

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE:

If you've not paid your Farm Bureau dues for 2009, this will be your last issue of *Buckeye Farm News*. Renew your membership now to continue your subscription.

1.4 billion eaters and growing
PG 2



INSIDE

Public Policy	2
Communications	4
Organization	5
Noteworthy	8

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU® FEDERATION

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

APRIL 16, 2009 | VOLUME 8 | ISSUE 13

FARM BUREAU AT THE STATEHOUSE

A big win & More work ahead

OFBF successfully addresses ATV trespassing

BY SETH TETER

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) effectively lobbied to get language in the state transportation budget that could curb ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) trespassing. Those who trespass on an ATV will face increased penalties and a "3rd strike and you're out" provision that allows for the confiscation of their vehicle. ATVs will also be required to display a visible license plate or number that would help law enforcement officials identify trespassers. ATVs used primarily for agriculture are exempt. The transportation bill was signed by the governor earlier this month.



Rep. Sandra Stabile Harwood led the way to stop trespassers.

"We appreciate the efforts of the General Assembly to respond to this problem of ATV trespass, especially the work done by Rep. (Sandra Stabile)Harwood, who has worked on this issue for several years. This measure will help us to reduce the amount of ATV trespass and the crop and field damage that it causes," said Beth Vanderkooi, OFBF director of state policy.

OFBF had identified ATV trespassing as a component of its efforts to protect personal property rights in 2009. Other legislative priority areas include the state budget, education reform, business climate and taxes, livestock, transportation and infrastructure and energy.

BY DAN TOLAND

BUDGET

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) has been working to restore funding to Ohio State Extension and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC).

Extension is facing a 24 percent funding cut in Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed budget, and OARDC faces a 15 percent cut.



"These are relatively small investments made by the state of Ohio, but the impact they make on Ohio's economy and its people pays back a greater return than the original investment that is made by taxpayers," OFBF President Brent Porteus told a House budget committee.

OFBF hopes to distribute 5,000 postcards to legislative leaders to generate support for the programs.

EDUCATION REFORM

As lawmakers debate the governor's education reform proposal, OFBF is providing feedback on the impact it could have on rural and agricultural education.



OFBF believes districts in rural/agricultural areas should have access to the same increases in funding as schools in urban areas – something which is not consistently reflected in the current proposal. Lawmakers and the governor's office are continuing to review the situation. The plan also contains significant cuts to career technical programs, such as agricultural education and consumer sciences, which OFBF hopes to address.

OFBF policy supports several concepts in the proposal including increased distance learning opportunities, a reform of teacher tenure practices and evaluation processes and recognizing academic achievements on the same level as athletic achievements.

HUNTING PERMITS



A change in the hunting permit structure at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is a cause of concern for OFBF. For the first time ever, ODNR wants hunters to obtain a permit to hunt on their own land. While the proposal would stipulate that a permit is free, OFBF is concerned that this is yet another hoop for private property owners to jump through. It may discourage some from hunting on their own land and would hurt efforts to reduce the state's deer herd. OFBF has expressed concerns with legislators and ODNR and, at this time, is opposed to the new permit requirement.

Tough talk

Strickland describes economic plans, challenges on OFBF radio show



BY AMY BETH GRAVES

About 1 ½ years ago, Gov. Ted Strickland started working on an economic recovery plan for Ohio. He and his advisers came up with scenarios

that ranged from best case to worst case. Shortly after that, he made his first round of cuts — \$733 million.

"I'm glad I did it," he said during an interview on Ohio Farm Bureau's radio program *Town Hall Ohio*. "A lot of people were saying 'Why are you doing this?' If I wouldn't have made those initial cuts, it would have been almost impossible to achieve a balanced budget."

Since that time, Strickland has made two more rounds of cuts for a total of \$1.9 billion with more proposed in his two-year budget.

"I'm proud that we have more than 3,000 fewer state employees now than when I became governor," he said. "We're doing everything we can to reduce the number of state employees and in order to do that, we've got to look for efficiencies and do things more effectively."

Strickland talked at length about Ohio's economic situation and his challenges as governor last month during his third appearance on the program.

See STRICKLAND, pg 6

Farm Bureau task force looks to the future

BY SETH TETER

A task force launched to reexamine the direction of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) recently embarked on a series of town hall meetings as it prepares to make recommendations about the future of the organization.

In 2001, a similar task force had done extensive work to position OFBF to effectively navigate emerging trends and challenges. In addition to identifying the organization's core values and indicators of success, that task force had developed OFBF's mission of forging a partnership between farmers and consumers.

The new group, which includes county Farm Bureau representatives, state Farm Bureau trustees and staff, will provide input on what Farm Bureau must do to remain effective moving forward.

The 11 town hall meetings were designed to gather feedback from local Farm Bureau leaders and expand the knowledge base of the task force. Local farmers were asked about the

See TASK, pg 6

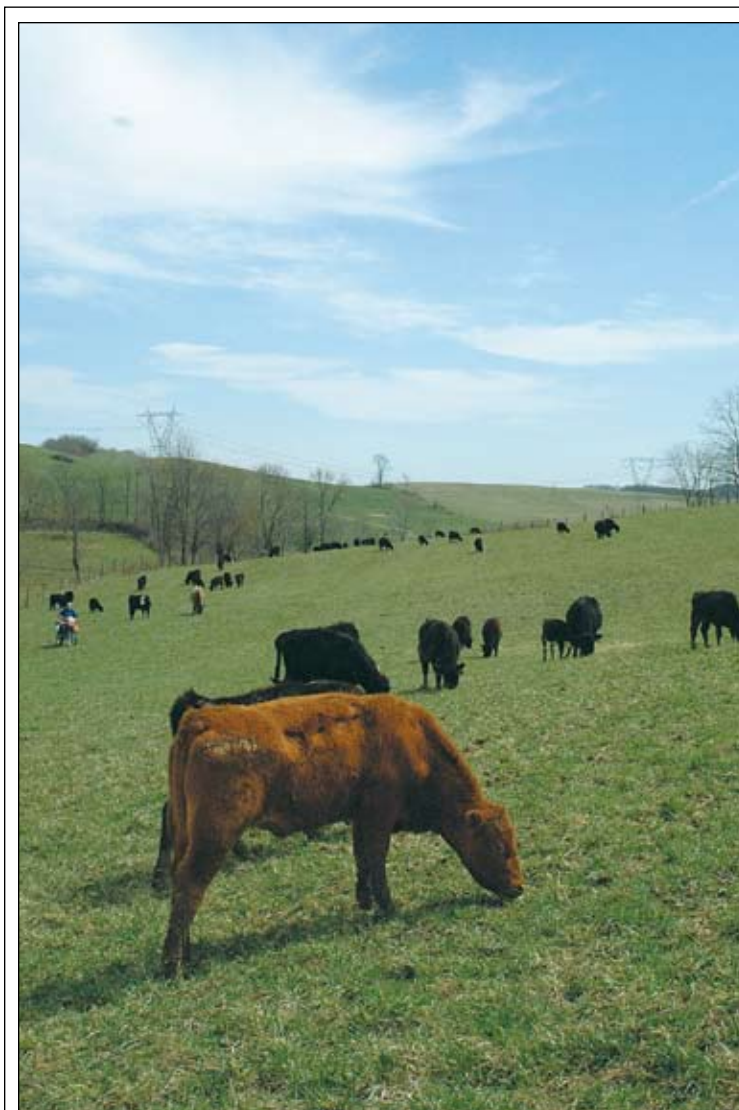


Photo by Seth Teter

Back on grass: Cattle return to the fields on this eastern Ohio farm as spring weather moves in. There is concern that new regulations could cost farmers for the greenhouse gas emissions naturally produced by livestock. Ohio senators have introduced a resolution opposing a so-called "cow tax."

SEE PAGE 3

PUBLIC POLICY

NEWS *briefs***Labor dispute**

American Farm Bureau has criticized the Department of Labor's decision to suspend rules that went into effect in January that simplified processes for hiring foreign farm workers, saying it will now be easier for people without authorization to work in the United States. OFBF submitted comments urging the department to reverse the decision, noting that it did not provide the public reasonable opportunity to comment on the action.

IRS to provide data to USDA

After discovering nearly \$50 million in crop subsidies being paid to ineligible farmers, the Internal Revenue Service will now provide data on farmers' income to USDA to ensure that individuals and entities meet income limits set in the farm bill. Starting with the 2009 crop year, those seeking subsidies must authorize the IRS to share their income data with USDA.

AFBF: Antibiotics needed

American Farm Bureau is expressing opposition to legislation that would remove and restrict important antibiotics for veterinary and farm use. AFBF President Bob Stallman said the legislation would handicap veterinarians and livestock and poultry producers in their efforts to protect the nation's food supply and maintain the health of their farm animals.

Farm subsidy battle goes on

Sen. Kent Conrad (D-N.D.), chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, recently said he will not propose cuts in U.S. crop subsidies for fiscal year 2010. A letter from the committee said President Obama's budget "recklessly dismantles the agreement of the 2008 Farm Bill." Farm Bureau has expressed strong opposition to \$16 billion in cuts to the farm safety net proposed in Obama's 2010 budget.

BROADBAND UPDATE

Plans for broadband speeding up

New developments may help bring high-speed broadband connections to rural Ohioans.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated \$7.2 billion to broadband development.

Of that, \$2.5 billion is allocated to the USDA Rural Utilities Service to disburse grants, loans and loan guarantees to rural areas. The remaining \$4.7 billion goes toward grants to spur broadband deployment in "unserved, underserved and low-income communities."

The Federal Communications Commission has been charged with producing a comprehensive broadband plan over the next year and a broadband map by 2011.

Ohio already has its own broadband map, put together under the

direction of Connect Ohio, a partnership between the state of Ohio and Connected Nation, a national non-profit organization that specializes in increasing technology access and literacy. In March, Connect Ohio released a new map fine-tuning where broadband is available, right down to the street level.

"We are getting closer to 100 percent involvement in all counties in (Connect Ohio's) local e-community leadership teams," said OFBF Director of Legislative Relations Chris Henney, who serves on the Ohio Broadband Council. "The teams report discrepancies in the map and assess local needs for broadband deployment. Now we can fine-tune where we need services to be spread."

Ag advocates complete training

An inaugural class of 20 selected individuals recently graduated from Ohio Farm Bureau's AgriPOWER Institute. The intensive leadership training program was launched last summer to help farmers and agribusiness professionals gain influence over public policy issues that impact their businesses. During the past year, participants engaged high-level government officials, activists, media insiders and farm leaders on pressing local, state and national issues. Among the topics were government structure and spending, regulations, the environment, animal welfare, international trade, state education reform and public relations. Prior to graduation, participants developed goals for utilizing their training to effectively impact public policy. OFBF is currently seeking applicants for next year's class. Information is available at www.ofbf.org or e-mail agripower@ofbf.org.



Photo by Sandy Kuhn

Participants and county

1st Row (from left): Chuck Wildman, Clark; Lane Osswald, Preble; Matt Boyert, Medina; Rise Labig, Darke; Debra Hogue, Muskingum; Jake Wolfinger, Fairfield; Seth Teter, Knox.

2nd Row: Brock Schmaltz, Franklin; Ryan McClure, Paulding; Matt Vodraska, Wayne; Denise Percival, Greene; Jon Miller, Fairfield; Korre Boyer, Ashland; Robert Moore, Coshocton.

3rd Row: Bill Myers, Lucas; Marcie Williams, Licking; John Buck, Marion; Bob Morrison, Jefferson; Gretchen Mossbarger, Ross; Alan Brinker, Coshocton.

As China grows, so do food needs

With 1.4 billion people and a growing middle class, the impact China has on world agriculture is steadily increasing.

Last month, OFBF State Trustee Daryl Knipp and Executive Vice President Jack Fisher joined the Illinois Farm Bureau's Market Study Tour of the country to find out first-hand how China affects agriculture in the United States.

Trade between the United States and China is valued at \$387 billion per year. U.S. agricultural exports to China equate to \$12.4 billion per year.

Like the rest of the world, China's economy has slowed, but is still growing quicker than most, largely due to its immense population.

The investment the Chinese government makes in its large population and its purchasing choices will determine the future of the country's influence on U.S. agriculture.

"If China's economy and income keeps increasing, history says food choices change," Knipp said, noting that an increase in income usually equates to an increasingly expensive diet, including proteins. Knipp said meat products, feed grains and soybean imports should continue to increase.

U.S. beef has had problems gaining full market access to China since the discovery of bovine spongiform

encephalopathy in the states but is an issue being worked on as increased demand continues to grow.

Two strong Chinese markets include swine and corn. The swine industry is six times larger than that in the United States, with each family traditionally owning at least one pig. Pork accounts for two-thirds of Chinese meat consumption. Knipp said the country has been self-sufficient with its domestic corn supply but may need to import with its growing population.

"The biggest take-home (of the trip) was that the bulk of Chinese agriculture is in one to two acre farms," Knipp said. "They don't waste a square foot of land. It's all in rows and planted. All of their land is used to produce something."

But he said the Chinese will have a problem increasing their food pro-

duction due to a lack of adequate water resources throughout the country.

Tour participants spent time in Beijing, Shanghai, Nantong, Guangzhou and Hong Kong visiting port facilities, aquaculture, hog, poultry and dairy farms, supermarkets and other retail outlets in addition to U.S. and China government entities.

OHIO FARM BUREAU OFFICERS

President **Brent Porteus**
First Vice President **Steve Hirsch**
Treasurer **Keith Trucker**
Executive Vice President **John C. Fisher**
Senior Vice President Communications **Kurt Ely**
Senior Vice President Organization **Bob Vance**
Senior Vice President Public Policy **Keith Stimpert**
Chief Financial Officer **Irene Messmer**
Asst. Secretary **Cynthia A. Hollingshead, Rachel Rittinger**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Craig Adams	Ellen Joslin	Bob Peterson
Leesburg	Sidney	Sabina
Gale Betterly	Daryl Knipp	Joe Pittman
Richfield	Lindsey	New Concord
Frank Burkett III	Charles Lausin	Brent Porteus
Canal Fulton	Thompson	Coshocton
Kim Davis	Randy Leis	Don Ralph
Carrollton	Farmersville	Morral
Patty DeBruin	Judy	Mike Schumm
Millersport	Loudenslager	Willshire
Nathan Ewing	Marion	Bob Slicker
Waverly	Bill Lowe	Canal Fulton
Paul Harrison	Marysville	Andra Troyer
Fostoria	Allen Miller	London
Steve Hess	Marietta	Keith Trucker
St. Paris	Joyce Payne	Metamora
Steve Hirsch	Waterloo	Sparky Weinau
Chillicothe		Milan

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS STAFF

Executive Editor **Kurt Ely**
Editor **Joe Cornely**
Assistant Editor **Seth Teter**
Communications Editor **Lynn Snyder**
Communications Specialist **Dan Toland**
Director of Art and Design **Galen Ludwick Harris**
Graphic Designer **Joyce Spangler**
Production Coordinator **Gayle Lewis**
Production Assistant **Rebecca Everman**
Contributor **Amy Beth Graves**

ADVERTISING

Coordinator **Gayle Lewis**
P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, OH 43218-2383
Phone 614-246-8229 • FAX 614-246-8629
e-mail: glewis@ofbf.org
The fact a product is advertised in *Buckeye Farm News* should not be taken as an endorsement.

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

Circulation: From Norman Jones Enlow and Company footnotes to the 2008 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Audit: The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation had 234,061 members as of August 31, 2008. Members may receive *Buckeye Farm News* as a part of their paid membership.
Buckeye Farm News (ISSN 1540-3742), an official publication of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc. is published 16 times per year: semi-monthly in February, July, September and December and monthly in January, March, April, May, June, August, October and November for \$1.00 yearly members, \$5.00 yearly non-members by the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc., 280 North High Street, P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2383. *Buckeye Farm News* Periodical Postage Paid at Columbus, Ohio (USPS 0020-531).
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Buckeye Farm News*, P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2383.
Buckeye Farm News content seeks to amplify the organization's policy positions, recognize member activities and volunteer involvement, and raise awareness of agriculture as an industry and lifestyle.
To contact us: E-mail jkornely@ofbf.org; call 614.246.8231 or write P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, OH 43218-2383

ATTENTION: POND OWNERS

Call Professionals!

- Free Consultations!
- Algae/Weed Treatment Programs
- Floating Fountains & Aeration
- Chemical Sales & Service

AQUA DOC
Complete Lake & Pond Management

(800)689-5253
Working full time on Lake Management... So you don't have to.

www.aquadocinc.com

A.T.A.C. "Pond Management Specialist"
4229 Wilmington Road
Lebanon, Ohio
888-998-7663
www.atac.cc

FISH STOCKING
Bass
Bluegill
Amurs
Perch
Minnows
Crappie
Many More

Algae Control
Aeration Equipment
Fountains
Water Garden
Supplies

Docks
Fish Population
Studies
Fish Structure
Fish Food

Water pumping Windmills
Towers, Pumps, Parts

O'Brock Windmills
Dept BFN
North Benton, OH 44449
Free Catalog Ph 330-584-4681
www.obrockwindmills.com

DENDRO-LOGIC
URBAN FOREST PRODUCTS, LTD.

Get the wood you need, from the trees you have.

PORTABLE SAWMILL SERVICE

MAKE THE MOST OF A FALLEN TREE

Barn Siding, Fence Planks, Posts and Beams
Kitchen Cabinets or Hardwood Flooring

LARRY HEAVRIN
513 . 722 . 6195
larry@dendro-logicufp.com

3970 STATE RT. 42
MASON, OH 45040
SERVING SOUTHWEST OHIO

www.dendro-logicufp.com

PUBLIC POLICY

At issue: farm bill, climate



Zulauf

The Farm Bill's Purpose:

"Is it to enhance farm income, or to help farmers manage their risk?"

On Climate Change:

"Animal agriculture is very much in the firing line right now."



Boyd

OFBF's annual Trends and Issues Conference held in March focused on the farm bill and climate policy. Here is a recap of those discussions:

Farm Policy

Carl Zulauf, an Ohio State University agricultural economist, said the 2008 Farm Bill may represent fundamental shifts in the way the nation views farm policy.

"History is likely to look at this as one of the more influential farm bills that has passed," he said.

Zulauf said there may be a shift in the defined purpose of farm policy.

"What is the object of farm policy?" he asked. "Is it to enhance farm income, or to help farmers manage their risk?"

He said the 2008 Farm Bill clearly emphasized risk management, and said managing risk is easier to sell and explain to the non-farming public than other traditional programs.

Zulauf became a major player in the 2008 Farm Bill, helping to develop the market-based Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) program. In 2009, farmers have the choice – stick with the traditional suite of farm payments or enroll in ACRE. For details and analysis on

ACRE, visit the "Featured Links" section at www.ofbf.org.

Looking toward the 2013 Farm Bill, Zulauf said the non-farming public could play a larger role.

"Farmers are not the only beneficiaries of the farm bill. Is it accurate to call it the farm bill anymore?" he asked.

He pointed out that agriculture has many new opportunities in the 21st century. But he warned, "agriculture needs to make sure past successes do not get in the way of its exciting future. We cannot be looking back as we move forward."

Climate Change Policy

A global climate change specialist said that climate change legislation is coming, whether farmers like it or not.

Garth Boyd, senior vice president of Camco Global, a carbon credit aggregation and project development firm, said investment has already begun in curbing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) and agriculture is a part of the plan.

"Animal agriculture is very much in the firing line right now," he said.

Boyd outlined a potential "cap-and-trade" plan for the United States similar to what is already in

place in Europe. Such a plan would include limiting GHGs allowed from the largest producers of emissions through a permitting structure. Other entities outside of caps could earn credits for voluntarily reducing emissions and selling credits to those over their cap allowance.

Boyd called cap-and-trade an "exciting time for agriculture" because it has the potential to sequester more than it emits through conservation tillage, improved fertilization, cover crops, conversion to grassland and more.

Although no climate change legislation has been introduced in 2009, Boyd said there's the possibility of such a program being initiated as early as sometime between 2012 and 2014.

American Farm Bureau opposes mandatory restrictions on agriculture, farming practices and farm machinery. It also opposes regulation of GHGs under the Clean Air Act.

Farm Bureau believes any legislation that is approved should also recognize agriculture's contributions to reducing GHGs through participation in voluntary carbon markets and not adversely affect farmers' ability to produce food.



Ohio Sen. Timothy Grendell, joined by Sen. Bob Gibbs, gives testimony on a resolution against a tax on emissions from livestock.

Photo courtesy Office of Sen. Grendell

Ohio senators speak out against 'cow tax'

Ohio Sens. Timothy Grendell, R-Chesterland, and Bob Gibbs, R-Lakeville, are leading a state-based push to prevent farmers from facing a potential federal tax on greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from livestock.

Known as the "cow tax," a proposal by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would require operations emitting more than 100 tons of GHGs per year to purchase permits to do so. This could potentially include natural emissions from livestock.

The senators have introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 8 into the General Assembly, urging EPA not to implement federal regulation overseeing GHGs from livestock. The resolution also urges Congress to pass federal legislation introduced in March to prevent the government from imposing such a tax on the nation's farmers and ranchers.

"This recent action by EPA is yet another step down a slippery slope that could result in an unnecessary and burdensome tax on livestock operations in Ohio," Grendell said in his testimony for the resolution. "Not only would livestock operators face higher operating costs, but food costs would be increased unnecessarily—directly affecting every American's kitchen table and wallet. The very idea of imposing a cow and pig tax on our farmers and adding one more crushing burden is absurd."

Ohio Farm Bureau joined the senators in support of the resolution.



Versatility that's as unlimited as the horizon.

7400 SERIES HIGH HORSEPOWER TRACTORS

You chose farming for a reason. Like the lack of limits on your own ambitions or the endless horizon. Massey Ferguson® understands. That's why the Dyna-VT™ CVT transmission*, which offers in nitely variable, clutchless speed control, is standard equipment on all MF 7400 Series tractors. From creep applications to high-speed transport up to 31 MPH, you set the parameters for power, economy and comfort to gain the maximum performance at the lowest operating cost. With a Dyna-VT, there's no jerking; no delay in traction, and no speed or power gaps hidden between gears. Ask your Massey Ferguson dealer for more details or visit www.masseyferguson.com.

Model	Engine	Displacement	Horsepower	Transmission
7465	Perkins I106D	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	100 PTO hp (74.5 kW)	Dyna-VT
7475	Perkins I106D	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	110 PTO hp (82.0 kW)	Dyna-VT
7480	Perkins I106D	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	120 PTO hp (89.5 kW)	Dyna-VT
7485	SisuDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	130 PTO hp (96.9 kW)	Dyna-VT
7490	SisuDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	140 PTO hp (108.1 kW)	Dyna-VT
7495	SisuDiesel 66 CTA	6.6 L (402 cu. In)	155 PTO hp (115.6 kW)	Dyna-VT

90,000
CVT Transmissions*

*With more than 90,000 CVT transmissions and millions of hours in fields around the world, nobody has more experience with stepless, variable speed powertrains than Massey Ferguson and AGCO Corporation. While others talk about the versatility of infinite speed, Massey Ferguson DynaVT tractor customers can tell you all about proven efficiency, productivity and reliability. They have the confidence that comes from a tractor transmission proven in tens of thousands of units for more than ten years. Those are big reasons why you can count on a Massey Ferguson Dyna VT tractor when you need to count on performance.

Make your mark at your nearest Massey Ferguson dealer.

- Mayer Farm Equipment**
Jeffersonville, OH
- Heritage Farm Equipment**
Van Wert, OH
- Homier & Sons**
Payne, OH
- Steinke Tractor Sales**
Eaton, OH
- Witmers, Inc.**
Salem, OH
- Schmidt Machine Company**
Upper Sandusky, OH
- Holgate Implement Sales**
Holgate, OH
- Prenger Implement Store**
Minster, OH
- The Equipment Superstore**
Georgetown, OH
- Jelloway Valley Equipment**
Danville, OH
- Lowe and Young**
Wooster, OH
- D & J Equipment Company**
Freeport, Ohio





Our Ohio Telling Agriculture's Story

Coming in the next 'Our Ohio'

The May/June issue of *Our Ohio* magazine will take a look at what social media is, how you use it and why it seems like everybody is there; produce recipes suggested by area farmers' markets; a visit to Leeners; farmers and mentors; a trip to KitchenAid; and a profile of the America in Bloom program, which helps rural and urban communities spruce up their downtown and other areas with flowers, plants and trees.

Garden for cash and prizes

Now's your chance to not only visit the Ohio State Fair but to also compete. The horticulture competition is open to all Ohio amateur gardeners. Competition categories include flowers and flower arranging, backyard vegetables and fruits, container gardens, largest and specialty exhibits, garden display tables and more. The garden display table winner goes home with \$400. Competition entries will be displayed at Ohio Farm Bureau's Land and Living exhibit in the Nationwide Donahey Ag & Hort building during the Ohio State Fair. Entry information can be found at ohiostatefair.com, click on "competitions," then "agriculture horticulture." Entry forms must be postmarked by July 1.

Chef Tami winners

The January/February issue of *Our Ohio* magazine featured the Chef Tami contest. Winners gained a spot on the Chef Tami cooking show on ONN. Winners selected were Farm Bureau members Peggy Buck of Franklin County and Kimberly Rassi of Cuyahoga County. Both Buck and Rassi appeared in April episodes of Chef Tami. Buck said that she learned that salt helps to flavor food but also preserves the color as well. "I also learned an interesting combination of two foods that I wouldn't have thought of combining, cucumber and asparagus in a salad. I definitely like being a Farm Bureau member for the discounts and enjoy reading the *Our Ohio* magazine," she said. "It's great to learn about how to prepare the foods that can be grown in Ohio."



Kim Rassi (l) and Peggy Buck were the winners of *Our Ohio* Chef Tami contest.

Photo by Molly Pensyl

Teacher programs for 2009

Ohio Farm Bureau is offering two options for Ag in the Classroom training this summer.

"Agriculture Feeds Our Needs: Feeding and Fueling the World Workshop" will be offered June 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center at Ohio State University. The workshop is geared toward classroom teachers and volunteers who are interested in promoting Ag in the Classroom. The goal of the workshop is to provide educational resources for teachers to use in their classrooms and for Farm Bureau volunteers to use in local education programs. Sessions topics for the day:

- Hear what one group did to connect the community to local livestock farms
- Review a science program called

"Chick Quest" that explores the science of embryology

- Take a look at the Think TV Exploring Ohio lessons and videos
- Learn how government policy affects the food supply
- Review the Growing Carrots in Ohio kit
- See how Ohio-produced foods can help teach supply and demand
- Learn what one organization is doing to help with hunger
- Hear about COSI's newest outreach program

To register for this one-day seminar, contact Judy Roush at OFBF, jroush@ofbf.org or call 614-246-8243 by June 8. The \$25 fee includes lunch and breaks and is nonrefundable; the fee is \$35 for nonmembers.

The second program features a two-day tour of livestock and poultry

farms July 22 and 23 to see technology and conservation practices farmers are using today, and a two-day tour of Ohio State and the Ohio State Fair Aug. 6 and 7. "Agriculture: Your Link to Life" is for teachers only. Session one costs \$150 and includes hotel, transportation, meals, classroom materials and registration. Cost is \$160 for nonmembers. The second session costs \$50 and includes lunches, classroom materials and registration. The cost is \$60 for nonmembers.

For the teacher-only tours, graduate credit will be offered through Ashland University and can be paid for separately at the workshops. One credit hour can be earned for each session completed. The cost of one credit hour is \$166.

Contact Judy Roush, jroush@ofbf.org or 614-246-8243 to register.



Coming next on Ohio Farm & Country

It's a topic of conversation in restaurants and across many dinner tables: energy. Twenty-five million dollars in federal funding has been earmarked for research and development of bio-fuels and biomass products. Some of that money may be coming to Ohio. The May *Ohio Farm and Country* show will look at the current energy situation in Ohio and the prospect of the Buckeye state becoming a hub of green energy development.

Also, two prominent resources available to Ohio farmers are fac-

ing some difficult decisions. Cuts in the state budget have made it necessary for Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center (OARDC) to make adjustments in the way they operate. See what this could mean to you.

The annual Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Trends and Issues Conference was recently held at the Fawcett Center on the OSU campus. Highlights from the day's activities will be featured in this month's

show. And finally, Ohio is well represented on the American Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher's committee. Meet Ryan and Nikki McClure of Grover Hill and hear what they have to say about being a young agricultural professional in today's world.

Ohio Farm and Country airs on the Ohio News Network (ONN), Sunday mornings at 9:30, Sunday evenings at 6:30 and Tuesday evenings at 7:30.

Reminder:

In uncertain times, it's more important than ever to protect every member of the family.



More than a million pet lovers agree: **VPI® Pet Insurance** is the smart choice for managing veterinary expenses. VPI has protected more pets than any other pet health insurance provider in the nation since 1982.

A VPI Pet Insurance policy helps pay for:

- Lab fees
- Medications
- Hospitalization
- Surgeries
- X-rays
- And more!

Plus, you're free to use any licensed veterinarian, anywhere in the world. Why wait? Protect your pet with the #1 veterinarian-recommended* pet insurance provider in the nation.

Call 877-PETS-VPI
or visit
eb.petinsurance.com

Ohio Farm Bureau members receive a group discount!

*Of veterinarians who recommend pet insurance
Underwritten by Veterinary Pet Insurance Company (CA), Brea, CA;
National Casualty Company (all other states), Madison, WI, an A+15 rated
company ©2009 Veterinary Pet Insurance Company 08GRP340

ORGANIZATION

MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"I think agriculture would have a rough time without Farm Bureau. It would be a lot rougher than what we have at the present."

~ Paul Davidson, Licking County

For almost 35 years, Paul Davidson has been a Licking County Farm Bureau member. He grew up on a farm and grows hay part-time and also rents out some land. He does excavation work for Layton Services in Newark.



Davidson

Davidson joined Farm Bureau when he was 19 and has been president of the county Farm Bureau for the past five years.

He graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in economics/rural sociology. He said that as a farmer, some of his immediate concerns are about proposed changes to the farm bill and the push by the Humane Society of the United States to create a meat-free society.

"Farm Bureau is a place for people to voice their opinions and then provides the opportunity for those opinions to be moved up the channels to legislators," he said.

"Farm Bureau is extremely important. A lot of people probably don't understand how the government and regulatory process works."

~ Dan Rapp, senior director of business development

Dan Rapp got his start at Ohio Farm Bureau in 1990 as an organization director in Lucas, Ottawa and Wood counties. He has also been a regional supervisor and presently is senior director of business development, which



Rapp

involves working with OFBF's affinity partners such as Grainger and Medical Mutual of Ohio. Before starting at Farm Bureau, Rapp worked as a manager of a Bob Evans restaurant.

Rapp still helps out on the beef cattle farm that he grew up on near Sandusky. He, his wife Melissa and son Matthew live in Canal Winchester. He has been active in the PTO.

Rapp has a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Ohio State University and a master's degree in organization development from Bowling Green State University.

"I'm always looking for opportunities to bring benefit values to Farm Bureau members," he said.



Photo courtesy of Nationwide

When strong winds blew the roof off this barn in northeastern Ohio, Nationwide agent Drew Paprocki borrowed tarps from other Nationwide farm customers and worked with the barn owner to cover the building and save the hay inside.

NATIONWIDE NEWS

On Your Side® down on the farm

BY RACHEL GALLAGHER, NATIONWIDE BRAND COMMUNICATIONS

Nationwide's first customers were farmers, and after the remnants of Hurricane Ike blew through Ohio, agent Drew Paprocki made it evident that the company still values its roots.

When the first claim hit his desk at Trent Insurance Group in Mansfield, agent Drew Paprocki immediately headed out to a local farm to provide true On Your Side service to a friend in need.

Tom Mykrantz, a long-time Nationwide customer, lost the roof of his hay barn in a windstorm. He called Paprocki first thing Monday morning to register his claim. Drew showed up at his farm shortly after.

"I realized there was a lot of money that could be lost if the hay was left exposed to the weather. Tom was especially worried because he was leasing the space, and the hay wasn't his," Paprocki says. "I started calling local contractors immediately to find tarps to cover the barn."

No local businesses were willing to let Mykrantz use their tarps, but two other farm owners, who also are Nationwide customers, were willing. Paprocki and one of the local farmers grabbed the tarps and climbed up onto the stacks of hay. The men spent 2 1/2 hours making sure that everything in the barn would stay dry and secure. The hay, which was owned by another Nationwide customer, was saved.

"Providing excellent On Your Side service is important when you have close relationships with your customers," Paprocki said. "We work hard to retain our business and build strong bonds with our clients. Sometimes that means going a little beyond the call of duty."

"We are very proud when our agents demonstrate this level of service," said Jerry Hillard, (jhillard@nationwide.com) director of farm owners. "Serving the tightly knit farm community is important. Drew did a great job."



Equipment loans and leases to keep you rolling out on the farm.

Whatever type of equipment you need, you may also need a steady, dependable lender like Farm Credit Services of Mid-America. At Farm Credit, you'll find people who understand the alternatives for investing in the equipment you need to stay competitive in a changing marketplace. Should you purchase or lease? Choose an adjustable- or fixed-rate loan — or capital line of credit? Our knowledgeable Farm Credit loan officers can help you make those decisions because they're experts in farming *and* finance. For a competitive loan or lease that makes the most sense for your operation, give us a call.

1-800-444-FARM • www.e-farmcredit.com

A head for finance. A heart for farming.™



Farm Credit Services
OF MID-AMERICA

Real Estate Loans | Operating Loans | Equipment Loans | Leases

on YOUR behalf

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

2009 Ohio Farm Bureau Goals

Market Farm Bureau to achieve membership growth

Increase grassroots involvement by creating a volunteer-friendly Farm Bureau

Expand relations with Nationwide and other affinity organizations

Promote the agbioresource industry

Influence trade, labor, tax, education, energy and farm policy

Speak out and stand up for animal agriculture and the food industry

Protect personal property rights

The development of agricultural advocates creates a voice for the industry. OFBF hosted a four-county Farm Bureau Leadership Group for a state government day in Columbus; and hosted and coordinated the seventh and final installment of AgriPOWER Institute leadership program.

Sound legal information helps farmers operate their businesses. OFBF's legal team gave a presentation to agricultural and agribusiness employers concerning recent up-

dates on labor law and immigration law affecting agriculture.

Addressing individual members' questions is a benefit of Farm Bureau membership. OFBF assisted a member with various drainage and easement concerns.

Farm Bureau can offer expertise on agricultural issues. OFBF gave presentations on animal rights/welfare issues to Paulding County Farm Bureau, OSU Extension's farmers' meeting and the Seneca County Cattlemen's Association. OFBF staff also helped facilitate the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association's and Ohio Sheep and Wool Program's strategic planning exercise and gave a multi-county presentation in Mansfield on roadway safety.

Land and water resources need continued attention. OFBF staff participated in the third meeting of the Upper Wabash Nutrient Management Steering Committee hosted by the Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District and included a tour of Grand Lake St. Mary's and the Upper Wabash River watersheds.

Stokes Custom Hose, LLC

Specializing in hard-to-find Hydraulic Applications, Tube Bending/Forming, Brazing Steel & Aluminum. Also offering Baldwin Filters.

South Vienna, OH 937-206-0231

"As governor, you've got to make tough decisions. They're not always pleasant decisions, but they've got to be made," he said.

While Strickland predicted that Ohio's unemployment rate will surpass 10 percent, he said Ohio is in a better position than other states such as Florida and Arizona, which have experienced dramatic drops in home values. He said he was optimistic that Ohio would recover from its economic slide but only with the right decisions, which might rock the status-quo.

"What I'm trying to get people to understand is that these are very unusual times," he said. "We can't do everything we've always done in the past. We've got to make changes."

Some of those changes affect agriculture. Strickland's budget calls for reducing funding for Ohio State University Extension from \$23.5 million this year to \$21 million in 2010 and \$20 million in 2011. The Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) would see its current funding cut from \$35.5 million to \$33.5 million in 2010 and \$31.8 million in 2011.

Ohio Farm Bureau Executive Vice President Jack Fisher told Strickland that restoring Extension and OARDC funding is a priority for OFBF. He said the groups are vital for creating leaders and conducting research and resources for the agricultural community.

Strickland's reaction was that many government and business sectors in Ohio will face cuts.

"My mantra is shared sacrifice," said Strickland, noting that he plans to take a pay cut and pays for all of his family's health insurance. "I wish I could serve as governor during a time of economic growth and pros-

perity but I'm being forced to make incredibly hard decisions."

The governor said he plans to wisely use federal funds offered to Ohio to stimulate its economy. He said \$750,000 of that money will go toward food safety programs and \$700,000 to start a motor fuel standard testing program, which is found in most states. Another \$150,000 will go toward the Livestock Environmental Permitting Program, which will save 20 full-time positions.

Strickland said he remains committed that all children in Ohio should have access to health care coverage, noting that the cost is significantly lower than that of adults. He also said programs are now in place that should allow children to have coverage for pre-existing conditions.

Strickland ran out of time to talk at length about his education reform plan. He said, however, that he is committed to overhauling Ohio's school funding formula, extending the school year by 20 days, making kindergarten full-day in all districts and removing ineffective teachers from the classroom.

FREE DELIVERY WITH FISH ORDER OF \$150.00 OR MORE. 1-800-662-3474. FREE COLOR CATALOG.

JONES FISH
FISHERIES INC.

PROFESSIONAL LAKE MANAGEMENT
GAMEFISH STOCKING
AERATION SYSTEMS
FLOATING DOCKS
POND FOUNTAINS
AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

YOUR ONE SOURCE FOR COMPLETE LAKE MANAGEMENT. VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.JONESFISH.COM

TASK from PG 1

current challenges and future trends facing Ohio agriculture, where OFBF can have the greatest impact, what future OFBF members will look and where OFBF should place its focus.

"I knew this was an opportunity to help shape Farm Bureau as to what the future may involve for Farm Bureau to allow the consumer to understand agriculture better," said Mark Stokes of Clinton County who participated in one of the meetings.

David Bright of Athens County saw a similar opportunity "to voice our opinions on what's important to us at the county level, at the state level and at the national level."

Another participant had remarked that "this is the best Farm Bureau meeting I've ever attended."

As it continues to develop recommendations, the task force will gather input through surveys of Farm Bureau members, education and research professionals, government officials, commodity groups, the media, agribusinesses, consumer groups, environment and natural resource groups and Nationwide and OFBF staff.



FOR SALE:

Triploid White Amur, Bass, Bluegill, Catfish, Crayfish, Jumbo Tadpoles, etc.

Also available:
Fountains and windmills

Fender's Fish Hatchery
and Llama Farm
50527 Township Rd 220,
Baltic, OH 43804
740-622-0681

Now the only things lunging forward are your opportunities.

It's a challenge to design a really successful tractor cab suspension. In an attempt to take some of the bumps out of the ride, tractor makers add springs or cushions of some kind under the cab. But if you don't do it right, the cab will rock back and forth every time you accelerate or brake. It's enough to make you seasick.

So when our engineers designed a new four-point suspension for the DT Series, they created a system that uses hydraulics to sense movement in the cab and compensate with increased motion control. The result is a cab that stays level, stable and comfortable. It's all part of a system that combines comfort, technology and strength in a tractor built for the future of family farms.

Long live the family farm.

Discover the new DT Series at your AGCO dealer or by visiting www.LongLivetheFamilyFarm.com.

Schmidt Machine Company
Upper Sandusky, OH

Mitchell Farm Equipment
Liberty Center, OH

Witmers, Inc.
Salem, OH

Maibach Tractor Sales
Creston, OH

Mayer Farm Equipment
Jeffersonville, OH

Coldwater Implement Company
Coldwater, OH

Northstar Hardware & Implement Co.
Northstar, OH

Steinke Tractor Sales
Eaton, OH

Jelloway Valley Equipment
Danville, OH

AGCO
TRACTORS



AGCO Tractors feature e3 technology.



Schmidt Machine Company
Upper Sandusky, Ohio

Homier & Sons Inc.
Rayne, Ohio



THE LAST TIME SOMETHING THIS ADVANCED WAS SEEN AROUND A FARM, IT LEFT CROP CIRCLES.

FARM BUREAU® MEMBERS: GET AN EXTRA \$500 CASH ALLOWANCE.

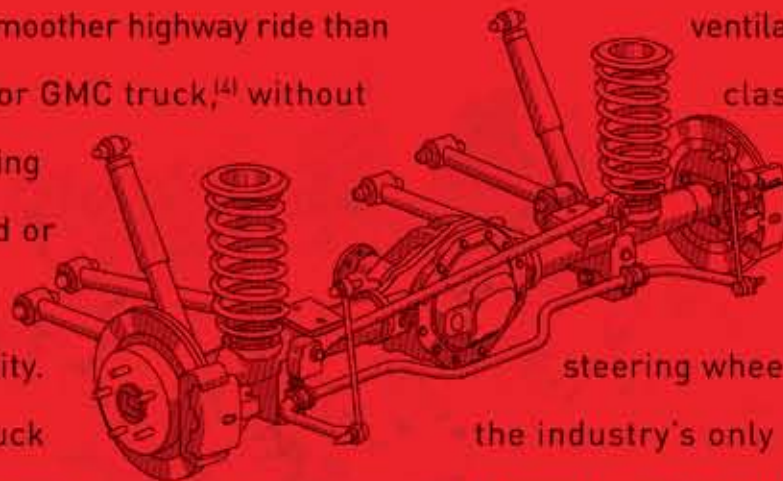
The all-new Dodge Ram Crew 1500 has arrived. And it's designed to be the boldest, most advanced full-size truck ever to land on a farm.

PROOF OF HIGHER INTELLIGENCE.

Thanks to innovations like Variable Valve Timing (VVT), MDS fuel-saving⁽¹⁾ technology, and over 10 other major engine advancements, the all-new Ram 1500 5.7-liter HEMI® V8 delivers the best combination of horsepower and fuel economy in its class.⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ The new, class-exclusive⁽³⁾ rear link-coil suspension sets a whole new standard of comfort for trucks. It



gives you more precise handling and a smoother highway ride than a Ford or GMC truck,⁽⁴⁾ without sacrificing payload or towing capability.



This truck also comes with an Advanced High-Strength Steel frame that's fully boxed and rated at 85,000-psi tensile strength. For added safety and security, the standard Electronic Stability Program⁽⁵⁾ includes Trailer Sway Control and class-exclusive⁽³⁾ Hill Start Assist.

A NEW LEVEL OF INTERIOR COMFORT.

Inside, you'll find our first true crew cab-sized interior. There are

available features like heated and ventilated front seats, class-exclusive⁽³⁾ heated rear seats and even a heated steering wheel. You also get

the industry's only Lifetime Powertrain Limited Warranty.⁽⁶⁾

PUT ONE TO WORK ON YOUR FARM.

With everything the all-new Ram gives you, including the \$500 cash allowance⁽⁷⁾ for Farm Bureau® members, it's the perfect truck to drive you into the future.

See it in action at RamChallenge.com. Dodge. Grab life by the horns.



THE ALL-NEW DODGE RAM. NEVER BACK DOWN FROM A CHALLENGE.

⁽¹⁾Based on 14 city to 20 highway EPA est. mpg. Results depend on driving habits and conditions. ⁽²⁾Comparison based on the latest full-size pickup competitive data versus the 2009 MY Ram 1500. Excludes hybrid models. ⁽³⁾Based on *Automotive News* Full-Size Pickup segmentation. ⁽⁴⁾AMCI-Certified testing, 2009 Dodge Ram Crew 1500 4x4 5.7L vs. comparably equipped Ford and GMC pickups; smooth-pavement ride quality at 55 mph; details at dodge.com. ⁽⁵⁾Always drive carefully, consistent with conditions. Always wear your seat belt and obey traffic laws. ⁽⁶⁾No deductible. See dealer for a copy of Limited Warranty details. Non-Transferable. Not available on SRT® diesel, Sprinter, Ram Chassis Cab, and certain fleet vehicles. ⁽⁷⁾Must be a Farm Bureau member for at least 30 days. Contact your local Farm Bureau office for details. Farm Bureau is a federally registered collective membership and a registered service mark of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Dodge, HEMI and SRT are registered trademarks of Chrysler LLC.

NOTEWORTHY

BWC reduces premium rates for non group employers

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is making changes that will balance out the premium inequities created by group ratings.

On March 20, BWC agreed to reduce premiums by an average 25.3 percent for non group employers. The changes go into effect starting July 1. Premium rates for group-rated employers are expected to increase an average of 9.6 percent.

"For quite some time there's been inequity of premium rates between group and non group employers," said Dan Rapp, Ohio Farm Bureau's senior director of business development. "This is a pretty big change."

BWC also lowered the maximum discount

allowed for group-rated employers from 85 percent to 77 percent. This lower maximum discount and the 25 percent reduction in premiums for non-group employers will result in an overall 12 percent base rate reduction on July 1, BWC said.

"Ohio's non group-rated employers will now be paying the appropriate rate for their workers' compensation coverage, one that matches the risk they bring to the system," said BWC Administrator Marsha Ryan.

Another change the bureau made was putting a cap on employer premium hikes caused by serious accidents or loss of group-rated coverage, Rapp said.

"These changes will result in actuarially sound rates for non group employers," Rapp said. "This is excellent reform."

BWC leaders have been overhauling the \$22 billion workers' compensation system since 2005 when the agency was rocked by a series of scandals. A study ordered by the General Assembly concluded that reforming the group rating system should be one of BWC's priorities.

Rapp said a court ruling probably sped up the group rating changes. A group of Cuyahoga County businesses had sued BWC, claiming that non group employers were subsidizing premium discounts for group employers. In November, a judge ruled that BWC wasn't

complying with state law on how rates are set. A month later the General Assembly changed the law so the group rating program could continue but ordered BWC to reform the program.

OFBF has been pushing for reform in the workers' compensation system for years and policy says it "supports the Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program. The group should be entitled to any savings on premium that is fairly earned by the group."

"This action not only makes Ohio's workers' compensation pricing system more in line with those of other states, but it puts us on a level playing field when it comes to future economic development and job creation," Ryan said.



Photo courtesy of the Paulding County Farm Bureau

\$2,500 reward: A Paulding County woman has received Ohio Farm Bureau's \$2,500 reward after she informed law enforcement about a man who stole jewelry from the house of nearby Farm Bureau members. Pictured in the photo from left are Paulding County Farm Bureau President Ryan McClure, Paulding County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy Mark Butler and Paulding County Farm Bureau Organization Director Jennifer Smith.

Kubota provides tractor to Outstanding Young Farmers

Bob and Autumn Morrison of Jefferson County recently received a Kubota M-Series tractor following their selection as Ohio Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farm Couple.

Kubota and Lashley Tractor Sales of Quaker City provided the Morrisons with a year's use of the tractor. The annual Farm Bureau competition recognizes individuals or couples age 35 or younger for their accomplishments in their farming operations and their leadership in the agricultural community.

Dennis Lashley, owner of Lashley Tractor, congratulated the Morrisons on their hard work and dedication.

"We are proud to support accomplished farmers and ranchers



Photo by Seth Teter

From left, Emma, Bob, Autumn and Kaitlyn Morrison, Dennis and Chris Lashley of Lashley Tractor Sales and Jeff Elson of Kubota.

through this program," he said.

This year, Kubota dealers nationwide will donate tractors to Farm

Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher honorees in 15 states.



Timing is

Everything

Spring planting's almost finished. Forecast says rain – there's no time to lose.

With borrowed equipment, you're moving to your last field. Suddenly, a fast-approaching pickup tries to pass, clipping you. No one's hurt, but damage is visible. Now what?

Don't worry. Borrowed equipment is covered by Nationwide Agribusiness without the equipment owner filing a claim. Rental cost for equipment replacement in that situation is covered too, and we'll reimburse you for rental equipment to get you back in the field.

America's #1 farm insurer. Call your local Nationwide® agent today and ask about money-saving discounts for Farm Bureau members. It's the right time.

Nationwide.com
NationwideAgribusiness.com

© 2009, Nationwide, the Nationwide framemark and On Your Side are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

endorsed by:



Nationwide®
Agribusiness

On Your Side®