

# History of Farm Bureau Youth

- **1935** – Ohio Farm Bureau sponsors a Cooperative Youth Camp, the first of its kind. The program, held October 20-25, 1935, at Camp Manatoc near Akron, includes workshops on “Cooperative Education Between Consumers and Producers”, “Opportunities for Youth in the Commodity Movement and “Organizing Cooperative Educational Activities in Local Communities”.

- **1936** – Advisory Councils created in Ohio Farm Bureau.
- **1937** - Darwin Bryan hired to work full-time with the Ohio Farm Bureau Youth.



- **Summer 1937** – Ohio Farm Bureau hosts seven Co-op Youth camps with courses on principles of cooperatives, public speaking, current events, and safe driving practices as well as group singing, square dancing and non-musical recreation.
- **1937** – Ohio Farm Bureau organizes Farm Bureau Youth Councils patterned after the adult Advisory Councils for purpose of harnessing the “interest of the youth and correlating the efforts into a teamwork for a better understanding of Farm Bureau and cooperatives”. The emphasis was not on telling the youth what to do but rather to listening to them and helping them to develop strong leadership qualities.
- **1938** – The first youth council discussion guide is created.
- **1943** – The State Youth Committee is formed during the 25<sup>th</sup> OFBF Annual Meeting.
- **1943** – Ohio Farm Bureau Youth raise money to purchase and donate a field ambulance to the army “because of its symbolic emphasis upon life instead of destruction”. The ambulance, called “The Bryan” was donated during the Youth Session of the OFBF Annual Meeting in November 1943 and was turned over to the U.S. Army during a ceremony on the State House lawn. Darwin Bryan could not be present for the presentation since he was drafted into the U.S. Army earlier in September. His wife Helen did the honors. Earl Downey was appointed to lead the youth program until Bryan returned from the army.
- **1946** – OFBF sponsors two youth (one boy and one girl) in an international exchange program with Denmark.
- **1948** – Sixty-five Ohio Farm Bureau Youth attend the AFBF Convention in Atlantic City.
- **1952** – Legislative youth tours begin in March.
- **1960** – Jim Gildea, chair of the State Youth Committee, begins the Spotlight on Safety Program.
- **Mid 1960’s** – Farm Bureau in Action is added as a component to the summer youth conferences. Activities included a mock legislature, advisory councils, public affairs and women’s representatives and a Farm Bureau Board.
- **1963** – Shirley Boyd hired as Assistant Youth Director.
- **1973** – Darwin Bryan retires from Ohio Farm Bureau. Shirley Boyd becomes Director, Youth Activities.

- **1980's – 2001** – Farm Bureau youth councils consistent recipients of national awards from the National Safety Council. A member of the State Youth Committee serves annually on the National Safety Council's Youth Coordinating Committee. Shirley Boyd and Darrell Rubel serve on the National Safety Council Youth Division's Executive Committee.
- **1980** – OFBF and Nationwide sponsor a Safety Training Seminar for Youthful Drivers, and a youth Legislative tour.
- **1982** – Farm Bureau Youth host "mini-conferences" in select OD areas. Shirley Boyd is honored at her 100<sup>th</sup> Farm Bureau Youth conference. Farm Bureau Youth sponsor Buckle-Up Pledge Cards at the Ohio State Fair and win the "First in the Nation" award from the National Safety Council.
- **1983** – Darwin Bryan Scholarship is created
- **1996** – Shirley Boyd honored the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Safety Council, its highest honor.
- **1997** – Darrell Rubel hired as Director of Young Leaders
- **1998** – Shirley Boyd retires following 35 years of service to Ohio Farm Bureau
- **1999** – Advisor Camp created to provide specialized leadership and personal development training for youth advisors.
- **2001** – Jr. High Quest created to a sell-out response. Conference held in June is sold out in early May.
- **2001-2002** – Youth make a quilt in memory of the 9/11 tragedy, the victims and the New York City police and firefighters. The quilt, "What Freedom Means to Me" was sewed by a Farm Bureau member and contained quilt squares on which youth wrote what freedom means to them personally. The quilt was donated to the World Trade Center Memorial Museum where is it will be displayed when the museum opens in 2007. Ohio Farm Bureau Youth have been invited to attend the dedication ceremony.
- **2003** – Youth have a statewide drive to raise food and clothing for Faith Mission and Children's Hunger Alliance
- **2004** – Ignite created in response to positive feedback to Quest and demand for more jr. high programs. Ohio Farm Bureau raises money for One Life Revolution for relief efforts for children orphaned by AIDS in Zambia.
- **2004** – Shirley Boyd inducted into the Ohio Ag Hall of Fame for her lifetime commitment to agriculture, safety and youth leadership development.
- **2005** – The summer conference program is updated with new names and logos for all conferences. The State Youth Committee Leadership Training program begins with curriculum written for the committee.



**2006** – Ohio Youth Safety Congress created by Ohio Farm Bureau, OSU Extension and the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation