

Farmers send message to Congress on climate, water regulations **PG 2**



*“It’s about having greater awareness that there are activists out there who will do whatever it takes to make livestock farmers look bad.”* **PG 3**

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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

# BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO’S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 12, 2009 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 5



## Ohioans have spoken

*Passage of Issue 2 is a landmark step in farmers’ partnership with consumers*



### Vote of Confidence:

Nearly 64 percent of voters or about 2 million Ohioans supported Issue 2. The measure passed in 87 counties. The high margin of victory follows a groundswell of grassroots support by farmers who worked hard to engage Ohio consumers.

### The Next Step:

Issue 2 established a comprehensive process by which Ohioans will address livestock care issues. Legislation must now be written that details the terms and scope of authority of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board before it can operate.

### Not Happy:

The Washington D.C.-based Humane Society of the United States is expected to unleash its war chest in a vicious campaign targeting Ohio farmers. The group is seeking to have the final say on how Ohio farmers care for their animals.

BY SETH TETER

“Truly overwhelming” was how OFBF Senior Vice President of Public Policy Keith Stimpert described the grassroots activity that supported the Issue 2 campaign.

“This really stands out as one of the high points for grassroots involvement on a political issue,” he said.

Whether it was calling radio stations, posting yard signs or speaking to civic clubs, Stimpert said farmers and their allies were heavily engaged to let consumers know the importance of creating a Livestock Care Standards Board that will provide a comprehensive approach to addressing animal care issues.

Due largely to the local efforts of farmers, Issue 2, which established the board, had majority support in 87 counties and passed by a nearly 2 to 1 margin overall.

Stimpert said Ohio is now at a different place regarding how the state views agriculture.

“Our bond between farmers and consumers is definitely strengthened by this activity,” he said.

Now the work will begin in addressing many of the questions related to how the board will operate including the terms of service of the board members and the scope of its enforcement authority.

Issue 2 was intentionally broad in order to allow the specific details of the board to be established via statute, where they can be updated as needed.

OFBF will be working closely with other farm organizations, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, legislators and others to continue the discussion of how the livestock care board should function, Stimpert said.

Legislation that contains these details will be passed before the board will begin operating.

Ignoring the wishes of Ohio voters, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation’s largest animal rights organization, has indicated that it must be either its way or no way on issues of animal care in Ohio.

Rather than be part of a comprehensive discussion on livestock care, the Washington, D.C.-based organization announced its plans to force its own restrictive regulations onto farmers via a ballot initiative in 2010. The measure will be similar to the 2008 campaign HSUS successfully pushed in California. It is expected that HSUS will spend as much as \$10 million on a smear campaign against Ohio farmers

that will bombard voters with horrific images of animal mistreatment in the run-up to the election.

See **OHIOANS**, pg 3



Photo by Dave Liggett

**Ground Work:** Delaware County farmer Trish Cunningham drops off an Issue 2 pamphlet at a suburban home. The local, grassroots efforts of farmers played a major role in getting Issue 2 passed.



Photo by Seth Teter

Ohio State University students hoped Issue 2 would help them have a future in agriculture as they rallied at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center.

### END OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE?

## Bills call for restructuring Ohio’s government

BY AMY BETH GRAVES

A proposal being considered by Ohio lawmakers calls for cutting the number of state departments in half and merging them into other offices. Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) opposes eliminating the Ohio Department of Agriculture as a cabinet level department and moving it into a new agency, Resource Protection.



OFBF policy calls for maintaining

the “importance of the Ohio Department of Agriculture as a cabinet level agency because of its role in the health and safety of all Ohioans. In any future plans for reorganization of government, agriculture needs to maintain a strong presence.”

OFBF Executive Vice President Jack Fisher told lawmakers recently that OFBF supports ideas, including government reorganization, that will help the state meet its fiscal obligations but that “the existing proposal diminishes agriculture’s presence within state government.”

More than four years ago, a similar bill was introduced and contained

many of the streamlining proposals made by then Attorney General Jim Petro who was running for governor. The bill died in committee.

Senate Bill 52, introduced by Sen. Tim Grendell, calls for eliminating 11,000 jobs and cutting the number of state agencies from two dozen to 10. Only the Veterans Services Department would not be changed. Unions, in particular the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, have criticized the bill, saying the economy and reductions in revenue have already resulted in the loss of 4,500 state employees since January

See **RESTRUCTURING**, pg 2

### New Departments

House and Senate bills propose restructuring state government and reducing the number of cabinet level departments. The new departments would be:

- Education
- Public Safety
- Public Health
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Finance & Operations
- Human Resource Development
- Community & Institutional Rehabilitation
- Business
- Resource Protection
- Development

## PUBLIC POLICY

NEWS *briefs*

## USDA to partner with FDA on food safety

USDA's fresh produce chief will join the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to develop new food safety rules as part of a cooperative initiative between FDA and USDA. Leanne Skelton, chief of the fresh products branch of USDA's Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), will be with the FDA for six months as she helps the agency develop new safety regulations for produce. Through the initiative, FDA is gathering information and seeking feedback from the fresh produce industry, including small and organic farmers, on the impact such rules may have on their businesses and lives. In addition, USDA and FDA officials have been traveling together to meet with farmers and local food safety officials.



## EPA launches new evaluations of atrazine

Some environmentalists believe the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) decision to review the herbicide atrazine is the first step toward phasing out the product, while manufacturer Syngenta maintains EPA will continue to permit its use. EPA recently announced that it will evaluate the potential cancer and non-cancer effects on humans of atrazine over the next year. Atrazine is the most important herbicide in soil-saving growing practices such as no-till and conservation tillage. Farmers use atrazine to control weeds on about two-thirds of the country's corn and sorghum acreage.



## Estate tax legislation introduced in the House

H.R. 3905, the Estate Relief Act of 2009, has been introduced in the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill would phase in a \$5 million exemption, with a 35 percent rate over 10 years. "We are pleased there is bipartisan support to do better than current law in the House and commend the sponsors of the bill for working to increase the exemption," said Bob Stallman, president of American Farm Bureau. "Extending the current estate tax exemption of \$3.5 million per person and the tax rate at 45 percent, is a non-starter for Farm Bureau, which supports an increase in the exemption to \$10 million a person." Stallman said 80 percent of farm and ranch assets are land based. "When estate taxes exceed cash and other liquid assets on hand, surviving family members can be forced to sell land, buildings or equipment needed to keep their businesses operating," he said. "Sadly, it takes 2 1/2 years of farm returns for a moderate-sized farm operation to pay off the estate tax owed."



## Sign-up for 2010 DCP/ACRE programs begin

USDA said the sign-up period for the 2010 DCP/ACRE programs has begun. Sign-up will continue through June 1, 2010. Last year approximately 255 million base acres on about 1.7 million farms were enrolled in the Direct and Countercyclical Program (DCP) and the Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. Farmers may request advanced direct payments for 2010 up to 22 percent of their total direct payments. These advanced payments will be issued beginning Dec. 1. Farmers should visit their local FSA office to sign-up, or they can utilize USDA's Web site, [www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dcp).

## National Institute for Food and Agriculture launched at USDA

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack launched the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) during a recent speech on the role of science and research at USDA at the National Press Club. American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman commended Vilsack and Undersecretary Raj Shah for creating NIFA. "This new agency represents an opportunity to advance and expand food and agricultural science and education with the U.S., thereby improving agricultural productivity, rural development and human health," Stallman said. According to Vilsack, USDA's science and research efforts are strengthened by the formation of the new institute. NIFA was created by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill and is aimed at enhancing USDA's research efforts by working with top scientists from around the world. "USDA science needs to change to respond to pressures, to ensure the sustainability of the American food, fuel and fiber system and to address some of America's, and the world's, most intractable problems," Vilsack said.

## AFBF raises concerns with House health care bill

The American Farm Bureau Federation is opposed to the Affordable Health Care for America Act (H.R. 3962) because it requires compulsory national health insurance and a government-run health insurance program. Farm Bureau backs market-based health insurance reform, and the \$894 billion House bill fails to meet that goal. Farm Bureau is also concerned that the bill will add to the federal deficit. The bill is paid for primarily by imposing a surcharge on taxpayers with adjusted gross income in excess of \$1 million (married filing a joint return) and \$500,000 (single) at a rate of 5.4 percent.



## Farm Bureau opposes proposed climate change legislation

## Measure could put U.S. farmers at international disadvantage

Congress is currently debating national climate change legislation that could put American agriculture at a global competitive disadvantage.

According to American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman, both the already-passed House version of the climate change bill and the currently proposed Senate version attempt to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) through a "cap-and-trade" program that would bring higher fuel and fertilizer costs to U.S. farmers and ranchers.

The House bill would require GHGs to be cut by 17 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels, while the current version of the bill in the Senate would increase that figure to 20 percent. That's a level Stallman said is unrealistic.

According to a recent report announced by Sens. Kit Bond, R-Mo., and Kay Bailey Hutchinson, R-Texas, America's farmers and ranchers would be hit with \$550 million in higher fuel costs in 2020 and \$1.65 billion in 2050 if the House climate change legislation is passed.

"We oppose the current bill as it stands," said Ohio Farm Bureau Senior Director of Legislative and Regulatory Policy Adam Sharp. "But we're hopeful that Ohio Senators George Voinovich and Sherrod Brown can help make major changes that lessen its negative impacts and allow a broad set of programs for farmers to get credit for their sound environmental practices that remove greenhouse

"We don't want to shackle our farmers with higher fuel and energy prices."

—Adam Sharp, OFBF senior director of legislative and regulatory policy

2007. Union officials also say the bill does not have an analysis of projected savings or how they would be achieved.

But Grendell, R-Chesterland, said streamlining state operations is needed to create a more efficient government that will help Ohio deal with budget constraints. He estimated his plan would save taxpayers up to \$1 billion.

"We are at a crossroads in Ohio history and now is the time for swift and decisive action. We must lead by example. If we are going to ask Ohioans to make and accept cuts in their daily lives, then government must follow suit, which is why I support a thorough review and reorganization of state government from top to bottom," he said in introducing his bill.

A similar measure, House Bill 25, was introduced by John Adams, R-Sidney, but has not had any hearings yet.

"Leaders from both parties are very sincere at looking for ways to make government more efficient through government consolidation. While we can agree with the general concept, we disagree very



**Sending a message:** Ohio Farm Bureau members signed 5,258 postcards that will be delivered to lawmakers expressing opposition to legislation relating to climate change and the Clean Water Act. Proposed climate legislation has included restrictions that are expected to raise energy costs for Americans and could increase the price of farm inputs. Another proposed bill would expand the authority of the Clean Water Act from "navigable" waters to all waters. This could extend the reach of the federal government to farm ponds, ditches and streams. OFBF will continue to voice farmers' concerns with these measures.

Photo by Dan Toland

gases from the air." Sharp also said current legislation limits farmers who can enroll in the program.

"It seems unlikely the bill will get passed out of the full Senate this year, but the administration and Congressional Democrat leaders would like to see it out of committee before the international climate change meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark this December," Sharp said.

He said passing legislation prior to an international agreement would be similar to putting the cart before the horse. "We don't want to shackle our farmers with higher fuel and energy prices and put them in a reduced competitive global environment where other countries might not have similar emission restrictions."

## RESTRUCTURING from PG 1

much with particular details," said Beth Vanderkooi, OFBF's director of state policy.

Under the restructuring plan, the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency would become part of the Resource Protection Department.

"Our primary concerns are that it eliminates the Ohio Department of Agriculture and splits vital agriculture components into a variety of core missions. That means not all ag areas will go into the resource protection office," Vanderkooi said.

For example, she said ag bioterrorism would move into the Public Safety Department and the Ohio State Fair would fall under Finance & Operations while county fairs would be in Resource Protection.

"We'll be taking a close look at the proposal to identify our concerns and what should and should not be in the reorganization plan," Vanderkooi said. "First and foremost, agriculture needs to be unified and in a position of prominence."

If passed through committee by the December meeting, Sharp said to expect the full Senate to consider climate change legislation in early 2010.

**Paid for by Ohioans for Livestock Care Political Action Committee, John C. Fisher, Treasurer, 280 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215**

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Graphic Designer **Joyce Spangler**  
Production Coordinator **Gayle Lewis**  
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## ADVERTISING

Coordinator **Gayle Lewis**  
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## BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

Circulation: From Norman Jones Enlow and Company footnotes to the 2008 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Audit: The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation had 234,061 members as of August 31, 2008. Members may receive *Buckeye Farm News* as a part of their paid membership.  
*Buckeye Farm News* (ISSN 1540-3742), an official publication of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc. is published 16 times per year: semi-monthly in February, July, September and December and monthly in January, March, April, May, June, August, October and November for \$1.00 yearly members, \$5.00 yearly non-members by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., 280 North High Street, P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2383. *Buckeye Farm News* Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus, Ohio (USPS 0020-531).

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Buckeye Farm News*, P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2383.  
*Buckeye Farm News* content seeks to amplify the organization's policy positions, recognize member activities and volunteer involvement, and raise awareness of agriculture as an industry and lifestyle.  
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# CENTER FOR FOOD & ANIMAL ISSUES

## Animal care issues could bring activists to farms

With issues of livestock care being prominently debated in Ohio, farmers are reminded to be vigilant in taking measures to protect themselves from becoming the targets of undercover animal rights activists.

“They will be looking for any type of photo opportunity to smear the livestock community,” said David White, senior director of issues management at OFBF’s Center for Food and Animal Issues.

**Advisory Council questions on page 6**

Either by gaining employment or breaking into farms, activists have had success in negatively portraying livestock farmers through these so-called investigations. Often hours of video are edited down to imply that a single lapse in management on a particular operation is representative of the actions of all farmers. Activists who find employment may gather video over a period of months.

“Farmers should have an open door policy with the public. They need to be as transparent as possible,” White said. “But that doesn’t mean strangers have the

right to trespass onto farms.”

While some videos clearly depict instances of inappropriate animal care, other situations may be staged to make a farm appear worse than it is or contain images from other operations. Because images are used selectively and videos are heavily edited, even well-run farms could be susceptible to these attacks.

“We see headlines the next day with allegations of abuse, but unfortunately we rarely see a follow up story by the media when a farmer is cleared of wrongdoing,” White said.

White encourages farmers to en-

gage in good hiring practices, such as running background checks, to ensure that employees are who they claim to be. He added the trespassers not only seek to damage the image of livestock farmers but also pose a health risk to animals by potentially bringing diseases into biosecure barns.

White also suggests that farmers work through their county Farm Bureau to build a strong relationship with local law enforcement so that they understand the seriousness of the issue.

Farmers should look out for one another and let neighbors know if

it appears that a certain situation could make them a potential target, he said.

“It’s not about pointing fingers,” White said. “It’s about having a greater awareness that there are activists out there who will do whatever it takes to make livestock farmers look bad.”

Farmers are also encouraged to find ways to show the public the truth about what happens on livestock farms.

“Farmers have nothing to hide. They need to be the ones telling their story and not let animal rights activists tell it for them,” White said.

OHIOANS from PG 1



Photo by Seth Teter

Gov. Ted Strickland joined other prominent Democrats and Republicans as well as more than 500 organizations and local leaders who endorsed Issue 2.

Stimpert called HSUS’ plans ill-advised given the emphatic support that voters gave to creating the Livestock Care Standards Board to oversee animal care policies.

“I think that it’s important that the board be given a fair shot and a time to work and to serve the best interests of Ohioans,” he said.

Stimpert noted that Issue 2 was so successful because it carried an important message to Ohioans.

“Folks got the message of balancing livestock care, an affordable food supply and a safe, local food supply. And we have to think through all of those aspects as we put forth the stan-

dards for livestock care,” he said.

While it was unusual for farmers to ask for more oversight, many see the action they took as a model for other states that want to ensure animal well-being while avoiding emotionally driven, inflexible and unreasonable regulations.

“Clearly, Ohio has blazed a bold new trail for other states to follow on the issue of livestock care and well-being,” said Bob Stallman, president of American Farm Bureau Federation. “It is clear that voters in that state know farmers and ranchers share their values regarding the care of farm animals.”

## Public attitudes shape animal welfare debate

□ Experts seek to sort out complicated issues of animal care

As Ohio voters considered the best way to set care standards for livestock, researchers attempted to shine a light on the complex science and societal expectations that shape animal care decisions.

In what turned out to be a timely discussion, an animal welfare symposium that was jointly sponsored by Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and Cooper Farms took place just weeks before voters approved an Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Paul Hemsworth, an adjunct professor of animal science at Ohio State University and director of the Animal Welfare Science Centre in Australia, told the crowd of veterinarians, farmers and researchers that the livestock industry must proactively respond when science demonstrates that animal welfare is at risk. He also acknowledged that public attitudes ultimately give farmers their license to use animals.

“What do we know about public attitudes?” he asked. “I suspect we don’t know much.”

Hemsworth said “science should inform public debate” and emotional responses should contribute to, rather than preempt, the discussion.

The problem is that there is no one societal view of animals, according to Wes Jamison, an associate professor of communication at Palm



Photo by Seth Teter

Mike Bumgarner, vice president of OFBF’s Center for Food and animal issues, speaks during an animal welfare symposium at Ohio State University.

Beach Atlantic University.

“The debate is not about animals. It’s about people and how they interpret animals,” he said.

Jamison said American culture no longer primarily views animals as something to be consumed.

“Our society is trying to figure out are animals family or food,” he said.

Gene Baur, president of the animal rights organization Farm Sanctuary, noted that consumers want to know more about how their food is produced.

“Right now most consumers are not terribly happy to learn what is happening to most farm animals in this country,” he said.

Mike Bumgarner, vice president for OFBF’s Center for Food and Animal

Issues, said the livestock community needs to be transparent in everything it does. Well intentioned food marketing efforts that inaccurately depict modern agriculture may be hurting farmers efforts, he suggested.

“We have to show people what real production agriculture is all about,” he said.

Bumgarner said he believes the public would be comfortable with their purchases after seeing how well-run farms care for animals.

When videos surface showing animal mistreatment, farmers need to speak out, according to Steve Moeller, an Ohio State University Extension swine specialist

“We cannot condone willful acts of abuse,” he said.

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## COMMUNICATIONS



**Our Ohio**  
**Telling Agriculture's Story**

### Fabulous Food Show Nov. 13 to 15

Ohio Farm Bureau is an official sponsor of the 2009 Fabulous Food Show, the Midwest's largest consumer food and wine show. Returning to the I-X Center in Cleveland, this year's celebrity chefs include Guy Fieri, Bobby Flay, Tyler Florence, Sandra Lee and Michael Symon. Executive chefs and national and local food personalities will perform, including *Our Ohio* contributor Marilou Suszko Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. on the Culinary Celebration stage and Chef Pierre Wolfe will be doing a demo Nov. 15 at 3:30 p.m. on the Taste of the Neighborhood Stage. Taste, try and buy specialty and gourmet foods from more than 250 exhibitors in the Market Place. Sip and swirl over 250 wines in the Grand Tasting Pavilion and get your favorite chef's cookbook signed at the Celebrity Autograph Pavilion. Don't forget to stop by the Ohio Farm Bureau booth #105 in the Market Place and see a great performance on the Taste of the Neighborhood Stage. Ohio Farm Bureau members can get special discounts for the show. Receive \$2 off admission by purchasing tickets online with promo code **OFB2** or showing your Ohio Farm Bureau membership card at the I-X Center Box Office. Members can also enjoy a half-priced appetizer in the Fabulous Bistro with the voucher in the November/December *Our Ohio* magazine. Show your Ohio Farm Bureau membership card and valid photo ID to receive 15 percent off your total purchase in the bookstore at the show. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.fabulousfoodshow.com](http://www.fabulousfoodshow.com) or call 216-265-COOK.



### Circleville Pumpkin Show

*Our Ohio* was a partner with the Pickaway County Farm Bureau in an exhibit at the Circleville Pumpkin Show. Visitors to the exhibit were able to renew their Farm Bureau membership, pick up Issue 2 information including yard signs, buttons and T-shirts and enjoy cooking demonstrations. Also on display were the 88 postcards that are part of the "Greetings from Ohio Agriculture" art display.



### Postcard voting ends online Nov. 24

Speaking of the postcards, the online voting for this year's "Growing a Masterpiece" county art project ends Nov. 24. The winners will be announced at the OFBF annual meeting Dec. 3. Vote now (or see who the current vote leaders are) at [www.OurOhio.org](http://www.OurOhio.org).

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# Social Media: Help OFBF lead the way

Earlier this year, Ohio Farm Bureau launched a new approach in its mission to forge a partnership between farmers and consumers.

OFBF realized that to remain relevant to today's and tomorrow's consumers, it had to be proactive. The result is the organization's venture into social media, where OFBF is visible, engaged and active in the places where people congregate and participate in conversations online.

So far, the results speak for themselves.

As of press time, OFBF's four Facebook pages had a total of 3,179 fans, while its four Twitter accounts had 4,294 followers. On YouTube, OFBF's two channels had a total of 4,494 views with more than 1,400 videos watched.

OFBF's engagement in social media played a key role in Ohio agriculture's collective effort to pass State Issue 2. Through Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, members and supporters from Ohio and throughout the nation shared photos and stories about how they encouraged a "Yes" vote on Issue 2. Grassroots efforts were organized through social media as rallies,

facebook

twitter

YouTube

talking about the issue, it was able to reach voters on a one-to-one basis.

Ohio Farm Bureau has become known nationally as a leader in agriculture's use of social media. OFBF's *Guide to Social Media* has been shared throughout the nation and is used as a training guide for American Farm Bureau Federation. Other state Farm Bureaus and ag organizations are turning to OFBF as a model for social media participation, and a recent *National Journal* article said Ohio Farm Bureau is "leading the pack on Twitter."

According to a recent Nielson study, the world now spends more time on social media sites than using personal e-mail. Why? Because it's fun, informative, changes the way the world receives news and information, and about 67 percent of us are already there.

Ohio Farm Bureau provides the tools to learn and become successful in social media. Log on to [www.tinyurl.com/OFBFsocialmedia](http://www.tinyurl.com/OFBFsocialmedia) to get started with easy-to-use tutorials to help you discover why Ohio Farm Bureau wants and needs you there.

endorsements, Get Out the Vote activities, videos and news stories and positive messages were all shared through Facebook and Twitter.

By having an interactive and engaging online presence, OFBF was an available resource for those with questions. On numerous occasions, staff and members shared timely, accurate and vote-changing information with those who asked. And because the organization is involved in online hubs of conversation where it can find those

## New COSI on Wheels program takes off

A new COSI on Wheels program has been launched following the successful run of "Agriculture Adventures," an OFBF-sponsored program that has reached an estimated 482,333 participants over nine years.

The new program, "The Incredible Human Machine," is designed to enhance students' ability to make decisions that will improve their long-term well-being. The program consists of a 45-minute interactive assembly followed by nine activity stations that engage students.

In addition, students will have the opportunity to take a close look at tissues and cells and to discover that exercise is anything that gets the body moving. Sponsors include American Dairy Association Mideast, the Abbott Fund and Bob Evans.



Local volunteers are the backbone of Farm Bureau's membership campaigns.

## New membership campaign will offer more flexibility, opportunities

OFBF is moving toward a seasonal approach to its membership campaign in order to allow volunteers to contribute in ways that best suit their schedule, interests and talents.

"We won't just be focusing on the winter months as we traditionally have," said Scott Donaldson, OFBF director of member programming. "With the seasonal approach, volunteers can have much more flexibility to find a timeframe that works for them."

During the upcoming campaign, seasonal membership teams will coordinate events and activities during the spring, summer, fall and winter months. Because new Farm Bureau memberships now expire a year after they are issued, individuals can get a full year of membership regardless of when they join.

Donaldson said Farm Bureau is also looking for volunteers who would be interested in focusing on just one or two activities throughout the year.

"We hope to find more and more people that want to get involved when it is convenient for them," Donaldson said. "If you just want to join your county Farm Bureau at the county fair for an afternoon and sign one or two members, that can be a great contribution. The bottom line is that we want to give more people to become involved on their terms."

Volunteers will also have an opportunity to reach a larger number of prospective members by participating in events throughout 2010.

"We can reach more people and volunteers can have the flexibility to do what they're interested in doing when they want to do it," Donaldson said.

OFBF has achieved membership growth for 42 consecutive years, which has helped continue its strong voice for farmers and rural Ohio on local, state and national policy issues.

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# ORGANIZATION

INNOVATIONS...ROOTED IN TRADITION

## 2009 OFBF annual meeting travels to Cincinnati

Ohio Farm Bureau's 91st annual meeting will travel south on Interstate 71 to Cincinnati Dec. 2 to 4. Ohio Farm Bureau — Innovations... Rooted in Tradition is the theme of this year's meeting.

In addition to finalizing OFBF policy for the coming year and holding elections for open seats on the board of trustees, the annual meeting will have many highlights.

A silent auction to conclude the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation's fifth annual Rural-Urban Community Auction to support its Community Grantsmanship and scholarship programs. Auction items are up for bid online at [www.ofbf.cmarket.com](http://www.ofbf.cmarket.com) now through Dec. 2.

The Discussion Meet finals will



feature Pam Haley of West Salem, Cassandra Palsgrove of Pickerington, Andrew Spiker of Adamsville and Kelly Staley of Fredericktown. They will discuss 1) What can be done to encourage young people to get involved in the agricultural industry and remain there? And

2) How can we continue to bridge the gap between farmers/ranchers and lawmakers in order to have an influence in the changing political environment?

The winner of the Excellence in Agriculture Award will be decided and announced at the annual Harvest Banquet from amongst four couples: Scott and Tracie Isler of Prospect, Matthew and Kristin Reese of Baltimore, Andy and Lindsay Hill Vance of De Graff and Chip and Shannon Yochum of Leesburg. It recognizes successful young agricultural professionals (singles or couples) who are actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture.

The winner of the Outstanding Young Farmer Award will also be decided and announced at the Harvest Banquet from amongst three finalists: Kyle Brown of Marion, Jay Holden of Mt. Orab and Brandon and Julia Weber of Jackson. The award recognizes successful young farmers, 35 years of age and younger,

for achievement in the business of farming and leadership in the agricultural community.

Contact your county Farm Bureau office to register for the meeting and visit the events section at [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) for maps, directions and guides to Cincinnati attractions.

**Some of this year's annual meeting speakers:**

- "If We Don't Do It, Who's To Do It For Us?" — Dr. Jay Lehr, science director Heartland Institute and senior scientist Environmental Education Enterprises
- "Ag Perspective 2010" — Alan Brugler, president, Brugler Marketing and Management, LLC.
- "Food and Animal Issues" Panel Discussion
- "Consumer Trends and Food Issues" — Mike Townsley, president, Food Products Division, Bob Evans Farms, Inc.

### MAY WE INTRODUCE...

*"It's so very important for everybody to realize the important role that agriculture plays in everybody's life whether it's the farmer or the consumer."*

~ Mary Ellen Grafton, Jefferson County

Mary Ellen Grafton has helped promote the importance of agriculture for years to Jefferson County residents and especially students. She has served as Jefferson County's promotion and education chairman and worked to get OFBF's Children's Literature Award winning books into schools and libraries.



Grafton

"I do the Ohio Reads program and try to instill in students the importance of agriculture and where our food comes from," she said.

Grafton has been a member of Jefferson County Farm Bureau since 1961 when she married her now deceased husband, Lee. She lives on the outskirts of Steubenville and has a Black Angus cattle and hog operation. Her son Lee Jr. helps her out on the farm. The farm is part of her late husband's family farm. She also has three daughters, Ellen, Emilee and Joy, and grandchildren. All of her children are Farm Bureau members.

"I've loved it here," she said of her farm. "I like to do the hay and run the tractors as much as I can. I've enjoyed having my children raised here and involved in farming."

Grafton was a nurse in Steubenville for many years. She is an organist and pianist at First Christian Church in Steubenville and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

"We have to stay on top of things to make sure our food supply is kept healthy and reasonably priced and that farmers don't lose jobs to any radical people that are trying to come in and dictate to us on how we should raise our animals," she said.

*"I really enjoy getting out of the office and getting out to the countryside to work with our members."*

~ David White, senior director of issues management

As senior director of OFBF's issues management, David White also serves as executive director of the Ohio Livestock Coalition and Animals for Life Foundation. He was OLC's first executive director. White started at Ohio Farm Bureau in 1989 serving as an organization director for seven years and then director of commodity relations for nine years. He also was senior director of OFBF's policy research & development for two years.



White

White helped craft the master settlement agreement that led to the creation of the Southern Ohio Agricultural Community Development Foundation. He also served on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Rules Advisory Committee that developed the rules after the state's livestock permitting program was transferred from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to ODA.

Before coming to Farm Bureau, White taught vocational agriculture and served as an FFA advisor for three years. He has a bachelor's degree in agriculture education from Purdue University. He grew up on a farm that raised Polled Hereford cattle, and the farm has been in his family since 1824 in Orange County, Indiana.

White attends Vineyard Community Church and is active in the singles ministry. He is very supportive of FFA and continues to serve as a judge for the national FFA proficiency contest. He has served as the operating chair of Alpha Gamma Rho's National Fraternity. He likes to hunt and went duck hunting for the first time last year.

"I got to go on a market study tour of Vietnam in spring 2008. That really opened my eyes as to the global market agriculture is actually in," he said.

## Passage to Success

### Seattle home of 2010 AFBF Annual Meeting

The American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting will be held in Seattle Jan. 10 to 13. OFBF members attending the meeting will be staying at the Westin Seattle, located in the heart of downtown Seattle.

Meeting highlights include the Young Farmer and Rancher contests and awards, numerous educational seminars and keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw, four-time Super Bowl champion quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Seminar topics will include: "Selling Value When Budgets are Tight,"

"A Pro-active Approach to Livestock Care Challenges," "The Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results," "The Economic Outlook for the Livestock Sector in 2010," "Global Warming: A Red Hot Lie?," "Turn on the Lights, Technology Has Left Me in the Dark!," "The Administration, the 111th Congress and the 2010 Elections," "When Fish Fly: Lessons from the World Famous Pike Place Fish Market," "What the Financial Markets Are Telling Us Now" and "Rural Development- Partnering for Big Results."

Washington Farm Bureau has developed optional pre- and post-meeting tours to various locations and attractions around Seattle and Tacoma, including the Space Needle, Pike Place Market, Seattle Aquarium, Seattle Waterfront, Wine Country and much more.

For an overview of tours and complete registration details, contact Mary Jo Gerrity at Ohio Farm Bureau at 614-246-8227 or e-mail [mgerrity@ofbf.org](mailto:mgerrity@ofbf.org). Registration is due Dec. 4.

## COUNTY news

### Morgan County \$2,500 Reward

A Morgan County resident, who does not wish to be identified, was recently presented with a \$2,500 reward from Ohio Farm Bureau for his effort in preventing a rural crime by providing information to the Morgan County Sheriff that led to an individual being arrested and convicted of two counts of felony theft. Ohio Farm Bureau's 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.

### Pike County \$2,500 Reward

Ohio Farm Bureau recently presented a reward of \$2,500 for information that led to the arrest and conviction of an individual who had stolen property belonging to Pike County Farm Bureau member Jeff Chattin. The recipient, who wishes to remain anonymous, contacted Chattin with the information and the Pike County Sheriff's office was notified.



Pictured (L-R) are Prosecuting Attorney Robert Junk, Pike County Sheriff Rich Henderson, Chattin, SE Region Supervisor Tiffany Pattison and Pike County Farm Bureau President Tim Williams.



Pictured (L-R) are Kelly, Holbrook, Clark County Organization Director Josh Henderson, Tom Patton, owner of Patton's Power Equipment, Deputy Jason Patton, Detective Sergeant Chris Clark and SW Region Supervisor Paul Lyons.

### Clark County \$2,500 Reward

In the early morning hours of June 29, Richard Holbrook contacted the Clark County Sheriff's Office concerning a suspicious SUV at Patton's Power Equipment in Springfield. He reported that someone was going into the business. When deputies arrived minutes later, they found the front doors smashed and several chainsaws were missing. Holbrook was able to give deputies a description of the vehicle and the direction it had driven just minutes earlier. After a short pursuit, the vehicle crashed and sheriff's deputies were able to take the suspect into custody, recovering 10 chainsaws from the vehicle. With physical evidence, video evidence and forensic evidence, detectives were able to get a conviction. Because Patton's Power Equipment is a member of the Clark County Farm Bureau and had its \$2,500 Reward sign displayed, Holbrook received OFBF's \$2,500 reward for making the call that resulted in the recovery of the stolen property and the arrest. Clark County Sheriff Gene Kelly, also a Farm Bureau member, supports the OFBF reward program, saying it helps law enforcement keep communities safe.

# on YOUR behalf

Here are some additional activities in which your support of Farm Bureau helped strengthen agriculture and rural Ohio.

## 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

### Link Up

Connect with Ohio Farm Bureau on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) and click on "media and publications" then "social media."

facebook

twitter

YouTube

### OFBF meets with key leaders

OFBF staff met with visitors from Japan and Moldova to discuss OFBF and Ohio agriculture. They also met with a Swedish delegation to discuss agriculture's role in nutrient trading programs in Ohio. OFBF staff members were present at the regular meeting of the Great Lakes Compact Advisory Board to continue talks about implementing the Great Lakes Compact in Ohio. Staff members also held meetings with the Indiana Farm Bureau's Ag Environmental Policy Group to discuss nutrient management. This is a group consisting of representatives from commodity organizations and industry that meets to openly discuss emerging environmental issues.

### OFBF finds ways to share agriculture's message

Ohio Farm Bureau presented as one of the 10 "big brands" using social media in the Columbus area at the first meeting of Social Media Club Columbus. Other state Farm Bureaus interested in the redesign of their Web pages and social media presence have been in contact with OFBF staff and are using Ohio Farm Bureau as a model to follow. OFBF staff has also been interviewed by *National Journal* about how it has become a leader in agricultural advocacy in social media, particularly Twitter and Facebook. And OFBF staff has provided information and assistance through social media to those with questions on Issue 2.



# Advisory Councils: Speak Out

## Questions for Advisory Councils:



### Government Reorganization (from page 1)

Does your council support reducing the size of state government through reorganization? What potential adverse affects can you foresee?

### Climate Change Legislation (from page 2)

In what ways do you feel proposed climate change legislation can either hurt or help farmers?

### Undercover activists (from page 3)

Are farmers in your council taking additional measures to protect themselves from undercover animal rights activists?

How can farmers be open and welcoming to the public, while at the same time protecting themselves from animal activists?

### A selection of responses from the October guide Issue 2

*Is your council supportive of Issue 2 and the Livestock Care Standards Board?*

- Yes. It is important for our state to take action before anti-livestock forces do.
- We have questions. Where will the money come from to compensate the board members? Could this

be a way to protect the mega livestock operators?

- Yes, but we don't want this to turn into a coffee and donut board that doesn't accomplish anything.
- Yes and No. It seems to be an appropriate approach. If the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) comes in the state for a vote, what can the board do? If this is passed can they oversee any other issues they would try to present?
- We need to keep a level head about the issue and not cause arguments.
- Yes. But we think 13 people are too many on the board for all to agree.
- Yes, we hope it passes. We've talked to nonfarming neighbors.
- Yes and no. It's probably better than letting animal rights people cause trouble. We wish we did not have such an issue but we must be on the offense to protect Ohio agriculture.
- We don't like regulation, but we like PETA and HSUS a whole lot less.
- Yes but with doubts. We hope this livestock care board will have farm knowledge and common sense. We realize it can also be a tool for activists if their ideas infiltrate and undermine our own "down on the farm" reasoning.
- The majority feel like a board, compromised of the type of people specified may keep PETA and HSUS from putting outrageous animal rights issues on the ballot. Others were suspicious about having a board that could potentially dictate farming methods. But most feel the board would enact "common sense" practices.
- We sill support it, however, we regret there is a need for it and feel some anxiety about where this issue may lead.

- Yes. Most have yard signs and are trying to educate our city friends.
- Yes we are. And we would be supportive of the appointed board.

*Would your council be willing to help spread the word about Issue 2?*

- Yes, we have included it at the county fair and local Ag Day.
- We will share brochures and write to newspapers.
- We have been handing out signs and placing information in prominent places.
- We need to know more about Issue 2 before we volunteer.
- No, our council is not willing to help spread the word about Issue 2. Most of us don't have computers.
- We have been spreading the word to everyone we see and we are putting signs around town where most people are not aware of what Issue 2 is about.
- Yes, each family member is getting a sign of some sort.
- Yard signs were distributed to council members and the issue was discussed at length.
- Yes, if we have more answers about Issue 2.
- Everyone has a sign.
- We will be making people aware of what we think, but we don't trust the government period. But we love our country.
- We are all handing out pamphlets now.
- We have already done some of this. I hope it is enough.

**December Honeybaked Ham winners:**  
Fulton County Inquirers

## ORGANIZATION

### NATIONWIDE NEWS

# Take steps to prevent carbon monoxide in the home

Carbon monoxide (CO) can be a serious problem for you, your family members and your pets. Overexposure to this invisible, odorless and poisonous gas can cause sickness and, in some cases, even death.

Many things can cause build-up of CO in your home, especially fuel-burning appliances that aren't working properly and running a car in an attached garage.

Preventing CO leaks in your home is easy with the tips below. This is a critical time of year to be aware of carbon monoxide risks and to take action to avoid them.

To detect high levels of CO before it becomes a problem:

- Install CO alarms near bedrooms and on each floor of your home. Put fresh batteries in the alarms each year.
- Have your heating system, vents and/or chimney inspected once a year.
- If the CO alarm sounds, press the

reset button, call 911 and immediately move to fresh air.

- To prevent build-up of CO, never burn charcoal inside your home, garage or vehicle (yes, some people have done this). Also, don't resort to using portable, fuel-burning camping equipment inside a home, garage or vehicle.

Again, the fumes from CO are invisible, odorless, and poisonous, which means you may be overcome by them and lose consciousness without recognizing the symptoms related to the gas that's causing them.

Common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. Higher levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

Some additional precautions to avoid CO poisoning:

- Don't leave a car running in an attached garage, even with the garage door open.
- Never repair fuel-burning appliances without the proper knowledge, skills and tools.
- Even if you know how to repair fuel-burning appliances, refer to the owner's manual before starting the repair.
- Use a furnace or heater for warming your home, not gas appliances such as ranges, ovens or clothes dryers.
- Never operate an unvented, fuel-burning appliance indoors.
- Don't use gasoline-powered tools and engines indoors.

*Contributed by Nationwide Insurance, which has been sponsored and endorsed by Ohio Farm Bureau since 1926. To learn about valuable Farm Bureau member discounts on insurance for your home, farm or vehicles, contact a nearby Nationwide agent, or visit [www.nationwide.com/ofbf](http://www.nationwide.com/ofbf).*



## OFB Foundation holds annual auction

The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation (Foundation) is holding its fifth annual Rural-Urban Community Auction through Dec. 2 to support its Community Grantsmanship and scholarship programs.

Bidding will occur online at [www.ofbf.cmarket.com](http://www.ofbf.cmarket.com) on such items as get-away travel packages, home goods, sports memorabilia, collectibles and unique adventure items. More items will continue to be entered into the auction throughout the event.

"County Farm Bureaus throughout Ohio have created unique items that represent the best of their communities," Foundation Director Dale Arnold said. "Several businesses, organizations and friends of Farm Bureau who support Foundation programs have donated items for the event, too."

Interested parties are invited to visit the site now for an auction preview and to register as an official bidder. The auction will conclude at Ohio Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Cincinnati on Dec. 2 with a special live session.

Online bidders can stay involved in the auction through the entire process by using the "Absentee Bidding" option and are also invited to attend the final live session. Further instructions are available at the auction's Web site.

The auction is part of CMarket's national Bidding for Good network, which connects individuals with unique charity auctions across the nation. The Foundation's goal is to raise more than \$15,000.

OPINION

INDUSTRY NEWS

*our* **TAKE**

**We can now all find agreement**

The 36 percent of Ohio voters who did not favor Issue 2 are probably not all members of PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). Many were likely thinking citizens who carefully scrutinized the issue and ultimately arrived at a different conclusion than the majority of voters who said "Yes."

For those who chose to debate the issue on its merits, the primary

concern centered on whether Issue 2 was an appropriate method of government oversight.

But voters have answered that question and the Livestock Care Standards Board has been established. We should now all agree that it must live up to its constitutional charge of protecting Ohio farms, families and animals.

We should agree that this board

will have its greatest success when farmers and consumers are most engaged.

We should agree that Washington D.C.-based activists now have no place in dictating rules to Ohio farmers.

And we should agree that if we stay united, we can ensure prosperity for farmers of all shapes and sizes in Ohio.



Photo courtesy of ODNR

The Division of Wildlife is encouraging hunters to donate more venison to the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program.



**Ohio saw the signs:** Anybody who drove the countryside knew that Issue 2 wasn't just about "Big Ag" as opponents claimed. Ohio farmers posted tens of thousands of signs across the state that showed voters that many family farmers supported the measure.

**Division of Wildlife issues challenge to help feed the hungry**

The Ohio Division of Wildlife (DOW) recently issued a challenge to Ohio hunters to double the amount of venison that is donated to Ohioans in need. Last year, hunters donated nearly 220,000 meals.

Dave Graham, chief of the DOW, is committing himself to take a doe on Dec. 5 and donating it to the Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry program. The program works to link farmers and hunters to help reduce wildlife populations while providing food to those in need.

Farmers and hunters deliver harvested surplus deer to participating meat processors in local areas. Donations from churches, clubs, businesses and individuals cover the costs of processing, packaging and freezing the meat, which is then provided to food banks or other food programs.

Learn more about Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry and find a local chapter at [www.fhfh.org](http://www.fhfh.org).

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## NOTEWORTHY

# State, federal programs provide financial help for struggling farmers

Whether it's a drop in demand for their products, negative publicity or rising grain and fuel costs, some farmers across Ohio are feeling financially pinched and turning to state and federal agencies for help.

"In today's current climate, it is becoming increasingly difficult for Ohio's farmers to sustain their business because of the rising costs associated with fuel, feed, seed and fertilizer," said Ohio Treasurer Kevin Boyce.

He said the Ohio Treasury's Agricultural Linked Deposit program provides reduced rate loans to farmers to help offset operating costs associated with feed, seed, fertilizer and fuel. So far this year, the program has allocated more than \$123 million to 1,561 Ohio farmers in 82 counties.

Interested farmers need to submit their application to their lender by mid-March. The paperwork is sent to the state treasurer for final approval by mid-April. If accepted, the treasurer purchases a certificate of deposit at a reduced rate from the lender for

one year who in turn lowers the rate being given to the farmer.

The Farm Service Agency in Ohio (FSA) also has programs to help Ohio farmers purchase farmland and finance their operations. FSA makes two types of loans: direct and guaranteed. Direct loans are for farmers who are unable to get credit because they are just starting out or have suffered a financial setback, said David Drake, farm loan chief for Ohio FSA.

"These are usually longer loans and lower rates than you can get through the private sector," Drake said, noting that the maximum loan amount is \$300,000.

Guaranteed loans are made by the commercial lender with the FSA acting as the guarantor. The maximum loan amount is just over \$1.2 million. Drake said his office allocated \$179 million in loans in fiscal year 2008, which ended Sept. 30. The previous year \$148 million was issued.

Ohio FSA also has a nine month commodity loan in which farmers

store their harvested grain as collateral for the loan. There is no loan limit and March 31 is the deadline for wheat and other small grains and May 31 for corn and beans, said Carletha Fasching, chief price support specialist for Ohio FSA.

She said changes were made this year to the Farm Storage Facility Loan program in accordance with the 2008 Farm Bill. FSA administers the program on behalf of the USDA Commodity Credit Corporation; it is for low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The maximum loan has been raised from \$100,000 to \$500,000, and loan terms of seven, 10 and 12 years are available. Previously only seven-year loans were offered. Now hay, fruit and vegetable storage is also allowed. In the past, eligible crops were corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain and pulse crops such as lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas.

The Milk Income Loss Contract program makes direct monthly payments to dairy operators when the national price of milk falls below the Boston Federal Milk Marketing Order Class 1 price for fluid milk. Last month President Barack Obama signed legislation that will provide \$350 million in emergency assistance



Photo by Dan Toland

Low milk prices have hit dairy farmers extremely hard over the past year. Hog farmers are also struggling through tough financial times.

for struggling dairy farmers.

"The MILC payments lately have been bigger because the dairy market has gone to zilch over the last couple of years," Fasching said.

Jeff Mitchell, conservation programs chief for Ohio FSA, said his office has been emphasizing that farmers need to look at participating in the Conservation Reserve Program not only for conservation but financial reasons. Under CRP, farmers set aside environmentally sensitive farmland for 10 to 15 years and in return receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish permanent

vegetative cover and receive technical assistance.

"We've been getting the word out more about the economic benefits, and farmers are rethinking it more now," Mitchell said. "Farmers need to come into our office and talk about what may fit into the program. If you've got an area where the corn never seems to grow or is always wet, maybe it would be better to give up and put in a wetland instead of trying to continue farming it."

For more information about the state and federal programs, visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) and search for this article's headline.

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bring  
it in



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