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Campaign builds on belief that "Life is better with animals." PG 6



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A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

# BUCKEYE FARM NEWS

OHIO'S LARGEST AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 20, 2011 | VOLUME 10 | ISSUE 8

## What landowners should look for in oil, natural gas leases

BY AMY BETH GRAVES

With gas prices continuing to skyrocket, interest in tapping into Ohio's natural resources for gas and oil is booming. More and more landowners are being approached by strangers asking if they are interested in leasing their property for oil and natural gas exploration. Even Gov. John Kasich recently said natural gas drilling could be a big boost for the state's economy.

What are Marcellus and Utica shale and where are they? How much money should landowners get for property leases? What are the environmental effects? What companies are reputable?

These are just some of the questions that Dale Arnold is asked on an almost daily basis from Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) members who are asked to allow oil and natural gas exploration on their

property. Arnold, OFBF's director of energy policy, has been traveling around the state, talking at packed meeting halls about how to negotiate a lease.

"The key is to take your time and get a local attorney who is working on your behalf. Many of these companies have a profit motive to get a specific number of people signed in a certain amount of time. They're on a time commitment but you as a landowner are not," Arnold said.

Marcellus shale is an ancient shale formation that lies 8,000 to 15,000 feet under eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and New York. Experts estimate that its methane resources could supply the United States' needs for natural gas and methane for the next 40 years, Arnold said. Utica shale is another ancient

shale formation found underneath the Marcellus and holds similar reserves. The Utica shale formation stretches into many areas of central Ohio. New technology coupled with rising natural gas and oil prices have made it economically viable to tap into the Marcellus shale. Previously it was too expensive and too difficult.

How do you know if you have Marcellus or Utica shale on your property? Arnold said energy companies have been collecting data about these formations for years and if they show up on your doorstep, you've likely got it. If you previously had an oil or gas lease, be aware that today's leases are worth significantly more money. For example, in the 1990s, it was typical to get \$15 to \$30 per acre per year. Today, that amount should be in the

See LEASES, pg 2

Hear more from OFBF Director of Energy Policy Dale Arnold in a video at [www.ofbf.org](http://www.ofbf.org). Search for this article's headline.

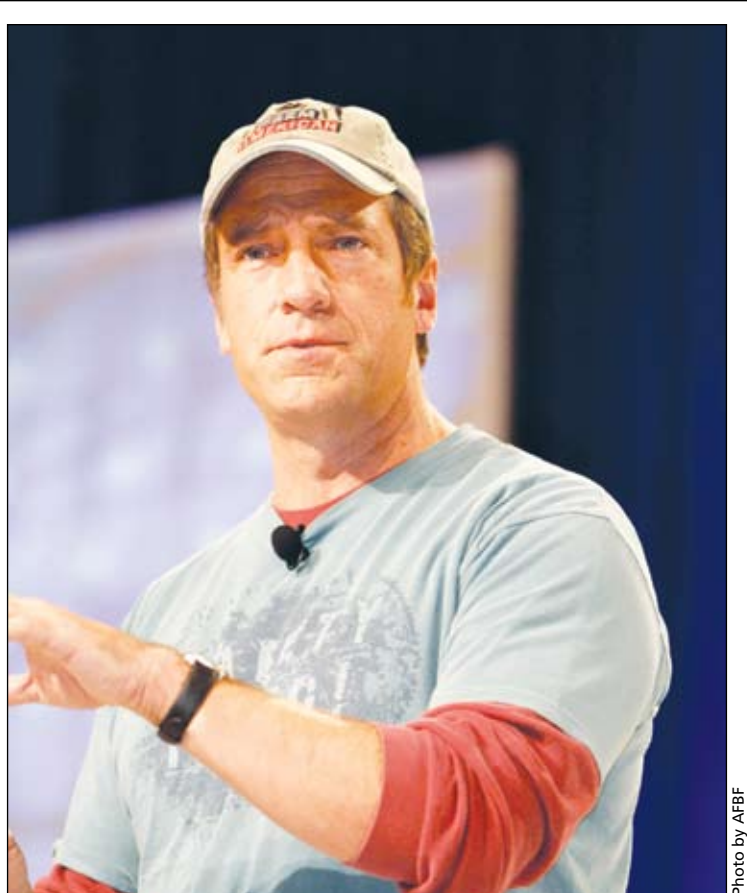



Photo by AFBF

**Dirty Words:** Mike Rowe, host of the popular Discovery Channel series *Dirty Jobs*, was asked at American Farm Bureau's annual meeting if he'd consider becoming a spokesman for agriculture. Rowe said he can bring attention to the work and values of farmers but "I do believe in my heart of hearts that you are your own best spokesmen." Read more about the annual meeting in the Feb. 24 issue of *Buckeye Farm News*.

## Estate tax relief a win for Farm Bureau

COMPILED BY STAFF

President Obama recently signed a tax relief bill that sets for two years an estate tax rate exemption of \$5 million with a maximum rate of 35 percent. The American Farm Bureau Federation

**+1**  
Add to the effort: Estate tax reform will save farm families thousands of dollars. Share this news and ask others to join Farm Bureau.

(AFBF) is pleased with the results. "That's a level that's high enough to protect most farms and ranches from the estate tax," said American Farm Bureau Tax Specialist Pat Wolff. "Most farms and ranches are family operations with multiple generations working together as partners. It's a big enough hit when a partner in a business dies, but to tack a huge tax on top of it can be very harmful to a farm or ranch."

Ohio Farm Bureau had expressed concerns that farmers had with the tax to U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, who voted for the bill.



Brown

AFBF recognizes that this was a very good deal, but knows it is only temporary and will have to start working right away to make certain the estate law stays on the books. The new law also continues a number of other provisions supported by Farm Bureau. It extends for two years a lower capital gains tax rate for all taxpayers and lower income tax rates for all taxpayers. It also extends tax incentives for biodiesel, ethanol and other alternative fuels, as well as extending the tariff on imported ethanol.

## Farmers show daily life, hard work in online diary

BY CHIP NELSON

"Monday: All this snow is pretty but I could do without it. It makes life on a farm more work." That's a post on the Farmer's Diary blog from Butler County Farm Bureau member and dairy farmer Rosemary Beeler, as she tells about her day on the farm. She is one of 32 Butler County Farm Bureau volunteers sharing their stories.

"The idea for the 'Farmer's Diary' came out of discussions during the county's reorganization meeting," said Rita Beiser, Butler County's Center for Food and Animal Issues action team leader. "Our goal is to promote a positive image of agriculture. We thought a blog or a daily diary of a farmer's day would show the good care we take of our animals and our land."

The Farmer's Diary blog is posted on Butler County Farm Bureau's webpage ([www.ofbf.org/counties/butler](http://www.ofbf.org/counties/butler)). Visitors to the site can learn about early mornings on a dairy farm, what it takes to repair a tractor or the planning that goes into spring planting. They can get a sense of the closeness of the farm family as they finally sit down together for a



Photo from the Diary of Gail Lierer

An entry in the farmer diaries included this photo of David Lierer Sr. looking back as his son David Lierer Jr. (l) and Bryan Crosier (r) repair a trencher.

late evening meal. Followers of the county's Facebook page can also connect to the blog. Search [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) for "Butler County Farm Bureau, Hamilton, Ohio."

"The feedback we are getting has been very positive, saying the diaries are interesting and informative," said Beiser. "We want to help educate and explain our practices to the non-farm public. As farmers, if we don't

work to promote a positive image of agriculture, who will?"

The Farmer's Diary project started in November and will continue through next August.

Find out what's happening with your county Farm Bureau by visiting the Ohio County Pages section of the Ohio Farm Bureau website at [www.ofbf.org/counties](http://www.ofbf.org/counties).

## THE MESSAGE BOARD

### Finney joins Farm Bureau staff

Leah Finney has been named director of legal education for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

Among her duties, Finney will provide legal information and educational services to OFBF members and staff, monitor developing legal issues and provide support to OFBF's public policy team on legislative and regulatory affairs.



Finney earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and her Juris Doctorate from Ohio State University. Prior to graduation, she interned at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the OSU office of legal affairs and was a research assistant in the OSU agricultural and rural law program. Finney grew up on a farm in Jefferson County, where she was active in Farm Bureau youth programs and 4-H.

## “ Their Words

*“There's been some talk that this bill would, for example, outlaw backyard gardening or prohibit people from saving pumpkin seeds, for example, to plant the next year in their garden. Those are simply not the case. So there's been a lot of rumor that's made the bill seem a lot worse than it actually is.”*

**AFBF Policy Specialist Kelli Ludlum discussing new food safety legislation before it was passed by Congress last month. The bill mostly deals with food processors and wouldn't have much of an impact on most farmers and ranchers, Ludlum said.**

## Talk of the Town

In case you missed it, Ohio Farm Bureau's radio program *Town Hall Ohio* has had some high profile guests in recent weeks. They include Humane Society of the United States President Wayne Pacelle, who answered questions about his organization's views on animal issues and Ohio State University President Gordon Gee, who discussed how the university's partnership with agriculture benefits Ohioans. Find out more at [www.townhallohio.org](http://www.townhallohio.org) or subscribe to the show on iTunes at <http://bit.ly/THOoniTunes>.

## Foundation offers scholarships for agriculture related degrees

Ohio students from rural, suburban and urban communities and pursuing degrees connected to agriculture are invited to apply for a set of scholarships through three programs supported by the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation.

Collectively, these programs will award at least 10 scholarships, each featuring a minimum \$1,000 award. The application deadline for all scholarship programs is March 1.

- The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation Scholar 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.
  - The Foundation's Women's Leadership in Agriculture Scholarship Program 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.
  - 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 organization 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.
- For information and applications, visit [www.ofbfoundation.org](http://www.ofbfoundation.org) and click on "Scholarships and Grants," e-mail [foundation@ofbf.org](mailto:foundation@ofbf.org) or call 614-246-8294.

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LEASES from PG 1

hundreds or thousands of dollars over the life of the lease, Arnold said.

Examples of questions that landowners should ask are what is the amount of money they will receive per year and when, how deep the drilling could go, what type of technology will be used, what other equipment will be on the property, what shale formation they are going for and will the lease be sold to another company.

“In many of these leases, the com-

pany states it could sell to another holding company. Landowners need to know if the company they sign with is going to be the company doing the drilling and what its goals and objectives are,” Arnold said, noting that a company could sell the lease to another company at a much higher rate and the landowner would be unable to renegotiate.

Arnold also said landowners should negotiate to get free natural gas and be aware of automatic lease renewals. Other areas to negotiate include reimbursement for impact on water supplies, exact location of all sites and access roads, shut-in royalties and post-drilling reclamation agreements.

He said Ohio Farm Bureau's state office has a list of attorneys who are experts in this type of leasing and recommended landowners look at OFBF's website as well as that of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources' Division of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas.

“Knowledge is power and the more you know, the better you can negotiate and the better benefits you can achieve,” he said.

## 2011 Farm Bureau Goals

Market Farm Bureau to Achieve Membership Growth

Connect Consumers to Food Production

Protect Private Property Rights

Advance Farm Bureau Policy to Create a Positive Jobs Climate

Enhance Value of Partnerships with Nationwide and Other Affinity Organizations

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ANALYSIS

# Rebuilding trust key to preserving production

Animal behavior researcher Temple Grandin stirred some debate at a recent Animal Welfare Symposium at Ohio State University when she asserted that sow gestation stalls should be phased out because "I can't sell them."

Her comments suggested that public opinion was so steeply stacked against the housing practice that it would be more effective for farmers to spend their time changing how they care for sows than trying to change the mind of their customers.

"I can't sell them to the public. It's that simple," she repeated several times.

Her comments drew concern from audience members, with one farmer saying that basing animal standards on a public opinion could have negative implications across the industry. (Read about how Ohio is approaching the sow stall issue on Page 6.)

Grandin's response was that farmers should better engage consumers who are disconnected from the farm. Otherwise, they might get the same result on other animal care practices.

"If ag doesn't reach across the divide, it's going to be in trouble," she acknowledged.

Charlie Arnot of the Center for Food Integrity called the heightened awareness about food issues "a wonderful opportunity for the agricultural community to step in and fill that information void."

Arnot said farmers don't like to be challenged about who they are or what they do, but their best hope is to have a conversation with their customers.

**"Trust means more than being competent at what you do."**

*~Janice Swanson, Michigan State University animal science professor*



Visitors to the JS West website, [www.jswest.com](http://www.jswest.com), can view this live streaming video to get a glimpse at what life is like for chickens inside the company's henhouse.

"Not all of the responses from consumers are going to be well informed, well intentioned and they're not necessarily going to immediately support what we do on today's farms," he said. "So we need to be willing to accept some of that and begin to have a conversation as opposed to simply telling people what they think is wrong, that we have the science to prove it, and they ought to be just grateful that they have food on their table."

If farmers are successful, they could have the opportunity to continue to produce food, he said.

"If we're not successful in that we could see more laws, more regulations, more social control over who we are and what we do because consumers are saying 'OK, I'm uncomfortable enough with farmers that I'm not sure I trust them. I want someone else watching what they're doing.'"

Further complicating the issue is that consumers don't always make purchasing decisions in accordance with their ethical beliefs, said Janice Swanson of the Michigan State University Department of Animal Science during American Farm Bureau's annual meeting.

"We need to know this and learn to work

## Full Disclosure?

Asked by Ohio Farm Bureau what farmers can do to rebuild trust with consumers, Temple Grandin said emotions are affected by pictures, not verbal or written knowledge.

"I've taken a lot of people through our large beef plants, and they're kind of amazed at how quietly the cattle walk up the chutes. And we just need to be showing what we do. Not talking about it, showing it. Stream it out to the Internet. The equipment's cheap," she said.

Grandin said consumers just want to see "how the regular stuff works," not gory activist videos.

As it faces potentially burdensome new state regulations, the California egg company JS West has done just that. It put live streaming video of its henhouse online, allowing visitors to select different camera angles and leave comments.

with this, because I don't think we're ever going to change it," she said.

Swanson noted that society's continued deliberation on the appropriate care of animals will be "a way of life as we know it."

She said farmers should consider the long-term impacts of not changing and adapt to consumer demands within reason.

"It's not worth the fight, going to the mat, if it can be done," she said.

The establishment of animal care guidelines that balance consumer concerns with the reality of production could allow producers to control their fate, she said. She also said that while consumers generally trust farmers, they're not sure how to define farming.

"Trust means more (to consumers) than being competent at what you do," Swanson said.

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## POLICY &amp; POLITICS

## NEW-LOOK LEGISLATURE

## Change at Statehouse could have implications for farmers

The New Year brought with it a new look in the Ohio General Assembly.

More than two dozen new faces were sworn into the legislature earlier this month, with the House of



Niehaus



Batchelder

Representatives switching to a Republican majority and the Senate gaining two Republican majority seats.

"We're proud to say many of the new faces in the General Assembly were chosen by local Farm Bureau members as 'Friends of Agriculture' in the general election last fall," said Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

Director of State Policy Beth Vanderkooi.

They'll be led by new Senate President Tom Niehaus, R-New Richmond, and new Speaker of the House, Bill Batchelder, R-Medina, both of whom Vanderkooi said have a wealth of experience and excellent voting records in regard to agriculture.

Both have already hinted at priorities for the 129<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, including an increased workload in a tough economic time.

### Priorities

Vanderkooi said solving the \$8.4 billion state budget deficit will dominate priorities.

Last year, OFBF dedicated a State Budget Task Force toward suggesting ways to get the budget back on track. OFBF members voted on policy resolutions confirming how the organization would like to see the budget addressed. Such solutions include providing incentives to state and local government to implement cost savings, performance audits and bringing state benefits in line with those in the private sector.

OFBF's Board of Trustees is expected to set the organization's priority issues at its January meeting. According to Vanderkooi, some of these may include business climate issues, water quality issues (including, but not limited to those in Grand Lake St. Marys), livestock care, energy and transportation.

Among other priorities, the General Assembly is also expected to focus on a repeal of the estate tax (a long-time OFBF priority issue), workers' compensation reform, regulatory reform and job creation.

"There is a lot of common ground with what is coming out of the General Assembly and what has been longstanding Farm Bureau policy," Vanderkooi said. "We are excited to advocate on behalf of our members in 2011."



## Advisory Councils: Speak Out

Your Guide For February Meetings

### Oil and Gas Leasing

See article on page 1

For many years, Ohio farmers have been approached by drilling companies seeking to lease land to explore for oil and natural gas. But new technologies and a rise in natural gas prices are increasing drilling activities in many parts of Ohio.

### Questions:

1. Has anyone in your council been approached recently about leasing their land for oil or natural gas exploration? What was their experience working with the drilling company?
2. Do you feel you have enough information about the issue if you were approached with a lease agreement? What additional information do you need?
3. Do you believe that increased oil and natural gas exploration could help rural communities? Are there any potential drawbacks?
4. What additional policy suggestions do you have for OFBF to help landowners navigate issues surrounding oil and natural gas lease agreements?

## Livestock board's proposal rethinks use of sow stalls

The Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board is considering rules that could lead to changes in the way farmers house pregnant pigs.

Currently, many farmers keep sows in individual gestation stalls during breeding and pregnancy. Prior to giving birth, the animals are moved to separate farrowing units that provide protected areas for piglets to nurse.

In recent years, the gestation stalls have been subjected to intense public scrutiny. The primary concern is that the size of the enclosure prevents animals from turning around during pregnancy, which lasts just over three and a half months. A ballot measure proposed in 2010 would have essentially banned the use of stalls within six years.

The potential loss of gestation stalls troubled farmers who say stalls prevent fighting between sows, keep feeding areas clean and allow for individualized care. They have also noted that stalls are particularly important to ensure the well-being of the sow and its embryo during the initial stages of pregnancy.

Following the recommendations of a swine subcommittee and the input of several farmers, the livestock board is now considering a proposal saying that farms that currently have stalls could continue using them with no changes until 2025. The equipment typically has a lifespan of at least 15 years, so this would give farmers time to capture a return on the investments they have already made. After 2025, farmers would be able to use gestation stalls during breeding and the crucial early pregnancy stage. The stalls may also be used to isolate sick, injured or aggressive animals.

Aside from that, farmers would have to utilize an alternative form of sow housing. New facilities may be required to use alternative sow housing before 2025.

For example, that might include group pens or equipment that allows animals to enter and exit stalls as they choose. Some have called for more research into the effectiveness of these and other modified housing practices.

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## NATIONWIDE NEWS

# Fire claims persist as homeowners look to offset heating costs with fireplaces and space heaters

## □ Nationwide Insurance Home Safety Survey reveals U.S. homeowners taking risks to stay warm

As the cold temperatures set in, many homeowners are taking risks to stay warm that often end in tragic home fires. A review of Nationwide Insurance claims data reveals significant jumps in home fires started by alternative heating sources – such as fireplaces, wood burning stoves and space heaters.

While the frequency of these types of fire dropped 10 percent among Nationwide customers last winter and are now closer to historical levels, these devices are among the most prominent causes of winter home fires. Nationwide saw a huge spike in fires started by alternative heating

devices the previous two winters.

According to Nationwide Insurance fire claims, wood burning fireplaces still cause the most alternative heating source fires followed by wood burning stoves, overloaded extension cords, space heaters, and gas fireplaces. Fire claims from the winter of 2009/2010 from alternative heating sources found:

- 57 percent of fires were caused by wood burning fireplaces
- 13 percent of fires were caused by wood burning stoves
- 13 percent of fires were caused by overloaded extension cords
- 11 percent of fires were caused by space heaters

More than one third of Americans already use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-burning appliances to heat their home and their use is increasing.

To learn more, Nationwide commissioned a survey of more than 1,000 Americans that revealed the risks many homeowners take with home safety to stay warm and to save money on their heating bills.

Among key findings in Nationwide's survey, 68 percent of those surveyed said they plan to use their alternative heating source as much or more often compared to last winter.

Among the fire risks revealed:

- 41 percent of Americans do not have their chimneys inspected each year and 25 percent do it less than every four years
- 38 percent do not own carbon monoxide detectors
- 29 percent do not turn off their space heater when going to bed
- 13 percent use their oven to heat their kitchen

- 11 percent use an extension cord with their electric space heater

"While fireplaces and space heaters help keep home heating costs down, the risks outweigh the benefits if installed incorrectly or not used properly," said Bill Windsor, Nationwide's safety officer. "Each of these claims represents a significant and often life-changing event that in most cases could have been prevented."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, there are 64,000 home heating fires annually in the United States, resulting in 540 deaths and 1,400 injuries. There is still a significant problem as Americans continue to sacrifice home protection in an attempt to offset high home heating costs by using alternative heating sources.

The reason people use the devices is to save money. Americans

surveyed by Nationwide say they save an average of \$474 each winter by using alternative heating sources and those in the Midwest save an average of \$644.

"While Americans save a lot of money using these alternative heating sources, they can be extremely dangerous," Windsor added. "But by taking a few simple precautions, your family can stay warm and stay safe."

As a homeowner, you know disasters can occur inside and outside your home, so it pays to be prepared. Protect your family and your belongings with comprehensive home insurance.

*Ohio Farm Bureau is a sponsor of Nationwide and endorses the company's coverages. For more information about protecting your home and its contents, contact a local Nationwide agent, or visit [www.nationwide.com/ofbf](http://www.nationwide.com/ofbf).*

## Initiative highlights a shared connection to animals

A recent consumer focus group conducted on behalf of OFBF's Animals for Life Foundation by Wilt Public Relations of Springfield found that even regular meat-eating consumers are uncomfortable thinking and talking about how animals are used for human benefit. While they do not seek out information about animal care or how animals are used to their benefit, their opinions about food production and animal care are strongly influenced by emotional appeals and information about these subjects from family and friends and mass media.

When it comes to the human-animal bond, consumers relate easily to images and messages about animals being used for companion, recreational and assistance uses. They are slower to appreciate images and messages about the benefits of animals for food production and research.

The approaches that influenced focus group participants included emotional appeals, shock and surprise and factual information. The most influential sources of this information included family and friends, veterinarians, and those with similar religious and spiritual viewpoints. When delivered via mass media, consumers were most likely to get this information from the web and television.

A similar sized sample of stakeholders, including farmers, agricultural and veterinary professionals, were interviewed on a one-on-one basis. All agreed that emotional appeals are an acceptable approach to finding common ground with consumers with one caveat – that the appeal is supported by factual information.

Stakeholders did not place an equal value on an animal life and a human life, although they held the animal life in high regard. Consumers were more likely to attribute similar value to both animal and

human life and to expect mutual benefits between the two.

The stakeholders interviewed largely agree that to continue efficient food production we must openly discuss production philosophies other than those promoting a vegan or vegetarian lifestyle.

OFBF is responding with an initiative that will position the issue of human-animal interactions in a way that will help consumers and stakeholders find common ground. Led by the Center for Food and Animal Issues via the Animals for Life Foundation, it will employ two major strategies: 1) develop strategic partnerships with stakeholders, and 2) build community around the cause of the human-animal bond.

The campaign theme, which tested well with both consumers and stakeholders will be "Life is Better with Animals" and will be expressed through touching images and words that show humans and animals interacting with mutual benefit. Advertisements, fact sheets, articles and social media will bear the theme and supporting messages, including:

- Animals make human life better in many ways and vice versa.
- Using animals as part of a modern lifestyle is natural – the way God/Mother Nature intended.
- We care about the well-being of animals. ("We" includes farmers, veterinarians, medical professionals, zookeepers and other stakeholders.)

For more information as the campaign is launched in 2011, visit the Animals for Life Foundation website at [www.affoundation.org](http://www.affoundation.org).

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## Guess who just saved farmers a whole bunch of money?

### They did what?

Farm Credit Services just lowered rates on their customers' existing loans, saving them \$43 million over just the next one-year period!



### And did what else?

Gave their customers a chance to convert old-rate contracts in 2010 and take advantage of even more savings (\$135 million worth).

### For gosh sakes, why?

Because they are a strongly capitalized cooperative with a low-cost philosophy focused on delivering value to farmers and rural residents.

### Oh my... and what else?

Lowered rates on their new loans by .35% when they were already the lowest-priced lender to farmers and rural residents in the market.

### Hmm?

### Could I get that?

You know, Farm Credit has farm loans, leases and crop insurance, and loans to live in the country. Maybe you should give them a call.

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# I AM:



a teacher

HARD-WORKING



caring

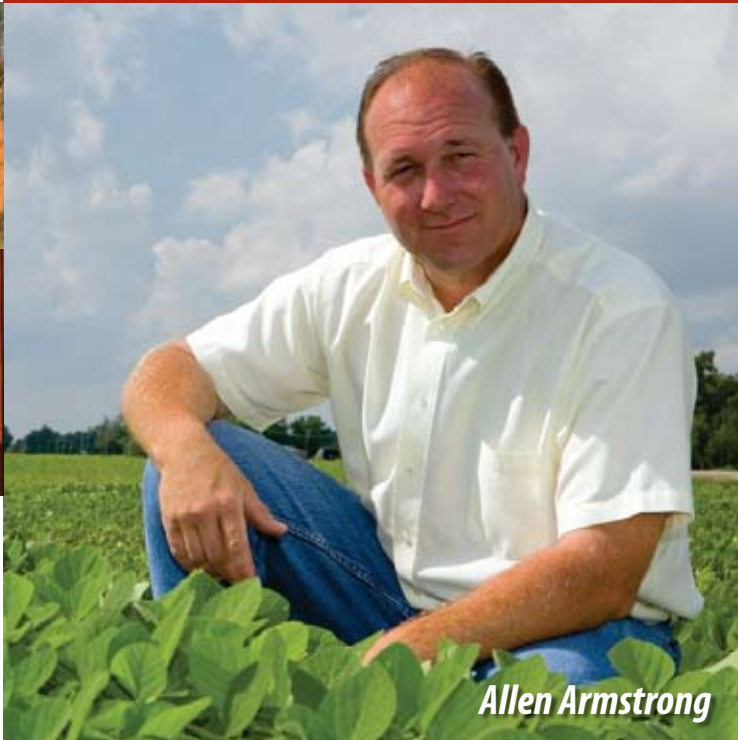


Trish Cunningham

a farmer



ACTIVE



Allen Armstrong



tradition



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REPRESENTED



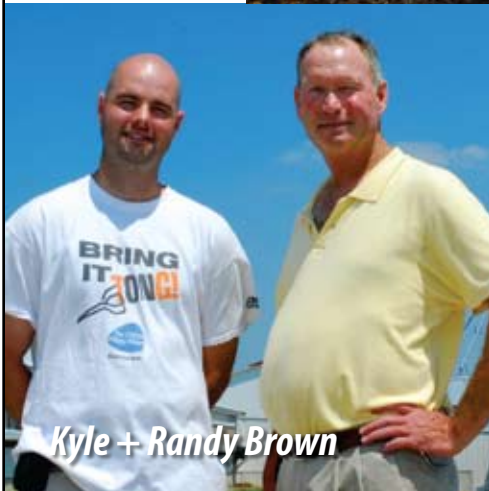
INNOVATIVE



HORSE OWNER



a nature lover

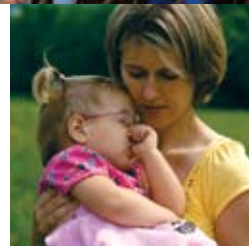


Kyle + Randy Brown

a father



a consumer



a mother



an environmentalist



strong

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## NOTEWORTHY



The winning recipe in the Velvet Ice Cream and Ohio Farm Bureau ice cream flavor contest featured honey as an ingredient grown in Ohio.

## Ice cream flavor contest winner favors Ohio honey

Alex Grooms, a 13-year-old eighth-grader from Williamsburg is the winner of the Velvet Ice Cream and Ohio Farm Bureau Create-A-Flavor contest. His creation, Honey Caramel Ice Cream, is a mix of vanilla ice cream layered with sweet Ohio honey and caramel. His entry was selected from more than 800 entries, which had to include at least one locally produced ingredient.

Ohio agriculture and Ohio Farm Bureau members are winners in the contest as well. An agricultural message will be included on the cartons, which will be sold in retail outlets across five states. The carton will also include the Ohio Farm Bureau logo, a picture of a honey producer who is an Ohio Farm Bureau member and a photo of Alex.

In his entry, Alex wrote, "Using honey as a key ingredient to this new ice cream is important because it will increase the need for honey bee production, which will also help pollinate our Ohio crops."

Along with receiving free ice cream for a year, Alex will sit on Velvet Ice Cream's tasting panel for a year. His family also receives a membership in Ohio Farm Bureau.

Second place in the contest was won by Mark Shuliger, 46, of Lewis Center, who created Raspberry Truffle Frozen Yogurt. Third place went to Andrea Thrasher, 27, of Cincinnati, who created Peach Crisp Ice Cream. The runners up receive trophies and free ice cream for a year.

## WORKERS' COMP SAFETY MEETING DATES

County meetings not listed are yet to be announced.

Adams	March 29	Brown County Fairgrounds -Georgetown	Logan	March 21	Plaza Inn - Mt Victory
Allen	March 7	Lincolnview High School	Lorain	March 7	EHOVE Career Center - Milan
Ashtabula	March 29	St. Mary's Church - Orwell	Lucas	March 7	Riverview Banquet Hall - Pemberville
Athens	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson	Madison	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City
Auglaize	March 30	Minster Knights of St Johns Hall	Mahoning	April 6	Mill Creek Metro Parks Farm - Canfield
Belmont	April 14	County FB Office - Barnesville	Medina	Feb. 21	Triway High School - Wooster
Brown	March 29	Brown County Fairgrounds -Georgetown	Mercer	March 30	Minster Knights of St Johns Hall
Butler	March 17	Janet Clemmons Center - Hamilton	Miami	March 22	JVS Applied Tech Cntr -Piqua
Carroll	March 19	Jim's Place - New Philadelphia	Monroe	April 14	County Farm Bureau - Barnesville
Champaign	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City	Montgomery	March 15	Preble County Farm Bureau Office - Eaton
Clark	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City	Morgan	June 4	Riecker Building - McConnelsville
Clermont	March 29	Brown County Fairgrounds -Georgetown	Muskingum	March 29	Senior Center - Zanesville
Columbiana	April 6	Mill Creek Metro Parks Farm - Canfield	Ottawa	March 7	Riverview Banquet Hall - Pemberville
Columbiana	March 28	Summit County Fairgrounds	Paulding	March 7	Lincolnview High School
Cuyahoga	March 7	EHOVE Career Center - Milan	Perry	April 9	Hocking County Fairgrounds - Logan
Darke	March 16	Brick Room - Brethren Home	Pike	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson
Defiance	March 30	Robert Fulton Ag Center, Wauseon	Portage	March 28	Summit County Fairgrounds
Delaware	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City	Preble	March 15	Preble County Farm Bureau Office - Eaton
Erie	March 7	EHOVE Career Center - Milan	Putnam	March 7	Lincolnview High School
Franklin	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City	Ross	March 17	Ross County Service Center - Chillicothe
Fulton	March 30	Robert Fulton Ag Center, Wauseon	Sandusky	March 7	Riverview Banquet Hall - Pemberville
Gallia	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson	Scioto	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson
Geauga	March 29	St. Mary's Church - Orwell	Seneca	Jan. 26	North Baltimore (partner w/Hancock-Wood Elec)
Hamilton	March 17	Janet Clemmons Center - Hamilton	Shelby	March 30	Minster Knights of St Johns Hall
Hancock	Jan. 26	North Baltimore (partner w/Hancock-Wood Elec)	Stark	March 28	Summit County Fairgrounds
Hardin	March 21	Plaza Inn - Mt Victory	Summit	March 28	Summit County Fairgrounds
Harrison	March 19	Jim's Place - New Philadelphia	Trumbull	March 29	St. Mary's Church - Orwell
Henry	March 30	Robert Fulton Ag Center, Wauseon	Tuscarawas	March 19	Jim's Place - New Philadelphia
Highland	March 29	Brown County Fairgrounds -Georgetown	Union	March 3	Der Dutchman - Plain City
Hocking	April 8	Hocking County Fairgrounds - Logan	Van Wert	March 7	Lincolnview High School
Huron	March 7	EHOVE Career Center - Milan	Washington	Feb. 24	Washington St Community College
Jack-Vinton	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson	Wayne	Feb. 21	Triway High School - Wooster
Jefferson	March 19	Jim's Place - New Philadelphia	Williams	March 30	Robert Fulton Ag Center, Wauseon
Knox	March 24	Agri-Track Equipment - Utica	Wood	Jan. 26	North Baltimore (partner w/Hancock-Wood Elec)
Lake	March 29	St. Mary's Church - Orwell	Wood	March 7	Riverview Banquet Hall - Pemberville
Lawrence	March 21	OSU Extension Office - Jackson	Wyandot	March 21	Plaza Inn - Mt Victory
Licking	March 24	Agri-Track Equipment - Utica			

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*Brent Porteus, President, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.*

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