



# Advisory

# Councils: *Speak Out*

Your guide for  
June meetings

## Acting on your input

Based on recent feedback, including a survey sent to Advisory Council members, Advisory Council guides will now follow a consistent schedule. Each monthly council meeting will have an official council guide so all Advisory Council members will be on the same page. The council guides will always be included in issues of *Buckeye Farm News* that arrive prior to the start of each month. For example, this council guide will be the official guide for June council meetings.

## Discussion for June Advisory Council meetings

**Discussion Topic:** “I’m from the government and I’m here to help.” Is the current level of government involvement a net hinderance or a net benefit to agriculture?

Everyone has opinions on government involvement. It’s the topic of everyday conversation at the feed mill, grain elevator, local coffee shops and around the dinner table. Everyone has their own ideas and opinions about what government should and should not do when it comes to agriculture and now it’s your turn to share how your ideas could shape Farm Bureau policy.

Several stories in this edition of *Buckeye Farm News* deal with the regulation of agriculture.

The story *Call and Response* on page 1 discusses potential negative impacts that produce regulations could have on Ohio growers. However, the article *Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board gets to work* on page 1 shows how the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board is taking a flexible and comprehensive approach to regulation to ensure that

farmers and consumers are not harmed as standards are set for the care of livestock.

Here are questions to assist you in your overall discussion:

Consider the many ways that the government has always been involved in agriculture: the farm bill, conservation programs, environmental regulation, taxes, inspections, disease control, etc.

- Are there areas of agriculture where the government goes too far?
- When is government interaction with agriculture necessary?

**Your policy action statement:** Based on your discussion on the questions above, what policy (suggestions/revisions/additions) does your council recommend?

## Council challenge

The topic above will be featured during the Young Agricultural Professionals’ Discussion Meet competition that will take place at Ohio Farm Bureau’s leadership conference. Young Agricultural Professionals are Farm Bureau members ages 18 to 35 who are interested in improving the business of agriculture, learning new ideas and developing leadership skills. Invite a young agricultural professional to your council meeting to be part of the discussion. It’s a great opportunity to get them involved, to voice their ideas and to promote the advisory council program.