



Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

Questions for Advisory Councils



Articles marked with the Advisory Council logo have corresponding discussion questions below.

1) Ohio Farm Bureau's strategic plan (from page 1)

Did you or members of your council participate in this process? If so, how did you contribute?

Does your council feel that the new vision statement, core values and indicators of success accurately portray our organization?

2) Dairy and pork challenges (from page 4)

How are livestock producers in your area weathering the price storm?

Does your council have policy solutions to help deal with the price risks of livestock farming?

A selection of responses from previous council discussions:

Interstate Meat Shipment

Will you or someone you know benefit from a proposal to allow state-inspected meat be sold across state lines? Do you think this will provide consumers with more or less confidence in the meat products they purchase?

- As farmers who raise beef for freezers, we might be able to get new customers for our products.
- Yes, we think producers will benefit from this change; for instance, in the sale of freezer beef across state lines and in the sale of sheep to Muslims.
- It may help producers here due to our closeness to Pennsylvania and West Virginia.
- If inspectors are properly trained, it should provide consumers with more confidence in their meat products.
- Federal inspection will drive the small business out.
- We are concerned about meat from foreign countries.
- We feel it won't make a difference.
- Most people don't realize meat can be brought in from a foreign country with federal inspection, but cannot be sold across state lines without federal inspection.
- The small livestock farmer will find more places to market their livestock. The consumer will have more confidence in the meat they purchase knowing it is locally grown.
- A lot of small processors have enough local business to keep them busy.
- We feel acceptance of state inspection is high now.
- USDA inspection should create confidence. We should be able to trust the product to be safe. That depends on the reliability of inspectors. The same would be true in state inspection.

What can we, as an agricultural community, do to ensure that the media, the consumer and government agencies are using the proper terminology for the H1N1 virus?

- Promote reference to H1N1 and discourage use of the term "swine flu" in our individual references and that of our friends and acquaintances.
- There's nothing you can do; the damage is done. We cannot get the news media to use the proper terminology.
- We think the media is getting a little better about calling it H1N1.
- The people are using "Swine Flu" on purpose.
- If we don't complain, who will?

How will you or members of your council be affected if Soil and Water Conservation District funding is not restored?

- We will miss awareness of new technology available.
- Farms and farmers need this help. We won't be able to make needed improvements as we have in the past, such as heavy use pads, cross sectional fencing or pond development.
- It would affect most of us eventually.
- If there is a logging complaint, there will be no one to turn to. Streams in southeast Ohio will be devastated if there is no supervision of logging.
- Recent experience with SWCD funding for projects has been a problem with it becoming so elaborate that even though there is cost sharing, the cost became prohibitive. Farmers don't have the experience to make a plan, but don't need all the extras that the experts plan. We need something in the middle.

- It would stop or slow the improvement of many needed projects on our farms.

Please share examples of help you've received from your county SWCD:

- In 1950, we purchased a farm. After one year, when crop yields didn't pay production costs, we contacted our SWCD. They said our farm was the outlet through which four farms "above" us needed drainage. This project, when completed, changed five farms from "losers" to very productive farms and enabled a thankful couple to pay for their farm.
- One member received guidance when constructing a new building in placing tile for run-off, thus preventing soil erosion.
- We have had help with four springs that were developed, stream crossing, pasture seeding, feed pads, water tanks, and laying out ponds.
- They help us with ditch construction, waterways, soil erosion and cleaning creeks.
- We received free trees to replant a windbreak.
- Several of us received funds for filter strips and waterways; we are concerned.
- In the past, some of our council members have received assistance for livestock fencing, no-till farming, ponds and stream bank protections, just to name a few.
- When a new four-lane highway came through our county and farm, the SWCD inventoried existing tile drainage, designed new systems and coordinated the hook-ups with road and tile contractors. Results have been much appreciated.

Honeybaked Ham winners to be announced in January issue.