Adams County
An antique tractor and farm equipment show was featured during Farm Bureau Day at the Adams County Fair. County Farm Bureau members helped with “Farm Bureau Fair Frolics,” which included a seed spitting contest, sack races and a bale toss, and a kids pedal tractor pull. Farm Bureau sponsored prizes for all those events, and a Nationwide agent had a display nearby. Farm Bureau had seminars that represented some of the county board’s policies. The county Farm Bureau also worked with Adams SWCD, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Adams/Brown Recycling on “Conservation Consortium,” a week-long series of special programs.

Allen County
Every year the Allen County Farm Bureau operates a food stand at the Allen County Fair. Farm Bureau uses the food stand as a way to generate revenue for local programming costs, provide an affordable food source for those attending the fair, and provide educational displays for people to browse through and learn more about Allen County agriculture and Farm Bureau.

Allen County Farm Bureau invited several classes of junior high students and some fairgoers to Allen County Farm Bureau’s barn tour program at the fair. More than 80 students from the Lima City schools, many of whom had never been to the fair before, experienced the event.

Ashtabula County
Ashtabula County Ag Day took 11 months of planning by Ashtabula County Farm Bureau and the county Extension office. It involved more than 150 volunteers who organized the first-ever countywide agriculture awareness project for 1,136 first-graders. The students rotated among a dozen hands-on learning stations. Each class got an agriculture resource bag with an activity book that described the learning stations. A grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation covered bus transportation for the students. Financial contributions came from Farm Bureau, local banks, newspapers, county 4-H, Master Gardeners and many other groups.

Auglaize County
Good old-fashioned family fun was the focus of Auglaize County Farm Bureau’s first Movie Night on the Farm. Before the show, young and old took part in hayrides, a bouncy house, penny hunt and checked out agriculture and garden information areas and an agriculture equipment display while enjoying some food. The movie was shown on the side of a barn. “We had many new faces in a group of more than 125 people that attended, with lots of smiles. We were able to talk about what Farm Bureau does and what agriculture is doing for all of us,” said Organization Director Jill Smith.

Belmont and Monroe Counties
Belmont and Monroe counties partnered with OSU Extension for a three-part Food Preservation workshop where they worked to encourage more people to plant fruit trees and gardens and purchase from local farmers or farmers markets. “We feel being able to preserve or put up these fresh products to be safely stored for winter use will encourage more folks to become involved in where, how and why their food is safe, tasty, etc. We hope
also to encourage more harvest of deer and turkey from our countryside. County volunteers invited local Nationwide agents to speak about the deer issue and reducing deer-car accidents.”

**Butler County**

Butler County Farm Bureau hosted three **cooking workshops** for consumers: Soup & Rolls, Growing and Cooking with Herbs and Canning 101. Partners included Nationwide, OSU Extension, Butler Rural Electric Corp., Brown’s Farm Market and a community garden club. Upcoming sessions were promoted during the classes.

**Coshocton County**

Coshocton County residents listened to the sheriff speak about how to prevent theft around their home and farm during the **Farmers Share Breakfast**. The county Farm Bureau put together the event with the help of several groups, including SWCD, Extension, Farm Credit Mid America, JD Equipment and Pearl Valley Cheese. Both Nationwide and Allied had displays at the breakfast.

**Carroll County**

Carroll County Farm Bureau was recognized by American Farm Bureau this year in the policy implementation category for its **Agriculture Plastics Recycling Program**. The county worked with the Solid Waste District and eight surrounding counties to collect and recycle plastic products used by farmers. “With agriculture at times being accused of harming the environment in many different situations (i.e. water quality etc.), this project is showing that our agriculture community is taking a responsible step in the right direction.”

**Clinton County**

For the past two years, Clinton County Farm Bureau has sponsored monthly cooking demonstrations, **Fast Food from the Farm**, at the Clinton County Farmers Market. The goal of the classes is to show consumers how to make fast, affordable recipes from local produce. This year starter kits were offered, which contained $5 off farmers market produce used in recipes during the cooking demonstrations. The starter kits were free for those who made an EBT transaction on the day of the demonstration. Farm Bureau worked with Clinton County Job and Family Services, homeless shelters and food pantries to promote the cooking demonstrations. Nationwide insures the farmers market. “Farm Bureau is receptive to our programs and has been the main reason we’re able to have them,” said Dessie Buchanan, executive director of the farmers market.

**Crawford County**

A Taste of Crawford County gave local business and community members a chance to meet and talk with area farmers as they enjoyed samples of locally produced meat, cheese and produce. The Crawford County Farm Bureau hosted the event with the county Cattlemen’s Association and local chambers of commerce at the county fairgrounds. Farmers discussed agriculture’s role in the local community and the state of food production practices in Ohio. Part of the proceeds were donated to area food banks.

**Cuyahoga, Lake, Ashtabula, Geauga, Trumbull and Lorain Counties**

For the past several years, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Trumbull county Farm Bureaus have teamed up to presence at the **Vintage Ohio Wine Festival**. The two-day show is the largest wine event in Ohio and in the Top 10 for the country. Guests talked with county Farm Bureau members to learn more about Ohio agriculture, and members received a $5 discount on pre-sale tickets. A Nationwide Insurance display was posted in Farm Bureau’s space, and Nationwide agents were asked to attend.

**Darke County**

Darke County Farm Bureau worked with KitchenAid Experience, Historic Bear’s Mill and the Winery at Versailles on its fifth year of **Home Grown in Darke County** cooking series. Each of the classes featured a local meat with a chef each night preparing a meal using local meats, produce and vegetables. New this year was a children’s cooking class. Participants who brought four canned goods to the classes received a special gift.
Delaware County

Delaware County Farm Bureau worked with FFA and 4-H clubs as well as SWCD on its Picnic in the Pasture, which showcased Price Farms Organics. During a picnic lunch, consumers were able to see the composting, hog and sod farm. Local farmers talked with participants about buying trends of food and how they produce their products, and a Nationwide agent mingled with the crowd. “The venue was also great because we were able to not only have a farm/ag message with the livestock but also an environmental stewardship message.”

Erie County

Activities this year included an Erie County Farm Bureau booth at the Erie County Fair with special agricultural activities for Kids Day. The Erie County Farm Bureau partnered with Erie Soil and Water Conservation District and local Nationwide Agent Mark Scheeler. Farm Bureau also added a small pedal pull tractor driving area and other activities for children.

Erie County Farm Bureau members worked with Routh Packing and Toft’s Dairy to hold a Grow and Know event at two local grocery stores. On a Saturday morning volunteers handed out samples of Daisyfield ham and Toft’s ice cream to promote these local foods that are processed in Erie County.

Volunteers were at both the Castalia Market and Cornell’s Foods in Huron where they promoted local agriculture. News releases about the Grow and Know event were sent to the local newspaper including the Sandusky Register.

Erie County Farm Bureau worked with OSU Extension in Erie County and Erie Soil and Water Conservation District to create a joint newsletter. The newsletter is printed as an insert in the Sandusky Register newspaper, which has a circulation of at least 20,000.

Fairfield County

Fairfield County Harvest Showcase Dinner featured a multi-course dinner prepared by an area chef using locally produced foods from area farms. Local Nationwide agents helped promote the evening event. Held on Rawn Dairy Farm, the event included a souvenir wine glass, and a tour of the dairy where participants could talk to farmers. The dinner raised $1,000 for a scholarship fund. “It worked well to give various tours of the dairy farm in between courses of the dinner so that attendees could take time to digest and also learn more about the farm that they were on.”

Fayette County

Fayette County Farm Bureau worked with the local farmers market, public library and Nationwide agents on It’s OUR Ohio, family-friendly summer events where participants learned more about agriculture and buying local. The Farm Bureau and farmers market donated books on farming and food production to the library. T-shirts with the farmers market’s logo and an agricultural message were sold, and Nationwide agents offered a shirt discount for those who visited their office and got an insurance quote. Special “buy one, get one” pricing for two days at the farmers market was open to all Farm Bureau members and WIC and SNAP recipients.

Franklin and Madison Counties

AFBF recognized Franklin and Madison county Farm Bureaus this year in the education and ag promotion category for their Breakfast on the Farm event, which invited the local urban community to an on-farm meal during which farmers answered consumer questions about food production. Children received a copy of AFBF’s “Food and Farm Facts” booklet. “Our Breakfast on the Farm event was a true engagement of rural and urban families. There is little doubt that the benefit from this event will be far reaching.”

Gallia County

Gallia County Farm Bureau worked with more than a dozen groups and individuals to put together and run its 12th annual Agriculture Awareness Day. Corporate sponsorships from Holzer Health System and AEP helped pay for the transportation of 340 students, nearly double the number from last year. Students rotated among 14 hands-on learning stations and received a free T-shirt. Nationwide
was a sponsor, and information about the company was sent home with all the students.

**Guernsey County**

The county had on average a minimum of one photo and news article in the local newspaper (The Daily Jeffersonian) each week. The county also had major radio coverage in both Guernsey and surrounding counties highlighting Agriculture Week and FFA month. The county Farm Bureau also worked to present monthly to community service groups/organizations (Rotary, Lions, OSU Master Gardeners, Beekeepers Association, Ruritans, Senior Citizen groups, etc.)

**Hamilton County**

Hamilton County Farm Bureau implemented the **Farm to Family program**. The goals of the program were to improve access to fresh, local fruits and vegetables to Head Start families; increase food literacy skills/self-efficacy related to use of seasonal, local produce – including menu planning, food preparation and food storage; increase fruit and vegetable consumption in families with young children; increase connections between Head Start families and local farmers and increase knowledge of parents about local agriculture and the benefits of eating local foods. A story appeared in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* with information and pictures showing kids participating.

**Harrison County**

Attendance to the **Harrison County Relay for Life Survivor Dinner** grew thanks to Harrison County Farm Bureau’s efforts. Farm Bureau members provided 70 barbecued chicken dinners for survivors and their caregivers. They sold 230 chicken dinners to the public and donated the proceeds to the charity. Nationwide also donated chicken and attended the event.

**Highland County**

AFBF honored Highland County Farm Bureau in the public relations and information area this year for its **Farm Rescue Program**. Working with local fire departments, the county funded two grain bin rescue trailers and training for 36 local emergency personnel. Farm Bureau members raised more than $44,000 from local businesses and farmers for the program.

An Easter egg hunt and free breakfast were the highlights of the **Highland County Family Fun Day/Easter Egg Hunt**. The event also featured a petting farm, kiddie tractor pull and literacy and fire safety activities. The Highland County Humane Society had a display where dogs and cats were available for adoption. All proceeds went to the Highland County OSU Extension to help fund 4-H activities.

**Huron County**

A live broadcast from a local radio station helped promote Huron County Farm Bureau’s **Farm Tour**. Numerous people from other counties attended the drive-it-yourself farm tour that Nationwide and the local chamber of commerce helped promote. “The mailing of a farm tour brochure to associate members in the townships in Huron County where the farm tour was going to happen seemed to be a good tactic.”

**Jackson and Vinton Counties**

Jackson and Vinton county Farm Bureaus teamed up with the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center and OSU Extension on **Agriculture Experience Day**. About 465 students visited 15 educational exhibits, went on a hay ride and pet farm animals. A Nationwide agent sponsored the T-shirts for the students and information about the insurance agency was sent home to students. Corporate sponsor was General Mills of Wellston and more than two dozen groups or individuals helped sponsor the event. County commissioners as well as a representative from Sen. Rob Portman’s office attended the event.

**Jefferson County**

Jefferson County Farm Bureau hosted a three-hour **Canning and Freezing** class for beginners to encourage safe home preservation methods. OSU Extension and a local grocery store were sponsors. Participants received a canning and freezing guide, six 100th anniversary Ball Blue canning jars and a chance to win a pressure cooker. The prizes were a draw for the class. Jefferson County Farm Bureau also
worked with Jefferson SWCD on its Off the Beaten Path tour, which focused on forest management and included a stop at a working timber harvest site. Participants included farmers, urban residents, woodlot owner, Master Gardeners and business, community leaders and economic development leaders.

**Knox County**

Knox County Farm Bureau’s A Taste of Summer, Celebrating the Local Harvest highlighted local agriculture and raised $5,000 for United Way of Knox County. More than 100 people shared hors d’oeuvres and wine samples from the Ohio Wine Association before touring Ann’s Raspberry Farm. A five-course meal highlighted local foods grown on area farms and local farmers shared their agriculture experiences with consumers.

**Licking County**

Licking County County Farm Bureau’s Farmers Share Breakfast drew 450 people -- more than double the number from previous breakfasts. By asking for locally grown donations for the event, the breakfast had a wide variety of toppings for omelets including salsa, Portabella mushrooms, goat cheese and brie. Local elected officials cooked the omelets, and a Nationwide agent attended. Twelve boxes of food and $200 were donated to Operation Feed.

**Logan County**

Logan County partnered with Logan County Electric Cooperative to present Top of Ohio Ag Tour, a drive-it-yourself tour offered for more than 30 years. Participants visited three farms and the cooperative where they checked out a dairy’s robotic milkers, watched sheep shearing demonstrations, pet farm animals, saw farm safety presentations and sampled locally grown food from the Logan County Farmers Market. Nationwide helped promote the event, which included an on-site school education day for area students.

**Lucas County**

Lucas County Farm Bureau sponsored a Family Fun Night at the Fair, which included a free catered BBQ dinner for member families. The dinner helped generate more traffic through the baby animal land and Farm Bureau display. The Lucas County fairboard provided space for the dinner, and Nationwide was asked to help promote the event.

**Lorain County**

During Lorain County Farm Bureau’s Fall Farm Tour, participants visited five different types of farms and talked to area farmers. Nationwide, Lorain SWCD, county Extension, Ag Credit and Farm Credit had informational tables during the tour. Adults and children who visited all five stops were eligible for door prizes if they filled out a card. Participants visited a hobby farm that boards horses and has Texas Longhorns, an orchard, a beef and grain farm, a vineyard and the Brownhelm Horticultural Learning Center, which features orchids from around the world.

**Marion County**

AFBF honored Marion County Farm Bureau in the education and ag promotion category this year for its Harvest Hustle 4 Mile Run/Walk. The event brought dozens of runners/ walkers to an educational event that highlighted farm products and equipment. The event also featured a petting zoo, wagon rides and a kids’ fun run. Funds collected for the race were used for “Farm to Family” presentations, which are held at local food pantries and provide information on preparing affordable and nutritious meals. “The Harvest Hustle is a unique event because it used the popularity of races and developed an event that promoted agriculture and raised money for local charities.”

**Miami County**

Miami County Farm Bureau, Health Partners Free Clinic, Main Street Troy and Main Street Piqua joined forces for Eating Local is Easy, a nutrition program for low-income families. Cooking demonstrations featuring local foods were held throughout the summer at different farmers markets. The goal was to get low-income families to think about how to spend their limited income on fruits and vegetables. Nationwide had a booth at the farmers market when the cooking classes were offered.
Montgomery County
Every year Montgomery County deals with animal rights groups during the county fair. To help with sometimes controversial conversations, Montgomery County Farm Bureau offered EASE Training for the Agriculture Society directors, Junior Fairboard members, county fair superintendents and 4-H club advisors. The goal of the EASE (engage, acknowledge, share, earn trust) training program was to bring awareness to the correct/different ways to communicate with consumers.

Morgan County
Morgan County Farm Bureau’s Pork Chop BBQ was a dinner, fundraiser and informational session. County Farm Bureau board members prepared dinner while experts talked to consumers about how to prepared meat. The event brought in $1,146, and Farm Bureau matched the donation with the proceeds going to Twin City Opera House. Experts shared tips on food safety, meat selections, marinades and rubs and cooking and grilling. County Farm Bureau representatives talked about how Farm Bureau is active in the community, making it “a great opportunity for consumers to mingle and talk with farmers.”

Muskingum County
Participants got to see a robotic milking system and enjoy a lunch and ice cream sundae bar as part of Muskingum County’s Farm Tour and Picnic. Participants learned about dairy farms and how milk is processed after it leaves the farm. They saw some of the newest technology in dairy farming (including how some of the animals have their own waterbeds.) They also learned about environmental stewardship with Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Nationwide agencies in Muskingum County helped sponsor and participate in Muskingum County Farm Bureau’s Farmers Share Breakfast. The event relies on about 60 FFA students preparing and serving the breakfast. “We introduced a farmer and FFA student every 20 minutes and let them talk on the mic about their involvement in agriculture, 4-H or FFA.

Noble County
Noble County Farm Bureau sponsored the Ag Fact Scavenger Hunt during the county fair. Local farm facts were displayed in fairground barns and participants hunted for the answers to questions on a form they got at the Farm Bureau booth. Those who answered all the questions correctly were entered into a drawing for a gas grill. Participants learned about agriculture and safe food preparation techniques and were drawn to visit barns that they may not have seen before.

Paulding and Van Wert Counties
Dreams of driving a tractor came true for participants in the Kids Dream Day Event sponsored by Paulding and Van Wert County Farm Bureaus with the help of Kennedy Kuhn John Deere Dealership. Held in conjunction with the Van Wert Hot Air Festival, the event allowed anyone at least 6 years old to help drive a tractor, while they learned about farm safety on the farm and on the road. An obstacle course was set up to resemble a roadway for adults to experience what it was like to be in a tractor driving down the road.

Pike County
About 125 volunteers from Nationwide, OSU Extension, SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service and other groups, helped with Pike County Farm Bureau’s 16th annual Agriculture Awareness Day. Besides more than 400 students, the event drew Waverly’s mayor and county commissioners. Nationwide agents worked at the event and one sponsored the T-shirts for the students. Material about Nationwide was sent home to all students. Students brought canned goods, which were donated to a local food pantry.

Richland County
Early in 2013, Hazel Grove Community Council approached Richland County Farm Bureau for help with a new program called Richland County Farm to Plate. The program, now part of the Farmers’ Market in Shelby, linked local growers with consumers through cooking demonstrations.
The Shelby FFA mobile trailer was equipped with a full kitchen so chefs could prepare food sold at the farmers market, providing consumers with cooking techniques and menu ideas. The cooking demonstrations were held six times throughout the summer with samples given to consumers. Education displays highlighting the farm and its food were displayed during the demonstrations.

**Ross County**

Ross County Farm Bureau hosted its Farm Factor Progressive Farm Dinner where participants visited four local farms. Both active and associate members experienced a four-course meal at four different farms. Each portion of the meal included facts about the ingredients used including growing, harvesting and nutritional facts. At each location participants visited with other community members as well as local farm families. Many community partners hosted informational booths (the last stop featured Nationwide). In addition, Nationwide agents helped sell event tickets and promoted the event by distributing flyers and informational brochures throughout county agents’ offices.

**Scioto County**

Scioto County Farm Bureau partnered with OSU Extension on its annual Ag Adventure Day held at the county fairgrounds. The local Allied/Nationwide agency sponsored the T-shirts for the students. About 500 people attended with volunteers from Farm Bureau, 4-H, Extension and local businesses helping run the informational sessions.

**Shelby County**

Shelby County Farm Bureau partnered with Shelby SWCD, Crossway Farms, OSU Extension and other groups on Your Backyard to Your Plate, a four session Grow and Know event. The sessions were on how to prepare a backyard garden, a visit to Crossway Farms, step-by-step instruction on product harvesting and preserving and “week in a day” meal planning with emphasis on locally grown products. Multiple session attendees received a discount. Having so many partners involved help “make the experience very well rounded and wide reaching.”

Shelby County Farm Bureau also sponsored Food Dialogues, a program that allowed consumers to tour a dairy farm and see its state-of-the-art robotic milking system and eat a meal with local producers. They heard from food experts on topics such as responsible practices in agriculture and modern methods of animal care.

**Tuscarawas County**

A barbecue competition and barbecue education classes were part of Tuscarawas County Farm Bureau’s Camp Meigs BBQ Bootcamp and Burnoff. OSU Extension provided the education expertise and more than two dozen groups sponsored the event. Teams competed in the categories of chicken, pork ribs, pork, beef brisket and people’s choice. While the competition was going on, barbecue seminars were held and local vendors sold food or passed out information. Winners got cash prizes, hand-made cutting boards and trophies. Nationwide sponsored the 4th place prizes. About $6,500 was raised for Community Hospice.

**Union County**

Union County Farm Bureau held its second Ice Cream with a Farmer event at Mill Valley South park. Members set up displays that included a tractor, livestock, corn and swine facility and helped kids make soybean necklaces. They talked with consumers about food and production practices. “The homemade ice cream is a draw as well as interactive displays and animals.”

**Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Lucas Counties**

Wood, Sandusky, Ottawa and Lucas counties joined forces with Bowling Green State University staff, local ag co-ops, equipment dealers and other agriculture businesses for Ag Day at the Doyt. The three-hour event is a football tailgate with food samples, proper grilling instructions, pedal tractor driving and pumpkin decorating. Wood County Beef Producers provided the food. Participants got a game ticket, food and T-shirt for $10. Nationwide agents were asked to promote and attend the event.