

What is agriculture's place in Ohio classrooms?  
PG 3



**Still a good deal?**

"The Third Frontier program is an investment in the state's economy that has brought job growth." PG 5

Wild hogs pose threat to crops, livestock  
PG 8



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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

# BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

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**PUBLIC INPUT**

## Lawmakers continue to look into Ohio Livestock Care Board funding

BY DAN TOLAND

Lawmakers and interested parties are looking into alternative funding methods and strategies for the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

"There has been a lot of conversation about how to get the board running and establish a strong program at a lower cost (than the preliminary estimates of up to \$500,000)," said Beth Vanderkooi, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation director of state policy.

Vanderkooi said discussions are centering on scaling back the expense of the board in its first year and looking at more efficient use of staff that is already in place at the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA).

"Alternative funding options continue to be part of discussions as well," she said, noting that ODA may be looking to lower its previously proposed three-year phase-in of a 15-cent per ton fee increase on commercial livestock feed.

Opponent testimony was held the first week of February for House Bill 414, which sets the details of the board. Among concerns raised during testimony was that organic livestock farmers want assurance that they may continue to raise animals according to federal standards.

Vanderkooi said much of the  
*See CARE BOARD, pg 2*



## Expect the worst

This undercover video by the Humane Society of the United States clearly documented disturbing animal mistreatment. Images of rare instances such as this will be selectively used to convince voters that inappropriate animal care is the norm rather than the aberration. To get a sense of what's coming, farmers can visit [www.humanesociety.org/news/multimedia](http://www.humanesociety.org/news/multimedia) and click on the "Factory Farming" channel.

BY SETH TETER

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has announced its plan to write Ohio's laws on livestock care.

The Ohio farm community had long expected the move from the Washington, D.C.-based HSUS, which has put forth a measure that would undermine the voter-approved Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Rather than allow the board to have a comprehensive discussion about animal care issues, the proposal would write specific HSUS policies into the state constitution.

The measure includes components of California's chaotic Prop 2, which HSUS successfully backed in 2008 in order to illegalize certain

animal housing methods. It would also ban other uncommon and socially-unacceptable practices as part of an apparent public relations strategy to agitate voters.

HSUS President Wayne Pacelle is already taking swipes at Ohio farmers. On the group's Web site, he tied them to cockfighting and "puppy mills" and said that they work to defend "animal strangulation" and the "abuse of downers" (sick cattle).

This portrayal of farmers is expected to be amplified through a multi-million-dollar marketing campaign that will bombard voters with horrific images of animal

mistreatment for months prior to the election.

Leading animal rights and vegan organizations have aligned themselves with HSUS on the effort, including New York-based Farm Sanctuary and Mercy for Animals, which has offices in Ohio and Chicago. However, HSUS alone has a \$100 million annual budget.

The groups, along with other animal and environmental organizations, are selling their initiative under the name "Ohioans for Humane Farms."

According to OFBF Executive Vice President Jack Fisher, HSUS  
*See HSUS, pg 2*

"Ohioans took control of the animal care issue, and HSUS doesn't like it one bit."

~Jack Fisher, OFBF executive vice president

**At Issue:**

Will rules for farm animal care be considered by the voter-approved Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, or will they be written into the state constitution by the Humane Society of the United States?

**Opposite Approaches**

- The proposal to create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board was placed on the ballot by the Ohio General Assembly. Because it was a constitutional amendment, the language was intentionally broad. This keeps the board responsive to elected officials and ensures standards are established under the public eye and can be revised as societal needs change.
- HSUS has taken steps to deploy paid signature gatherers to put an initiative on the ballot that would write its specific policies on livestock farming into the constitution. HSUS has refused to give the livestock care board a chance to address its concerns. This has reaffirmed widespread beliefs that HSUS is more interested in throwing up roadblocks to livestock farming than engaging in a serious discussion about animal care.

## AgriPOWER class explores Washington

BY SETH TETER

Members of OFBF's AgriPOWER Institute, an intensive leadership program designed to produce future agricultural leaders, took a close look at Washington politics during a recent trip to the nation's capitol.

The visit included meetings with several Ohio lawmakers as well as a discussion of agricultural issues at the German Embassy.

To Sheri Matis of Coshocton County it was apparent that lawmakers were firm in their convictions.

"Because of the passionate beliefs the representatives have, it is more evident to me why coming to at least compromise is beyond difficult," she said.

The Washington D.C. trip came after several meetings of the AgriPOWER class, which explored in depth how government works and how farmers can affect the political process.

"Having studied the impact of a variety of issues on agriculture at the

*See AGRIPower, pg 2*



Joachim Schaeffer, a German agricultural administrator, discusses farming issues with members of the AgriPOWER class at the country's embassy in Washington.

Photo by Sandy Kuhn

## THE MESSAGE BOARD

### Attention WNCO listeners

*Town Hall Ohio*, Ohio Farm Bureau's award-winning public affairs radio show, has been added to the programming lineup of WNCO-AM in Ashland. *Town Hall Ohio* is heard at 6 a.m. each Saturday. WNCO is located at 1340 on the AM dial. For a complete list of air dates and locations visit [www.townhallohio.org](http://www.townhallohio.org) or [www.facebook.com/townhallohio](http://www.facebook.com/townhallohio).



### Figured Up: 1 in 8



The number of Americans who relied on hunger relief charities in 2009, according to the non-profit group Feeding America.

### “ Their Words

*“We're not smart enough to decide how big a farm should be, even on the ag committee. And that's really not our job.”*

~ House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson in an Associated Press article expressing opposition to an Obama proposal to cut subsidies to larger farms.

*“It is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed.”*

~ U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack acknowledging negative feedback to the proposed National Animal Identification System.

*“We need to be thinking about the long-term demands for food and the environmental and social ramifications of how we will produce it.”*

~ David Battisti, a University of Washington atmospheric sciences professor in a *Science Daily* article.

### Web Poll

What do you think is the best way for farmers to personally reach out to consumers?

Join membership organizations such as Farm Bureau and let them do it for us **21%**

Write letters to the editor and be more visible in print, TV and radio **15%**

Host events at our farms that are open to the public **10%**

Be more involved online and use social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogs **26%**

Strike up agricultural conversation at opportune times on a daily basis **5%**

Visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) to view current Web polls or join other Ohio farmers in discussions at [www.facebook.com/ohiofarmbureau](http://www.facebook.com/ohiofarmbureau).

### CARE BOARD from PG 1

concerns dealt with the decisions the board would make, as opposed to how the board would operate as outlined in HB 414.

“The bill is working to establish a process for fair consideration,” she said.

The process to bring together a “broad scope of Ohioans to establish a well thought-out, scientifically-based system for how Ohio farmers care for livestock,” would be

better for farmers of all sizes than “multi-million dollar, well-funded, out-of-state activists imposing their beliefs about animal agriculture in Ohio,” Vanderkooi said.

For the latest on the Livestock Care Standards Board and an updated list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) and search “Livestock Care Standards Board News.”

### HSUS from PG 1

is upset that the livestock care board limited the activist group's power to dictate animal care standards.

“HSUS' latest tactic isn't about reasonable animal care, it's about power. Ohioans took control of the animal care issue, and HSUS doesn't like it one bit,” he said.

HSUS has already been running tear-jerking fundraising commercials in Ohio that feature images of neglected companion animals.

In order for its measure to reach the ballot, HSUS will need to collect more than 400,000 signatures by July and has already taken steps to hire paid signature gatherers.

Ohio Farm Bureau believes that decisions about Ohio agriculture should be made by Ohioans and that the livestock care board should be given a chance to work.

“The enabling legislation hasn't passed; the board hasn't been appointed and the first discussions on what standards Ohioans find acceptable hasn't been held. And yet, the Humane Society of the United States is saying, in effect, Ohioans got it wrong,” Fisher said.

Since the passage of Issue 2, it has become evident that the creation of an Ohioan-controlled livestock care board is a direct threat to HSUS' long-term strategy of incrementally enacting burdensome farm regulations as a way to stifle the production and consumption of meat, milk and eggs.

Ohio Farm Bureau is encouraging members to call radio stations, talk with friends and neighbors and write letters to the editor expressing opposition to the petition drive being led by “Ohioans for Humane Farms.”

“Ohioans said the care board is a reasonable way to address animal care in a broad context. We have the responsibility to provide humane treatment, but we also have the

## A growing backlash

Each day there are more signs that people are becoming fed up with HSUS tactics.

While recording an upcoming edition of OFBF's radio program *Town Hall Ohio*, Ohio Democratic Party Chairman Chris Redfern and Ohio Republican Party Chairman Kevin DeWine reacted to HSUS' ballot proposal.

“We don't need extreme out-of-state groups coming into Ohio,” said DeWine.

HSUS is “clearly out of touch with Ohioans,” said Redfern.

The livestock care board was approved by Ohio voters this past November by a nearly two-to-one margin.

“It's pretty remarkable. We haven't even had a chance to write the rules and somebody else is going to tell us what the rules should be,” Redfern said.

The HSUS ballot proposal “just shows the political angle of the Humane Society, and I would just tell them to back off,” said DeWine.

*The Columbus Dispatch* also recently editorialized against HSUS' plans saying Ohio voters put the livestock care board in place and it should be given a chance to work.

*The Zanesville Times Recorder* wrote that the HSUS should “cage itself.”

The movement against HSUS is growing beyond the Ohio effort. When Yellow Tail Wines recently announced that it would be donating \$100,000 to HSUS, farmers and sportsmen from around the country posted thousands of comments on the winery's Facebook page sharply criticizing the move and creating an uncomfortable public relations situation for the company.

Another Facebook group that was formed to oppose HSUS has grown to more than 18,500 members. The Center for Consumer Freedom, a leading HSUS critic, announced the launch of a new Web site, [www.HumaneWatch.org](http://www.HumaneWatch.org), because “even dog watchers need a watch dog.”

National television personality Mike Rowe, who hosts the popular show *Dirty Jobs*, is speaking out against HSUS. On a blog post Rowe talked about his opposition to California's Prop 2 and the effect that it could have on farmers.

“Is Mr. (Pacelle) and the Humane Society and all the well meaning animal savers going to go get these laws passed in every single state in the nation so that one day we wake up and every single farmer is out of business unless they grow vegetables? Are we going to go from watching the ruin of the auto industry to watching the ruin of the farmer?” he wrote. (Read his full comments at <http://tinyurl.com/roweonhsus>)

Nonetheless, HSUS President Wayne Pacelle boasted in a recent news report, “We have never failed on an initiative about farm animals.”

responsibility to consider animal care in the context of what's good for people,” Fisher said.

For a packet that contains back-

ground information, talking points and the ballot language, e-mail [editor@ofbf.org](mailto:editor@ofbf.org).

### AGRIPOWER from PG 1

local and state level, our trip to Washington educated us on the challenges and opportunities that our industry faces on a national and global scale,” said Katherine Harrison of Franklin County. “This allowed us a greater perspective on the connection between our individual farming operations and the need to feed people around the world.”

Following the trip, Roy Norman of Fulton County noted that taxes, regulations, trade and the economy were important issues to a strong agriculture and business sector.

“Now more than ever we need to be engaged in the political process in order to ensure the future prosperity of agriculture and small business,” he said.

Other AgriPOWER participants commented on how Farm Bureau effectively works at all levels of government.

“It is always good when you can put faces on and talk one-on-one to the people who are making our laws and make sure they don't forget how important ag is in everyday life,” said Mark Ballmer of Fulton County.

The yearlong AgriPOWER program consists of seven weekend institutes focused on public policy

issues confronting agriculture and the food industry. OFBF is currently looking for 20 individuals to participate in the 2010-2011 institute.

“I have learned so much about myself by participating in AgriPOWER,” said Laura Wood of Hardin County. “Participation in AgriPOWER is very involving and stretches your world.”

For information about applying for the next AgriPOWER Institute, visit <http://tinyurl.com/AgriPOWER>.

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### 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

ANALYSIS

# So much more than:



## Ag education continues to thrive, evolve in Ohio

During his time in high school in Richland County years ago, Korre Boyer discovered he had a passion for agriculture. It came as a bit of a surprise since he lived in town and didn't live or work on a farm. That interest eventually grew into a career, and Boyer said it was all because he got involved in vocational agriculture at his high school.

"I just loved it and my experiences there," he said of his ag education classes. "I got into raising livestock on my cousin's farm and lived it in high school."

Boyer went on to get a bachelor's degree in agriculture education and become an ag teacher for four years before joining Ohio Farm Bureau as organization director for Crawford, Marion, Morrow and Richland counties.

"Those agriculture classes played a big role in my career," he said.

Boyer's story helps illustrate the importance of high school agriculture education classes in a state with a rich and diverse farming industry. About half of Ohio's 610 school districts offer agriculture education classes, and the program has 25,000 students and 550 teachers, said Steve Gratz, agriculture education consultant for the Ohio Department of Education.

"When I tell people that I teach ag education, a lot of times they think it's a dying profession but that couldn't be further from the truth. We're adding programs in many counties and are going from farming to more science," said Rose Hartshuh, an agriculture teacher in Huron County.

The size of Ohio's agriculture education program has remained steady for the past six to eight years, Gratz said. Up until last year when the economic recession hit, the number of Ohio State University graduates getting teaching jobs in high school agriculture education programs remained high.

"Last year it dipped for the first time. We won't know until the spring whether that number will spring back. But in general Ohio's ag education numbers continue to be very strong," said M. Susie Whittington, Ohio State associate professor of human and

community resource development.

Over the past five years, the Ohio Department of Education has added or expanded agriculture education programs, Whittington said. Crawford County Farm Bureau was instrumental in helping bring agriculture education classes back to Buckeye Central Schools in New Washington. About 15 years ago the agriculture program ended when its teacher retired.

"This came basically from our Farm Bureau members and board members who felt strongly that we needed an ag program," Boyer said. "Several people became vocal about there not being ag classes to take any more, and we started checking to see if there was the possibility to bring it back. The education department was very willing to help out and work with the local school board and community."

Today, Buckeye's agriculture education department has more than 40 students and is one of the stronger programs in the county, Boyer said. The vocational class offerings are diverse: animal science, production agriculture, horticulture, biosciences and woodworking.

"There's been a bit more of a shift to sciences because agriculture isn't just about raising livestock and

crops. It's far beyond that with biofuels and progressive scientific movements," Boyer said. "It's so much more than what agriculture was 10 years ago."

Gratz agreed that today's agriculture education classes are focusing more on science as agriculture continues to diversify. While vocational agriculture formally started in the United States with the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act of 1917, most of Ohio's schools were already teaching agriculture classes and many were science-based.

"Today we're almost back to where we were at pre Smith-Hughes when agriculture was really taught as a science," Gratz said.

Ag education continued to evolve with the Vocational Education Act of 1963, which expanded the role of vocational education and shifted the emphasis from agriculture production to agriculture business, Gratz said. He said today's vocational education classes in Ohio focus on six main areas: food, science and technology; natural resource management; animal science management; plant and horticultural science; agriculture and industrial technologies; and biotechnology for food, plant and animal science.

Because agriculture education classes often involve hands-on learning, they are becoming more popular with students, Hartshuh said. She and two other agriculture teachers teach about 95 students at Bellevue High School.

"Hands-on learning helps students understand the concepts, and they might succeed in our class while not succeeding in other science classes," she said. "We did a survey of why the

students took the ag classes and most said it was because their friends said it was fun. Once you get them in the door, they have so much fun they don't realize how much they're learning."

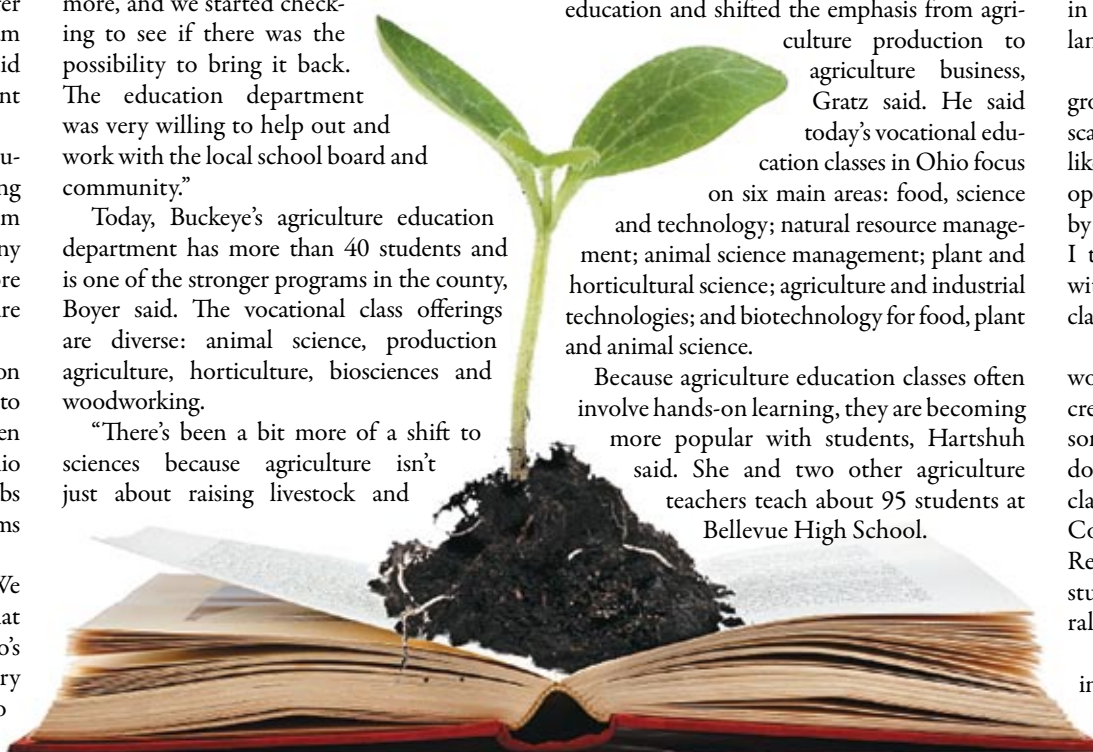
At Marlinton High School in Stark County, hands-on learning is emphasized with students learning about horticulture and turfgrass management by working on a 1 1/2 acre garden and greenhouse and a one-hole golf course built near the school's horticulture building. Last year's plant sale brought in \$33,000, said John Hippley, who teaches landscaping and turfgrass management.

"The landscaping industry has really been growing, which is why we started offering landscaping classes seven or eight years ago. It seems like all the farms are being pushed out by development and we've tried to move with the times by offering landscaping and greenhouse classes. I think if schools are not willing to change with the times, they will lose their ag education classes," said Hippley, a Farm Bureau member.

Some of the agriculture education coursework is rigorous enough to qualify for college credit, Gratz said. Hocking College in Nelsonville has agreements with more than two dozen high schools, allowing some high school classes to count as college credit, said Larry Coon, dean of Hocking's School of Natural Resources. Coon's department has about 1,100 students and offers 17 different types of natural resources degrees.

"The students who take ag education classes in high school often have an advantage over those who have to start off from scratch," he said.

To watch an *Our Ohio* television segment about how the Ohio FFA develops premier leadership, personal growth and career success, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ohioffa>



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## POLICY &amp; POLITICS

NEWS *briefs***AFBF pushes for continued use of atrazine**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to conduct a new investigation on atrazine, and Farm Bureau is concerned about the irregular and hastily convened process. Atrazine had been reviewed and approved by the EPA two years ago, raising concerns that the new review is being driven by politics rather than science. American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman wrote to Lisa Jackson, the EPA's administrator, calling for the continued use of the herbicide. "Having access to one of the most important crop protection products is vital to the success of America's farmers providing a safe and abundant food supply," Stallman wrote. "Accordingly, we felt heartened two years ago, that, having gone through a rigorous and fair re-registration process, atrazine continues to be available to farmers who abided by its strict label requirements." At the end of this process, EPA will decide whether to revise its current risk assessment of the pesticide and whether new restrictions are necessary to better protect public health.

**Application period opens for 2010 Agriculture Easement Purchase Program**

Ohio farmers wanting to preserve their farmland through the Clean Ohio Agricultural Easement Purchase Program can now find the 2010 application on the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Web site ([www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov)). The applications are used to evaluate and purchase agricultural easements to preserve Ohio's farmland. Agricultural easements are voluntary legal agreements restricting non-agricultural development on farmland, with the land itself remaining on the tax rolls and under private ownership and management. To apply for the program, farmers must work through a sponsoring organization such as a local land trust, a Soil and Water Conservation District or a group of local officials. The sponsors complete and submit applications on behalf of interested landowners. All applications must be submitted to the department by April 26, no later than 5 p.m.

**Divisions merge and conservation partnership established**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently merged the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Division of Water into the Division of Soil and Water Resources. In addition, the Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention is now aligned with the new division; however, it continues to be a separate division.

**New association to promote Ohio ethanol**

Ohio ethanol producers recently announced the formation of the Ohio Ethanol Producers Association. The new association will be led by President Mark Borer, who also serves as general manager of POET Biofinery in Leipsic. The association will vigorously address legislative and public issues that arise from ethanol production and use. In addition to efforts at the state level, the association plans a push toward educating consumers on the basics of ethanol production and importance of Ohio's ethanol producers.



## Resolution opposes EPA regulation of greenhouse gases

Arkansas Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln's support for a resolution to disapprove the Environmental Protection Agency's effort to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act could not have come at a better time and reflects true bipartisan concern, according to AFBF President Bob Stallman.

The resolution had been introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"Senator Lincoln recognizes the very real apprehension that Americans today harbor about the over-reach of government regulations," Stallman said. "America's farmers and ranchers believe incentives and initiatives that focus on clean energy would be much more effective than

once again trotting out the heavy hand of government regulation. We fully support Senators Lincoln and Murkowski in their efforts to oppose EPA's greenhouse gas regulations."

According to Stallman, the EPA's proposal to regulate greenhouse gases is all about propping up seriously

**"In this case, there is no lesser of those two evils."**

~Bob Stallman, AFBF president

flawed cap-and-trade climate legislation being considered in Congress.

"Cap-and-trade climate bills would cut deeply into America's ability to produce food and grow crops," Stallman said. "Trying to breathe life into bad

cap-and-trade legislation through an all-stick-and-no-carrot regulatory scheme is just bad public policy. In this case, there is no lesser of those two evils."

## Livestock, climate issues to be discussed at OFBF conference

Ohio Farm Bureau's annual Trends and Issues conference will feature presenters on animal agriculture and consumer issues, climate change and an update on livestock care and the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.

Speakers for the morning session include Terry Fleck of the Center for Food Integrity and climate change scientist Lonnie Thompson.

In the afternoon, members of Ohio Farm Bureau's Advisory Teams will meet. Advisory Teams are groups of Farm Bureau members who discuss current issues within their area of agriculture, recommend new policies related to their teams' issues, offer suggestions or clarifications in the implementation of existing policies and recommend any new programming or activities needed related to their team.

The event will be held at the Faw-



Members of OFBF Advisory Teams will meet to discuss issues and make policy recommendations regarding their areas of agriculture.

cett Center in Columbus on March 23. Registration is due to county Farm Bureau offices by March 9. For

more information, visit [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org) and click on "News and Events" or call your county Farm Bureau office.

## Legislation would restore SWCD funds

Legislation to restore funding cuts to county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) statewide is making its way through the legislature.

The Senate recently passed Senate Bill 155, co-sponsored by Sens. John Carey, R-Wellston, and Dale Miller, D-Cleveland. SWCD funding was significantly cut last year to balance the state's budget. Language in SB 155 directs a portion of the state's existing fee on the sale of new tires to help restore funding to local SWCDs.

The bill also increases the amount of money that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources can distribute through grants to soil and water districts that currently receive little or no local matching funds. That amount is now \$40,000, up from \$30,000. ODNR has said that the increase could help these districts maintain at least one full-time employee to help the SWCD board perform minimum services for the local community.

About one-third of Ohio's 88 conservation districts have already reduced their staff over the past couple of years, said David Hanselmann, chief of ODNR's Division of Soil and Water Conservation, on a recent *Town Hall Ohio* radio show.

"Most of these staffs are pretty small to begin, with three, four, five individuals at the county level," he said. "When you lose one or two of those, you've lost half of your capability to assist landowners. We have a few conservation districts that are getting zero local funding right now. The state is trying to step up and make some of that difference, and we're pleased that the legislature found a few dollars to help us out in that regard."

SWCD is looking for ways to cut down on costs by sharing staff across county lines, using technology to reach out to landowners better and more quickly and building new partnerships with groups that have a similar interest, Hanselmann said.

### TOWN HALL OHIO

Thoughtful talk about life in Ohio

Listen to a full discussion about Ohio's Soil and Water Conservation Districts as well as other agricultural and public policy topics at [www.townhallohio.org](http://www.townhallohio.org) or [www.facebook.com/townhallohio](http://www.facebook.com/townhallohio). Other recent shows feature a discussion of state issues by the chairmen of Ohio's Republican and Democratic parties.



"We're trying to bring those partners to the table to help out with the funding and delivery of our programs," he said. "It's a real tough time. We're trying to broaden the partnerships and find ways to assist wherever we can."

## Ohio Livestock Coalition announces Annual Meeting and Industry Symposium

The Ohio Livestock Coalition will hold its 13th Annual Meeting and Industry Symposium on April 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the All Occasions Catering and Banquet Center in Waldo. The symposium will feature four speakers who will cover a variety of topics and issues facing animal agriculture.

The keynote speaker for the symposium this year is David Martosko of the Center for Consumer Freedom. Martosko will lead attendees in a discussion about dealing with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), which he believes is the biggest threat facing animal agriculture.

The Center for Consumer Freedom is a nonprofit watchdog group supported by a unique mixture of industry stakeholders and members of the general public. Martosko is the center's director of research and serves as the principle expert on the animal rights movement.

"With HSUS' recent announcement that it is pursuing a ballot initiative here in Ohio, we believe

folks will find Mr. Martosko's presentation insightful, as well as the additional issues and topics that will be discussed," said David White, executive director of the Ohio Livestock Coalition.

Following Martosko's presentation, Tim Amlaw of the American Humane Association will talk about reasonable approaches to animal care and well-being and Ohio Director of Agriculture Robert Boggs will provide an update on the Livestock Care Standards Board. Rounding out the program will be the American Dairy Association Mideast's Scott Higgins who will explain how to keep consumer confidence in animal agriculture.

The 2010 Environmental Stewardship and Neighbor of the Year Awards also will be announced at the symposium.

Cost to register is \$35 before March 25. For more information, visit [www.ohiolivestock.org](http://www.ohiolivestock.org) or contact Amy Hurst at [ahurst@ofbf.org](mailto:ahurst@ofbf.org) or 614-246-8262.

POLICY & POLITICS

# Third Frontier program up for renewal

☐ \$700 million package to go before voters in May

Ohioans will be voting in May whether to expand funding for a program that has created jobs through investment in research and development of new technologies, including advanced projects involving agriculture.

If approved by voters, the expansion would use debt financing to provide a \$700 million package for research and development through 2016 for Ohio's Third Frontier program.



Originally proposed as a 10-year, \$1.6 million program, Third Frontier was shot down by voters in 2002, but later approved in 2005. Its funds expand high-tech research, promote company formation, innovation and commercialization and create jobs. Current funding expires in 2012.

"The Third Frontier program is an investment in the state's economy that has brought job growth, including areas of interest to agriculture," said Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Director of State Policy Beth Vanderkooi.



istockphoto.com

Examples include alternative energy development such as fuel cells and research into developing a domestic rubber source through the Russian dandelion plant.

A December analysis of the Third Frontier Program by Ohio Business Roundtable showed that it has created more than 48,000 jobs in the state since 2005.

Approval by voters would ensure funding through 2016 in the form of general obligation bonds with a maturity period of 10 years at an interest rate of 5.25 percent.

According to Vanderkooi, OFBF has yet to take a position on the ballot provision, but supports a Third Frontier package that is fiscally responsible in Ohio's current economic climate.

Learn more about the Third Frontier Program at [www.thirdfrontier.com](http://www.thirdfrontier.com).

## Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

### This Issue's Advisory Council Questions

*Third Frontier renewal, see article at left*

1. What are the advantages of the voters adopting the \$700 million Third Frontier package?
2. What concerns do your council members have if the measure passes? If it does not pass?
3. OFBF has not yet taken a position on the ballot provision, but "does support a Third Frontier package that is fiscally responsible in Ohio's current economic climate." Should OFBF take a position on the ballot issue and what should that position be?

### Select responses from previous council discussions

*Does your council feel that the updated vision statement, core values and indicators of success of OFBF accurately reflect the organization?*

- Our ability to meet the indicators of success will be the judge.
- We could use help with capital H where prop taxes are concerned.
- OFBF's new plan indicates broadening our focus.
- The reason we belong to Farm Bureau is we believe in the organization.

- We agree we need to have a partnership between farmers and consumers in order to meet the needs of all.
- The plan sounds good on paper. Making it function is another story. Everything has to be so complicated anymore. 250 pages in the new plan is a lot.
- We feel that Farm Bureau is getting away from the "grassroots" and has more involvement in lobbying issues. Farm Bureau needs to continue to foster youth involvement. This is needed for future membership.

*How are livestock producers in your area weathering the price storm? Does your council have policy solutions to help deal with the price risks of livestock farming?*

- There appears to be more hedging with economic concerns. Livestock farmers are requesting more assistance as they make decisions on marketing animals.
- There aren't any large-scale pork or dairy producers in our county.
- Promoting livestock products could help with price concerns/marketing specifically to niche markets could allow producers to tap new consumers.
- Farmers are getting out of business such as dairy and hog farmers.
- Livestock producers in the area seem to be able to weather the

- price storm; they are used to doing it with crops.
- Farmers are cutting costs wherever possible and hoping prices improve.
- The price storm is very discouraging. We have lost most of the herds and those left are struggling. We need policy to overcome the anti-animal agriculture movement.
- Several area farmers are selling dairy cows; others are losing money or breaking even.
- This storm is getting pretty cold. What has OFBF done for the price of milk? That is why we are members of the OFBF – we feel that your organization can help us.
- We just have faith it will get better soon.
- Finding niche markets.
- It has been an issue for several generations of farmers. Dairy has received a dairy stimulus payment which was helpful, but not sure it was fair to other livestock producers.
- Let's tell the people what we are going to sell it for instead of them telling us.
- In past year, our county lost one large dairy operation; both large and small herds are feeling the economic crunch.
- Pork producers were hurt some by "swine flu" statements.

# Williams Farm Partnership

United Producers Inc.'s Convenience, Stability and Credibility help Fifth-Generation Thrive



L-R: Brent, Logan, Gene, Darrell, Kolton, Jeff and Kathy, Lori and Kayla Williams (not pictured)



The Williams Farm Partnership, a fifth-generation farm, understands the value of belonging to a cooperative like United Producers, Inc. "It's more stable in the market," said Darrell Williams.

"We value the on-the-farm service," said Darrell. **"United Producers has great service – we wouldn't have time to do everything we need to do if it weren't for them."**

The farm uses United Producers Inc.'s livestock marketing and financing services. "They have different markets available to us – and they have a **long-standing credibility for quality animals. The financing is very convenient too – we just give them a call when we need it, and they are there for us.**"

Jeff's proudest accomplishment is that the farm supports four different families. **"We all work together – it includes the whole family,"** he said. "Even the people who work for us are like a part of our family."

While Brent gets frustrated with the weather at times because "there's nothing you can do about it," when asked why he farms, he said "I couldn't imagine doing anything else. **It's what we know. What we were raised doing.**"

And, **with United Producers by their side,** the Williams Farm Partnership **hopes to be farming for at least another five generations.**

**Location:**

Germantown, KY (Bracken County)

**Type of operation:**

Grain, tobacco, alfalfa and beef cattle

**Farm Size:**

2,800 acres, 225 head cow/calf and feed about 400 head of cattle a year

**Years/generations as a producer:**

The original farm started in 1928, and the 5th generation is working on the farm.

**UPI member since:**

Since the 1960s

**UPI services used:**

Livestock marketing and financing



800-456-3276  
[www.uproducers.com](http://www.uproducers.com)

United Producers is a market-leading provider of livestock marketing, financial services and risk management.

## OUTREACH

## Add value to social media engagement

An all-too-common thought of those skeptical of social media is that there is nothing of value to be found on Facebook or Twitter.

When people see a friend post an update that says, "Eating a cookie with a glass of milk," it often leaves them wondering a number of things, including why did he tell us this?

Other posts are intriguing, but leave us hanging. For example, "Cow loose on highway."

*Buckeye Farm News* asked social media friends/followers what they found to be the most useful posts. Overall they said posts that provide value. By preparing for what somebody should take away from your post, you can create more value.

### Valuable posts and suggestions for creating them

**News and Information** – Posts appear as soon as submitted and travel in real-time.

**Suggestions:** Share links you find interesting that friends/followers can click to view a full story. Describe what you're sharing and why. Follow those whose posts pertain to your interests, mimicking their posting habits to see what works for you.

**Updates from events** – Posting from an event garners attention and informs those unable to attend.

**Suggestions:** Share quotes from an interesting speaker/presenter. Share photos. Tell what you're doing and why. Share your excitement. Follow,

search and contribute to Twitter hashtags developed for events.

**Being human** – We view our 9-to-5 lives as uneventful, but everyday moments shape who we are.

**Suggestions:** When going about your day, share experiences and what's important about what you do, how you do it and why you care. Talk about your values, earning trust and respect along the way. Follow up if somebody responds to your posts.

**Humor** – A bit of personality goes a long way.

**Suggestions:** Share funny experiences and comment on others. Share photos, jokes or stories. Keep it in good taste.

**A takeaway suggestion:** Train yourself to post once daily. Because even simple posts provide some sort of value.

Every day, hundreds of millions of people provide small bits of valuable information about what's happening RIGHT NOW in their lives and professions for friends/followers to conveniently consume.

Starting to sound valuable yet?

Ohio Farm Bureau provides you the tools to get started and become adept at using social media at [www.tinyurl.com/OFBsocialmedia](http://www.tinyurl.com/OFBsocialmedia).

Thanks to Twitter followers @KatieallenMo, @n\_web, @cassandrafaris, @agropinion and @Mica\_Mon for contributing their thoughts to this story.

## Wyandot County offers 'Warmth Where Needed'

With 125 yards of fleece and more than 7,000 knots, the Wyandot Wranglers Farm Bureau Youth has put Warmth Where Needed in Wyandot County. Members of the group made 25 fleece blankets that were donated to the county sheriff's department to be given to children and adults who could use the warmth and comfort of a blanket.

"These blankets will be great; it's something we can really use," said Rich Kessler of the sheriff's department. The Warmth Where Needed community project was started by the group with some of the funds they raised from selling cookbooks. "Youth need to do community service to develop an understanding that it's not always just about them. This project helps them start to think about others and the impact they can have on another's life with



Photo courtesy of Wyandot County Farm Bureau

Front row (l-r) Kristy Bowen, Raychelle Myers, Lindsay Riedlinger, Middle row (l-r) Alexis Mundy, Jewelianne Huff, Haley Huff, Tori Mundy, Back row (l-r) Rich Kessler, accepting the blankets for the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office; Audry Frey, Josh Lutz, Michelle Oliver, Meaghan Pagnard.

something as simple as a blanket," said Annie Freditz, an adviser for the group.

The youth hope to expand the project and get others involved.

"The blankets are fun to make, and we're doing something good in the community," said Raychelle Myers, Wyandot Wrangler Youth member.

## Farm Bureau supports youth cattle program

Ohio Farm Bureau is a sponsor of the Ohio Cattle-men's Association's BEST program, which is dedicated to youth education and leadership development.

The program recognizes and supports Ohio's junior beef exhibitors through cattle shows, educational sessions, leadership conferences and essay and photography competitions. Those participating in the sanctioned shows earn points for their placings.

"The sponsors' tremendous support of the BEST program will allow the program to continue to grow and recognize even larger numbers of youth involved in Ohio's

beef industry," said Mike Carper, OCA president.

Ohio Farm Bureau and Bob Evans also are sponsoring the fifth annual Leading the BEST Conference, which will be held March 5-7 at the Ohio State University Animal Science Department.

This leadership and educational conference was developed to provide an opportunity for Ohio's youth who are interested in the beef cattle industry to learn more about the industry in a fun and educational setting.

For more information, visit [www.ohiocattle.org](http://www.ohiocattle.org) and click on "Youth Activities."

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# FARM BUREAU NEWS

## MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"I like helping promote Farm Bureau and the rural way of life."

~ Marilyn Morrison, Darke County

Marilyn Morrison grew up on a Darke County farm that her husband, Paul, and one of their sons, Jeremy, now operate. They raise hogs, corn, beans and wheat. Morrison has been such an active member of the county Farm Bureau that Organization Director Mandy Havener said "she volunteers for it seems everything."



Morrison

Morrison has been a Farm Bureau member for about 35 years and is still active with the women's committee. She has been on the county board, a membership chair and state delegate. She has been an Ambassador Award winner several times. She works part time as a unit clerk at Wayne Hospital in Greenville and also is active as a 4-H advisor. The couple have four adult children and six grandchildren.

"It's a joy to witness successful programs that teach about agriculture."

~ Judy Roush, education specialist

Since 1992, Judy Roush has been working with Ohio Farm Bureau members and teachers on how to share agriculture's story with students and teachers. She grew up on a Clinton County farm and spent more than 20 years working with her husband, Roy, on their Pickaway County farm where they raise soybeans and wheat. They have been married nearly 41 years and have three daughters and five grandchildren. She is a former 4-H advisor and avid Ohio State University men's basketball fan.



Roush

"It has been rewarding to meet educators from Ohio and across the country through the Ag in the Classroom network who are passionate about helping children learn where their food comes from," she said.

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

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twitter

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### NATIONWIDE NEWS

# Clean your credit

Think of your credit report as a report card and your credit score as the grade that indicates how you've handled your bills in the past. Getting high marks is important. After all, lenders use your credit (or "FICO") score to set rates for loans and credit cards. Insurers use it when determining rates on some policies. And some employers even check it when screening employees.

#### What's "good"?

FICO scores range from 300 to 850. A score below 620 leads to the toughest terms or even the denial of a credit application, while one above 800 may get you first-class treatment. Here's how your score is formulated:

35 percent payment history  
 + 30 percent amounts owed  
 + 15 percent length of credit history + 10 percent new credit  
 + 10 percent types of credit used = FICO score.

#### Get the facts

Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, you can order a free credit report every year from each of the three national credit-reporting bureaus: TransUnion, Equifax and Experian. This document tracks how much credit you have, how much you've used, and whether you pay your bills on time. If you're ever denied credit, you can get a free credit report from the agency whose report was used to deny your application.

Be aware, though, that your credit score does not appear on your credit report. However, you can pay a fee and receive your score at any time. To order, visit [Myfico.com](http://Myfico.com). If your number looks like a bowling score, you'll need to get to work!

**Pay up – on time.** Late payments reduce your score. If you have a hard time meeting due dates, consider automatic bill payment. Also, pay down what you can't pay off. When reviewing credit and loan applications, lenders consider how much you already owe.

**Correct errors.** Check your credit report for accuracy and ask the bureau to correct erroneous information such as credit limits and account opening dates. More than 70 percent of credit reports contain errors, according to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

**Keep accounts open.** To improve the ratio of the amount you've borrowed to the amount you're approved to borrow, don't use your cards, but keep the accounts open, especially the ones you've had the longest. If you gradually close accounts, keep the MasterCard or VISA, which are more important to your score than store cards.

**Avoid bankruptcy.** This can stay on your credit report for up to 10 years, so do whatever you can to pay your bills, even if it takes a second job.

**Ask for help.** A nonprofit consumer credit agency may be able to give you advice or help you negotiate a lower interest debt-repayment plan.

#### The Long Arm of Your Credit Score

Many insurers — 92 percent, including Nationwide — use a credit-based insurance score when determining premiums on certain policies. Studies show that this credit-based score can help insurers better predict losses. Visit [nationwide.com/faq/insurance.jsp](http://nationwide.com/faq/insurance.jsp) for further information.

To learn how Nationwide's family of companies can serve your family with quality insurance coverages, many with Farm Bureau member discounts, contact a local agent representing Nationwide Insurance or Allied Insurance. You can locate an agent at [Nationwide.com/OFBF](http://Nationwide.com/OFBF).

*Contributed by Nationwide, which is endorsed and sponsored by Ohio Farm Bureau.*

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## NOTEWORTHY

# Hog wild

## Feral swine a growing problem in Ohio

The feral swine population is growing in Ohio and ending up in areas outside southeastern Ohio where the jumbo-sized creatures typically dwell. State and federal wildlife officials are working with farmers to help trap feral swine as they try to keep the wild animals away from domestic swine herds.

"They carry up to 30 important diseases and parasites that affect people and wildlife. If we find brucellosis or pseudorabies in domestic swine, it would really impact us economically in terms of exporting," said Craig Hicks, wildlife disease biologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS-Wildlife Services. Ohio is ranked ninth in swine production in the United States.

For the past year, Hicks has been taking blood samples of wild boars in Ohio to test them for swine brucellosis, pseudorabies and classical swine fever. So far the results have been negative. Hicks also is collecting samples as part of research projects with Ohio State University and the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center.

Hicks said he has seen an increase in reports of property and crop damage over the last couple of years. The wild boar, which can grow up to 600 pounds, destroys lawns, turfs and crops as it roots for food, he said.

"The biggest thing we've seen this year is crop damage to corn. It looks like a steamroller went through the



A trail camera captures a herd of feral swine visiting a bait station on public land in southeastern Ohio.

property after they were done. They are living rototillers. They can level several bushels of corn in one night" said Hicks, noting that on average one feral hog can do \$200 in direct property damage annually.

Feral swine have typically been found in southeastern Ohio where there are lots of woods for them to hide. But as their population grows, they are increasingly being spotted in other areas, in particular

western Ohio.

"They're pretty prolific," said Dr. Leah Dorman, a veterinarian who is director of food programs for OFBF's Center for Food and Animal Issues. Females typically have a litter of four to six but can have much more. They can start reproducing at eight months of age and some sows have litters twice a year.

Hicks said farmers who suspect wild boars are on their property

should look for signs of crop damage, ruts and mud pits. They like to rub on trees after rolling in the mud. Wildlife officers will help property owners set traps but do not keep the carcasses. Because feral swine are considered a varmint, a permit is not required to shoot them as long as they are only on the property owner's land.

For help with feral swine, call Hicks' office at 866-4-USDA-WS.

## Conference set for young adults involved in agriculture

Young people ages 18 to 35 who work in Ohio agriculture are invited to join OFBF's Young Agricultural Professionals for a weekend of personal and professional development during the group's Leadership Conference March 12 to 13 in Dublin. The theme is "Be an 'Agvocate': Speak Up for Agriculture."

The Young Agricultural Professionals group consists of full and part-time farmers, Extension educators, teachers, consumer educators, media reporters, livestock and equine enthusiasts, beekeepers, green industry employees, gardeners, foodies and more.

Participants will enjoy a selection of quality workshops including hosting on your family farm, niche farming and how to be persuasive.

Trent Loos will serve as a keynote speaker. Loos is a nationally-recognized radio and TV personality and writer for Feedstuffs.

Ohio farmer and comedian Jay Hendren will bring his down-home humor to the conference as a speaker as well.

Registration for the conference is \$150 per person and includes hotel lodging and group meals. Participants must return registration forms to their county Farm Bureau office by Feb. 19.

For a detailed description of the workshops and events, visit the events section at [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org).



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