



WHY A LIVESTOCK CARE BOARD?
"Consumers will have greater trust... and farmers will have certainty."
 PG 7

Bill aims to boost state's use of bioproducts
 PG 8



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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

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Local action protects area farmers from road restriction

BY AMY BETH GRAVES

Harrison County Farm Bureau took immediate action when a village council talked about enforcing the weight limit on a road used by chicken producers. Enforcing the road's weight limit appeared to specifically target the farmers and would have forced them to use an alternate route that would have added 17 miles to their trip.

"This is a great success story for a county Farm Bureau," said Larry Gearhardt, Ohio Farm Bureau's senior director of local affairs.

In May, Cadiz Village Council held its regular meeting and planned to discuss enforcing a 5-ton weight limit on city streets, specifically a side street to the town's downtown, which is used by chicken farmers who supply nearby Case Farms. Harrison County Farm Bureau members had heard about the proposal and showed up at the council meeting.

This issue wasn't pushed that night, but local farmers knew it wasn't over. The county Farm Bureau started taking steps to show how enforcing the weight limit would hurt the county's economy and may be illegal. Nan Still, Ohio Farm Bureau's director of agricultural law information, was in the area and stopped in to talk to council members about the legalities of the issue.

"Having weight limitations can't be done in a discriminatory fashion. It has to be based on studies and soundness of the roads. We pointed out that the city would have to pick up everybody over the weight limit, not just farmers hauling hay or feed," Gearhardt said.

The next step was to show council members why it was unreasonable to enforce the weight limit, which had been on the books for years but
See HARRISON, pg 6



Take Care: *Farmers say proposed livestock board is good for agriculture and consumers*

BY SETH TETER

As Ohio faces the question of how to set standards for farm animal treatment, OFBF is supporting an effort that would ensure all sides of the issue are heard.

As of press time, a proposal to create an Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board was making its way through the Statehouse. Its approval will put a measure on the November ballot to create a 13-member board to oversee decisions on how farm animals are treated.

The board will comprise a broad base of Ohioans knowledgeable in

livestock and poultry care, including family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert, a representative of a local humane society, members from statewide farm organizations, the dean of an Ohio agriculture college and members representing Ohio consumers.

OFBF and commodity organizations believe the creation of the board is better public policy than the efforts of activists who have launched several expensive

campaigns to legalize specific farm practices one by one.

In testimony to House lawmakers, Kim Davis, a Carroll County farmer and OFBF Trustee, said the board would "help Ohio farmers continue to provide excellent care for our animals, while also ensuring safe, affordable and locally raised food."

In a Senate committee hearing, Fayette County farmer and OFBF Trustee Bob Peterson said animal care

is a top priority for Ohio farmers. "It's the right thing to do and it keeps our animals safe, healthy and disease-free," he said.

Peterson also asserted that anyone who is truly interested in the well-being and care of Ohio's livestock and poultry would support the comprehensive approach provided by the board.

The only opponent testimony came from a representative of the Humane Society of the United States, a Washington-based animal rights group that has said it wants to launch a campaign in Ohio to ban
See TAKE CARE, pg 6

"Isn't this a more reasonable way to approach the issue?"

~Charles Wildman, livestock farmer

Climate change, Water bills pose threat

BY DAN TOLAND

Despite an amendment to improve the measure for agriculture, Farm Bureau believes climate change legislation approved by the U.S. House still falls short.

It's a "seriously flawed" bill, according to American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Bob Stallman, who said, "this may be the most important legislation considered in the 111th Congress."

The bill passed the House by a narrow margin (219-212) and seeks to curtail greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020 and up to 80 percent by 2050.

An amendment by Collin Peterson, D-Minn., exempted agriculture and forest sectors from the reduction requirements, and developed an offset program under the Department of Agriculture instead of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We appreciate Congressmen Zack Space, D-Ohio, and Peterson for their work to improve the bill for

agriculture," said Ohio Farm Bureau Senior Director of Legislative and Regulatory Policy Adam Sharp. "However, despite efforts, not enough was achieved to balance out the costs with benefits for Ohio farmers."

Farm Bureau opposes the House bill as passed for a number of reasons, including that it increases costs of fuel, fertilizer and energy. AFBF economic analysis shows that, at a minimum, net farm income will decline by \$5 billion annually by 2020 under the current proposal.

Without other countries in a similar agreement, the increased cost in production will put U.S. farms at an international disadvantage.

It creates an "energy deficit" by curtailing the use of fossil fuels without any realistic alternative to make up for lost energy.

Sharp expects the Senate to start



Ohio Farm Bureau is working closely with lawmakers to protect farmers from national legislative efforts that could hinder agricultural operations.

work on climate change this summer but isn't expecting floor action until the fall. There is a significant group of Midwest senators, including Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, who are determined to address agriculture's concerns. Sen. George Voinovich has also expressed a number of concerns with the legislation.

"We are certainly spending a lot of time talking to the Senate," Sharp said. "We hope for a very different bill to be the result."

A U.S. Senate committee also re-

cently voted for a bill which amends the Clean Water Act by replacing the term "navigable waters" with "waters of the United States." Farm Bureau believes this would leave no water unregulated in the United States, impacting even standing water from rain in a dry area. Farm Bureau also believes it would extraordinarily expand federal jurisdiction, giving the government inordinate control over private property, while opening the door for activists to sue landowners whose activities they don't like.



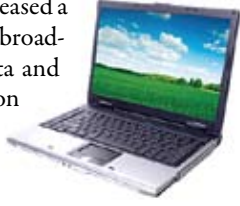
Sharp

File Photo

NEWS *briefs*

Getting broadband to rural America

Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps recently released a report identifying common problems affecting rural broadband, including technological challenges, lack of data and high network costs. American Farm Bureau Federation recently emphasized the need for widely available broadband access for rural Americans in comments to the FCC. "In the 21st century, broadband Internet access is a necessity, not a luxury," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 requires the FCC to develop a comprehensive broadband plan by Feb. 17, 2010.



Ag exports down, imports up

Ag exports for fiscal year 2009 are projected at \$96 billion, down from the \$115 billion in FY2008, according to USDA's Economic Research Service. The forecast for FY2009 agricultural imports is \$81 billion, \$2 billion higher than the FY2008 total. A prolonged recession is expected to continue to drop world trade volume between 6 percent and 9 percent, and weak consumer spending has reduced import growth to the slowest rate in many years, according to ERS.

Food safety bill needs refinement

The Food Safety Enhancement Act, a bill that would overhaul food safety rules, includes provisions that concern farmers. While Farm Bureau supports the overall goal of the legislation to strengthen resources for food safety functions, it believes further refinement is needed on some provisions, including country-of-origin labeling, record-keeping and reporting, traceability requirements, safe production standards for fresh produce and raw commodities, language on antibiotic restrictions and FDA authority on meat packaging that has the potential to threaten trade relationships. House leadership wants to pass a food safety bill this year.

Stallman: Time to implement farm bill

AFBF President Bob Stallman recently testified before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, outlining major components of the 2008 Farm Bill that still need to be enacted, stressing the urgency of doing so. Such components include disaster assistance, payment eligibility and the collaboration between the Internal Revenue Service and USDA. AFBF is keeping a close eye on the USDA/IRS collaboration announced earlier this year. "Any proposal that allows IRS information to become public through the Freedom of Information Act is unacceptable to Farm Bureau," Stallman said. "It's Farm Bureau's goal to ensure that the best interests of farmers are of paramount importance during this implementation process."

Ohio FSA develops ACRE calculator for farmers

State and county office members at the Ohio Farm Service Agency have developed an ACRE calculator for producers who are interested in and have questions about the new ACRE program. The calculator helps landowners and operators better understand the potential impact of ACRE participation on farming operations. The deadline to enroll in ACRE is Aug. 14. Landowners and operators are encouraged to visit their local FSA office to use the ACRE calculator and determine if ACRE is an option for their farm.

TAKEN *at their word*

Ear-catching quotes from the past few weeks

"If Ohio agribusiness groups do not agree to some restrictions, The HSUS is prepared to launch a statewide ballot initiative campaign for November 2010..."

Wayne Pacelle, president of the Washington D.C.-based animal rights group Humane Society of the United States, in a statement slamming the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

"We believe that any individual or organization who is truly interested in the well-being and care of Ohio's livestock and poultry will join us in supporting (the Ohio Livestock Care Standards board), which will ensure that this debate is kept current and open to public input."

Bob Peterson, a Fayette County grain and livestock farmer and OFBF state trustee.

Advisory board working to develop recommendations on Lake Erie water use

Last year, Ohio was among the eight Midwest states and two Canadian provinces to ratify the Great Lakes Compact — an agreement that governs the use and prevents the diversion of water from the Great Lakes.

By statute, an advisory board was established in Ohio, chaired by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, to develop recommendations to the governor and General Assembly for legislation and policy needed to implement the compact.

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Director of Policy Development and Environmental Research Larry Antosch is the advisory board appointee for agricultural interests in the Lake Erie Basin. He and the rest of the advisory board began working on three distinct portions of the compact in March.

"Representing agricultural interests, I'm particularly looking out for the personal property rights of agricultural water users and to ensure that agriculture-related water users are able to continue to have access to the water they need," Antosch said. "Our whole goal is to make sure those individuals using water today are protected



The line above indicates the divide between the Lake Erie and Ohio River drainage basins.

as future regulations get developed, with the intent to grandfather all current water users who qualify under new standards."

"I'm particularly looking out for the personal property rights of agricultural water users."

—Larry Antosch, OFBF

First and foremost, the board has been charged with establishing a baseline list of water users and withdrawers within the Lake Erie Basin. Those with the capacity to withdraw 100,000 gallons of water or more per day should, by law, be registered

under the Water Withdrawal Facilities Registration Program that went

into effect in 1988, Antosch said.

Second, the board is to develop water conservation and efficiency goals by establishing a list of practices for all water use sectors (power production, manufacturing, residential and agriculture) and individual water users to conserve water. Antosch said these practices will be voluntary, but could be a factor in determining if those wishing to withdraw larger volumes of water are permitted to do so in the future. An example of such voluntary water conservation practices include the Lake Erie Irrigation Water Management Guide. Antosch said the board is just beginning work on the third step — developing a program for regulating new and increased water withdrawals.

The timeline of the entire process is aggressive, said Antosch, noting that the initial baseline must be established by Dec. 8, with the final advisory board scheduled for April 2010.

Online Extras: Find the Lake Erie Irrigation Water Management Guide, Lake Erie Basin Maps and more. Visit www.ofbf.org and search for this story.

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Turfgrass industry pumps \$3 billion into Ohio

Ohio's turfgrass industry is growing, providing billions of dollars in economic output for the state, according to a recently released study.

The study found that the economic output associated with Ohio's turfgrass industry increased from \$1.16 billion in 1989 to \$3 billion in 2007. According to the study, \$3 billion is equivalent to 54 percent of the 2006 cash receipts from Ohio's agriculture commodities, including livestock and crops.

The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation commissioned the study with the support of Ohio State University's Turfgrass Science Program. The Strategy Team, Ltd., a Columbus-based research firm, conducted the survey, interviewing almost 1,400 individuals, businesses, churches, school districts and other groups from June through December 2007.

"The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation had conducted the last survey in 1989 and wanted to get an update to get a handle on what's happening today," said Larry Antosch, Ohio Farm Bureau's director of policy development and environmental research. "Turfgrass is a big business for Ohio."

The survey found that more than 4 million acres of turfgrass is maintained each year, ranging from residential lawns to golf courses to



recreational fields. That's about the same amount of acres of corn and soybeans planted in 2007, Antosch said. Single-family households and golf courses contribute about 75 percent of the total output with the lawn care industry contributing about 16 percent, according to the study.

The turfgrass industry brings in an additional \$1.6 billion in economic output from indirect sources. The study also found that the turfgrass industry directly employs 41,808 people and indirectly 18,442.

COMMUNICATIONS

AFBF to recognize local innovation

County Farm Bureaus and local Farm Bureau members are invited to apply for an opportunity to be recognized by American Farm Bureau Federation for outstanding Farm Bureau programs and innovations.

AFBF's County Farm Bureau Activities of Excellence (CAE) Program is designed to recognize and share successful county Farm Bureau programs and activities across the nation. Fifteen county Farm Bureaus will be selected to present a display of their winning

activity during the AFBF Annual Meeting Showcase, Jan. 10-11, 2010 in Seattle. Selected counties will receive \$2,000 cash toward expenses incurred to participate in the CAE program. Last year, Shelby and Tuscarawas counties were among the winners and represented their county Farm Bureaus at AFBF's annual meeting in San Antonio.

AFBF also sponsors the Farmer Idea Exchange contest, which is designed for surface innovations, equipment modifications, innova-

tive crops, marketing techniques, management systems and farming practices developed by farmers and ranchers. Up to 15 ideas from around the country will be selected to be displayed during the AFBF Annual Meeting Showcase in Seattle.

The application deadline for both programs is Sept. 4. Contact your county Farm Bureau for more details or search "CAE" at www.ofbf.org.

COUNTY news

Editor's Note: Our last issue included a story on the Grand Lake Agriculture Leadership Program, which fostered the leadership and communication skills of Mercer County's agriculture community. *Buckeye Farm News* would like to note that in addition to the county Farm Bureau, the program was supported by the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District, Wright State University - Lake Campus, USDA Farm Service Agency and OSU Extension.

Promoting produce in Perry County

Perry County Farm Bureau recently conducted a farm tour at a local produce farm with about 35 in attendance. Organization Director Kari Burkey said the event was conducted to highlight the Farm Bureau's involvement in establishing four farmers markets throughout the county. In addition to having dinner and hearing about Ohio Farm Bureau activities, those in attendance heard from Ohio State University Extension and the Farm Service Agency. Topics covered included Extension's current restructuring, the Humane Society of the United States, property rights, the REX pipeline project and programs available through FSA. Attendees were also treated to a wagon ride through the produce farm.

Planting with purpose

Inmates at the Stark County Jail recently started planting a garden in a joint project with the Stark County Farm Bureau and OSU Extension's Stark County Office. Through the project, nonviolent inmates will grow produce through an educational garden and will then donate the produce to Meals on Wheels of Stark and Wayne counties. The program is planned to be a long-term, annual project.



Photo by Kristy Foster/Farm and Dairy

Two receive \$2,500 reward

Two Ohioans were recently presented \$2,500 rewards from Ohio Farm Bureau for their efforts in preventing rural crime.

Huron County resident Joseph Ringler received the reward after he caught and held at gunpoint two thieves who had stolen a neighbor's vehicle and were in the process of stealing guns, power equipment and a car CD player from the home of Farm Bureau members August and Carol Stacklin. Pictured in the photo below, from left to right, are August Stacklin, Carol Stacklin, Ringler, Huron County Farm Bureau President John Brooks, Huron County Sheriff's Department Deputy Randall Chase, Northeast Regional Supervisor Danielle Dufour and Huron County Farm Bureau Organization Director Amanda Denes.



Photo courtesy of Huron County Farm Bureau

Brenda Heidlebaugh of Logan also received the \$2,500 reward for providing information that led to the arrest and felony conviction of two criminals in an attempted robbery on the property of Hocking County Farm Bureau member Larry Heidlebaugh.

The \$2,500 reward is presented when efforts of citizens lead to the arrest and conviction of crimes occurring on or to an Ohio Farm Bureau member's property. OFBF's Property Protection Program has been a deterrent against rural crimes for more than two decades and serves as one of the many benefits of an Ohio Farm Bureau membership. Learn more about the program in the "Members and Benefits" section at www.ofbf.org.

SE ambassadors reap rewards, continue to sign members

Ohio Farm Bureau Ambassador Club members (those signing 10 or more new Farm Bureau members between Sept. 1 and May 31) from OFBF's Southeast Region recently took a trip to Adena Mansion and Gardens and to see "Tecumseh! - The Ultimate Outdoor Drama."



Photo by Tiffany Pattison

Even during their relaxing trip, the volunteers wouldn't take a break, as they signed a new Ross County Farm Bureau member at Adena Mansion, former home of Thomas Worthington. Club members also were treated to a backstage tour of "Tecumseh!" They also enjoyed dinner at the Terrace Buffet, just as Jackson/Vinton County Farm Bureau Ambassadors Melody Meldick and Jennifer Saxour did with their husbands Shane and David in the photo above.

Farm Bureau communications receive national awards

OFBF's communication projects recently received recognition through the American Farm Bureau Public Relations award.

Each year, state Farm Bureau staff members submit their organizations' news stories, publications, photos, advertising campaigns, Web sites and other communications projects for national recognition at the AFBF conference. This year, 34 states submitted 289 entries. OFBF received eight awards, more than any other state, and seven honorable mentions. OFBF's awards include:

- Best Web site - ourohio.org
- Best Editorial - "NAFTA is not a four letter word," *Our Ohio* magazine
- Best Series of Editorials - "Up Front," *Our Ohio* magazine
- Best Magazine - *Our Ohio*
- Best Audio Feature Story - "Ohio's Logging Industry," Farm Bureau Radio News Service
- Best Regular Video Program - 2-minute producer vignettes for Ohio News Network (ONN)

- Best Communication Tool - OFBF Policy Development Video/DVD
- Best PR Campaign - Farmers Feed Our Needs campaign

OFBF's television program Ohio Farm and Country was also recently awarded a national Telly Award for agricultural issues-based television programming in the 30th Annual Telly Awards.

The recognized show aired in February 2008 and featured a breakdown and analysis of the U.S. farm bill and how Ohio was involved; how farmers provide food to help reduce hunger in Ohio; and an update on biofuels in the state. The show was recorded at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank in Columbus.

Founded in 1978, the Telly Awards is the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable TV programs. The Telly Awards annually showcases the best work of the most respected production companies, television stations, and cable operators in the world. The Telly Awards receives more than 13,000 entries annually from all 50 states and countries around the world.



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COMMUNICATIONS



Our Ohio Telling Agriculture's Story

Let the voting begin

Starting July 29, voting for the 5th annual Growing a Masterpiece project will begin. County Farm Bureaus have submitted designed postcards that depict food and agriculture in their respective counties and incorporate the *Our Ohio* logo. The postcards will be on display at the OFBF state fair exhibit "Land and Living: Agriculture...Your Link to Life" at the Nationwide Donahey Ag & Hort building where visitors will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite. Online voting will take place at OurOhio.org. Votes from these activities and others through the fall will be tabulated. The three counties with the most votes will be revealed at the 2009 annual meeting in Cincinnati.



This is Lawrence County Farm Bureau's entry in the Growing a Masterpiece exhibit.

Photo by Jessie Ford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farm Days at COSI

The 5th annual Farm Days: Little Seeds, Big Tractors runs July 15 through 19 at COSI in Columbus. Franklin County Farm Bureau created this event, which features more than 20 pieces of farming equipment, and new this year is a farmers market Friday through Sunday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Kids can test their driving skills on a pedal tractor obstacle course, milk a fiberglass cow and make a seed necklace to take home. Visitors can also conduct a soil test and view biodiesel and ethanol demonstrations.



Vintage Ohio

More than 20 Ohio wineries, countless crafters and artisans, and daily entertainment will be offered at Vintage Ohio Aug. 7 and 8. Farm Bureau members can receive significant savings on admission by ordering tickets online at OhioWines.org and using ticket code FARM2009. The discount tickets are available through Aug. 3.

'Our Ohio' on TV

Recent episodes of *Our Ohio* featured Chef's Garden in Huron, which is the leading grower of artisanal products in the United States for the world's top chefs; Mulberry Creek Herb Farm also in Huron, a family-owned herb farm that grows a huge selection of herbs; Klosterman Bakery that has been run by five generations of Klostermans; and How to Speak Farmer, a crash course in farmer lingo.

Meet us at the fair

Be sure to stop by the Nationwide Donahey Ag & Hort Building at the 155th Ohio State Fair July 29 through Aug. 9 featuring a giant corn climbing wall, kiddie tractor course, chicks, ducklings, poults, bunnies, the *Our Ohio* art display and a free plant for children under age 12.

Special events include squash carving demonstrations Aug. 1 and Aug. 8 with Gus the Squashcarver, and teachers will tour the building Aug. 7 as part of the "Agriculture, Your Link to Life" summer teacher program sponsored by Ohio Farm Bureau. Also, Farm Bureau day at the fair is Aug. 7; special announcements will be broadcast throughout the fair inviting fairgoers to stop by the building.

This year's state fair display will include a membership booth. Parents of children who participated in the corn wall and pedal tractor



File Photo

Visitors can see chicks hatch as they learn about egg production in Ohio.

course last year will receive a postcard inviting them back to the building this year, with a request to join. Anyone joining at the fair will get their choice of a pair of work gloves or an oven mitt, plus two ice cream vouchers and entry into a drawing to win a pedal tractor.

This year's puppy display will provide information to address the difference between local humane societies and the Humane Society of the United States.

Many of Ohio's commodity groups will also participate in the exhibit. Displays and promotional pieces will represent nearly all of Ohio's agricultural industries.

Sponsors of the Agriculture, Your Link to Life display at the state fair are the Ohio Soybean Council, the Ohio Corn Growers Association and Nationwide. Discount tickets are available through Aug. 10 at Kroger, participating AAA locations and participating Ticketmaster outlets.

Stenholm to speak at leadership conference

Former U.S. Rep. Charles Stenholm will be the keynote speaker at OFBF's 2009 leadership conference. Stenholm, who represented Texas residents in Congress for 13 terms, now advocates in Washington on behalf of the agriculture industry.

The conference will be held Aug. 10 and 11 at the Hyatt Regen-

cy in Columbus. It will also include extended training time for county action teams to discuss duties and opportunities as team leaders and members.

Other session topics will include social media, parliamentary procedure, media training, public speaking, managing generational

differences and tips for sharing what you do on the farm in various social settings. The conference will also host the annual Discussion Meet, and county achievement awards will be presented.

Contact your county Farm Bureau for registration details.

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Coldwater Implement Company
Coldwater, Ohio

ORGANIZATION

Annual meeting dates, times and locations

County	Mtg Date	Time	Location
Adams	8/16/2009	1:00 p.m.	Adams Lake
Allen	9/27/2009	5:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Ashland	8/6/2009	6:30 p.m.	Stone Luthern
Ashtabula	9/21/2009	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Hall
Athens	10/18/2009	TBD	TBD
Auglaize	9/13/2009	12:30 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Belmont	8/13/2009	6:30 p.m.	Belmont Community Center
Brown	8/24/2009	6:30 p.m.	Southern Hills JVS
Butler	9/17/2009	6:30 p.m.	Butler Tech
Carroll	9/15/2009	7:00 p.m.	FFA Camp
Champaign	9/10/2009	6:30 p.m.	Community Center
Clark	8/26/2009	6:30 p.m.	Champion Center, Clark Co. Fairgrounds
Clermont	9/3/2009	6:30 p.m.	Grant Career Center
Clinton	8/26/2009	6:30 p.m.	Mark Stoke's Farm
Columbiana	9/10/2009	6:00 p.m.	TBD
Coshocton	8/8/2009	5:00 p.m.	Coshocton County Fairgrounds
Crawford	9/15/2009	6:00 p.m.	Wynford Elementary
Cuyahoga	9/21/2009	6:30 p.m.	Mapleside Farm Restaurant
Darke	9/13/2009	2:00 p.m.	Lighthouse Christian Center, Greenville
Defiance	9/21/2009	6:30 p.m.	VFW Hall, Sherwood
Delaware	8/13/2009	6:00 p.m.	Delaware County Fairgrounds
Erie	9/23/2009	7:00 p.m.	Colonade Banquet Hall, Milan
Fairfield	8/30/2009	4-7 p.m.	Fairfield Co. Fairgrounds, Farm Bureau Bldg.
Fayette	9/2/2009	6:30 p.m.	Miami Trace Elementary School
Franklin	7/15/2009	6:00 p.m.	COSI
Fulton	9/15/2009	6:30 p.m.	St. Casper's Catholic Church, Wauseon
Gallia	8/24/2009	6:00 p.m.	Bob Evans Shelter
Geauga	9/24/2009	7:00 p.m.	St. Mary's Hall
Greene	8/20/2009	6:30 p.m.	Greene Co. Dept. of Jobs & Family Services
Guernsey	8/4/2009	6:00 p.m.	Mr. Lee's Restaurant
Hamilton	9/14/2009	6:30 p.m.	The Farm
Hancock	8/13/2009	6:30 p.m.	The Lodge at Riverbend
Hardin	8/13/2009	6:30 p.m.	The Plaza
Harrison	9/17/2009	7:00 p.m.	Hopedale Fire Hall
Henry	9/17/2009	6:30 p.m.	VFW Hall, Napoleon
Highland	8/13/2009	6:30 p.m.	Tim Sheely's Farm
Hocking	9/1/2009	PM	TBD
Holmes	9/10/2009	7:00 p.m.	TBD
Huron	9/9/2009	7:00 p.m.	Western Reserve High School, Collins
Jackson/Vinton	8/25/2009	6:00 p.m.	Wesley Cove Church
Jefferson	9/1/2009	7:00 p.m.	St. Florian Hall
Knox	9/8/2009	7:00 p.m.	Fredricktown United Methodist Church
Lake	9/14/2009	7:00 p.m.	TBD
Lawrence	9/14/2009	6:00 p.m.	Mamre Church

County	Mtg Date	Time	Location
Licking	9/2/2009	7:00 p.m.	Utica United Methodist Church
Logan	9/10/2009	6:30 p.m.	Ohio Hi Point
Lorain	9/3/2009	7:00 p.m.	New Russia Township Hall, Oberlin
Lucas	9/15/2009	6:00 p.m.	Grand Rapids Legion
Madison	9/3/2009	6:30 p.m.	Der Dutchman
Mahoning	10/15/2009	7:00 p.m.	A La Cart Catering
Marion	8/20/2009	6:00 p.m.	All Occassions Catering, Waldo
Medina	9/3/2009	6:30 p.m.	Boyert's
Meigs	10/20/2009	TBD	Middleport
Mercer	8/30/2009	1:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Miami	9/3/2009	5:30 p.m.	Miami County Fairgrounds
Monroe	8/1/2009	5:30 p.m.	Monroe County Fairgrounds
Montgomery	9/10/2009	6:30 p.m.	Brookville VFW
Morgan	9/26/2009	6:00 p.m.	Reicker Building
Morrow	9/17/2009	5:30 p.m.	Trinity Methodist Church, Mt. Gilead
Muskingum	9/8/2009	6:30 p.m.	Trinity Lutheran Church
Noble	8/7/2009	6:30 p.m.	Noble County Fairgrounds
Ottawa	9/10/2009	6:00 p.m.	Ole Zims
Paulding	9/10/2009	6:30 p.m.	Grants Catering, Antwerp
Perry	9/9/2009	6:30 p.m.	New Lexington High School
Pickaway	8/18/2009 (tentative)	PM	TBD
Pike	8/23/2009	12:30 p.m.	Piketon Research Center
Portage	9/15/2009	6:00 p.m.	TBD
Preble	8/30/2009	2:30 p.m.	Eaton Church of God
Putnam	9/14/2009	6:30 p.m.	Kalida K of C
Richland	9/10/2009	5:30 p.m.	Ontario Event Center
Ross	8/19/2009	PM	Ross County Service Center
Sandusky	9/10/2009	6:00 p.m.	Ole Zims
Scioto	9/13/2009	12:30 p.m.	Scioto County Fairgrounds
Seneca	9/10/2009	6:30 p.m.	Sentinel Career Center
Shelby	8/16/2009	1:00 p.m.	Fairgrounds
Stark	9/8/2009	6:00 p.m.	TBD
Summit	9/24/2009	6:00 p.m.	Barberton Brookside Country Club
Trumbull	8/13/2009	7:00 p.m.	Garden Brook Banquet Center
Tuscarawas	8/29/2009	9:30 a.m.	Jim's Place
Union	9/9/2009	6:30 p.m.	TBD
Van Wert	9/15/2009	6:30 p.m.	Vantage - Cup and Saucer
Warren	8/20/2009	6:30 p.m.	Der Dutchman
Washington	9/15/2009	7:00 p.m.	Washington County Career Center
Wayne	8/18/2009	6:30 p.m.	ATI
Williams	9/22/2009	6:30 p.m.	K of C Hall, Bryan
Wood	9/15/2009	6:00 p.m.	Grand Rapids Legion
Wyandot	8/16/2009	12:00 p.m.	Woody's

MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"Farm Bureau brings together community and realizes that everybody has some of the same concerns and questions that we do. Farm Bureau gives us more of a voice."

~ Jeff Mason of Henry County

Jeff Mason has been a Farm Bureau member for about seven years and farms about 1,800 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat with his father,



Mason

Rex Mason, who lives in Henry County, also is a sales representative for Pioneer Seed.

He has served on OFBF's Young Farmer Committee, been president of Lucas County Farm Bureau and been on the county's board of directors. He is a member of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waterville and has been active with the Ohio Soy Council and FFA.

Mason graduated from the University of Findlay with a bachelor's degree in business management. His wife Emily is a registered nurse and just received her master's degree as a nurse practitioner.

Mason said it would be difficult to farm in Ohio and his area without the help of Farm Bureau.

"I think we would be struggling because we're not too far from urban sprawl. Over the last 10 to 20 years a lot of ground has been taken for houses. I think it would be harder to deal with that situation if it weren't for Farm Bureau," he said. "I think Farm Bureau has worked good with both sides of that situation. Farm Bureau often educates that off-the-farm person, which enables us to work better with our neighbors."

"In this job it's something different every day. Some day you are in the field, others you are working in the office and it's always fun working with volunteers."

~ Amanda Denes, organization director for Erie, Huron and Lorain counties

Amanda Denes has been organization director Erie, Huron and Lorain counties for almost two years. Her hometown is Huntington and she grew up on a small crop and grain farm in southern Lorain County and also raised beef cattle.



Denes

She is a 2006 graduate of Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. Previously she worked as a toddler teacher at Oberlin Early Childhood Center. She attends St. Patrick's Church in Wellington.

Denes is the daughter of Tom and Sandy Denes and has two older brothers, T.J. and Todd. She said she enjoys working with Farm Bureau volunteers.

"You really feel like you are helping to make a positive difference to everyone who works in the field of agriculture and that makes you feel like you are a part of something great," she said.

NATIONWIDE NEWS

How Safe Is Your Farm?

If you've got 10 minutes, you can find out at FarmSafetyQuiz.com.

Because farming and ranching are as much a lifestyle as an occupation, the entire family – including children and seniors – are often exposed to the many hazards associated with an agricultural workplace. As a result, the responsibility to learn about and reduce agricultural hazards ultimately rests with adults in the family, and those who manage the farm.

Daily awareness and a proactive

attitude toward safety are the first steps toward creating a safer environment for everyone on the farm.

The Farm Safety Quiz can help farmers and ranchers assess the overall safety of their operations, and learn easy-to-make changes to increase safety. The Farm Safety Quiz available at FarmSafetyQuiz.com, was launched in June by Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company.

The quiz takes about 10 minutes to complete. Participants are asked

a series of questions about their farms or ranches –from the age of buildings and their primary heating sources to livestock handling practices, maintenance routines and more. Points are awarded or subtracted for each answer, and the final score from 0-100 indicates if the quiz-taker may be an "endangered species," "sleeping soundly," or at another level in between.

No data is collected from the quiz, as it is intended to be an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to gauge the relative safety of their operations for their own information. Although the quiz is easy to complete, its goal is to increase

safety awareness and practices. Participants have an opportunity to request additional information at the end of the quiz.

As the leading farm insurer in the nation, Nationwide Agribusiness has learned that helping farmers and ranchers operate more safely can save lives and may benefit the bottom line of the farm business. Take the Farm Safety Quiz at FarmSafetyQuiz.com.

Contributed by Nationwide and Nationwide Agribusiness, which is sponsored and endorsed by Ohio Farm Bureau.

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Dolan

Golf Outing: Former OFBF leaders Dean Simeral (l) and William Swank participate in the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation's recent annual golf outing, which raised more than \$33,000 for scholarship and community grantsmanship programs. The outing also honored William Dolan, past CEO of the Children's Hunger Alliance, for his advocacy for food assistance programs for children.

Photo by Gayle Lewis

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

Farmers seek assistance on rural issues. ➤ OFBF met in Columbus with Huron County Farm Bureau members, ODOT and their legislators to deal with a road access issue for farm equipment. OFBF assisted a member in responding to local efforts to zone agricultural activities and assisted members with rules and regulations governing septic systems, CAUV, drainage and property rights.

Agricultural issues stretch beyond Ohio. ➤ OFBF attended the Midwest region commodity director's conference and provided

an update on animal welfare/rights issues in Ohio that could impact other Midwest state Farm Bureaus.

Livestock care issues affect all segments of agriculture. ➤ OFBF gave a presentation to the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association and the Ohio Sheep and Wool Program boards of directors and the Ohio chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers regarding animal welfare, care and rights issues.

Addressing local concerns is priority of Farm Bureau. ➤ OFBF gave animal welfare/rights presentations in Allen, Mercer, Shelby and Auglaize counties. OFBF also conducted local training on property rights and public utility easements.

Water quality is important to local communities and the state of Ohio. ➤ OFBF met with Auglaize and Mercer county Farm Bureaus and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Conservation to discuss issues related to water quality challenges in Grand Lake St. Marys.

Farm employers navigate complex labor laws. ➤ OFBF assisted a farmer with issues related to employment of minors and assisted several members with complex labor issues related to minimum wage, worker's compensation, unemployment insurance and property rights.

never enforced. Gearhardt came to Cadiz and with about a dozen Farm Bureau members, they traveled to the farms to determine which streets they currently use and which ones they would have to use if the weight limit was enforced. One of the alternative routes had a bridge that was too low to get a truck through. Not having access to the 1-mile stretch of road near downtown would have added 17 miles to farmers' routes and affected many other businesses

common farm practices.

The group backed a nearly \$10 million initiative in California last year that effectively outlawed chicken cages and individual stalls for sows and veal calves.

Luther Tweeten, an Ohio State University agricultural economist, said if the group was successful in enacting a similar proposal in Ohio, the state's egg industry "would be decimated."

Those hit hardest by these restrictions would be laborers and livestock and crop producers, according to a report by Tweeten. Nearly 8,000 Ohio jobs and associated income could be lost, the report said.

Tweeten noted that food prices for consumers may not rise as surrounding states provide Ohioans with low-cost animal products. However "other states would gain jobs and income at Ohio's expense as animal products consumed in Ohio would be produced elsewhere. Those products would be produced using current practices, so overall animal welfare would be unaffected," he wrote.

Charles Wildman, a seventh generation Clark County grain and

in the area, said Gearhardt, who provided a memorandum to local members that explained why enforcing the weight limit was not a good idea.

Farm Bureau Organization Director Michelle Specht said with support from the state Farm Bureau, the county was able to make headway with council members.

"We've got an awesome and very well respected Farm Bureau here. They are very determined and pas-

TAKE CARE from PG 1

hog producer, is one of many farmers whose current animal housing system would be made illegal under a California-type proposal.

He doesn't like that activists would be pushing Ohioans to vote one time on one day to forever take away everyone's right to certain foods.

"The Livestock Care Standards board allows the consumer to say 'Hey, these issues are being looked at by professionals, they're being looked at by experts,'" he said. "Isn't this a more reasonable way to approach the issue?"

BROAD EFFORTS SUPPORT ANIMAL CARE ISSUES

In addition to backing the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, OFBF is working to reach out to consumers on issues of animal care.

On July 20, farmers will unveil a program offering consumers statewide an opportunity to win free groceries for a year. The promotion will feature a Web site that will allow consumers to interact directly with Ohio farmers, virtually tour their farms

and learn how they produce safe, nutritious and affordable food.

The entire process took about two weeks and is a good example of the county and state Farm Bureau working together to resolve an issue, Gearhardt said.

"It really illustrates what the county Farm Bureau can do if they come together and become organized," he said.

and learn how they produce safe, nutritious and affordable food.

The promotion is supported by OFBF as well as the Ohio Livestock Coalition, the Ohio Pork Producers, Ohio Poultry Association, Ohio Dairy Producers Association, Ohio Beef Council, Ohio Soybean Council and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association. It is coordinated through the Center for Food Integrity.

OFBF also collaborated with the Ohio Livestock Coalition, the Ohio State University Department of Animal Sciences and Ohio State Extension to help those who have animal projects through 4-H or FFA address the public's questions about livestock care.

More than 100,000 guides on animal welfare for fairs and exhibitions were distributed to youths throughout Ohio. Included are talking points on numerous animal care issues.

Other efforts involve farmers working to support their local humane societies. In Wayne County, law enforcement and humane officers were trained on proper livestock husbandry practices. Farmers also were active in a recent fund-raiser for the Crawford County Humane Society.

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OPINION

our **TAKE**

Livestock Care Standards Board offers better approach

Forget for a moment that Ohio farmers have cared for their animals for generations. The state's current public policy debate on animal care is like a fertile field in springtime.

It has been plowed by a consuming public that has lost touch with how its food is produced and fertilized by high-profile accusations of animal mistreatment. Steady showers have come from the multi-million dollar campaigns of animal activists.

Like it or not, something is going to grow. So farmers are forced to make a choice.

They can let the field go unattended, allowing policies on animal care to sprout up. Just sit back and watch the regulations go wild.

Eventually farmers will be fighting every imaginable public policy weed, spending time and money to kill perennial ill-conceived propos-

als. Consider that in California, farmers and allies recently spent millions on weed control when an animal rights group pushed to legalize common farm practices. In the end, the field was too fertile, the farmers' efforts had little effect and the activists' weed took over.

So Ohio Farm Bureau is pursuing another option. Plant a crop, shade out the weeds and reap the harvest.

That's exactly what the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board will accomplish.

This crop will consist of 13 knowledgeable Ohioans who will take a deliberative and comprehensive approach to setting standards for farm animal treatment.

The harvest will be two-fold. Consumers will have greater trust that animals in Ohio are well cared for, and farmers will have certainty.

Not certainty that animal care standards will always remain the same, but certainty that if and when changes are made, it will be the result of thoughtful consideration.

It won't be because the issue was twisted by out-of-state special interests with deep pockets.

Ohio Farm Bureau will still fight the persistent weeds along the way. But by sowing the seed to create this board, farmers will greatly increase their yield.

Activists have already targeted Ohio with noxious and invasive proposals, and those weeds are beginning to break the surface. The Livestock Care Standards Board will be a much healthier crop for Ohio's farmers, consumers and the future of food production.

We can't afford to miss this opportunity to get in the field and plant.

A message to Ohio Farm Bureau members

There is an old saying that suggests, "There is strength in numbers." If that is true, our partnership with Ohio Farm Bureau is as solid as a rock. In these rough economic times, it is comforting to know that together we are meeting challenges head-on.

Our partnership with Farm Bureau, announced more than a year and a half ago, brought together two of the biggest mutual organizations in Ohio to offer Farm Bureau members quality, affordable healthcare coverage. I want to assure you that we are trying hard each and every day to live up to that commitment.

One important reason that Medical Mutual was chosen by Farm Bureau as its health insurance carrier is the fact Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization – in Ohio, for Ohioans. Because Medical Mutual is an Ohio company, we have a shared set of values.

And when it comes to sharing, it is interesting to know that this year we are both celebrating a 75-year milestone. In 1934 the Farm Bureau Cooperative Association organized under cooperative law with more than 10,000 members. That same year, The Cleveland Hospital Service Association was founded. It was the very beginning of our company that later became known as Medical Mutual of Ohio. I also find it amazing that our organizations were born out of the Great Depression and managed to survive some extremely turbulent economic times. They say history repeats itself – well, here we are again.

As businesses large and small feel the pinch of the recession, they are putting more of the burden of paying for health insurance on employees. Some companies have stopped providing healthcare benefits at all. Many people are now turning to individual policies for coverage.

The individual market used to be seen as primarily a stop-gap if you lost your job or you were at the limiting age as a student. Now, we are seeing individual insurance becoming a long-term healthcare solution for more and more people.

Medical Mutual created a special product for Farm Bureau known as SuperMed One/Ohio Farm Bureau. The SuperMed network of doctors and hospitals is the largest network in the state and the network that provides the best value to healthcare consumers.

That coverage, by the way, also includes not only life and disability, but a number of wellness and prevention initiatives, which make the product especially attractive to the wellness-minded customer.

And that is something Medical Mutual really believes in – wellness. Nobody should argue with the fact that taking better care of ourselves is the single most important step we, as individuals, can take to help hold the line against higher healthcare costs.

We have research that clearly shows a healthy diet and exercise improves quality of life. Healthier people make for a healthier workforce and healthier productivity for Ohio's companies.

Medical Mutual, much like Farm Bureau, has accomplished a great deal in our 75 years of existence. I know I speak for our more than 2,600 Ohio employees when I say that we are proud of our heritage as Ohio's oldest and largest health insurance company.

I hope you have seen the advertising slogan we have used over the past few years: "We live here, we work here." Well, I believe that is more than just a tag line. In just a few words, it says everything about Medical Mutual's commitment to Ohio Farm Bureau and all of Ohio.



BY RICK CHIRICOSTA
President & CEO
Medical Mutual
of Ohio



***Disease resistance.
Higher yield.***

Your top priorities are still your soybean checkoff's top production research priorities.

The biggest gains in soybean technology – and yields – are through production research and development. That's why the Ohio Soybean Council continues to fund research efforts of The Ohio State University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

And it's paying off. Researchers have discovered an effective *Rps8* gene to resist *Phytophthora sojae*, the #1 disease of Ohio soybeans. And we've identified more than 10 additional sources of resistance to *Phytophthora* root and stem rot and established the state's first line of defense against soybean rust.

To learn more ways the Ohio Soybean Council is helping Ohio farmers, go to www.soyohio.org and soyohio.tv.



Ohio Soybean Council

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NOTEWORTHY

Plan for the future now with a wealth transfer plan

In the mid 1980s when he was still chairman of Nationwide Insurance, Frank Sollars started working on an estate plan to pass on the farm to his five children. He wanted to make sure his family was taken care of and the process made as simple as possible.

"It wasn't something that you discussed with your neighbor but it was something that had to be done," recalls Sollars' son, Jeff.

Frank Sollars, who was on Nationwide's board from 1968 to 1989 and an Ohio Farm Bureau president, took over the Washington Court House farm started by his grandfather. He died in 2007, and his widow and children continue to work today on their estate plan with Nationwide agents.

"When one parent passes on and transfers everything to their spouse, there aren't tax consequences," Jeff Sollars said. "Most estate problems happen after the second parent passes on because there's only so much that you can transfer tax free."

Nationwide agent Bob Pittser said that without proper estate planning that a family could lose its farm.

"People have lost farms because they didn't have the money to pay taxes," said Pittser who was a Farm Bureau

organization director from 1979 to 1984 before becoming a Nationwide agent. He has known the Sollars for 30 years and is now their Nationwide agent. Nationwide provides insurance for the family's farm and trucks as well as for personal vehicles and homes. The family also has 529 plans and life insurance through Nationwide.

Pittser said some farmers make the mistake of not having an estate plan in place because they mistakenly think they aren't worth much.

They don't realize that the land they have farmed for decades can be worth a lot of money.

"Farmers are great about growing and harvesting crops and don't like to do this stuff," he said. "They don't think of themselves as being wealthy because they

live conservatively. Sometimes they need someone to push them and make them realize that their land could probably sell for \$3,000 to \$4,000 an acre and that they need a wealth transfer plan."

Jeff Sollars, who helps run the family's 3,700-acre farm with two of his brothers, said keeping a wealth transfer plan up-to-date is critical because estate laws are "very complex and constantly changing."

Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bu-

reau are teaming up this year to help educate OFBF members about the importance of having an estate plan, said Don Russell, who is territory sales director for Nationwide Financial Network. Russell talked earlier this summer with Farm Bureau organization directors during a meeting.

"Having wealth transfer planning meetings with county Farm Bureaus is something we used to do years ago. We decided it is something we should do again," Russell said.

"We want to talk about wealth transfer, elder law planning, which is Medicaid and long-term planning, passing the family farm onto the kids and what to do when you have one kid who works on the farm and one who works in town."

Pittser said he is working with a farmer who has three children but only one works on the farm. The two daughters who don't work on the farm will receive the payout from life insurance on both the parents, Pittser said.

"The life insurance doesn't pay until both the parents are gone. This gives the girls the benefit of those policies and the son gets to keep the farm. There will probably still be the problem of taxes but at least everybody is getting something," he said.

"The biggest problem is when you duck it and don't have a plan. The worst thing you can do is not have a plan because everybody passes away."



Photo by Seth Teter

OFBF Executive Vice President Jack Fisher spoke in support of a bill introduced by Ohio Sen. Karen Gillmor (r) that aims to increase the use of bioproducts in Ohio.

Senator, farm groups urge state to choose bio-products

A bill introduced by Sen. Karen Gillmor, R-Tiffin, would implement a program in Ohio to expand the use of bio-products by state agencies.

Similar to an existing federal program, the bill calls for the state to give preference to products derived from bio-based materials if their price, performance and availability competes with conventional products.

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Jack Fisher believes the bill will preserve and create new jobs by capitalizing on the strength of Ohio's agriculture and polymer industries.

Fisher was among a number of representatives from the two industries to voice strong support for Senate Bill 131 at a Statehouse press conference, saying "the real winner for the increased development and use of bio-products is the Ohio economy and our environment."

Fisher said such products provide a growing market for Ohio agriculture and are environmentally friendly.

"Every day we strive to forge a partnership between farmers and consumers," Fisher said. "One way this can be done is by providing consumers with value-added products that also enhance Ohio farm income and improve the state's economy."

Ohio Farm Bureau policy supports the adoption of a "Green Ohio" purchasing program, and the organization has identified SB 131 as a Key Vote for the 128th General Assembly.

Other organizations that voiced support and officially kicked off a Buy "Bio-Ohio" Campaign, included Battelle, Ohio Bio-products Innovation Center, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Soybean Council and the United Soybean Board.

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