



BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

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Small farmers would be hit hardest by USDA food safety proposal

OFBF speaks out at hearing on leafy greens

BY SETH TETER

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) is voicing concerns about a proposed marketing agreement that could set unworkable standards for Ohio produce growers.

OFBF has received many calls from small and medium sized growers, organic growers, representatives of the Amish community and more who are concerned that a California marketing agreement for leafy greens could become the national standard.



Schacht

The voluntary standards are designed to ensure food safety and could become a nationally recognized seal of approval for leafy greens such as spinach and lettuce. Growers who are unable to comply with the standards could be shut off from potential buyers.

"From what we understand, many medium and small growers in California also have major concerns with the agreement. That being the case, how can we possibly expect these practices to be workable for Ohio farmers," said Lisa Schacht, a farm market operator who provided Ohio Farm Bureau's testimony during a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture Hearing in Columbus.

Because California's produce industry is structured much differently than Ohio's and often includes much larger farms, OFBF said any

national agreement must be tailored to the needs of individual states.

"I know that the proposed leafy green rule does not contain specific on-farm practices, and this is unfortunate because we don't have any specifics to react to," Schacht said. "But the California leafy green agreement does have specifics and is very often referred to as the example of where this national agreement is headed."

Among OFBF's concerns are California's requirements that deal with water use, animal intrusion, field sanitation, harvest requirements and soil amendments. These specifics were designed around some California cultural practices and are not conducive to Ohio.

"Under this agreement, small growers could easily be relegated to selling only at farmers markets," said Doug Doohan, fruit and vegetable specialist for Ohio State University Extension and horticulture researcher with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC). "Their ability to grow their business and make any kind of profit could be severely curtailed."

Also at risk is the viability of Ohio's produce auctions, which have been successful in allowing small growers, particularly the Amish, to sell produce to bulk buyers.

"Under the proposed new rules, these auctions would likely go out of business given the complexity of the new rules and associated costs that would drive buyers elsewhere," Schacht said.

Ohio farmers are also at a distinct disadvantage because they must spread compliance costs over a shorter growing season, compared

See *FARMERS*, pg 2

Take Issue 2 to town

Consumers need to hear from farmers during final days of livestock care campaign

Here's how you can take action to let consumers know that a "Yes" vote on Issue 2 is good for all Ohioans as well as the animals that provide for us all.

Get out the vote
Vote early and encourage others to do the same.



Signs
Get yard signs into the hands of friends and family who live in the city. Put a sign on your harvesting equipment.



Call from your combine
Keep an ear on talk radio and listen for opportunities to call in and encourage listeners to vote 'Yes' for Issue 2.



Media engagement
Send a letter to the editor of the newspaper. Comments are also needed on tv and newspaper Web site message boards. Go online to share your thoughts. Stay connected at facebook.com/OhioFarmBureau



Make it personal
Personal stories are the most effective way to show that you care for animals. Bottle feeding calves, staying up during lambing season or checking cows on a cold night are great examples of how livestock farmers go above and beyond to provide excellent animal care.



Write a letter
Use your Christmas card list to send a personal note to non-farm friends and family urging a "Yes" vote on Issue 2.



Photo by Seth Teter

Farmers gear up at an Issue 2 rally in Ashland County. During events around Ohio, farmers have been encouraged to take their message to the cities.

our TAKE: Final thoughts on Issue 2

Issue 2 is not about an ideology. It is about a reality. The world is changing. And we mustn't think that we can take no action today and be prepared for the fights that await us.

Yes, we will stand together when the challenges come. But we must equip ourselves now. We must answer the call of the public before the opposition does. Farmers are few. Our critics are strong. And while Issue 2 is not the complete answer; it is a turning point.

How society will come to terms with its relationship to the ani-

mals we care for is a blank page. By Ohioans or by outsiders, the rules will be written.

As some seek to divide us, we can still recognize our common belief in this way of life that we have shared for generations.

So come together. Ask questions. Voice concerns. Tell your story. And stay united. Always remember that our values are constant regardless of what happens in any election.

We will do what's right for our consumers, our animals and the next generation of farmers. We will do that by staying engaged.

There are just two weeks left to get our message to the villages and cities across Ohio.

BALANCE OF POWER

Livestock care board checks and balances

BY SETH TETER

Issue 2 was designed to give Ohio voters the confidence that animal care questions are being effectively addressed and to give farmers the assurance that any animal care policies in Ohio will be reasonable and based on comprehensive debate.

That meant giving the proposed Livestock Care Standards Board enough leeway to make important decisions, while also maintaining provisions that ensure protection for all Ohioans.

OFBF Director of State Policy

Beth Vanderkooi said there are several ways that the Livestock Care Standards Board will be responsive to the needs of farmers and consumers.

"First of all, it is designed in such a way that we have every reason to expect that the board members would advocate for reasonable animal care policies," Vanderkooi said.

The 13-member board would include family farmers, veterinarians, a food safety expert, the dean of an Ohio agricultural college, consumers and a local humane society

See *LIVESTOCK*, pg 2

Levels of protection

- The Ohio legislature ultimately retains authority over the reach of the Livestock Care Standards Board.
- If Issue 2 passes, lawmakers will draft implementing legislation that details the appropriate authority of the board.
- Proposals by the Livestock Care Standards Board will be subject to review through the public rule-making process.
- Members of the Livestock Care Standards Board will go through a public vetting process. The governor's appointments must be approved by the Senate.
- The Livestock Care Standards Board cannot include more than seven members from one political party.
- The Livestock Care Standards Board will include knowledgeable Ohioans who can be expected to advocate for reasonable animal care policies.
- The scope of what the Livestock Care Standards Board may consider as well as its goals are explicitly laid out in the Ohio Constitution.

PUBLIC POLICY

NEWS *briefs***Farm Bureau strongly opposes Boxer-Kerry climate change bill**

The Boxer-Kerry climate change bill introduced in the Senate includes few provisions that are friendly to agriculture and will be strongly opposed by the American Farm Bureau Federation. "America's farmers and ranchers did not fare that well in the House-passed climate change bill, and they fare even worse in the Senate bill," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman. "There are few benefits and even greater costs to agriculture and the American public." The bill, authored by Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and John Kerry (D-Mass), seeks to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions through a cap-and-trade program. The legislation would require greenhouse gas emissions to be cut 20 percent by 2020 from 2005 levels — greater than the House bill's target of 17 percent. Stallman said the 20 percent target is unrealistic and will lead to higher energy bills for all consumers.

**USDA purchases pork products to help in a down market**

The USDA will purchase an additional \$30 million in pork products in FY 2009 for federal food and nutrition assistance programs. According to Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack, the action was taken to help mitigate further downward pressure on hog prices and stabilize market conditions. This brings USDA spending to approximately \$151 million in pork products this year for the food and nutrition assistance program through annual appropriation and Recovery Act funding.

Dairy aid part of USDA's new budget

Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.) announced recently that \$60 million would be used to purchase dairy products for use in U.S. public nutrition programs and \$290 million would be spent in direct aid to dairy farmers. The money would be part of USDA's fiscal year budget. USDA will set guidelines for the payments. Senate and House conferees approved the agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010, which provides funding for USDA, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Farm Credit Administration.

**Changes to Renewable Fuel Standard bad for farmers**

Changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency would impede the growth of the U.S. biofuels industry, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. AFBF pointed out that EPA's definition of "agricultural land" in the proposed regulations creates onerous land-use rules and record-keeping requirements that would bar many farmers from growing crops used for biofuel production and, in so doing, would reduce the value of a great deal of American farmland. The regulations could potentially prohibit farmers from converting pastureland or forestland to cropland to produce ethanol. "This could allow the EPA to dictate how a farmer manages his or her land," said AFBF President Bob Stallman. "This is unprecedented because it could give EPA the authority to regulate and redefine the uses of agricultural land."

Large number of dairy cows retired from production

Audits by Cooperatives Working Together show a total of 225,783 dairy cows that produced 4.5 billion pounds of milk have been retired so far this year in an effort to address a supply-and-demand imbalance that has fueled a severe financial crisis in the dairy industry. Jim Tillison, CWT chief operating officer, said still more herd reductions are possible this year due to the continuing milk price squeeze farmers are in. In the most recent retirement round, the majority of the 74,114 cows that produced 1.5 billion pounds of milk have been sent to processing plants.

World will need 70 percent more food by 2050

Producing 70 percent more food for an additional 2.3 billion people by 2050, while at the same time combating poverty and hunger, using scarce natural resources more efficiently and adapting to climate change are the main challenges world agriculture will face in the coming decades, according to a discussion paper published recently by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. Global projections show that in addition to projected investments in agriculture, further significant investment will be needed to enhance access to food, otherwise some 370 million people could still be hungry in 2050, almost 5 percent of the developing countries' population. According to the latest U.N. projections, world population will rise from 6.8 billion today to 9.1 billion in 2050 — a third more mouths to feed than there are today. Nearly all of the population growth will occur in developing countries. The demand for food is expected to continue to grow as a result of both population growth and rising incomes. Demand for cereals is projected to reach 3 billion tons by 2050. Annual cereal production will have to grow by almost 1 billion metric tons from 2.1 billion metric tons today. Meat production must increase by 200 million metric tons to reach a total of 470 million metric tons in 2050, 72 percent of which will be consumed in developing countries, up from the 58 percent today.

**Proposal would allow state-inspected meat to cross state lines**

A new U.S. Department of Agriculture program that would allow state-inspected meat to cross state lines is expected to have a big impact in Ohio.

Ohio has the second highest number of state-inspected meat processing facilities in the United States, with only Wisconsin having more, said Adam Sharp, Ohio Farm Bureau's senior director of legislative and regulatory policy.

Last month, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced it would publish proposed regulations to implement a new voluntary cooperative program under which selected state-inspected facilities would be eligible to ship meat and poultry products across state lines. According to American Farm Bureau, there are nearly 2,000 state-inspected meat and poultry plants in 27 states.

Federal laws prohibit state-inspected meat products (beef, poultry, pork, lamb and goat) from being sold in interstate commerce but other state-inspected products such as milk, dairy products, fruit, vegetables and fish are allowed to be marketed freely throughout the United States.

"The irony is that meat products shipped from other countries are allowed in the U.S. if they pass inspec-



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representative. It would be chaired by the director of the department of agriculture. The governor would be responsible for appointing 10 members to the board, and his appointments would be subject to Senate approval.

"At the national level, most of us are familiar with the scrutiny that is given to Supreme Court nominees," Vanderkooi said. "We would go through a very similar process to appoint members to the Ohio Livestock Care Standards board. There would be an opportunity for anyone to voice concerns about a prospective member of the board."

Issue 2 is also limited in that it only creates a mechanism for Ohio to address animal care issues, and it leaves the details up to the legislature.

"The Livestock Care Standards Board is not above any existing government body," Vanderkooi said. "The legislature sets the parameters in which the Livestock Care Standards Board can operate. The scope of the authority of the board would be no greater than specifically enumerated in the Constitution and would be subject to a legislative check on that authority."

to states such as California, which have an extended growing season and can spread costs over the entire year.

"In looking at the audit sheets for California, as a small grower, I don't see where I will find the time, let alone the dollars to pay for this type of program. As I said before, I already maintain a series of good management practices on my farm, but how much more paperwork should I be expected to complete and at what cost?" Schacht asked. "I fear this proposal, as it now stands, will only serve to drive Ohio produce farmers out of business."

To read the full comments, visit www.ofbf.org and search for this article's headline.



Photo by Megan Nadoiski

While meat from foreign countries can be sold in the United States if it passes inspection, Ohio farmers have been unable to sell state-inspected meat across state lines.

tions but state-inspected meat can't go across state boundaries. So Brazilian beef can enter Pennsylvania but Ohio beef can't," Sharp said. "Farm Bureau has been a strong advocate for allowing interstate shipment of meat."

The proposal, created in the 2008 Farm Bill, is part of USDA's new "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative, which seeks to better connect consumers with local producers. It affects state-inspected plants with 25 or fewer employees.

"This new cooperative interstate shipment program will provide new economic opportunities for many small and very small meat and poultry establishments whose markets are currently limited," said USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Jerold Mande.

Under the proposed rule, selected facilities would receive inspection

services from federally trained and supervised state inspection personnel who would verify that the facilities meet all federal food safety requirements. Meat and poultry products produced under the program will receive a USDA mark of inspection, allowing the products to be shipped across state lines.

"This is something that Farm Bureau has been pushing for a long time, and it is one of our priority issues," Sharp said.

USDA is accepting comments about the proposed rule until Nov. 16. To submit comments online, visit www.ofbf.org and search for this article's headline.

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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PUBLIC POLICY

Policy Development Committee starts annual process

Ohio Farm Bureau's annual policy development process is well under way.

The team charged with bringing policy recommendations before Ohio Farm Bureau's voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting in December convened last month for the first of two meetings.

In a meeting next month, the committee will review policy suggestions from county Farm Bureaus and sort through which ones to carry through to the annual meeting.

"This is the most interactive and participatory grassroots effort you'll embark upon," OFBF President Brent Porteus told committee members prior to the two-day effort to fully understand current issues. "A goal is to discover what should rise to a level of priority for the organization. We want our policies to accurately reflect the views of the members of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation for 2010."

Larry Antosch, OFBF senior director of program innovation and environmental policy, said the committee is going about its task a bit differently this year than in the past.

"We are spending more time looking at current policies so that we have informed, engaged discussions," he said. "We are bringing in speakers on specific topics and issues, not just organizations in general."

The committee heard about programs in place and those being developed for the care and well-being of



Photo by Dan Toland

From left, county leaders Michael Terry and Cy Prettyman review policies with OFBF State Trustee Gayle Betterly.

livestock from Steven Moeller, associate professor and swine Extension specialist at Ohio State University; David White of OFBF's Center for Food and Animal Issues; and Jenny Hubble of the American Dairy Association Mideast.

Jodi Buckman of the Capital Area Humane Society reported there has been a large increase in cruelty reports concerning horses since legislation banned horse slaughter in the United States. She said local humane societies have faced financial difficulties from the expenses associated with caring for neglected horses. She said the society's officers are not trained in regard to all spe-

cies of animals and rely upon other experts to help determine the validity of reported cases of cruelty.

A representative of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission spoke of plans to make local food available for central Ohio while preserving farmland. The commission is searching for ways to help develop programs to add value to local foods.

In addition, the committee heard from experts in health care and education.

John Stanford, executive assistant of education policy for Gov. Ted Strickland, outlined the school funding reforms passed and signed

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into law in July. He said the reforms are financially responsible and ensure Ohioans understand how state funding is utilized.

Bill Hayes, president of the Healthy Policy Institute of Ohio, spoke of the group's plan to expand research to get a better understanding of the current status of individuals with health insurance coverage. It estimates only 4 percent of Ohio

children are uninsured, while 17 percent of working adults are uninsured, with an increase in people ages 54-65 losing jobs and having trouble finding new insurance coverage. He also estimated that the state's total healthcare cost will increase by \$114 billion in the next 10 years to a total of \$200 billion.

Young Ag Professionals lobby members of Congress during D.C. trip

More than two dozen Young Agriculture Professionals got an up close look at the political process when they visited the nation's capital last month.

Thirty-five people, including the Young Ag Professionals and OFBF board and staff, went to Washington, D.C. on Sept. 9-11. While there, they met with American Farm Bureau Federation staff members to learn about key issues, including animal agriculture, water issues, energy and climate changes, said Darrell Rubel, OFBF's director of volunteer development.

"Ohio's State Issue 2 and the debate over the definition of navigable waters were the two big areas that were discussed," he said. "They got our folks riled up a bit ... that's good."

Participants also visited representatives of the European Union to hear about how international trade issues affect agriculture.

The highlight of the trip was the traditional visit with Ohio members of Congress. Before talking one-on-one with their member of Congress, trip participants did a "How to Make Contact with Impact" learning session. They learned why personally



Photo by Darrell Rubel

OFBF's Young Agriculture Professionals stand on the steps of Capitol Hill during a recent trip to Washington.

telling their story to lawmakers is so important.

"It's not good enough to simply tell a congressman that they need to support an issue. What really makes the difference is when a farmer says how something affects them personally and doing it through a phone call or visit is huge," Rubel said. "It doesn't matter if you only talk to an aide because that aide may be the congressman's specialist and the congressman

may go to the aide and ask how they should vote on something."

Kayla Daymut, who sells real estate in Guernsey County and was active in 4-H, said she enjoyed the trip and meeting with U.S. Rep. Zack Space.

"It was a good experience. I learned a lot about how important it is to talk to your congressman and how things work in Washington," she said.

Farm Bureau supporting restored funding to SWCDs

Ohio Farm Bureau is supporting provisions in a bill to re-establish full funding for important services that are regularly rendered on behalf of agriculture.

According to OFBF Director of State Policy Beth Vanderkooi, significant cuts in the state budget earlier this year have left Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) short of funding that allows them to fully carry out their mission to "enable Ohioans to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water and land resources."

Current Ohio Farm Bureau policy supports an adequate source of program funding for SWCDs.

In addition to existing cost-sharing programs for conservation practices, OFBF supports additional state-funded incentives to encourage implementation of these practices.

Mindy Bankey, CEO of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, said cuts included a significant reduction of General Revenue Funding (GRF) in Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

Senate Bill 155, sponsored by Sens. John Carey, R-Wellston, and Dale Miller, D-Cleveland, contains provisions that would provide addi-

tional GRF funding for SWCDs to near-original levels. As of press time, the bill had been introduced and has had two hearings. Other proposals to close the gap in funding include increased fees for waste and tipping fees for out-of-state waste coming into Ohio landfills.

"Services provided through Ohio's Soil and Water Conservation Districts have produced great success stories for farmers who are dedicated to the conservation of natural resources," Bankey said, outlining the need for SWCDs to be fully funded and operational.

According to Bankey, SWCDs provide assistance to both urban and agriculture land users, specializing in soil erosion prevention and water management. They work directly with farmers through a voluntary cooperative agreement and provide technical assistance that includes survey and design of grass waterways, erosion control structures, surface and subsurface drainage, farm ponds, windbreaks, livestock waste management facilities, spring development for livestock, wildlife management (through wildlife specialists) and other forestry practices.

In addition, SWCDs sponsor education and information programs centered on no-till farming, wildlife and forestry management, pond clinics and other conservation programs.

SWCDs also deliver more than 70 percent of the federal Farm Bill programs offered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services.

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CENTER FOR FOOD & ANIMAL ISSUES

Answering questions about H1N1

Ohio Farm Bureau's Center for Food and Animal Issues recently issued a briefing to help farmers address the H1N1 influenza virus.

"There was a lot of information already available from various sources," said Leah Dorman, the Center's director of food programs. "Our goal was to develop a single guide to help farmers answer questions."

The one-page briefing, which includes input from the veterinary and public health communities, includes background on H1N1 and how pigs can be monitored and protected from the virus. It was distributed during Farm Science Review.

"We are not seeing the 2009 H1N1 virus being spread from pigs to people. The risk is that people would spread the virus to the animals or others," Dorman said.

Symptoms of H1N1 in pigs can include sudden fever, depression, coughing, discharge from the eyes or nose, sneezing, breathing difficulties, eye redness or inflammation and going off feed.

Hog farmers are encouraged to intensify existing bio-security protocols through practices such as limiting access to barns, enforcing strict leave policies for workers who have developed influenza like symptoms, maintaining proper ventilation and temperature in barns, not sharing equipment with other farms, isolating new animal arrivals and providing workers with training and protective equipment including gloves, safety goggles and a properly fitted N95 respirator.

"A lot of people think a dust mask is a dust mask," Dorman said. "The N95 respirator has a filter that can reduce the risk of transmitting small particles such as viruses."

The briefing is also intended to help farmers share factual information about the H1N1 virus.

"This is not a food issue, but it's the perception that it's a food issue that concerns us. When the media refers to H1N1 as swine flu, consumers may question the safety of pork. But this is in no way a food safety issue," Dorman said.

To access more frequently asked questions about H1N1, visit www.ofbf.org and search for this article's headline.



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COMMUNICATIONS



Our Ohio
Telling Agriculture's Story

Upcoming event

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 Nov. 13 to 15, the show's celebrity chefs this year 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. 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. Tickets are \$27.50 at the door; parking is \$8. Members also can enjoy a half-priced appetizer in the Fabulous Bistro with the voucher coming in the No-

vember/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 fabulousfoodshow.com or call 216-265-COOK.

Coming in the next 'Our Ohio' magazine



In the November/December *Our Ohio* magazine, read about edamame grower Charles Fry from Seneca County, Stark County Farm Bureau's assistance with a vegetable garden at the Stark County Jail and environmentally friendly ways to harvest timber, plus meet Muskingum County farm couple Rob and Bobbi Vernon and enjoy recipes using cheese.

'Our Ohio' TV season five update

Season five of *Our Ohio* kicks off the week of Nov. 7 with features on Blue Jacket Dairy in Logan County, Meyer Hatchery in Ashland County, fall on the farm.

COUNTY news

Fairfield County business communities come together

Bringing business leaders and farmers together in a cooperative manner was the purpose of the first annual Fairfield County Agriculture Update held recently at the county fairgrounds. More than 200 individuals were in attendance for this special event, which started off with an omelet breakfast.

"The partnership that we helped to forge between the farm service business community and the general business community in Fairfield County are just the right kind of bridges that need to be built as we look to share the farmer's story with more and more people in our community," according to John Torres, Fairfield County Farm Bureau's organization director.

Delaware FB and local FFA chapter join forces to fight hunger

The Delaware County Farm Bureau introduced the Buckeye Valley FFA Chapter to the Farmers Feed Our Needs program, and now the proceeds from 12 acres of soybeans are earmarked to help a local food bank. The Delaware County Farm Bureau made contributions,

Ohigro donated the seed and chemicals, and the Lehner family supplied the equipment needed to harvest the crop. Through this cooperative effort, the Buckeye Valley FFA will be able to help provide food to many individuals and families in Delaware County who are in need. "This is a great community project that will really help the less fortunate of Delaware County," said Meghan Lehner, former Buckeye Valley FFA president and project coordinator.

Displaying an agricultural presence at the Stark County fairgrounds

Stark County Farm Bureau, with support from the Stark County Agricultural Society, developed a new interactive agricultural and Farm Bureau promotion at the Stark County Fair. The renovation of the old commercial building into the new agricultural exhibit resulted in tens of thousands of dollars of partner funding and contributions, and over 60 volunteers helping to staff the display. Part of the staffing came from Nationwide employees at the Nationwide Insurance Canton Service Center.

Ohio Farm Bureau *Salutes*

**Butler, Carroll, Harrison,
Marion & Tuscarawas County
Farm Bureaus**

**2009 President's Award recipients
for outstanding programs and services**



From l to r: Representing President's Award winners, Gail Lierer (Butler), Cy Prettyman (Marion), Mike Yoder (Tuscarawas), Jayne Wallace (Harrison) and John Davis (Carroll)

ORGANIZATION

NATIONWIDE NEWS

Accident 'forgiveness' can mean significant savings

Accidents can happen to the safest drivers. And when they do, safe drivers' auto insurance rates can rise by as much as 30 percent. Plus, accidents and violations could affect your insurance rates for up to three years.

Nationwide's Accident Forgiveness program, however, rewards safe drivers who happen to have an accident, which can mean significant savings for safe drivers with otherwise good driving histories.

Nationwide even extends Accident Forgiveness to teen drivers on the same insurance policy.

To qualify for Accident Forgiveness, drivers need to be insured with Nationwide for at least five years and accident-free for the past three years. Some restrictions may apply, so check with a Nationwide agent for more details.

Contact a nearby Nationwide agent and ask for an On Your Side Review to determine the coverages you need and the discounts you can get as a Farm Bureau member insured with Nationwide.

<p>Below are additional ways you may be able to save money with Nationwide.</p> <p>Accident-free auto insurance discount Save up to 10 percent if you have at least five years' driving experience without an at-fault accident.</p> <p>Farm Bureau member discount As an Ohio Farm Bureau member, you automatically save up to 10 percent on your car, home and farm insurance.</p> <p>Home and car insurance discount Combine and save by getting a discount on your auto insurance policy when you insure your home, condo or apartment.</p> <p>Multi-car insurance discount Insure more than one vehicle with Nationwide and save up to 20 percent.</p>	<p>Good Student car insurance discount Get up to a 15 percent discount on your auto insurance when your teen earns a B average or above on a report card.</p> <p>Long-term policyholder car insurance discount Save up to 15 percent on your auto insurance if you are insured with Nationwide for at least five years. Save up to 5 percent if you are insured with Nationwide for at least three years.</p> <p>Life and car insurance discount Save up to 5 percent on your auto insurance policy when you purchase life insurance from Nationwide.</p> <p>Passive occupant restraint car insurance discount Save when you insure a vehicle with full front-seat airbags or restraint devices that work automatically when your door closes.</p>
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MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"Farm Bureau to me is an organization that truly, truly has the ag community's best interest at heart. They are truly watching out for farmers' productivity and are mindful of regulations that come against them."

~ Ron Warnock, Guernsey County

For the past 10 years, Ron Warnock has been a Guernsey County Farm Bureau member, serving the last two years as the county president. He and his wife, Vickie, help operate a 30-head cow-calf operation on a farm that Warnock's father has owned since the 1950s. He has worked at the Coshocton Grain Elevator for nine years.



Warnock

He has traveled to Washington, D.C. with Ohio Farm Bureau twice to see how the political process works.

"The value of an organization like Farm Bureau is that it constantly stays on top of legislators to get laws passed that help protect agriculture's interest," said Warnock, who has been part of OFBF's membership and public policy teams.

Warnock is a graduate of Buckeye Trail High School and has a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in business management. He attends Clearfork Baptist Church.

Warnock said State Issue 2, the growing deer population and membership are some of the biggest issues for the Guernsey County Farm Bureau this year.

"We've been working diligently on Issue 2, speaking to local civic groups, getting signs out and answering questions," he said. "Since this is a rural area, I think we have more consumer understanding of the importance of agriculture."

"The farmers in my area are the hardest working folks you will ever meet, but they are always willing to give their time for agriculture."

~ Betsy Anderson, organization director for Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe and Noble counties.

For the past 25 years, Betsy Anderson has been a familiar face in eastern Ohio for Ohio Farm Bureau. She is an organization director, serving as a liaison between OFBF and Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe and Noble counties.

Previously, Anderson worked as a substitute teacher in vocational agriculture. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1980 and from Ohio State University four years later with a bachelor's degree in agriculture communications and agriculture education.



Anderson

Anderson and her husband, Charlie, have been married for 25 years and live in Quaker City on a farm in Guernsey County. They have a contract hog finishing operation with 1,000 head capacity. They have two sons, Austin, who is a junior at Buckeye Trail High School, and A.J., who is in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army.

She attends Salesville Church of Faith, is treasurer of the Buckeye Trail Pigskin Group and is an active member of the Blue Star Mothers Chapter No. 12 and Buckeye Trail Athletic Boosters.

"I love the people I get to work with," she said. "Farm Bureau members care about their communities, their county and what is going on around them. That's not found everywhere. It makes a big difference when they become involved in a project."

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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.offb.org and click on "media and publications" then "social media."

facebook

twitter

YouTube

Leadership development is key for Farm Bureau's success ➔ OFBF met with representatives from Walsh University and Strive leadership program to promote the Leadership Buffet concepts, workshops and to showcase Farm Bureau's unique approach to developing grassroots leadership. OFBF also provided special training sessions through the Leadership Buffet to county boards on the topic of "Developing SMART Goals" and "Involving New Volunteers."

Helping teachers understand the agbioresource industry ➔ OFBF gave a presentation at the New Albany Schools in-service day for teachers, sharing a real-world biotechnology experiment for GMO soybeans.

Promoting Issue 2 through the media ➔ OFBF worked on media outreach with OFBF members, the Ohioans for Livestock Care campaign and local, state and national reporters in support of Issue 2.

Answering the call of members ➔ OFBF assisted members on rights and responsibilities related to existing mining operations and environmental issues, dealing with EPA officials concerning an off-site hazardous waste spill, understanding rights related to a rails-to-trails project and responsibilities related to a Farmland Preservation/Agricultural Security Area application.

Advisory Councils have new platform to discuss issues

Grassroots program now featured in Buckeye Farm News

With a new Advisory Council section (See page 7), *Buckeye Farm News* is now home to an important part of Ohio Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

The addition is designed to make the Advisory Council program more prominent and accessible to all members and to elicit feedback on a variety of current topics.

Building on a more than 70-year history, the Advisory Council program consists of small groups of Farm Bureau members who meet regularly to discuss farm and rural issues. The input they provide is reviewed by OFBF's public policy team to help guide the policy development process. OFBF has 450 Advisory Councils, which serve as a sort of book group for policy issues.

"Advisory Councils are clearly an important part of what Farm Bureau does," said Chris Henney, OFBF director of legislative relations. "We are excited to put a new focus on the program through the *Buckeye Farm News*."

Previously, Advisory Councils received 10 council guides annually, each centered on

a single topic. *Buckeye Farm News* is mailed 16 times per year and will have discussion questions that reflect the wide scope of issues in which OFBF is involved. This will give Advisory Councils more opportunity to focus on topics that are timely and important to their community.

"Advisory Councils will have flexibility to discuss the topics most relevant to their members while providing information on an array of current issues," Henney said. "In addition, Farm Bureau members who are not involved in Advisory Councils will be able to follow important council discussions through *Buckeye Farm News*."

Advisory Councils will have the option to submit their responses through the mail or online as they have always done. The councils will be provided with general response sheets that they can use throughout the year.

Responses from Advisory Council discussions will be featured in upcoming editions of *Buckeye Farm News*, just as had been done in monthly council guides. The monthly draw-

"We hope to attract more interest, while also providing more options."

-Chris Henney, OFBF
director of legislative relations



Articles marked with the Advisory Council logo, will have corresponding discussion questions in the 'Speak Out' section.

ing for a honey baked ham will also be continued.

"To meet the needs of all of our members, we need to think beyond a one-size-fits all approach," Henney said. "By including the Advisory Councils in Farm Bureau's primary member publication, we hope to attract more interest while also providing more options."

To join or create an advisory council, contact your local organization director.

OFBF is also creating a discussion forum on its Facebook page where all members are welcome to join in real time policy discussions. Visit www.facebook.com/OhioFarmBureau, and click on the Discussions tab.

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Advisory Councils: Speak Out

Interstate Meat Shipment

Will you or someone you know benefit from this change in policy? If yes, please describe what new opportunities will become available for the livestock and meat processing industry.

Do you think this will provide consumers with more or less confidence in the meat products they purchase?

H1N1 Questions

H1N1 continues to receive a lot of media attention. It is often misidentified as "Swine Flu" and this has caused confusion among many consumers. What can we, as an agricultural community, do to ensure that the media, the consumer and government agencies are using the proper terminology?

SWCD Funding

How will you or members of your council be affected if Soil & Water Conservation District funding is not restored? Please share examples of help you've received from your county SWCD.

A selection of responses from the September 2009 guide Restoring Prosperity to Ohio

Picture back to a time when your county seat or nearby urban area was vibrant. Describe the qualities that made it prosperous. ▶ Family oriented Ma & Pa stores. People didn't travel as far and there was more loyalty to local merchants. ▶ Bus and streetcar transportation. ▶ People were loyal

to their local towns. ▶ Wages were a living wage, not so many minimum wage jobs. ▶ Wartime industries, auto industries, local retail, grocers and bars. ▶ Essential services were all there; from clothes to restaurants. Prosperity made school levies pass easier. ▶ Downtown area was busy – no malls, no franchises, no big chain grocery stores. ▶ Day and night, downtowns were busy, clean and safe.

▶ Family owned stores, soda shops, less crime, theaters and clothing stores. ▶ You could buy everything you needed on Main Street. ▶ Each businessman supported the other businessmen. ▶ Our economy was based on small businesses that were operated by an owner who cared about his/her customers. ▶ We had manufacturing jobs rather than service only jobs.

Why are young adults leaving our towns today? What has changed from the past to today that causes them to leave? ▶ Jobs, jobs and more jobs!!! ▶ Lack of economic diversity, new technology and no opportunity to join the family business. ▶ Pay is lower in rural areas. ▶ Our young people are more mobile and better educated. ▶ Farming is hard work; income for self employed farmers is lower. ▶ Young people don't want to start out at the bottom and work up. ▶ Specialty professions require relocation to larger cities. ▶ Companies transfer people; individuals must go where a job is available. ▶ The ones who stay here are involved as business partners in

the family farm or other family business. ▶ It used to be that kids could graduate from high school and get good paying jobs in the steel mills, etc. The only jobs left seem to be low paying service industry jobs.

In light of the changes of our 21st century economy, what do we need to change to make our county seats and urban areas vibrant and vital again? ▶ More jobs – skilled and unskilled. ▶ Bring back and support small business. ▶ Change our tax structure. ▶ Return to community and neighborhood schools, mom and pop stores and local bus transportation ▶ Give smaller businesses the same tax abatements as given to bigger industries. ▶ Bring back the jobs that moved out of the USA ▶ Need a diverse economic base. ▶ Get back to basics. Learn to live within your family's means. Recycle, take care of the land and be self sufficient. Learn to be a neighbor again and build a strong sense of community. ▶ Regulations need to change so small businesses can come back. ▶ We need to save tax dollars by going to a regional government instead of wasting money on duplicate jobs. ▶ More people going to church; people shouldn't be so greedy. ▶ Don't make it so hard for small businesses to operate.

November Honeybaked Ham winners: Top B's Advisory Council, Delaware County



Photos by istockphoto.com

Voters to decide veteran compensation, gambling issues

Two state issues that voters Nov. 3 will be deciding deal with compensation for military veterans and casinos in four Ohio cities.

While Ohio Farm Bureau has not taken an official position on either one of these issues, members are encouraged to closely study the issues before going to the polls, said Beth Vanderkooi, director of OFBF's state policy.

"One of the goals of Ohio Farm Bureau is to provide political education for members on all issues and not just ones that we take a stance on," she said.

Below are summaries of state Issues 1 and 3 provided by the state secretary's office (Issue 2 would create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board).

STATE ISSUE 3

Issue 3 would amend the Ohio Constitution to allow for one casino each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo and distribute a tax on those casinos to each county in Ohio. Licensed casino operators would be required to pay a \$50 million fee to be used for state job training and to make a minimum initial investment of \$250 million in their facility. It would permit approved types of casino gambling authorized by Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana and Pennsylvania as of Jan. 1, 2009 or "games subsequently authorized by those states."

Passage of Issue 3 would authorize the casinos to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Casino facilities would be "subject to all state and local laws and provisions related to health and building codes, but that no local zoning, land use laws, subdivision regulations or similar provisions shall prohibit the development or operation of the casinos at the designated sites."

Arguments provided by the Secretary of State's Office

For Issue 3:

Supporters say it will create 34,000 new jobs and produce \$11 billion in economic impact over five years for Ohio. They say it will generate \$651 million a year in tax revenue to be shared by all 88 counties, the eight largest cities and every Ohio public school district. The \$200 million for state job training program will "put Ohioans back to work." Having Issue 3 pass also will help keep money and tax revenues in Ohio because more than \$1 billion leaves the state every year when Ohioans travel to neighboring states to gamble.

Supporters also noted that the AFL-CIO, Ohio State Building Trades Council, Fraternal Order of Police and many local labor organizations have endorsed the plan.

Argument against Issue 3:

Opponents point out that Ohio voters have already said no to casino gambling four times before. They say "nothing in Issue 3 requires casino operators to build anything. No revenues get paid to the state if no one builds in a city." They say Ohio's casinos would pay a lower percentage of their profits than casinos in most other states and that the Ohio legislature would not be able to impose a higher tax rate.

They also say "border states would dictate to Ohio" because Issue 3 says Ohio would be forced to offer games approved in the future by Michigan, West Virginia, Indiana and Pennsylvania.

STATE ISSUE 1

Voting yes on Issue 1 would allow the state to issue \$200 million in bonds to provide cash bonuses for Ohio veterans who served during the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. If approved, the constitutional amendment would take effect immediately and be in place until Dec. 31, 2013.

Arguments provided by the Secretary of State's office

For Issue 1:

Supporters say it is a "much-deserved 'thank you' to Ohio's servicemen and women." Ohioans who fought in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq could receive \$100 per month of service, not to exceed \$1,000, while those stationed in other locations during those conflicts could receive \$50 per month of service, not to exceed \$500.

Issue 1 would also offer a \$5,000 death benefit to the families of soldiers killed in the line of duty. Supporters say passing Issue 1 would "continue a longstanding Ohio tradition of supporting our veterans."

Against Issue 1:

Opponents say now is not the time to have the government take out more debts to provide compensation to vets. "While this may be a worthwhile and noble endeavor, the state of Ohio should not be going further into debt," they say. They also argue that the money could be retained by taxpayers who have suffered during the economic downturn. "This money could be used by taxpayers for their own purposes or used for other plans and directly helping people in need."

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NOTEWORTHY

Farmers honored for conservation efforts

Five farm families were honored for their long-standing dedication to natural resource conservation during ceremonies at the Farm Science Review. The annual award is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Soil and Water Resources, *Ohio Farmer* magazine and Ohio Farm Bureau.

The program recognizes farm families for their exemplary efforts of conserving soil, water, woodlands, wildlife and other natural resources on the land they farm.

In addition to receiving \$400 each from Ohio Farm Bureau, the families also are featured in the September issue of *Ohio Farmer* and receive plaques from Hancor Inc. *Ohio Farmer* has sponsored the Ohio Conservation Farm Family Awards since the program's inception.

Families honored

Barbara Sinn operates a diverse farm in Defiance County. Major crops include corn and soybeans. Conservation techniques used include no-till, crop rotation, filter strips, grassed waterways, windbreaks and 10 acres of wetland restoration. Barbara has been a district cooperator for nine years, and her late father, Vance Sinn, was a district cooperator for 47 years before her.

Donald Smith farms more than 1,900 acres in Portage County. Major crops include soybeans, corn, wheat and hay. Cattle also are raised. To reduce erosion problems in the crop fields and pastures, Don has



From left, Don Smith, Larry and Betsy Moore, Barbara Sinn, Kathy and Steve Frankenburg (front) and the Michel family (back).

installed 3,000 feet of grassed waterways, three livestock heavy-use areas and has reseeded more than 20 acres of pasture. Additional conservation techniques being utilized include following a grazing management plan, crop rotation and no-till. Don has been a district cooperator for more than 24 years and is also a member of Ohio Farm Bureau.

The Michel Family (Don, Paul, Gene, Dennis and Nancy Peck) farm more than 1,300 acres in Muskingum County that includes crops, pasture and cattle. The Michels have installed numerous conservation techniques over the years, including: three animal waste storage facilities, roof runoff management at two sites, installing 18,800 feet of subsurface drainage, spring

development, grassed filter strips, no-till, conservation tillage and cover crops. The Michels assisted the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) with the 2007 Elected Officials Tours by providing a stop for Muskingum County elected officials, as well as state Sen. Joy Padgett.

Steve and Kathy Frankenburg farm more than 440 acres in Shelby County. Major crops include corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. Dairy cows also are raised. Conservation techniques include conservation tillage, cover crops, no-till, grassed waterways, filter strips and windbreaks. Steve has worked with a forester to manage timber for sale and improve the existing timber stand. They also have worked with the dis-

trict in developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan for their farm. Other practices include 2.7 acres of quail habitat to enhance wildlife and the installation of subsurface drainage.

Larry and Betsy Moore operate a diverse farm in Ross County. Major crops include corn, wheat, beans and hay. Conservation practices utilized include no till, crop rotation, grassed waterways and both grass and forested filter strips. Fencing has been installed to prevent livestock from entering streams and woodlots. Management techniques utilized on the 80-acre woodlots include grapevine control, crop tree release, select harvesting and seeding log roads to grass and legumes for hiking and running trails.



Moroschan receives crop advising award

David Moroschan of Seneca County recently received Ohio Farm Bureau's annual Excellence in Crop Advising Award.

Moroschan was described by his nominator as having a "work ethic and commitment to his customers that has been unmatched by any other consultant."

OFBF and the Ohio Certified Crop Adviser Program present the award to a crop adviser who has performed superior service for farmer clients in nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management and crop production.

"With the increasing farm size, complexity of management options and increasingly complex regulations, we foresee farmers relying more and more on the advice of specialists who are Certified Crop Advisers (CCAs)," said Larry Antosch, OFBF senior director of program innovation and environmental policy.

Photo by Lynn Snyder

Time to
bring
it in



Harvest is going well, so far - your grain truck's loaded for another trip to the elevator.

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