



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.