does recruiting visits at colleges and universities in Ohio and surrounding states to find graduating students looking for careers in agriculture. He currently serves on the GIST Chair Advisory Group at Ohio State University, which focuses on leadership development related to Ohio agriculture. One of his recent activities was planning the annual Leadership Conference for volunteers, an event that he has chaired since 1989.

"I enjoy the opportunity to work with Ohio Farm Bureau employees in a way in which they can learn and grow as professionals and are prepared to serve our members in a positive and productive environment," he said.

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NOTEWORTHY



Photo by Dan Toland

A Learning Experience:

A young visitor to Ohio Farm Bureau's Land and Living exhibit at the Ohio State Fair gets a hand planting a flower. The display was one of many opportunities for visitors to learn about Ohio agriculture.

Each year hundreds of thousands of visitors make their way to the exhibit to watch chicks and ducks hatch, navigate a pedal tractor course, climb a giant corn wall and view displays on crops, livestock and conservation.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and his Republican contender John Kasich also toured the building as did Senate candidates Rob Portman and Lee Fisher along with other political candidates.

Cuyahoga horse owners reach out

The Cuyahoga County Equine Advisory Committee is comprised of individuals who come from various backgrounds, but who all share a love of horses. The committee is fervent in sharing its passion with others.

The 7th Annual Benefit Horse Show was held at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds on July 18, with participants competing in a variety of show classes and fun events. "The very first benefit show was established to raise money in support of the Mounted Unit of the Cleveland Police Department," said Joe Porach, Equine Advisory Committee chairperson. "That year we raised and donated over \$5,000. This year with the economy the way it is, we still expect to clear \$1,400 after expenses." The proceeds from this year's show are earmarked to support the "Regional Equine Information Network System" (REINS) program.

The REINS program, established by Ohio State University Extension, is dedicated to the education of equine enthusiasts to continue the growth of the industry. On June 24 the Equine Advisory Committee hosted a REINS program for local animal control officers. "We wanted to work with the animal control officers to help educate them for when they are asked to investigate potential animal abuse cases," Porach said. "We have created a relationship with these officers, so if they have questions they call me first." The advisory committee has a goal to educate those who own horses or may want to own a horse, about the proper way to care for that animal.

Find out what's happening with your county Farm Bureau by visiting the Ohio County Pages section of the Ohio Farm Bureau website at www.ofbf.org/counties

Langes named outstanding tree farmers**□ Farm will host free field day**

Earlier this year, Fulton County Farm Bureau members Donna and Walt Lange were recognized as Ohio Tree Farmers of the Year. The Ohio Division of Forestry nominated the Langes for the award because of their commitment to wise stewardship of their 56-acre tree farm in Fulton

County, as well as their statewide efforts to promote the importance of forests and woodland conservation.

The Langes have worked hard to promote the value and benefits of healthy woodlands within the Ohio Tree Farm Committee, National Tree Farm Operating Committee, the Ohio Forestry Association, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Forestry Committee, and in partnership with numerous northwest Ohio soil and water conservation districts.

A free public field day, which includes tours, demonstrations and educational opportunities, is planned for Sept. 25 at the Lange Tree Farm. Learn more about the tree farm program and get details on the upcoming field day at www.treefarm.org



Photo by Seth Teter

Action: Dwight Beougher, a Franklin County Farm Bureau member, delivers a speech in front of a television camera as part of a recent spokesperson training program held by Ohio Farm Bureau's Center for Food and Animal Issues. The program provided instruction to Farm Bureau members who were interested in becoming a community spokesperson on food and animal topics. The program worked toward OFBF's goal of speaking out and standing up for animal agriculture and the food industry.

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