

A closer look
at rising CAUV
land values

PG 3



COURT CASE CONCERN:
"Boundaries established on
all other navigable water bodies
for hundreds of years in Ohio would
be undone in an instant."

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Farmers'
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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

OCTOBER 14, 2010 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 4

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE

Contest draws dozens of positive farm-made videos

BY DAN TOLAND

Forty-three videos containing positive and informative messages about livestock farming were submitted by Ohio farmers, county Farm Bureaus, youth and other agricultural organizations as part of the "Because I Care" video contest sponsored by Ohio Farm Bureau's Center for Food and Animal Issues.

Eight finalists are now competing for the most online votes to win the \$1,000 grand prize.

The videos were required to be 90-120 seconds long and made publicly available on YouTube.com.

"We are very pleased with the overall quality of videos in the contest, and the messages they share," said David White, OFBF senior director of issues management and the Animals for Life Foundation. "The eight chosen finalists did the best overall job of communicating their messages in a creative, original manner. It's very clear they take tremendous care of their animals."

"We need to have more farmers regularly sharing their stories online," White said. "There are a lot of anti-animal agriculture videos on



Victoria Deam of the Kountry Buddies 4-H Club explains how she cares for her dairy heifer in a video that earned an honorable mention in the "Because I Care" contest.

the Web, and they needed no prizes or incentives to be there."

Vote online for your favorite video at <http://bit.ly/BecauseICare> by Oct. 28.

You may vote once per day for any of the videos.

Finalists include:

- Bits N Bridles 4-H Club, Licking County – "Because I Care about my horses"
- Carrollton FFA Chapter, Carroll County – "Because We Care"
- Fort Loramie FFA Chapter, Shelby County – "FL Ag Ed – Because I Care"

See **CONTEST**, pg 2



Photo by Darrell Rubel

Delivering a message: A group of Ohio Farm Bureau Young Agricultural Professionals recently delivered 1,576 postcards from Ohio farmers to lawmakers, urging them to "Put death taxes to rest." The effort was part of a national campaign by American Farm Bureau. Unless Congress acts this year, the federal estate tax, commonly called the "death tax," is scheduled to increase to 55 percent with a \$1 million exemption at the beginning of 2011.

That could hit farmers hard, because 84 percent of farm assets are real-estate based. As many as 10 percent of farms and ranches could owe estate taxes next year, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department. Read about additional upcoming federal legislation on Page 8.

Livestock board proposes euthanasia standards

BY SETH TETER

At a recent meeting, the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board unanimously voted in favor of proposed euthanasia standards for farm animals.

The standards define "humane euthanasia" and outline a variety of

acceptable practices specific to individual species of livestock. It is the first set of standards to be approved by the board since the group began meeting earlier this year. The proposal was developed after extensive discussion and opportunities for public comments.

The practices listed will be the only acceptable forms of euthanasia and include many common methods such as gunshot, captive bolt and barbiturates. Farmers who don't follow the standards could face civil penalties, which are in the process of being finalized by the board.

A ballot initiative that had been proposed earlier this year sought to outlaw strangulation as a form of euthanasia, although farmers already widely considered it unacceptable. Under the board's standards, this practice is effectively banned.

Following the Oct. 5 vote, the proposed euthanasia rules were posted at www.olcsb.org for a two-week public comment period. They will then be filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR) to begin the rule making process.

Former OFBF presidents hope to extend leadership in public office

BY SETH TETER

Bob Gibbs remembers in the 1970s when a neighboring farmer stopped by to talk to him about joining Farm Bureau.

Gibbs, a former city kid who had just started his Holmes County hog farm, had never heard of the organization. As the two sat at the dining room table discussing the benefits of membership, Gibbs was thinking of how to tell the man he wouldn't be able



Gibbs

to afford the hundreds of dollars it must cost to join.

When he found the dues were a fraction of what he expected, "I couldn't get my checkbook fast enough," he said.

The next year Gibbs and his wife volunteered to work membership; he later became county president,

was elected to the state board of trustees and eventually was elected Ohio Farm Bureau's president.

From there, he successfully ran for seats in the Ohio House and Senate and is now running for U.S. Congress.

"We can blame Farm Bureau for all of it," he laughed, recalling his various leadership positions.

"What was helpful to me was the Farm Bureau experience and being exposed to public policy and being exposed to all the issues at the state and federal levels," he said.

And while he was focused on building his hog operation, "It was Farm Bureau that got us involved in the community."

"One thing I did learn: working together we can get a whole lot accomplished," he said.

Gibbs is one of two former Ohio Farm Bureau presidents running for elected office this fall.

Fayette County farmer Bob Peterson, a longtime county commissioner and OFBF's immediate past president, is running for a seat in the Ohio House.

Much like Gibbs, Peterson felt it was important to get off the farm and get involved.

"There were needs that needed to be filled. With support from friends and family, I was encouraged to go out and make a difference," he said.

Peterson also values the first-hand knowledge of the legislative process that he gained through his leadership of the organization.

"By working together, and by people coming together we can get good things accomplished for our agriculture, for our country and for our state," Peterson said.

He said common sense and a strong work ethic are valuable qualities that farmers bring to the public policy process.

"You can make a difference. Your voice can be heard. I think you have

See **PRESIDENTS**, pg 2



Peterson

THE MESSAGE BOARD



Their Words

"This is democracy at its finest. This is the grassroots of all grassroots."

~ Assistant director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Rich Milleson in a *Farm and Dairy* article commending the farmers he spoke to at the Stark County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

"It is the criminals' intention to get to the plants before the farmer's harvest, but I guess the criminals aren't up on their harvest dates this year."

~ Ohio Corn Growers spokesperson Natalie Lehner in *The Columbus Dispatch* discussing how the early harvest has revealed illegal marijuana plantings in some farm fields.

"The concern in the countryside that I've heard when I've gone out is that somehow the EPA 'has it in' for the agricultural sector."

~ U.S. Environment Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson in an article from *The American Spectator* acknowledging a growing frustration from farmers over regulations.



Go to ofbf.org and register for a free web account to get timely news from Ohio Farm Bureau.

By the numbers: 8 MONTHS

That's the amount of time that former farm worker Billy Joe Gregg Jr. will have to spend in jail after a video revealed his abuse of dairy cattle on an Ohio farm earlier this year. Gregg received a maximum sentence of 18 months, although 10 months were suspended. He was also ordered to have no contact with animals for three years while he completes therapy for animal abusers.

Bob Evans discount continues

Ohio Farm Bureau members continue to save 10 percent on dine-in and carry-out meals from Bob Evans Restaurants through Nov. 30. Members can access unlimited discount coupons at www.bobevans.com/ofbf. Simply present the coupon and a current Farm Bureau membership card to receive the 10 percent savings on your bill.



SAVE THE DATE: December 1-3

The 2010 Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Battelle Grand and Hyatt Regency Hotel. In addition to informational programs, farmers representing each county Farm Bureau will establish Ohio Farm Bureau's policy for the upcoming year. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Grandin to speak at animal welfare symposium

An Animal Welfare Symposium, sponsored in part by the Ohio Farm Bureau, will feature a presentation by well-known animal-handling expert Temple Grandin. The event is intended to build on the success of last year's symposium and further the goal of properly addressing farm animal welfare issues in Ohio. The conference will be held Nov. 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center at the Ohio State University. More information and registration is available by calling 614-292-3752 or visiting <http://vet.osu.edu/preventive-medicine/AnimalWelfareSymposium>.

Grandin will also be speaking at a separate evening event focused on companion animals.

Wachtmann is Friend of Agriculture

To clarify a listing in the Ohio Farm Bureau *Election Guide* published in our last issue: Rep. Lynn Wachtmann, 75th House District, has earned the Friend of Agriculture designation from Ohio Farm Bureau.

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CONTEST from PG 1

- Nicki Gordon-Coy, Carroll County – "We Care For Cattle"
- Lisa Gress, Wayne County – "BecauseWeCare"
- Steve Humpal, Ashtabula County – "Happy Healthy Boer Goats"
- Meadowbrook FFA Chapter, Guernsey County – "The Meadowbrook FFA Cares!"
- Janice Stark, Cuyahoga County – "Backyard Poultry"

Jefferson County – "Jefferson County Farm Bureau Cares"

- Kountry Buddies 4-H Club, Tuscarawas County – "Kountry Buddies 4-H Club Care"

To see an archive of all of the videos submitted in the contest, visit <http://bit.ly/BecauseICareArchive>.



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PRESIDENTS from PG 1

a duty as a citizen in a democracy to vote, express your opinions," he said.

Gibbs said he never had an agenda; he simply "saw something that needed to be done. We worked together like farmers do."

He too credits farmers with common sense, saying they are grounded in reality.

"It's especially important for farmers to be engaged, pay attention and get involved in their local community and stand up for what you think is right," he said. "If you don't, you're going to get squashed."

Gibbs and Peterson also say that their experience with Farm Bureau honed their leadership, problem solving and communication skills.

"All of that was great training to serve the people in government," Peterson said.

And Gibbs noted, whether on the farm or with public policy, when farmers see something that's broken, they want to fix it.

"When a volunteer membership worker comes and talks to a future Farm Bureau member, there are all kinds of possibilities," he said. "Make of it what you want to make of it."

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ANALYSIS

What is CAUV?

CAUV was established after Ohio Farm Bureau campaigned for a constitutional amendment to have farmland taxed for its agricultural value, rather than its fair market value. The agricultural value of farmland is determined by the following equation:

$$\frac{(\text{Income from agricultural production} - \text{Non-land production costs})}{\text{Capitalization rate}} = \text{Current Agricultural Use Value}$$

1 Start with gross farm income:

The projected farm income for all land enrolled in CAUV is based on the soil type and data from three crops: corn, soybeans and wheat.



Yield information for each of these crops starts with Farm Service Agency production data and is adjusted by the 10-year average of actual statewide yields.

Prices for each crop are based on a survey of Ohio grain elevators.*



2 Subtract non-land production costs*:

These costs are based on Ohio State University data and include typical farm input costs for corn, soybeans and wheat.



3 Divide by the Capitalization Rate*

This rate is based on the mortgage interest rate for a 15-year fixed rate mortgage from Farm Credit Services with 40 percent equity and 60 percent debt and is adjusted for taxes.



*When determining crop prices, production costs and the capitalization rate, the last seven years of values are used, with the highest and lowest values removed and the remaining five years averaged.

A guide to CAUV

Farmers who are enrolled in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation (CAUV) program have been seeing sharp increases in the taxable value of their land. While no less frustrating to landowners, these increases can be explained by looking at how the formula works.

Consider the following example based on 2010 data for the Millgrove Silt Loam soil type:

Corn:
Average Yield : 171 bushels per acre
Average Price: \$2.66 per bushel
Gross Income Per Acre: \$454.86
Non-land production costs: \$330.64
Net return per acre: \$124.22

Soybeans:
Average Yield: 59 bushels per acre
Average Price: \$6.41 per bushel
Gross Income Per Acre: \$378.19
Non-land production costs: \$204.28
Net return per acre: \$173.91

Wheat:
Average Yield: 64 bushels per acre
Average Price: \$3.41 per bushel
Gross Income Per Acre: \$334.18
Non-land production costs: \$222.60
Net return per acre: \$111.58

Factoring in Cropping Patterns
Harvest data will determine the percent that each crop will represent in the final per acre income:
2010 Cropping Data - Corn: 39 percent, Soybeans: 51 percent, Wheat: 10 percent

Final Per Acre Income for Millgrove Silt Loam
Corn: \$124.22 x .39 = \$48.45
Soybeans: \$173.91 x .51 = \$88.69
Wheat: \$111.58 x .10 = \$11.16
Total = \$148.30

Final Current Agricultural Use Value
A net income of \$148.30/Capitalization Rate of 7.8 percent = CAUV Land Value of \$1901.28 per acre for farms with Millgrove Silt Loam.



So why have CAUV land values been going up?

In recent years, the average crop prices used in CAUV calculations have generally increased at a greater rate than the corresponding production costs. This translates to a larger projected net income per acre.

At the same time, lower interest rates led to a decrease in the capitalization rate.

Simply put: A higher net income divided by a lower capitalization rate equals an increase in CAUV land values.

Capitalization Rates

2004- 9.0%	2008- 8.3%
2005- 8.6%	2009- 7.9%
2006- 8.5%	2010- 7.8%
2007- 8.4%	

Final Note: The rate of increase in CAUV land values does not necessarily translate to the same rate of increase in taxes owed by the landowner due to tax credits and other factors. CAUV values remain substantially lower than the fair market value, making the program essential to farmers.

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NEWS *briefs*

AFBF backs bill to expand broadband in rural America

American Farm Bureau Federation is urging Congress to help ensure rural Americans have the same access to high-speed broadband Internet services that Americans in more populated areas enjoy.

H.R. 5828 (Universal Service Reform Act of 2010) would declare broadband Internet a universal service, which would allow for direct support from the Universal Service Fund (USF). AFBF President Bob Stallman recently sent a letter to lawmakers stating the USF should be used for long-term broadband deployment.

"Affordability is a critical component to broadband use in rural America because rural household incomes are typically lower than those in more populated regions of the nation," Stallman said. "In rural areas where broadband service is available, our members have reported that the service is beyond the financial means of many residents in their communities."

Wholesome Wave ensures fresh produce to disadvantaged

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Gus Schumacher now chairs Wholesome Wave, a foundation that works with farmers' markets to ensure that disadvantaged consumers have access to fresh produce.

"What we do is look at nutrition and how can we work with farmers and have farmers become healthy food hubs. There are 40 million people on food stamps now that's costing about \$70 billion. Our foundation doubles food stamps and WIC vouchers at a farmers' market. People on food stamps can eat healthy, eat fresh, eat local and nourish their neighborhood," Schumacher said. Currently there are 160 farmers markets in 20 states participating in the Wholesome Wave voucher program.



Talks underway about next farm bill

Talks about the 2012 Farm Bill are already underway, and Ohio Farm Bureau members need to start thinking now about what policies they want to see implemented at the national level, said Adam Sharp, OFBF's senior director of national policy and regulatory affairs.

"Now is the time for ideas so they can be in place by the time American Farm Bureau meets in January and sets policy," he said.

Discussions started last spring about implementation of the current farm bill, along with what the next farm bill will look like, Sharp said. OFBF met recently with leaders from the Ohio Soybean Association, Ohio Corn Growers Association, Ohio Wheat Growers Association and Ohio State University to discuss their common interest in the next farm bill for farm support programs.

"With the current budget constraints, there's already a lot of talk of what the next farm bill will look like. The key is to maintain what we have in the current farm bill and not shift money from current farm bill programs to meet the needs of other programs," Sharp said, noting that in-depth discussions about the 2012 Farm Bill won't start until the federal budget is set in the spring.

He also said the outcome of the November election could affect the

next farm bill and other agriculture-related items.

"A key will be what happens in the November election and who will control the House and Senate ag committees," he said.

Farm Bureau's position is that basic funding of the 2008 Farm Bill should not be altered, Sharp said.

"Right now we very much want to make sure the budget baseline for farm support programs are maintained in the next farm bill," he said. "Farm support programs are less than one-half of 1 percent of the U.S. federal budget, which is a small price to pay for stabilization and availability of our food supply."

Other key positions of Farm Bureau are that the next farm should be fiscally responsible, benefit all agricultural sectors and consider world trade rulings.

American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman told members of the Senate Agriculture Committee recently that the 2012 Farm Bill needs to support a stable business environment critical for success in agriculture.

"Abruptly changing the rules of the game on farmers, particularly in a tight credit environment, can be disastrous to a farmer or rancher's operation," he said. "Our options will recognize the need for transition periods for major policy changes."



Your guide for
November meetings

Advisory Councils: Speak Out

Ohio farmers love their land. They care for it, protect it and manage it. In the past, advisory councils have spoken out on property rights issues such as ATVs, trespassing/privacy and line fences. Now, we'd like to hear about your concerns with water and property rights.

Advisory Council Questions: Water Rights See 'Supreme Court' story below

• What concerns would you have if the State of Ohio gained ownership of the waterways that flow through private property as well their banks and shores?

• What policy would you suggest that Ohio Farm Bureau adopt when it comes to balancing the rights of the landowner with the rights of the public to utilize navigable waters for activities such as recreation?

• What other issues/concerns do you have in your community or on your farm when it comes to water and property rights? For example, Farm Bureau is fighting legislation that would make the Clean Water Act apply to all waters of the U.S. rather than just navigable waters. This could extend federal jurisdiction to farm ponds and ditches.

Farmers still sorting out EPA's spill prevention rules

Under a rule that the Environmental Protection Agency finalized in 2008, farms that store oil of any kind – petroleum, vegetable, animal fats, etc. – amounting to more than 1,320 gallons above-ground or 42,000 gallons of buried storage capacity will have to have a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plan and maintain records to show that they are following the plan.

Otherwise, if a spill occurs they will face legal liability. Spill prevention plans must describe the preventative control measures that are in place and the response actions that would be taken in case of a spill. Under the rule, a spill is one that reaches navigable waters, or "waters of the U.S."

The Environmental Protection Agency in early August put out a proposal to extend by one year the compliance deadline for some facilities that must prepare spill prevention plans under the federal rule.

However, the extension only applies to two categories of farms: those that came into operation since August 2002, when EPA revised the regulations to clarify which facilities were covered; and dairies whose milk storage facilities may already be covered by FDA or other regulations.

The newer operations will now have until Nov. 10, 2011, to comply. Dairies will have until one year after EPA finalizes a still-pending regulation on how to treat (or exempt) milk storage containers.

Older farms, according to EPA, have always been subject to the SPCC rule and must have a plan already in place.

"Anyone in business before August 2002 was, in EPA's view, already required to have a spill prevention control plan under an older version of the SPCC regulations, although hardly anyone knew about them," explained Paul Schlegel, an environmental lobbyist and regulatory specialist at the American Farm Bureau Federation. "EPA never made it a

point to reach out to the farm community and tell them how the rule applied to farms and ranches, so this has been confusing and surprising for a lot of people. However, now the word is going out – farmers must have the required plans in place."

Farms with above-ground fuel storage of 10,000 gallons or less, no single container of more than 5,000 gallons and no recent history of oil spills, which EPA calls Tier I facilities, will be able

to use a plan template, available on EPA's website, at www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/tier-1temp.htm, and self-certify their plans. Farms with larger amounts of fuel storage are required to hire professional engineers to certify their prevention plans.

Since many farmers and ranchers are just now becoming aware of the SPCC requirements, AFBF urged the EPA to provide guidance specific to agriculture. The agency has since posted farm specific information on its website, at www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/oil/spcc/spccfarms.pdf.

Compiled from the Aug. 23 FB News, published by American Farm Bureau

"This has been confusing and surprising for a lot of people."

~Paul Schlegel, AFBF regulatory specialist

OFBF weighs in on Supreme Court property rights case

Concerned that it could have implications for farmers across Ohio, Ohio Farm Bureau recently filed a brief with the Supreme Court in a case affecting the rights of landowners along Lake Erie.

The case primarily concerns whether private landowners or the State of Ohio own the land along the Lake Erie shoreline between the high water mark and the low water mark.

An appellate court had ruled that regardless of the changing shoreline, the dry land above the water belongs to the property owner, while land below the water belongs to the public; essentially, the landowner's property extends to the water's edge.

The State of Ohio appealed, arguing that the state owns the land all the way up to the ordinary high water mark.

A concern of the landowners is that if a high water mark is used as the property line, the public would

now have access to what they previously believed to be their property.

Furthermore, the landowners would not be compensated for their loss of property because, in theory, this land would have always belonged to the state.

Farm Bureau expressed concerns to the court that arguments being made in this case could set precedents that threaten farmers' riparian rights and lead to public access of previously private shores and banks.

A specific concern is that if environmental groups get their way, the court's decision could establish that the State of Ohio holds title to the land underneath all the now privately-owned navigable rivers, streams and in-land lakes in the state.

Equally troubling is that if this state ownership is determined, it would not be considered a government "taking", and no compensation would be owed to the landowner, because the state would be deemed to have held title to those river, stream, and in-land lake beds since 1803.

In its brief to the court, OFBF wrote the following:

"While the parties of this case contest the point at which the State's ownership of Lake Erie's soil ends and disagree over the scope of the public's rights below that point, the public indisputably lacks the right to access the banks of Ohio's other lakes and streams..."

"...therefore, even if the public may walk on Lake Erie's beaches below the ordinary high water mark, the court should carefully limit such a holding to Lake Erie.

"Otherwise, boundaries established on all other navigable water bodies for hundreds of years in Ohio would be undone in an instant and reset anew at the ordinary high water mark. Both farmers and non-farmers throughout the state would find their ownership and exclusive possession of their land along navigable water bodies under attack. For farmers, the resulting public interference with farming operations would include the loss of access to the banks and beds of rivers for moving and watering livestock, pumping water for irrigation, installing erosion-control measures, and other activities."



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDER-MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED

TO: The Stockholder-Members of Southern States Cooperative, Incorporated

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholder-Members of SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE, INCORPORATED, will be held at the Association's headquarters, 6606 W. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, on Wednesday, November 17, 2010, beginning at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, to hear reports from the Board of Directors and Management and to transact such other business as may come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

By Order of the Board of Directors

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FARM BUREAU NEWS



Photo courtesy of Roy Norman

Volunteers help harvest a field of watermelons, which were later donated to a food bank.

County Farm Bureaus help meet food needs

Randy Stuckey, who works with the Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS), heard of an Amish farmer with a large number of watermelons remaining in his fields after his contract had been fulfilled. Stuckey wanted to organize a group of volunteers to help get the watermelons to those in need. He contacted Roy Norman, OFBF organization director in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties, to ask for assistance.

Norman spread the word and approximately 16 individuals volunteered to harvest the watermelons, including several members of the 8th grade football team from the Archbold schools.

"We do this because it is the right thing to do," Stuckey said.

Also, for the second year in a row, the Mahoning County Farm Bureau, under the leadership of Doug Martig, Mahoning County Farm Bureau's Food and Animal Issues action team leader, teamed up with the Jr. Fair Livestock Committee and the Senior Fair Board of the Canfield Fair, to donate meat to Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley. Farm Bureau promoted the program to several buyers at the Jr. Fair livestock sale. The buyers purchased the animal and paid for the processing. Approximately 750 pounds of meat was donated.

"We are so appreciative of the Mahoning County Farm Bureau for spearheading this program," said Becky Miller, of Second Harvest. "Meat is one of the most important products we can distribute and one of the most difficult to get."

NATIONWIDE NEWS

OFBF leaders share ideas with Nationwide at national policyholder conference

As founder of Nationwide Mutual, Ohio Farm Bureau continues to "sponsor" the company, endorse its policies and recommend that members work with Nationwide agents to serve their insurance needs.

In turn, members play a role in shaping the coverages that Nationwide provides. For more than 50 years, Farm Bureau leaders from Ohio and other states have voiced their suggestions and questions directly to company leaders at Nationwide's policyholder conferences.

Policyholder suggestions at previous meetings helped spur Nationwide policy innovations such as coverages for pollution liability, agritourism activities, fixed equipment breakdown and defense against unwarranted animal cruelty lawsuits. Other changes resulting from customer input have included display of Farm Bureau member status on Nationwide auto policies and proof-of-insurance cards, OFBF member discounts on a broad range of Nationwide policies and the auto accident forgiveness option.

Five OFBF leaders took part in Nationwide's 2010 National Policyholder Conference, Aug. 30-31 in Des Moines, Iowa. They joined participants from seven other state Farm Bureaus and two major farm



Photo courtesy of Nationwide

From left: Nationwide Board Member and Paulding County farmer Terry McClure, Marion County President Cy Prettyman, Geauga County President Bill Patterson, Nationwide Ag President Gary Douglas, OFBF Organization Vice President Brian Peach, Athens County President David Bright and Clermont County President Carl Schoellman.

cooperatives in addressing agricultural and insurance issues to keep Nationwide in tune with customers' needs and expectations.

Former OFBF President and current Nationwide Board Director Terry McClure heard first-hand the interests of customers and Farm Bureau members. Gary Douglas, president of Nationwide Agribusiness, and several members of Nationwide's management team also listened to customer comments.

Topics discussed included policy questions and coverage needs related to pollution exposures, custom farming, equine, food safety and processed foods and other risks farmers face. Exchanges such as these also take place at four similar conferences conducted by Nationwide each year specifically for Ohio Farm Bureau members and for members of seven other Farm Bureaus that sponsor the company.

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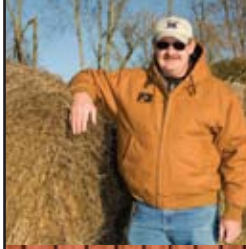


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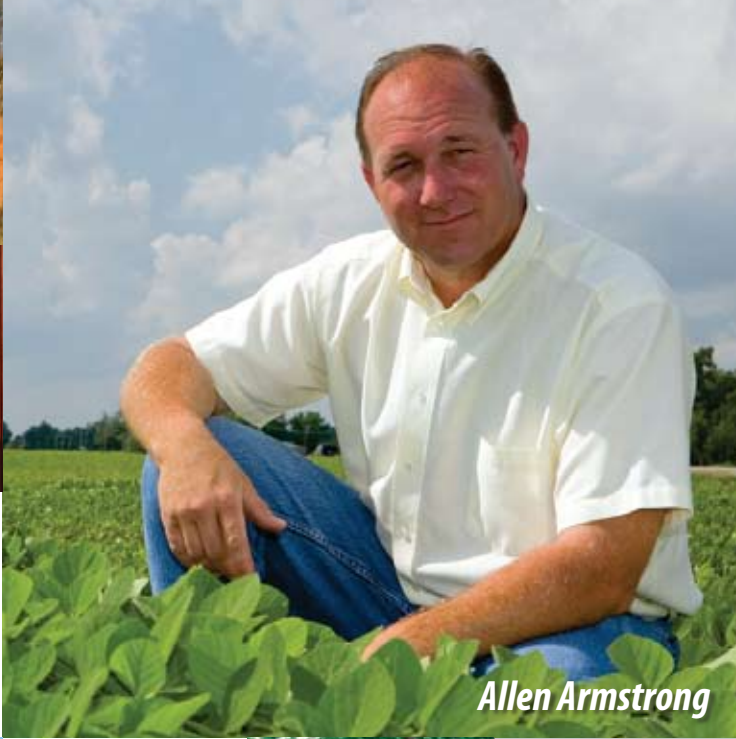


Trish Cunningham

a farmer



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NOTEWORTHY

Farm families recognized for conservation

Five Ohio farm families, each members of Ohio Farm Bureau, were recognized with the Ohio Conservation Farm Family Award.

"As a group, Ohio farmers tend to be modest and rarely self-promoting. This is a great opportunity to honor their efforts and hard work," said OFBF Senior Director of Program Innovation and Environmental Policy Larry Antosch. Winners received \$400 each from OFBF, were featured in the September issue of *Ohio Farmer* and received plaques from Hancor Inc. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Soil and Water Resources also sponsors the award.

2010 winners include:

John Buck grows soybeans, corn and wheat in Marion County. Conservation techniques include no-till, buffer strips, grassed waterways, crop rotation and developing a 36-acre wetland.

Eugene and Dean Welch raise corn, soybeans, wheat, dairy cows and steers in Ashland County, using conservation techniques including



Five Ohio farm families were recognized during Farm Science Review for their efforts to protect natural resources.

grassed waterways, heavy use pads, woodland exclusion, filter strips, crop rotation and a managed woodlot.

Stanley and Rick Moore raise alfalfa, cattle and sheep in Harrison County. Conservation practices include crop rotation, contour strips, grassed waterways, fencing to prevent livestock from entering streams and a manure nutrient management plan.

Larry, Richard and Sam Kinney grow corn and soybeans in Logan County using conservation techniques including no-till, grassed waterways, filter strips and participa-

tion in the Conservation Security Program. Fertilizers are applied using a precise soil zone system. A wetland has also been developed on the farm.

Martha Gerber Rittinger farms corn, soybeans and wheat in Ross County, using no-till, cover crops when needed, crop rotation, grassed waterways and both grass and forested filter strips. The Rittingers have also hosted several women's groups from developed and underdeveloped countries to demonstrate their farming and conservation techniques.

Photo by Tim White, Ohio Farmer magazine

Many issues for Congress to resolve after elections

With the November election just around the corner, Congress has been more focused on campaigns than pending legislation. A lame duck session is now ready to start Nov. 15 with many issues to resolve.

"Not much has been accomplished. How much will they be able to get done by the end of the year?" asked Mark Maslyn, American Farm Bureau's public policy director. "At the end of the year, Congress will have to deal with the spending package, how to fund this government. They have not passed one appropriations bill in the past year and so they will have an omnibus spending package that they will have to enact."

Farm Bureau is hoping Congress enacts estate tax reforms and extends several expiring tax provisions before time runs out. If Congress doesn't act on estate tax reform by Jan. 1, the tax rate will jump from zero to 55 percent, with a \$1 million exemption.

Farm Bureau also is concerned that the capital gains tax will jump from 15 percent to 20 percent. The average amount of capital gains that farmers report is about 50 percent higher than the average taxpayer.

Individual income tax rates also are set to be higher and the ethanol blenders tax credit and ethanol



import duty will end unless Congress takes action by Dec. 31. The biodiesel tax incentives have expired and need to be renewed. Ag-related businesses have been hit hard by congressional inaction on some of the renewable fuels tax provisions,

Maslyn said.

"You've got biodiesel plants that have been shut down, workers laid off because of the uncertainty of whether or not this tax credit will be extended," he said.

Farm Bureau also is keeping a close eye on Senate Bill 510, the Food Safety Modernization Act, which would give the Food and Drug Administration broad power over farming practices and food production and potentially hurt small, local food producers.

"You have two possible scenarios with Congress. The first is that Congress has to come back and complete all the appropriations spending before they can tackle anything else, which means they might not have time to tackle other bills," Sharp said. "The second is that if there's a change in Congress for party control that there could be an attempt by the House and Senate to rush through a series of bills that they haven't been able to get done yet. It's all a guessing game right now."

Our Ohio TV series takes new shape

After five successful seasons, nearly 400 segments and nearly 100,000 miles traveled across more than 70 counties, the *Our Ohio* TV series will be transitioning this season.

OFBF has worked with Think TV, the Dayton public television station covering Southwest Ohio, to produce the 52-week series for the past five years. In that time, *Our Ohio* has been nominated for three regional Emmy awards and received an Emmy award this year for the segment "Life of a Farmer."

Season 6 will have a different look by featuring "best of" encore episodes with occasional new, longer format documentary-style

special programs. In addition, OFBF will be using new and more flexible ways to deliver similar high-quality content about Ohio farmers to targeted segments of the public, including television commercials and web videos.

The *Our Ohio* TV series is supported by OFBF, Nationwide Insurance and Medical Mutual of Ohio. Our Ohio airs on 12 Ohio public television stations and WBNX in Cleveland. More than 40,000 viewers watch *Our Ohio* each week.

Visit OurOhio.org for local listings or to view select video segments for the show.

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