

From: Lane E. Osswald, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation District 18 Trustee

To: Farm Bureau Members in District 18

Topic: What has OFBF been doing about the changes in CAUV tax rates; and what more will happen this year?

OFBF has been doing:

1. The public policy and communications staff have been educating members about the changes coming to 2014 CAUV values for many months.
2. CAUV has been addressed in multiple OFBF communications to members in the last 12 months.
3. The OFBF Board has discussed taxes and CAUV at every meeting this past year.
4. OFBF staff and leadership have participated in more than 20 meetings with: legislators, the Governor, the Ohio tax department, CAUV experts and others to try to find any non-detrimental ways to address the tax increases.
5. A special letter was prepared and delivered to the entire Ohio General Assembly about the importance of CAUV and the challenges that are facing rural landowners.
6. OFBF met with and presented to the Ohio County Auditors on CAUV.
7. OFBF has participated in County meetings to help educate and inform members about how the changes are occurring and what changes are likely to come in future years.
8. The public policy staff has been working EVERY day for months on ways to lessen the strain on farmers coming with the new CAUV values.
9. OFBF has been examining, sorting, researching and prioritizing the many suggestions from our members and other interested parties on ways to "fix" the problem.
10. OFBF has been examining local tax rates, which vary widely across the state.
11. OFBF is conducting a survey for members to complete to provide information about their CAUV increases, local tax rates and their overall tax burden.

What is going to happen in 2014:

1. OFBF will not stop working toward a better way, if there is one. Any changes must consider both short- and long-term ramifications, and must not undermine the integrity and purpose of the program, which is to value farmland according to its current agricultural use.
2. OFBF needs to hear from County Farm Bureaus that have ideas. CAUV will certainly be a topic of discussion at the Policy Development Committee meeting in November and the OFBF Annual Meeting in December.
3. OFBF wants to hear from County Farm Bureaus that need help with members that need to talk to the state organization.
4. OFBF will continue to work with the legislature, the Governor, the Ohio Tax department and others daily.
5. The bottom line: Any adjustments to CAUV will take time to develop and implement. Realistically very little, if anything, can be done to change 2014 values, which determine our 2015 tax bill.

Sincerely,

Lane E. Osswald