

“Our adversaries are adept at taking advantage of our politeness. The time has come to face our opponents with a new attitude.” PG 4

Ohioans compete in national agricultural contests PG 8



INSIDE

- Message Board. 2
- Analysis 3
- Policy & Politics 4
- Outreach 6
- Farm Bureau News 7
- Noteworthy. 8

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 4, 2010 | VOLUME 9 | ISSUE 9

Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association supports OFBF's \$2,500 Reward Program

BY AMY BETH GRAVES

The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association (BSSA) has announced it is supporting Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's (OFBF) \$2,500 Reward Program.

The BSSA's board of directors unanimously voted to partner with Ohio Farm Bureau to promote the property protection reward program, which has been around

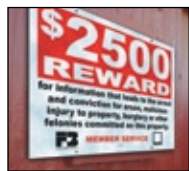
for more than 40 years. The reward is paid to both Farm Bureau members and nonmembers who provide information that leads to the arrest and conviction of someone who committed arson, malicious injury to property, burglary or other felonies on a Farm Bureau member's property. It also is paid for the arrest and felony conviction of those who steal a Farm Bureau member's car, truck, tractor or self-propelled equipment.

“Having the support of the sheriffs' association helps raise the profile of the program all over the state,” said Dan Rapp, OFBF's senior director of business development. “We really appreciate having the sheriffs' association on board with our program.”

Saying it “recognizes the value of a rewards program,” the BSSA said in its resolution to support the reward program that it will encourage county sheriffs to work with county Farm Bureaus to support and help promote the program.

Many county sheriffs' departments statewide have supported

See REWARD, pg 2



Administration:

- As specified in State Issue 2, the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) will be responsible for the livestock care program.
- The ODA plans to make use of existing staff to administer the program, but says it will need two additional employees.

Authority:

- The ODA's authority to investigate suspected cases of non-compliance with animal care standards would be similar to what is already commonly allowed under Ohio law.
- The bill preserves the right to appeal ODA's enforcement decisions.

Terms of Service:

- The livestock care standards board members would serve in staggered three-year terms.
- No more than seven of the 13 board members could be of the same political party.
- The board would serve without compensation.

Livestock care bill introduced

BY DAN TOLAND

Lawmakers consider program's enforcement, funding

Legislation (HB 414) to determine the specifics by which the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board will operate has been introduced.

The bill, sponsored by Reps. Linda Bolon, D-Columbiana, and Allan Sayre, D-Dover, provides that members of the board will serve without compensation, that board members will be subject to Ohio's ethics laws, specifics of the board's appointment process and that the

board will have the authority to establish standards for livestock care as called for in State Issue 2. However, the board would be prohibited from establishing a statewide animal identification system.

Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) Director Robert Boggs recently told lawmakers the bill “takes the right approach to the discussion of livestock care standards,” and is superior to making decisions based on ideology or philosophy.

“Ohio voters indicated their strong support for a livestock care standard process. It is now up to us to deliver to them what they asked for,” he said.

Boggs also noted that many opponents of Issue 2 claimed that the establishment of the board was “a smokescreen” and a “paper tiger” that would have no real authority and only serve to protect the interests of “big agriculture.”

“The surest way to validate these claims would be to limit the enforcement authority of the Department (of Agriculture) or to not provide the funding that is necessary for

such enforcement,” he said. ODA's plan makes use of its existing eight livestock inspectors, four enforcement officers and four veterinarians for the program, with the need for two additional employees.

Boggs said the board does not seek or desire criminal penalties and that ODA will seek compliance with livestock care standards through civil law.

Additionally, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Director of State Policy Beth Vanderkooi said HB 414 neither adds to nor infringes upon the duties of a county humane agent.

See BILL, pg 2



Boggs



AFBF President Bob Stallman reviews national policy with delegates in Seattle.

AFBF Photo

Policies go up for a vote

Climate bill, federal deficit top priorities at American Farm Bureau annual meeting

Three-hundred and sixty-nine Farm Bureau delegates from across the country came together in Seattle in January to determine the policies guiding the grassroots organization in 2010. Among their priorities are national climate change legislation and the federal deficit.

BY DAN TOLAND

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) delegates voted to oppose current cap-and-trade legislation in Congress, approving a resolution stating that it would raise

production costs for farmers and that any potential benefits to agriculture are far outweighed by the costs to producers. They also voted to support “any legislation that would suspend EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) authority to regulate

Green House Gases under the Clean Air Act.”

Bob Stallman, who was re-elected president of AFBF during the meeting, said Congress should focus on domestic renewable energy that is environmentally friendly but shouldn't “shrink U.S. agriculture at a time when many are concerned how to feed a growing global population.”

Delegates also approved a policy stating the federal deficit should be reduced each year to become fully balanced by 2019. The policy was derived from the work of a task force assembled by AFBF to review and

provide recommendations pertaining to the deficit. Suggested policy resolutions were debated at county and state levels before being adopted nationally.

“Unless we want to saddle our children and grandchildren with a crippling debt to foreign governments, we have to get the federal budget under control,” Stallman said. “We are looking at a current deficit of more than a trillion dollars. The United States must tighten its belt, and we all must make sacrifices in order for the U.S. to maintain economic security.”

Ohio Farm Bureau earns awards at annual meeting

For the second straight year, OFBF was recognized at American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting as the best of the best in its membership division, earning AFBF's Pinnacle Award for overall outstanding program achievement combined with membership growth. OFBF also earned all possible Awards for Excellence and three President's Awards from these categories:

- Agriculture Education and Promotion
- Leadership Development
- Member Services
- Policy Implementation
- Public Relations and Information

“Year after year, Ohio Farm Bureau members continue to prove that they are among the most intelligent and innovative agricultural leaders in the country,” said OFBF President Brent Porteus.

THE MESSAGE BOARD



Their Words

"A formula that works for high-end foodies of the Bay Area or Manhattan can't produce enough affordable food to feed the masses — whether in Minnesota or Mumbai."

~ A columnist in *Forbes* magazine responding to critics of modern agricultural practices.

"The developed world must find new agricultural approaches before the world's hungriest come knocking on its door for a glass of clean water and a plate of disease-free rice and beans."

~ An op-ed columnist in the *New York Times* saying that food, environmental and land use issues would be solved if farms were replaced with towering urban hothouses.

Figured Up: 251,826

The number of deer that have been harvested in Ohio this season as of mid-January. Hunting continues through Feb. 7

Save the Date:

MARCH

23

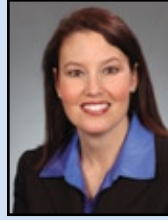
OFBF's annual Trends and Issues Conference and Advisory Team meetings will be held at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. Speakers include Terry Fleck of the Center for Food Integrity and climate change scientist Lonnie Thompson. Registration details will be available in the coming weeks.

That's the ticket

Gov. Ted Strickland, a Democrat, recently selected Yvette McGee Brown as his running mate for his 2010 re-election bid. She is the president of the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital and a former Franklin County Common Pleas Court judge.



Brown



Taylor

Republican gubernatorial contender John Kasich, a former U.S. representative, tapped Ohio Auditor Mary Taylor, a certified public accountant and former state legislator, as his prospective lieutenant governor.

In a day's work

Here is a sampling of the many ways OFBF staff worked on behalf of members in the past few weeks.

OFBF met with county leaders from Auglaize and Mercer counties to discuss the development of a strategy to help implement the Grand Lake St. Marys Water Quality Improvement Initiatives. The first step will be to hold a meeting with the two county SWCD and Farm Bureau boards of trustees to develop an action agenda containing specific actions and timeline.

OFBF participated in a recent Aquaculture Task Force meeting. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has created the task force to create a state plan to capitalize on existing and expand future aquaculture opportunities in the state.

OFBF met with the county Farm Bureau board of trustees and county commissioners from Union County to assist them in the development of an agricultural environmental and community health study to be conducted prior to the establishment of a new poultry facility.

OFBF attended the annual meeting of the Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to record a *Town Hall Ohio* radio show and to share the advantages of using social media.

Statehouse Agenda

Some of the many bills that OFBF is currently following at the Statehouse

Bill #	Description	OFBF Position
H.B. 301	Makes changes to Ohio's Advanced Energy Fund.....	Oppose
H.B. 321	Establishes the week of Thanksgiving as Ohio Agriculture Week	Support
H.B. 414	Implements the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board.....	Support
HJR 12	Allows voters to extend the Third Frontier initiative	Monitor
S.B. 131	Requires the state to purchase biobased products when feasible	Support
S.B. 155	Funding provision for Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Support
S.B. 162/H.B. 276	Revises state regulation of telephone companies	Support
S.B. 225/H.B. 410	Establishes rules for propagating deer	Monitor

BILL from PG 1

"The language of Issue 2 and HB 414 clearly indicate that ODA, not local humane societies, will enforce standards created by the board as a civil matter (based upon fines)," Vanderkooi said. "County humane agents (and county prosecutors) will continue to have jurisdiction over animal cruelty matters, which are generally criminal charges (punishable by a variety of means including fines, jail time, probation, etc.)."

HB 414 also provides for the constitutional right to appeal the board's enforcement process and standards under Chapter 119 of the Ohio Revised Code, which establishes agency rulemaking, agency actions and the appeal of agency decisions.

Vanderkooi said that while OFBF encourages close scrutiny, the "right of entry" language in the bill, which would allow ODA to investigate suspected cases on non-compliance, is common throughout the Ohio Revised Code. The authority has

been provided to state agencies that farmers commonly deal with, including ODA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of Natural Resources, since as early as 1973. Other instances where this is common include meat, dairy, seed and egg inspections.

Funding

The current funding option for the program would increase an existing inspection fee paid by distributors of commercial livestock feed by 15 cents per ton over a three-year period. But according to Vanderkooi, it's not the only option.

What would the feed inspection fee cost?

An inspection fee is currently paid by first distributors of commercial livestock feed at a rate of 25 cents per ton. HB 414 would increase that fee by 15 cents per ton over three years to fund the livestock care standards program.

Assuming that entire fee increase was passed on, a farmer who buys 200,000 pounds of feed could see a total cost increase of \$15. The cost of a 50-pound bag of feed might increase by about 1/3 of a penny.

"Ohio Farm Bureau's philosophy when approaching any state budget matter is that programs that are beneficial to all Ohioans should be funded by General Revenue Funding (GRF)," Vanderkooi said. "That said, we realize we're in extraordinary times in respect to the state budget. If it is necessary to pursue alternate sources of funding, it needs to be fair, reasonable and transparent."

She said the General Assembly continues to explore alternate options as it also considers the appropriate level of funding to support the goals of the board. In its budget, ODA is assuming the increase on

the feed inspection fee would generate up to \$500,000 when fully implemented. This would cover the administrative costs of the board as well as associated compliance costs.

"We've known all along that there will be day-to-day costs associated with the program. We encourage the cross-training of existing ODA staff to assist the board," Vanderkooi said.

Boggs said he plans to hold regional meetings to get public comments on livestock care standards. All standards would be subject to the public rule-making process, which is also open to public comment.

"We want this entire process to be extremely transparent and deliberative," Boggs said.

He said the first year of the board is critical to build public confidence prior to another possible livestock issue on the ballot in November. "It is my hope that we can get this legislation through both houses and conference if needed by

the end of (February)."

Vanderkooi said the Ohio Senate is finalizing its draft version of the legislation. "We look forward to what they propose, as they may take a different approach," she said.

OHIO FARM BUREAU OFFICERS

President **Brent Porteus**
 First Vice President **Steve Hirsch**
 Treasurer **Keith Truckor**
 Executive Vice President **John C. Fisher**
 Senior Vice President Organization **Bob Vance**
 Senior Vice President Public Policy **Keith Stimpert**
 Vice President Center for Food and Animal Issues **Mike Bumgarner**
 Vice President Communications **Patricia Petzel**
 Chief Financial Officer **Irene Messmer**
 Asst. Secretary **Rachel Rittinger**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Craig Adams	Daryl Knipp	Brent Porteus
Leesburg	Lindsey	Coshocton
Frank Burkett III	Charles Lausin	Don Ralph
Canal Fulton	Thompson	Morral
Kim Davis	Randy Leis	Mike Schumm
Carrollton	Farmersville	Willshire
Patty DeBruin	Judy	Bob Slicker
Millersport	Loudenslager	Canal Fulton
Pam Haley	Marion	Jim Swingle
West Salem	Bill Lowe	Philo
Paul Harrison	Marysville	Andra Troyer
Fostoria	Al Miller	London
Steve Hess	Marietta	Keith Truckor
St. Paris	John	Metamora
Steve Hirsch	Mossbarger	Sparky Weinau
Chillicothe	Washington CH	Milan
Ellen Joslin	Joyce Payne	Tim Williams
Sidney	Waterloo	Piketon

BUCKEYE FARM NEWS STAFF

Executive Editor **Patricia Petzel**
 Editor **Joe Cornely**
 Assistant Editor **Seth Teter**
 Communications Specialist **Dan Toland**
 Communications Specialist **Chip Nelson**
 Director of Art and Design **Galen Ludwick Harris**
 Graphic Designer **Joyce Spangler**
 Production Coordinator **Gayle Lewis**
 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: gilewis@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, 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 jcornely@ofbf.org; call 614.246.8231 or write P.O. Box 182383, Columbus, OH 43218-2383

REWARD from PG 1

Ohio Farm Bureau's reward program for years. The program has been promoted at the state and county levels in OFBF membership material and in news pictures, which have appeared in local newspapers and *Buckeye Farm News*. Most of the pictures have included not only the recipient of the reward and OFBF representative but a member of the sheriff's department.

"The \$2,500 Reward Program is valuable to our members because it is a crime deterrent. It has been a real fixture in the countryside for a long time," Rapp said.

The BSSA said it will authorize the use of its logo for promotion of the reward program. Both the BSSA and Rapp said county Farm Bureaus need to contact county sheriffs to see if they are interested in helping promote the \$2,500 Reward Program. Rapp said it is up to county sheriffs to decide if they want to participate; the BSSA's endorsement does not mean county

sheriffs are required to participate.

The reward program averages about one claim a month, Rapp said. He noted that the program is for felony, not misdemeanor convictions and that the person who owns the property and his immediate family are not eligible to collect the money. Full-time law enforcement officers of the county where the crime was committed also are not eligible for the reward. The money is paid after the final conviction has been made and has not been appealed.

A \$2,500 Reward sign or sticker must be displayed prominently on a Farm Bureau member's property or vehicle at the time of the offense to qualify for the program. The reward sign sizes range from a large plastic sign for premises to a small sticker for cars and trucks. Farm Bureau members must be current with their dues in order to participate, and the person reporting the crime does not need to be a member to collect the reward.

The property protection program is funded through Ohio Farm Bureau, county Farm Bureaus and Nationwide.

"The benefit of the program is that it is a crime deterrent more than a reward program," Rapp said. "Hopefully the visibility of the program in both rural and urban areas will help deter someone thinking of committing a crime. Farm Bureau members are good neighbors and are always looking out for each other."

Spread the word

OFBF has a letter that you can send to neighbors letting them know they can earn the \$2,500 reward for reporting crimes on your property. The letter also explains how your neighbors can join Farm Bureau and take advantage of the property protection program. A copy of the letter is available online at www.tinyurl.com/2500reward.

ANALYSIS

Riding the wind

Ohio's wind power industry growing as communities look for alternative sources of energy



In northwest Hardin County, a large farm covering 40,000 acres has been in the works for about 2 ½ years. This farm, however, doesn't raise crops or animals – it captures the wind.

Once completed, the Hardin Wind Farm will be the largest wind farm in Ohio and one of the largest in the Midwest. The \$600 million project will consist of 200 1.5 megawatt wind turbines, which will generate 300 megawatts of electricity. That's enough electricity to power 75,000 homes.

"There's a lot of wind momentum not just in Ohio but the nation and throughout the world," said Kim Wissman, executive director of the Ohio Power Siting Board, on a recent broadcast of OFBF's radio show *Town Hall Ohio*. The board, which oversees windmills that produce 5 megawatts or more, currently is considering six wind farm proposals. If all the projects are approved, more than 600 wind turbines, including the Harding Wind Farm, will be constructed, generating more than 1,000 megawatts of electricity.

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau's director of energy policy, said he anticipates hundreds of wind turbines will be in operation in Ohio within the next 10 years. Currently, there are only four large turbines in operation, all in Bowling Green.

"People are always asking me 'Are we going to see wind farms like in the Great Plains where turbines are as far as you can see?' The answer is no. When you take a look at the topography, the lay of the land, the population density, where there are roads and homes, we're talking about strategic placement of wind turbines. Very specific spots that meet a number of environmental, economic and aesthetic factors," he said on *Town Hall Ohio*.

 Advisory Council questions on page 5

Wind in Ohio

Both Wissman and Arnold said a state bill passed in 2008 has helped spark an interest in wind power. Ohio law now requires that 25 percent of electricity sold by Ohio's investor-owned electric distribution utilities or electric services be generated from alternative energy sources by 2025. At least half of this energy must come from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and hydro.

Interest also is up because recent wind studies show some of Ohio's winds exceed the 15-mph threshold needed for large windmill projects. It used to cost tens of thousands of dollars to do a wind study to determine if a site was good for the turbines, but Arnold said many of those resources are now available as public records.

The Hardin Wind Farm has received little opposition from the community and environmentalists, said Paul Fletcher, public relations manager for Hardin Wind Energy, LLC, which is developing the project and is an affiliate of Chicago-based Invenery. All of the required public meetings have been held, and the project is waiting for approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board, which doesn't meet again until March. Fletcher said construction could start by the end of the year and that it would take 1 ½ years before all the turbines were operating. The electricity is to be sold to American Electric Power, which owns the transmission lines.

The project is expected to pump \$15 million to \$20 million into the local economy through construction jobs, landowner income from leases,

Point of Policy

OFBF policy supports a comprehensive energy plan that incorporates clean coal, advanced nuclear and renewable technologies. It calls for 25 percent of Ohio's energy needs to be met by these sources by 2025.

lodging, meals and fuel, Fletcher said. Once completed, the wind farm will have about two dozen full-time employees.

"We're very pleased with the progress to date and the reception from the community," he said. "I don't know if it could have gone any smoother."

Community Impact

Not all areas of Ohio have received such widespread support for wind farms. In Logan and Champaign counties, a group of residents opposing large wind farms has formed the Wind Truth Alliance. On its Web site, the group said its community is "under siege by international industrial wind power conglomerates who want to turn our peaceful, residential and agricultural neighborhoods into one large manufacturing area."

When looking at a proposed location, the Ohio Power Siting Board considers many factors: ecological, social, land use, cultural, historic and engineering. Hardin Wind Energy LLC has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Ohio Historical Society and Ohio Division of Fish and Wildlife. Many of the concerns

"Farm Bureau members have taken an active role in education and outreach because we need cleaner, cheaper energy."

~Dale Arnold, OFBF

Potential Energy

- Ohio has the potential to generate 60,000 megawatts of wind energy, twice what is needed to power the state, according to the Ohio Wind Working Group. Ohio is also ranked 2nd in the nation in its capacity to manufacture parts for wind turbines.
- An Ohio law passed in 2008 requires more energy produced from renewable sources, including wind, solar, biomass and hydro.
- A planned wind farm in Hardin County would be one of the largest in the Midwest and would produce enough energy to power 75,000 homes.

with wind turbines deal with the impact on birds and the federally endangered Indiana bat. Fletcher said Hardin Wind Farm's meteorological towers have bat detectors on them as required by ODNR.

"The ecological (issues) are the most contentious," Wissman said. "The anti-wind local concerns have been pretty much focused on setbacks from their property and house, concerns about property rights and values, visual impact, including shadow flicker, and potential noise impact."

The Ohio Power Siting Board requires wind turbines to be at least 750 feet from adjacent residences and one and one tenth times the height of the turbine from the nearest property line. The board is required to look at all public concerns but not mandated to measure a wind turbine's impact on property values. Wissman said the results of various studies on property values and noise are wide ranging.

"You don't see a terrible depreciation of property values but you do see an impact and that's something you need to discuss as a community," Arnold said.

The Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Department of

Taxation and Ohio Air Quality Development Authority have grants and incentives for wind turbine construction, Wissman said.

"For a number of years, Ohio Farm Bureau has supported wind energy development to control energy costs," Arnold said. "Farm Bureau members have taken an active role in education and outreach because we need cleaner and cheaper energy."

TOWN HALL OHIO

Thoughtful talk about life in Ohio

For an extended discussion about wind energy in Ohio or other agricultural and public policy issues, check out OFBF's radio program *Town Hall Ohio*. Past shows as well as air dates and locations are available at TownHallOhio.org. Recent broadcasts have explored business development, Ohio's natural resources, myths about food production and an economic outlook for 2010.



We're Farmers Too!

Specializing in top yielding corn, soybean and wheat seed since 1936.

Your First Choice For Seed!



RUFF SEED FARM

3870 Ruff Road SW Amanda, Ohio 43102
740.969.2600 P 740.969.4340 F

www.ruffseedfarm.com

POLICY & POLITICS

NEWS *briefs*

Corrections

The Jan. 21 issue of *Buckeye Farm News* should have stated that Rep. Jay Hottinger, R-Newark, and Cheryl Grossman, R-Grove City, introduced House Bill 326, which would offer relief from Ohio's estate tax.

In the Dec. 31 *Buckeye Farm News*, a story about a Southeast Ohio Farmland Preservation meeting sponsored by Fairfield County Farm Bureau in February 2009 should have stated that Louise Warner of Pickaway County told of her personal experience protecting her farmland through the Appalachian Ohio Alliance Land Trust, not through Ohio's Ag Easement Purchase Program made possible through the Clean Ohio Fund. Fairfield County landowner Howard Smith should be credited with discussing his personal experience protecting his land through the Ag Easement Purchase Program at the meeting.

Farm Bureau backs effort to stop EPA regulation of greenhouse gases

The American Farm Bureau Federation supports legislative efforts by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, to stop an Environmental Protection Agency proposal to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

In a letter to Murkowski that was sent to all senators, AFBF President Bob Stallman said the EPA proposal is ill-timed because climate discussions held in Copenhagen last month did not produce a "meaningful international agreement that puts all nations on a level playing field with respect to carbon emissions."

"In the absence of such an international agreement, it would be foolish for our country – from both an economic and an environmental standpoint – to undertake such regulatory action as contemplated by EPA. Administrator Lisa Jackson testified before the Senate last summer that the U.S. acting on its own cannot affect the global climate," Stallman wrote.

Ag groups file Supreme Court brief in biotech alfalfa case

The American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Corn Growers Association, the Biotechnology Industry Organization and the American Seed Trade Association have submitted a joint friend-of-the-court brief to the Supreme Court in support of a petition seeking review of a case involving biotech alfalfa. These groups believe the lower courts failed to adequately consider all of the evidence that prove biotech alfalfa is safe, and thus those courts abandoned a well-established legal principle when they banned the planting of the crop.

Stallman: OFBF shows agriculture's 'new attitude'

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) President Bob Stallman delivered a passionate annual address to Farm Bureau members in Seattle, showcasing Ohio Farm Bureau as an example for the nation.

"To those who expect to just roll over America's farm and ranch families, my only message is this: The circumstances have changed," Stallman said during his speech at the organization's 91st annual meeting.

Stallman was clear that in order to be successful, farmers of all walks of life must be united and draw the line between polite and respectful engagement with consumers and "aggressively respond to extremists who want to drag agriculture back to the day of 40 acres and a mule."

"Our adversaries are adept at taking advantage of our politeness," he said. "The time has come to face our opponents with a new attitude. The days of their elitist power grabs are over."

Stallman said Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) embraced this attitude by taking the fight to the "enemies of modern animal agriculture."

"Ohio's Ballot Issue 2 was a big win, and one we must duplicate far and wide," Stallman said, noting that it is more critical than ever that farmers communicate their values

and convey how food production is compatible with traditional ideals.

OFBF leaders and staff gave Farm Bureau members in Seattle an inside look into how the campaign was run and explained how others can follow in the state's footsteps.

OFBF President Brent Porteus said Issue 2, which creates the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board, is just the first round of what he believes will be a long-term battle to determine the care of livestock in the state.

Porteus, OFBF Executive Vice President Jack Fisher and Senior Director of Legislative Policy Adam Sharp all agreed Issue 2 was a pivotal moment for Ohio agriculture and

that agriculture's unity was the key to its success.

"When you get farmers wound up, it's amazing what we can do and the energy you can generate," said Sharp, who explained that Ohio consumers weren't too keen on "out-of-state activists coming into the state and trying to tell Ohioans what to do."

Because farmers were able to take control of the animal care issue, their opponents struggled to find a message that resonated with Ohioans.

Despite the victory, Sharp said OFBF didn't take much time to celebrate. "We started planning for the next year less than 24 hours after

Issue 2 passed," he said. "This is a long-term commitment."

Fisher told AFBF members that now is the time to do something in regards to animal care in their states, and that it is time to take a national proactive approach to the issue. He suggested agricultural groups in states have discussions and come to conclusions about the issue to find out what methods work best for them.

Again, he stressed the importance of all of agriculture being on the same page. "Animal rights groups are most successful when they divide us," he said.

Porteus urged farmers to seize the chances before them. "We have an opportunity to take ownership of the animal care debate and to take away the one-sided debate of the issue."

Expanding Markets

Sharp also shared with members in Seattle initiatives through which OFBF is working as part of the Ohio Food Policy Council to help farmers develop new markets for their products.

Some of these include helping offer fresh local foods in school cafeterias, the development of a mobile poultry processing unit and improving the Ohio MarketMaker program, through which farmers, consumers and food businesses are all connected.

"The days of their elitist power grabs are over."

~Bob Stallman, AFBF President

SEED CONSULTANTS

54 *Replicated corn research locations*

39 *Replicated soybean research locations*

More than **85,000** *yield plots*

Selecting genetics for our growers' unique environments and disease pressure.

SEED CONSULTANTS, INC.
800-708-2676
 Web Site: www.seedconsultants.com
 E-mail: seedconsultants@seedconsultants.com

Seed Consultants is an independent, family-owned seed company!

Supreme EX
 Supreme EX® brand seed is distributed by Seed Consultants, Inc.
 Supreme EX® brand seed is a registered trademark of Pioneer.

Seed Consultants Replicated Research Program 2009 Locations

POLICY & POLITICS

Mossbarger joins OFBF board

John Mossbarger of Washington Court House has been elected to the OFBF board of trustees. He will represent Farm Bureau members from Clinton, Fayette, Greene and Warren counties.

Mossbarger takes office following a special election by delegates of his counties. He fills the seat formerly held by Bob Peterson of Sabina, who retired after 15 years on the OFBF board. Peterson also served as the organization's president from 2004 to 2009.



Mossbarger

Mossbarger, along with his father and brother, own and operate Midland Acres, a Standardbred horse farm. He is also a large animal veterinarian. He is a 10-year member of the Fayette County Farm Bureau and served as its president. He is a director of the United States Trotting Association, a director of the National Federation of Independent Business and formerly served as president for the Ohio Standard Breeders Association and Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association. He is a graduate of Ohio State University where he received his bachelor's and doctor of veterinary medicine degrees.

Office offers services when farms need migrant workers

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has a wealth of information and services for ag employers who hire migrant workers.

The department's Farm Worker Program Web site serves as a clearinghouse of information for agricultural employers, migrant farm workers and agency service providers. It provides up-to-date information, including employment opportunities, migrant census, statewide migrant farm worker outreach staff contacts and enforcement agency directories.

"We are set up to assist employers in labor and recruiting. Essentially we are an employment services agency. We help employers connect with workers," said Benito Lucio, state monitor advocate/ombudsman.

Employers who are interested in hiring migrant workers fill out a job order with Lucio's department, which then contacts outreach staff in states that have large migrant worker populations such as Texas and Florida. The outreach staff help identify potential workers who are willing to travel to Ohio for the seasonal work. Last year his department processed more than 400 job orders, many in the green and nursery industries.

Lucio said he has been trying to educate the ag community more about the employment service his agency offers. In the 1960s and 1970s, many ag businesses used the state's employment service but didn't use it as much starting in the late 1980s because there was a constant

labor pool available in Ohio. But Lucio said the number of available workers has "dwindled significantly" over the last five to 10 years. This year, however, he anticipates a strong labor pool in Ohio because migrant workers are expected to head north earlier than normal from Florida where cold weather has damaged crops there.

"Another thing we're seeing is the unemployment rate in areas where farm workers come from is over 10 percent. Some who had settled down now may be in a situation where they lost their job and are looking at getting back into the migrant stream," Lucio said.

Besides employment services, the Farm Worker Program's Web site offers a wide variety of information for ag employers and migrant workers, including how to recruit migrant farm workers and compliance requirements, migrant and seasonal farm worker outreach staff, foreign labor certification, immigration, limited English proficiency requirements and important forms in Spanish.

"We have a lot of resources on our Web site. We're always getting the most up-to-date information on the best practices and are constantly retooling the Web site," Lucio said. "The great thing about our state is that our outreach staff is the most experienced of those in the country. We can help all types of employers; size doesn't matter."

For information, call the Ohio Migrant hotline at 800-282-3525.

Advisory Councils: *Speak Out*

Articles marked with the Advisory Council logo have corresponding discussion questions at right.

February Honeybaked Ham winners:
Brush Creek, Muskingum County

Wind Energy in Ohio (See article on page 3)

1. What advantages/benefits do you see to Ohio agriculture by adding wind farms in Ohio?
2. What disadvantages do you see to Ohio agriculture?
3. How can Farm Bureau use energy projects to promote the value of agriculture to the non-farming consumer?
4. If a wind farm were going to be built in your own community, what would your response be and why?



Obama speaks on issues important to Farm Bureau

The American Farm Bureau Federation welcomed President Obama's call in his recent State of the Union address for Congress to pass energy legislation that includes more production of renewable fuels and nuclear power. AFBF also strongly backs his commitment to opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development and supports continued investment in advanced biofuels and clean coal technologies.

AFBF also responded positively to the president's call to export more agricultural goods.

"We appreciated his support for strengthening trade relations with Asia and with key partners like South Korea, Panama and Colombia. We join President Obama in

his stated goal of doubling our exports over the next five years and we look forward to working with the administration on a National Export Initiative that will help farmers and small businesses increase their exports," said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

However, Stallman said AFBF cannot support climate change legislation in its current form.

"As we have continually stressed, climate change legislation currently before Congress will sharply cut the numbers of acres devoted to U.S. food production and will increase energy costs for America's farmers and ranchers," he said.

Ag-Link program offers interest reductions

The Ohio Treasury offers the Agricultural Linked Deposit program (Ag-LINK) to provide reduced rate loans to help Ohio farmers offset the cost associated with feed, seed, fertilizer, and fuel.

In 2002, the Ohio General Assembly increased the program allocation from \$100 million to \$125 million dollars. Since its inception, Ag-LINK has helped over 28,000 farmers receive reduced-rate financing totaling \$1.9

billion. In 2009, the Ohio Treasury awarded \$123,090,805 to farmers in 82 of the state's 88 counties.

To qualify for the program, farms must be for-profit with headquarters and more than half of their land and facilities maintained in Ohio. Additionally, farmers must have a documented need for the reduced interest rate, and may request the reduction for up to the first \$100,000 of a loan.

The Ohio Treasury is accepting applications for the 2010 Ag-LINK cycle. The deadline to submit application is Friday, March 12, 2010 at 5 pm. Applications must be mailed or dropped off at the Ohio Treasury's offices located at 30 E. Broad Street, 9th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. For more information, visit www.ohiotreasurer.gov.



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

Whatever color and kind of equipment you need, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America can help with dependable financing. New or used. Big or small. Or visit the hundreds of dealers who use our fast, friendly Agnition® financing program. Make your deal and get the best financing possible right at the spot. For competitive loans and leases to keep your operation rolling, give us a call.



Loans, Leases, Crop and Life Insurance

1-800-444-FARM • www.e-farmcredit.com

Farm Credit Services
OF MID-AMERICA

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is an equal opportunity provider.

OUTREACH



Photo by Chip Nelson

Fulton County Farm Bureau volunteers bag carrots that were donated to Ohio food banks.

County Farm Bureaus provide for those in need

Farmers and Farm Bureau members have the reputation of being there when people are in need, and members in Fulton and Seneca counties put forth an extra effort to do just that.

Tom O'Neill is a Fulton County farmer and raises carrots for Campbell's. Once he met his contract with Campbell's last season, O'Neill still had several acres of carrots. He worked with the Fulton County Farm Bureau to donate some of the surplus carrots to food banks. Through a joint effort between Farm Bureau, the Association of Second Harvest Food Banks and several county volunteers, 202,000 pounds of carrots were shipped to 12 food banks around the state. "I think it shows that in times of need, people are dedicated to helping the needy. Farm

Bureau wants people to be aware that farmers are doing their share and are willing to donate their time and resources to help those who aren't as fortunate as we are," O'Neill said.

In Seneca County, Farm Bureau volunteers organized the "Coats for the Heartland" project for the second year, said Darren Frank, Seneca County organization director. The local Farm Bureau worked with Nationwide agent Chris Schiefer and other area businesses to collect 300 coats in the program's first year. Volunteers recently collected close to 750 coats and are distributing them throughout Seneca and other counties in northwest Ohio.

"This is a great program that both active and associate Farm Bureau members have gotten involved with," Frank said.

OFB Foundation offers scholarships to students pursuing ag-related degrees

Students with a farm background, as well as those coming from suburban and urban communities and pursuing degrees connected to agriculture, are invited to apply for three scholarships supported by the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation.

"Many of our past scholarship recipients are pursuing careers in food sciences, veterinary medicine, agbioresource development, education, and service work. Some come from farm backgrounds, while close to half come from suburban and urban communities," said Foundation President Jack Fisher. "They all have career plans where agriculture plays a key role helping them pursue their career goals."

The three scholarship programs include:

- **Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation Scholar Award**

The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation Scholar (OFBFS) award recognizes students for academic effort, community service and career interests that use agriculture to enhance the partnership between producers and consumers in rural, suburban and/or urban settings.

- **Women's Leadership in Agriculture Scholarship Program**

The Foundation's Women's Leadership in Agriculture Scholarship Program (WLASP) helps young women pursue career opportunities where agriculture plays a key role. The program was established by an endowment from the Charlotte R. Schmidlapp Fund, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee.

- **Darwin Bryan Scholarship Fund**

The Darwin Bryan Scholarship Fund was established in 1985 in honor of Darwin R. Bryan, whose enthusiastic leadership during his 37 years of service to the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation has been an inspiration to rural youth throughout Ohio. The scholarship fund assists students who have been active in the Farm Bureau youth program and/or whose parents are Farm Bureau members.

The scholarship application deadline for each program is March 1.

For more information and to download scholarship applications, visit www.ofbf.org and search "Scholarships and Grants." Or call 614-246-8294 or e-mail foundation@ofbf.org.

Animals for Life Foundation accepting donations

OFBF's Animals for Life Foundation is now up and running and accepting donations.

The Foundation is part of Ohio Farm Bureau's Center for Food and Animal Issues (Center) and focuses on fund-raising efforts to support the Center's mission. The Foundation's goal is to engage and build understanding and trust in the areas where animals touch the lives of people and promote the common belief that people have the right to use animals and the responsibility to do so humanely.

At OFBF's annual meeting, Farm Credit Services of Mid-America presented the Foundation with a \$50,000 check. George Stebbins, a Farm Credit Services board member and pork producer, said while presenting the check that farmers show care and compassion for livestock while following standards set out by animal ag experts.

"The Foundation gives a voice to farmers, consumers, pet owners, animal welfare groups, researchers and sportsmen. The whole idea for the Foundation is to create opportunities for people to donate or support

programs that will go toward education as well as endeavors associated with animals," said Mike Bumgarner, vice president for the Center.

The Animals for Life Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and its board of trustees consists of representatives from Ohio Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services and Bob Evans Co. The board is responsible for determining how the money will be allocated and identifying prospective contributors, said

David White, senior director of OFBF's issues management and executive director of the Foundation.

"We need to better educate the public and consumers about the role animals play in their lives. The purpose of the Foundation is to emphasize and preserve the place animals have in our

daily lives and to get the public to recognize that animals bring value to our lives each and every day whether as rescue dogs or as companions," he said. "The Foundation will not be engaged in political activity; it's only for public outreach."

ANIMALS
for **LIFE**
foundation

"The purpose is to emphasize and preserve the place animals have in our daily lives."

~David White, OFBF

The Foundation is currently in the process of developing a marketing plan, Web site and fund-raising brochure, White said.

"When you take a look at how animal agriculture is under attack, it's not just production ag that's being attacked," he said. "Anybody who is using animals whether in zoos, for research or for entertainment purposes feels threatened."

Contact White at dwhite@ofbf.org or 614-246-8261.

5 ways to help support Ohio agriculture

If you believe in Ohio Farm Bureau's efforts to protect farmers, stand up for animal agriculture, promote locally grown foods, advocate for good government and communicate with consumers, the organization needs your help. More than ever, farmers are needed to join together to address a multitude of issues facing agriculture and rural Ohio.

"Our issue influence and financial strength is based on our strong grassroots network," said John Wargowsky, OFBF senior director of field communications. "We need to continue to grow our membership base if we are going to tackle the challenges that we face."

Here's how you can help:

- Attend a local membership rally to learn how you can get involved in Farm Bureau's membership campaign. Some rallies have already been held, but others are scheduled over the next month. County information is available at www.ofbf.org/counties.

- Ask friends and neighbors to join Farm Bureau. Printable membership forms are available and you can join online at www.ofbf.org. Click on "Benefits and Membership" then "Become a Member."
- Are you attending a meeting or an event where individuals might be interested in Farm Bureau's cause or the organization's member benefits? Farm Bureau county offices have materials you can share.
- Several Ohio businesses have provided Farm Bureau memberships as a perk for their employees. Talk with your employer or another local business if you think they could benefit from a relationship with Farm Bureau.
- County Farm Bureaus need volunteers at local events, such as Farmers' Share Breakfasts, who can provide information about the organization to those in attendance. Contact your county office to learn about opportunities for involvement.

Catch up with OFBF at ag events

OFBF will be participating at two trade shows in March. The Ohio Beef Expo will be held March 19 to 21 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds, Ohio Expo Center in the Voinovich building. OFBF will be in booth 308 renewing and signing up new Farm Bureau members. The event is an opportunity to connect with the cattle farmers as animal care issues are top of mind.

In addition, OFBF will be partici-

pating in the Small Farm Conference at Wilmington College on March 12 and 13. The Small Farm College and Conference was initiated to assist landowners in identifying private industry and governmental resources for small acreage farms, and OFBF is excited to participate with this growing segment of the farming community.

"These activities allow us to talk

with current members and introduce Ohio Farm Bureau to potential new members," said Seth Everitt, OFBF marketing and communications specialist. "We look forward to visiting with everyone, and we hope you will stop by."

For more information about these and other OFBF events, visit www.ofbf.org and click on "News and Events."

A.T.A.C. "Pond Management Specialist"

4229 Wilmington Road
Lebanon, Ohio
888-998-7663
www.atac.cc

FISH STOCKING
Bass
Bluegill
Amur
Perch
Minnows
Crappie
Many More

**Algae Control
Aeration Equipment
Fountains
Water Garden Supplies
Docks
Fish Population Studies
Fish Structure
Fish Food**

ELIMINATE GAPS & OVERLAPS

Precision GPS by **Trimble**

Precision Laser & Instrument, Inc.
WWW.LASERINST.COM

YOUR OHIO REPRESENTATIVE
CONTACT: SHAWN SPENCER
374 MORRISON RD SUITE C
COLUMBUS, OH 43213
513-200-7553 CELL
SCS@LASERINST.COM

FARM BUREAU NEWS

MAY WE INTRODUCE...

"Ohio Farm Bureau is truly the voice of the farmers and not just the big ones but the little guys, and I'm able to prove that with my participation."

~ Doug Fitch

Doug Fitch is a pharmacist who has a small farm, Fitch Pharm Farm, in Ashland County and produces maple syrup, honey, hay, blueberries and other specialty crops. He grew up on a farm in Richland County and bought his farm 22 years ago, saying you can't "take the farm out of the farm boy." Fitch has been an Ashland County Farm Bureau member for 15 years and has been county president, on the promotion and education board, a delegate to OFBF's annual meeting and currently is the membership chairman. He and his wife, Bethany, have three grown children and three grandchildren. "Our Happy Trails Council is very, very active. Our policy locally is very strong," he said. Fitch appeared in an episode of the *Our Ohio* TV series that featured maple syrup production. Watch the video at www.OurOhio.org.



Fitch

"Ohio Farm Bureau is very family oriented. They're very passionate about what they do."

~ Robert Dunaway, staff assistant

Robert Dunaway has been working at the state Ohio Farm Bureau office for 10 years, helping with inventory, storage and support of business operations. He assists in facility management and helps with incoming and outgoing shipments. Dunaway is a 1992 graduate of Teays Valley High School and grew up in Pickaway County on a farm where he helped his family bale hay and raise pigs. He is married to Mary Ann and has a son, three stepchildren and five step-grandchildren. He volunteers at his son's school and is active in his church, World Harvest.



Dunaway

Link Up Connect with Ohio Farm Bureau on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Visit www.ofbf.org and click on "media and publications" then "social media."



Updates on the workers' comp group rating program

Enrollment

In late summer 2009, members of the workers' compensation group rating program received communications that the Ohio Farm Bureau had chosen a new administrator for the program. CompManagement, Inc., a Sedgwick CMS Company, has been on board since September. Group rating re-enrollment packets were mailed in November to those members who were eligible to participate in the program. There is still time to enroll in the 2010 program.

Bureau of Workers' Compensation payroll report reminder

The payroll report for the period July 1, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2009 was mailed in January by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). If you have not received the payroll report, please contact the BWC at 1-800-644-6292 to request another copy be mailed to you. Remember, your premium payment must be received by the BWC by Feb. 28, 2010 otherwise your coverage will lapse. You may also pay the premium online at www.ohiobwc.com.

2 hour safety requirement

If you are a participant in the Ohio Farm Bureau group rating program and incurred a workers'

compensation claim in 2007 or 2008, you must attend two hours of additional safety training prior to June 30, 2010.

Claim reserve calculation changes

Starting in July 2010, BWC will no longer suppress reserves for medical only claims, claims with salary continuation payments and claims with living maintenance as last paid compensation. Changes include:

- **Medical Only Claims** – effective July 1, 2010, all medical only claims will be eligible for a reserve; BWC will use the reserve for rate making purposes for the July 1, 2011 policy year. New reserves will be displayed for each weekly reserve prediction starting July 2010 on the MIRA II reserve screens will be on ohiobwc.com and will be included on the quarterly claim cost reports beginning Sept. 30, 2010. Note: medical only claims within the \$15,000 program will not be eligible for a reserve until removed from the program.
- **Salary Continuation** – claims with dates of injury of Jan. 1, 2011 and after will be eligible for both an indemnity and medical reserve. Claims with salary continuation as the only indemnity payments will most likely not incur an in-

demnity reserve due to the MIRA II stop logic. However, salary continuation claims with ongoing medical will most likely incur a medical reserve. It is important to note that employers can continue to use salary continuation as a cost containment strategy but that it will only eliminate the indemnity portion of the experience rate calculation.

- **Living Maintenance** – effective July 1, all claims with living maintenance and living maintenance wage loss as the last paid indemnity will no longer have the original calculated reserve reduced by 50 percent. New reserves will be displayed for each weekly reserve prediction starting July 2010 on the MIRA II reserve screens will be on ohiobwc.com and be included on the quarterly claim cost reports beginning Sept. 30.

The changes listed above will have a direct affect on your bottom line premium.

For more information on enrollment, safety training requirements or the impacts of the BWC reserve changes, please contact your CompManagement Account Executive directly or the CompManagement Customer Support Unit at 800-825-6755, option 3.

Heimerls elected co-chairs of OFBF Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team

Matt and Rachel Heimerl of Johnstown were recently elected co-chairs of the OFBF Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team.

The team is composed of 16 members, representing each of Ohio Farm Bureau's four regions.

The Heimerls are actively involved in the family farming operation, which includes hog production, feeder cattle, corn, soybeans and wheat. They both serve on the Licking County Board of Trustees where Matt is currently vice president. Matt is also a participant in OFBF's AgriPOWER Institute, a leadership training program. Matt and Rachel are graduates of Ohio State University and are the parents of a one-year-old daughter, Lauren.

"Matt and Rachel bring a great deal of enthusiasm and Farm Bureau experience to the team. As county board members and their participation in local and state leadership programs, we are glad to have them on board," said Darrell Rubel, director of leadership development at OFBF.

New members were appointed to the committee as well. Each team member serves a two-year term, in which they are involved in planning programs and events that reach out to young professionals and the community.

Young Agricultural Professionals are OFBF members age 35 or younger who are interested in improving the business of agriculture, learning new ideas and developing important leadership skills.

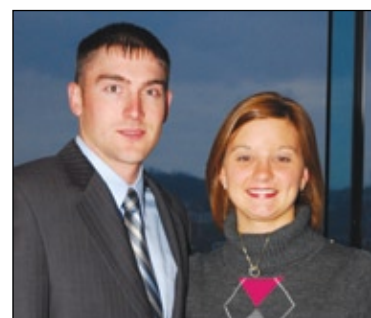


Photo by Galen Harris

Matt and Rachel Heimerl will chair the Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team.

Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team

New appointments to the team include:

- Greg and Rose Hartschuh of Bloomville (Northwest)
- Wayne and Sarah Greier of Salem (Northeast)
- Joey and Sarah Roell of Camdem (Southwest)
- Ray and Christie Haines of Lowell (Southeast)

Returning members include:

- Derek and Roshelle Rowe of Bucyrus (Northwest)
- Steve and Sonya Quillin of Stone Creek (Northeast)
- Patrick and Mary Neill of Union City (Southwest)
- Matt and Rachel Heimerl of Johnstown (Southeast)

Ryan and Nikki McClure of Grover Hill serve on American Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

THE K BUILDING TRADITION... THE STRENGTH OF STEEL!

ELGIN SERVICE CENTER Buildings

1-800-758-0307

www.kbuildings.com

Visit our web site for our service center locations.

NOTEWORTHY

Ohioans recognized at AFBF annual meeting

Palsgrove competes in Discussion Meet

Cassandra Palsgrove of Fairfield County was Ohio's state Discussion Meet winner and competed at the AFBF annual meeting. The Discussion Meet is designed to simulate a committee meeting where discussion and active participation are used to solve a problem being discussed. She is an agricultural educator for the Bloom-Carroll Local School district who has a passion for educating youth about agriculture and developing their leadership and professional skills through her agricultural education program.



Palsgrove

Simpson earns award for tagging gadget

Floyd Simpson of Belmont County won the "most widely usable" award as part of the AFBF Farmer Idea Exchange contest. Simpson's Tag-Sav-R is a device to safely unfasten two-piece livestock ear tags, rather than cut them out. Simpson uses it to preserve stamped tags on feeder calves going to market and to correct tagging mistakes. The Farmer Idea Exchange encourages Farm Bureau members to share their innovative ideas and help others find new ways to cut costs, improve efficiency, protect and improve the environment and increase their net farm income.

Ohio Farm Bureau interviewed Simpson about his invention. The video is available at facebook.com/ohiofarmbureau

Webers, Vance and Hill reach the top 10

Brandon and Julie Weber of Jackson County were named Top 10 finalists in the 2010 Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award competition held at American Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

The Webers are eighth-generation farmers who operate a farmers market and retail store. They also sell hay, provide horse boarding and are expanding into aquaculture.

The AFBF Achievement Award is an opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to earn recognition for their achievements in farm growth and leadership qualities.

Andy Vance and Lindsay Hill of Logan County also were named Top 10 finalists in the national Excellence in Ag competition.

They own and operate Ohio's oldest and most widely listened to agricultural radio network, ABN.

In addition, they travel frequently to state and national agriculture events, conventions and trade shows to provide farmer listeners with the most important information for their farm businesses.

The Excellence in Ag competition provides a platform to show and share knowledge of agricultural issues and to showcase involvement in Farm Bureau and the community.

To learn how to get involved in the Achievement Award, Excellence in Ag or Discussion Meet programs contact your county Farm Bureau office.



Julie and Brandon Weber



Andy Vance and Lindsay Hill

County programs receive national accolades

Mercer County's Grand Lake Agriculture Leadership Program and Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson and Tuscarawas counties' Leadership Education and Development program (LEAD) were recognized in AFBF's County Activities of Excellence program. Only 15 county Farm Bureaus from around the nation were recognized for innovative new program ideas in five categories: Education & Agriculture Promotion; Leadership Development; Membership Services; Policy Implementation; and Public Relations & Information.

LEAD is a 14-month community leadership education program that provided participants with hands-on in-depth leadership development experiences to expand participants' exposure to a variety of topics including international, national and statewide perspectives on social, governmental and agricultural and natural resource topics.

Mercer County's program was designed to develop and grow local agriculture leaders, to broaden their perspectives and create better spokespeople for agriculture. A comprehensive eight-month course focused on leadership development, agriculture marketing, human resource management, public policy and communication.



BACK OFFICE

We'll help you protect it.

For over 100 years Nationwide® Agribusiness has been coming up with the right kind of coverage for farmers like you. It's made us America's largest insurer of farms and farm-owned cooperatives. Count on us to provide the kind of service, coverage, and value you need.

Call a Nationwide agent and ask about money-saving discounts for Farm Bureau members. To find an agent, visit nationwide.com/OFBF.

Endorsed by:



Thank you for making us the #1 farm insurer

Source: 2008 Munich Re Report. Based on premium and loss data.

Products underwritten by Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company, Farmland Mutual Insurance Company, Allied Property and Casualty Insurance Company, and AMCO Insurance Company. Home Office: 1100 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA, 50391. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review, and approval. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide and the Nationwide framework service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. © 2010 Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

SRF030 OH (0110)