



Community Council Newsletter

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Hello Everyone,

Fall is here, and winter is not far behind. As your family and friends complete harvest and get ready for the holiday season, take some time now to plan for lively discussion at several *Farm Bureau Community Council* meetings.

Your Discussion Packet – A Quick Look

The enclosed packet has four new discussion guides that should give your group a few options for their meetings scheduled in October - December. Topics for discussion include:

- *Agricultural Cooperatives* - A cooperative (“coop”) or co-operative (“co-op”) is a self-governing group created to share economic, social or cultural benefits. During the first half of the twentieth century, farmers used cooperation to create self help programs and services. Several successful businesses can trace their roots to a Farm Bureau service cooperative or member association.

Cooperation is still being used today. Non-profit organizations are creating consumer coops to provide specific services. Employers and employees are forming worker coops to provide additional job benefits. Many folks are realizing that the local credit union is a combination consumer and worker cooperative, too.

How well do new generations of farm, rural and urban residents understand and appreciate cooperation? Are there local needs and issues that could be addressed by the self-help and governance principles of a coop? How should Farm Bureau share its collective experience and get involved in the process?

- *Exploring Sustainability* - In simplest terms, *sustainable* describes something that is capable of being supported or upheld; in many cases, indefinitely. Some community stakeholders apply sustainability principles to environmental and ecological issues. Others apply the concept to economics. Still others explore politics and social issues. How we define justice and how we address cultural and community issues long term are vital.

Sustainability means that all of us are going to be involved in creating a variety of proactive and innovative quality of life strategies. What points should have major consideration and where do you strike a balance as sustainability plans evolve? How should Farm Bureau members be involved in these activities?

- *Farm Labor* - Many farms throughout Ohio and the nation are owned by extended families. Several family members act as owner-managers specializing in different parts of the operation. Families often contract outside firms to handle some farm tasks such fertilizer and

crop management applications, harvest, processing and/or transport, too. Will there always be enough “cousins” around to handle increasingly special operations, as well as getting the everyday chores done?

What is the future of farm labor? What educational, technical and workforce development resources are needed? What skills will be assumed by family members, specialized service providers and/or general laborers? How are all job positions going to be filled to ensure the farming operation’s success?

- *Local Government* - Recent trends indicate that local government funds are being reduced. Counties, townships and municipalities are being challenged to provide vital services, improve infrastructure, help attract and/or retain business, as well as support social, economic and environmental quality of life initiatives. How will these institutions continue to address public concerns? What traditional strengths need to be preserved? Are new, innovative strategies needed? How will community stakeholders be involved in local programs and activities?

Remember, you are not limited to these materials - Feel free to discuss additional topics and issues generated from the local newspaper, other publications and/or key events happening in your neighborhood. Additional information on possible discussion topics and resources can be found on the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation website at <https://ofbf.org/get-involved/community-councils/>.

Keep in Touch with Farm Bureau

Need some additional help? Contact your county Farm Bureau office for assistance. Please let Amy Hurst know if you need more forms or have questions via e-mail at ahurst@ofbf.org or by phone at 614.246.8262.

Remember to send your council meeting forms and correspondence directly to your county Farm Bureau.

Many of Farm Bureau’s action plans started with conversation around a kitchen table, living room or front porch; lively discussion continues to develop using web applications, too. Your participation as a community council member makes sure that our organization continues to focus on critical issues, create better policy and helps people work together to get things done.

We look forward to visiting with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DALE R. ARNOLD" with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dale Arnold
Director, Energy, Utility & Local Government Policy
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation



Agricultural Cooperatives

Defining the Issues

A cooperative (“coop”) or co-operative (“co-op”) is a self-governing group created to share economic, social or cultural benefits. During the first half of the twentieth century, farmers used cooperation to create self help programs and services. Several successful businesses today focusing on livestock and produce marketing, supply purchasing, rural electrification and insurance services can trace their roots to a Farm Bureau service cooperative or member association. These efforts established Farm Bureau as a leader in the cooperative movement.

Cooperation is still being used today. Non-profit organizations are creating consumer coops to provide specific services. Employers and employees are forming worker coops to provide additional job benefits. Residents living in certain neighborhoods are creating housing cooperatives. Many folks are realizing that the local credit union is a combination consumer and worker cooperative, too.

How well do new generations of farm, rural and urban residents understand and appreciate cooperation? Are there local needs and issues that could be addressed by the self-help and governance principles of a coop? As other community stakeholders look at cooperation as an option to get things done, how should Farm Bureau share its collective experience and get involved in the process?

AFBF Policy

Agricultural Cooperatives - We support:

- Agricultural cooperatives being farmer owned and controlled and be based upon the principles of our private competitive enterprise system.
- We oppose any attempt to repeal or weaken the Capper-Volstead Act. Antitrust suits should not be used to dilute the bargaining power of farmer cooperatives.
- Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act requirements should apply to cooperatives that do business on cash basis with nonmembers.
- We support legal, regulatory and tax codes to encourage the proliferation of farmer-owned closed cooperatives that produce value-added products.
- We support allowing cooperatives to keep dividends from deceased members after trying to locate heirs for five years.

Health Care: We support small business health plans and voluntary regional insurance purchasing cooperatives, subject to state regulation, to permit individuals and small companies to receive the same price advantages that corporations receive.

Federal Marketing Orders: In federal marketing order referendums, the members of a nonprofit agricultural cooperative marketing association should be informed of the intended position of the cooperative before the bloc vote is exercised. Boards of directors of agricultural cooperatives should be allowed to vote for their members on marketing order questions, provided each member is given the right to cast his own ballot in any referendum.

National Dairy Programs: We support a national dairy plant security program to enhance a producer's ability to recover losses due to the financial failure of milk handlers or cooperatives. All those procuring milk from producers should be included in the program. We support the use of Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) and urge participation by all dairy producers.

Fuel Sales: We oppose so-called "divorcement" legislation, at state or national level, which would prevent anyone, including farm cooperatives, who sells gasoline at wholesale from selling gasoline at retail.

Farm Credit System: We support preservation of the system is in the long-term best interest of U.S. agriculture. The system should remain a farmer-owned, federally chartered system of banks and associations. We support efforts to make patronage allocations and cash distributions a higher priority than building capital reserves, as well as lending primarily to farmers, agricultural cooperatives and agribusiness.

Monopolies: Consolidation and the subsequent concentration within the U.S. agricultural sector are having adverse economic impacts on farmers and ranchers. Congress should review existing statutes, develop legislation where necessary and strengthen enforcement activities to ensure proposed agribusiness mergers and vertical integration arrangements do not hamper producers' access to inputs, markets, and transportation. USDA and the Department of Justice should jointly provide clarification of farmer cooperatives' rights to encourage the development of cooperatives and producer bargaining associations.

Cooperative Taxation - We support:

- Farmer cooperative income being taxed only once, either when earned by the cooperative or when received by the patron.
- Farmer cooperatives being given at least two years to adjust to a new interpretation of the tax status of cooperatives. Changes should not affect long-established practices nor apply retroactively.
- An exemption for income used by farm credit institutions to build required reserves because of a change and income not used for that purpose should be returned to cooperative members.

- Allowing producer-purchased companies that transition into cooperatives to have the same tax advantages as employee-purchased companies.
- An investment tax credit for producers who purchase shares in value-added cooperatives.

We oppose withholding taxes on patronage refunds.

OFBF Policy

Cooperatives: We encourage the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and member Farm Bureaus to cultivate good relationships with all cooperatives. We encourage cooperatives to seek ways to meet the changing needs of their members. We support increased efforts to educate farmers and consumers about the benefits and business structure of cooperative membership, leadership development and patronage.

Dairy - We support:

- The right to market milk through any licensed dairy processor. We will work with milk cooperatives to increase the potential for higher milk prices paid to Ohio dairy farmers.
- A dairy policy that works with other farm groups and cooperatives to raise dairy profitability and reduce price volatility.
- State legislation that enhances the ability of farmer cooperatives to coordinate the efforts of farmers to bargain for the price and terms of sale of their products. This relates to bargaining with processors, dealers or manufacturers.
- All dairy farmers to consider participating in the Cooperatives Working Together (CWT) program.

Discussion Questions

1. What experiences do your community council members have as members of a co-op? (Rural electric co-op customer, credit union member, mutual insurance company policyholder, farm cooperative customer/patron, etc.)
2. Some community stakeholders see that the golden age of cooperatives occurred several decades ago, and feel the business model has little relevance today. Others feel that the approach, properly applied, has great potential. How do your council members feel about these points of view?
3. Could a cooperative business model be used in some way to address a pressing issue in your community? What resources would community stakeholders need (education on cooperative business systems, community organizing, contract/legal expertise, etc.) to organize a co-op?



Exploring Sustainability

Defining the Issues

We're hearing a lot about sustainability. In simplest terms, *sustainable* describes something that is capable of being supported or upheld; in many cases, indefinitely. Some community stakeholders apply sustainability principles to environmental and ecological issues concerning natural resource conservation and recycling. Others apply the concept to economics. Business practices, taxation and investment models need to address long term impacts and need. Still others explore politics and social issues. How we define justice and how we address cultural and community issues long term are vital.

Sustainability means that all of us are going to be involved in creating a variety of proactive and innovative quality of life strategies. What points should have major consideration and where do you strike a balance as sustainability plans evolve? How should Farm Bureau members be involved in these activities?

AFBF Policy – Sustainable Agriculture

Agriculture provides society numerous benefits including, but not limited to food security, a safe and healthy food supply, environmental benefits and community stability. It is important to remember that agriculture needs the flexibility to alter cropping patterns and practices to meet the demands of operating in an open marketplace where our competition comes from farmers worldwide. When considering sustainable agriculture, there is only one constant and that is agriculture is only sustainable when it is profitable.

Sustainable agriculture should recognize the benefits of accepted management practices that American agriculture currently employs, such as Integrated Pest Management. Sustainable agriculture should be flexible enough to fit America's diverse climates, cropping patterns, land use standards, and regulatory requirements. Regulations should not limit agricultural practices without strong scientific and economic justification. Sustainable agriculture should rely on measurable results and focus on adaptive management for continual improvements rather than a rigid set of practices.

We support scientific research and education that encourages all participants in the agricultural industry to produce, process and distribute safe food, feed, fiber and fuel in a manner that is economically viable and enhances the quality of life for present and future generations.

We are keenly aware that the means to accomplish these ends may vary from farm operation to farm operation and that no single method of farming will work with every operator.

We support methods of farming that result in:

- A profit for the farm operator;
- A producer striving to show continuous improvement in his/her environmental performance; and
- An adequate supply of high quality safe food, feed, fiber and fuel.

We support:

- Research aimed at reducing overall inputs needed to sustain a profitable farming operation; and
- Efforts to provide information to farmers on proven means of improving the efficiency of inputs.

We oppose:

- Any attempt to mandate low input methods of farming; and
- Requiring low input methods as a condition of participation in government farm programs.

OFBF Policy – Points to Consider on Sustainability

Energy: Ohio Farm Bureau should provide leadership in the on-going development of a comprehensive state energy policy that incorporates the use of coal, nuclear, natural gas, petroleum and competitive renewable technologies. These renewable technologies include, but are not limited to wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, and fuel cells. This includes development of public policies which encourage sustainable and renewable energy production, especially for small and community scale, decentralized situations.

OSU Extension: The concept of OSU Extension and its purpose of delivering unbiased research and science-based information to farmers and communities and providing youth development opportunities. However, Extension must undergo a transformation to ensure its long-term sustainability and adherence to this purpose

- Define its purpose and increase its emphasis on agriculture and natural resources, nutrition and 4-H Youth Development.
- Restructure to adopt a workable regional / multi-county concept, while retaining a programming presence in each county.
- Develop a new funding model that is sustainable, equitable, and addresses challenges to local funding.
- Increase collaboration with other agricultural and/or youth organizations with similar missions, which may include collaboration on office space, staffing, administrative functions, and/or programming,
- Improve communication with constituents regarding this transformation.
- Continue with efforts to promote, encourage, and educate regarding urban agriculture.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts: We strongly support Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and their purpose of encouraging proper soil, water and other natural

resource management and the promotion of economic and social development of the state. However, SWCDs must undergo a transformation to ensure their long-term sustainability and adherence to this purpose. As part of this transformation, SWCDs should:

- Define their core purpose and increase their emphasis on the conservation of soil, water and related resources;
- Establish the ability to direct SWCD programs and services on appropriate geographical boundaries to address the identified resource needs while retaining a program presence in each county;
- Develop a funding and program delivery model that provides the flexibility to adjust to changes in local and state financial support;
- Pursue increased collaboration and the sharing of services across all levels of government.
- We encourage more farmer participation and involvement on SWCD boards.

Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan: We support the rights of states to develop programs that are scientifically based, economically sound and to the maximum extent possible, delivered in a flexible and voluntary manner to address the agricultural nonpoint source portion of the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Action Plan (Action Plan). We believe that strategies to implement the goals and objectives of the Action Plan must be developed and administered at local level. Any policies made regarding implementation of the Action Plan must be based on sound scientific data and must give proper consideration to the sustainability of a viable agbioresource industry in the state of Ohio.

Discussion Questions

1. How do your council members define *sustainability*? Do you consider the term another buzzword, or a way to remind community leaders that programs, proposals and solutions need to be self-supporting long term?
2. What are the most pressing environmental, economic and social issues impacting your community? Are they interrelated? How do you see each of these issues being addressed long term?
3. Environmental, economic and social - Should agriculture be involved in only one area of sustainability, or other issues at the same time? What should be Farm Bureau's leadership position in sustainability discussions at the local, state and national levels?
4. How should Farm Bureau address *sustainability* concepts? How many of your Community Council members participate in county Farm Bureau political education, policy development and/or issues briefings with government officials? Who from your group would be interested in participating in these grass roots activities?



Farm Labor

Defining the Issues

Many farms throughout Ohio and the nation are owned by extended families. Several family members act as owner-managers specializing in different parts of the operation. Many operations focus on producing specific commodities and invest in specific equipment and practices. They often contract outside firms to handle some farm tasks such as fertilizer and crop management applications, harvest, processing and/or transport. Many rely on hired and/or contract labor in addition to the labor provided by family members, too.

With new technology, new regulations and interaction with the community, farming is becoming a complex business. Most farms will still be owned and operated by extended families. However, will there be enough “cousins” around to handle increasingly special operations, as well as getting the everyday chores done?

What is the future of farm labor? What educational, technical and workforce development resources are needed? What skills will be assumed by family members, specialized service providers and/or general laborers? How are all job positions going to be filled to ensure the farming operation’s success?

AFBF Policy – General Farm Labor

We should work with agricultural employers in the various states and regions to improve farm labor-management relations; and increase productivity of farm labor.

We uphold the right of farm workers to join or not to join a union by their own convictions.

Each state should have the right to decide whether agricultural employment should be brought under the National Labor Relations Act and we favor legislation to provide such an option.

In a closely held corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, or any other business entity, members of the family/families should be exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA), unemployment compensation laws and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

When a farmer is engaged in the processing, handling, packing or storing of perishable products grown on his own farm and the perishable products of other farmers, the operation should be classified as "agriculture," provided that a minimum of 50 percent of the total output of such processing plant is grown on his own farm.

We support increased transparency of the investigation practices by the Department of Labor (DOL), including full disclosure of DOL policies, guidelines, and operating procedures such as those found in the Field Operations Handbook.

We urge that federal requirements for employer reporting of newly hired employees be changed to exclude temporary, day-by-day employees from reporting requirements.

We should work with the appropriate agencies to negotiate a more common-sense approach to worker protection.

We support:

- Retention of the present family farm exemption from the child labor provisions of the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regardless of business structure where members of the family/families are owners, including a closely held corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company or any other business entity;
- Enforcement of federal child labor laws designed to prevent underage children from working in all industries. We support existing FLSA provisions, which specify and provide opportunities for young people of the proper age to perform certain agriculture jobs;
- The family farm exemption in MSPA and oppose any efforts to restrict its application;
- Changes in the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) so posting of field entrances does not unduly alarm consumers about the use of crop protection products. We request significant research and data can be provided resolving serious flaws with the present regulation;
- Changes to worker protections under the WPS should be based on current scientifically or medically substantiated data and reflect current pesticide labeling;
- The freedom to use farm labor contractors in the recruitment and management of migrant seasonal and day haul farm labor. The labor contractor should be recognized as the sole employer of said labor force;
- Allowing the use of housing that meets Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA standards for qualified seasonal and agricultural visa workers; and
- Increased funding to continue and expand the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program.

We oppose:

- A national agricultural labor board;
- Any regulations requiring farmers to pay wages to farm workers during travel time from their residence to place of work; and
- Policy requiring agricultural employers to pay more than an average wage rate prevailing in a particular agricultural occupation and region.

OFBF Policy – General Farm Labor

General Labor Legislation: We support state legislation to protect the rights of workers, farmers, and consumers during labor disputes, and Ohio becoming a right to work state.

Wage and Labor Standards: Ohio labor standards should coincide with federal standards. We support the use of proper survey methodology to obtain “prevailing wages” (as defined by the H2A program) for temporary worker programs as required by U.S. laws and regulations and encourage member participation. Moreover, OFBF supports civil rights and equal employment opportunity enforcement, however, we oppose any legislation that promotes the use of hiring and promotion quotas, allows punitive damage awards, or places the burden on the employer to prove his innocence.

We encourage agricultural representation within Ohio Department of Job and Family Services concerning local employment issues.

Prevailing Wage: We support the elimination of the state and federal prevailing wage (Davis Bacon) laws.

Unemployment Insurance: We support increasing the agricultural payroll threshold per calendar quarter to \$50,000 to reflect wage inflation that has occurred since the enactment of agricultural coverage and that it be indexed in the future to adjust for inflation. We also support increasing the agricultural threshold coverage for multiple employees from the current level of 10 or more persons during any portion of 20 or more weeks of the year to a level of 15 or more persons for any portion of 30 weeks of the year. We recommend a one-week waiting period before qualifying for benefits.

We will work to exempt wages of part-time farm laborers who are 18 years old and under, senior citizens, family members and full-time students from the requirements of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Law.

We recommend that unemployment insurance not be paid to persons on strike, on voluntary leave, who are retired, cannot pass a drug test, or who refuse to work when work is available.

Unemployment insurance should not be extended to occasional domestic help or foreign workers in this country on foreign work permits.

We support retention of experience rating and preserving the state responsibility to determine eligibility and benefits.

We support the state law that would require minimum earnings of \$150 per qualifying week

Workers Compensation: We support continued improvement of the Workers’ Compensation program to eliminate inefficiencies, unfair claims, and excessive settlements. We support a study by the legislature of privatized workers’ compensation systems of other states to determine if privatization would be good for Ohio. Moreover, we support programs or proposals that will lead to reasonable Workers’ Compensation rates for farmers and other agricultural related businesses. Workers’ Compensation programs have provided valuable protection for farmers and other employers by meeting the needs of injured employees. An

insurance fund should be allowed to provide coverage for any intentional tort liability exposure. We oppose their increase in minimum fees.

We recommend that employers who hire less than \$5,000 of labor per year file and report Workers' Compensation premiums on an annual basis.

We support the Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program. The group should be entitled to any savings on premium that is fairly earned by the group. We urge better administrative auditing and legislative efforts to protect the Workers' Compensation fund. The definition of employees for the purpose of Ohio's Workers Compensation law should not be changed to exclude aliens or children.

We support the use of comprehensive medical care, including chiropractic treatments, in the Worker's Compensation system, with the goal of expediting a return to work.

New Hire Reporting: We support the elimination of independent contractors in the definition of employees in Ohio's new hire reporting requirements.

Workforce Development: We support enhanced research development and programming to meet the workforce development needs in Ohio agriculture and the advanced energy sector.

Discussion Questions

1. How is your farm organized? Do you have one, two or more generations involved in the operation? When it comes to getting things done, what are some of the advantages and challenges or relying on family members?
2. What specialized services (crop management, field applications, marketing, community relations, legal/regulatory, processing, transport, etc.) do you address with on-farm resources? What production practices do you contract to outside services to fit your needs?
3. Are you and/or your service providers having challenges recruiting qualified personnel to fill key positions in the operation?
4. If you had to hire someone, family or otherwise, to help with day-to-day operations on the farm, what requirements and benefits would be listed on the job description?
5. If your county Farm Bureau had the opportunity to discuss local workforce development with local high schools, the area career center and/or the local state or technical college, what training programs would you want to be offered to promote pursuing jobs with local farms and agribusiness?



Local Government—Providing Service, Managing Resources

Defining the Issues

Recent trends indicate that local government funds are being reduced. Counties, townships and municipalities are being challenged to provide vital services, improve infrastructure, help attract and/or retain business, as well as support social, economic and environmental quality of life initiatives. How will these institutions continue to address public concerns? What traditional strengths need to be preserved? Are new, innovative strategies needed? How will community stakeholders be involved in local programs and activities?

AFBF Policy – Focus on Local Government

Fiscal Policy: Government economic policies should be designed to encourage economic stability, to increase productivity, to improve our competitive advantage in the international market and to promote a high level of economic prosperity. Federal mandates to state and local governments and agricultural producers must provide complete and continuous funding or be eliminated.

Sales and Taxes: Under the current tax system, sales taxes should be reserved to state and local governments.

Research: USDA research, extension and education programs that are initiated by partnerships between federal, state and local governments and carried out through universities and USDA. These programs should reflect and be tailored to the unique soil, environmental and socioeconomic makeup of regions, states and locales.

Federal Lands – General Management: We support the federal government funding and acting in cooperation with state and local governments to control fire, noxious weeds, pests and predators on federal lands, including wilderness areas, according to individual state guidelines.

We support payments in lieu of taxes equal to 100 percent of the administration of local government.

We support all agencies that manage public lands adopting strict ordinances and regulations, which may require a cash or performance bond for large group gatherings to protect public and

adjoining private lands, the managing agency, local government and local public service districts.

Trails, Landmarks and Monuments: We support rewriting the Antiquities Act to revoke the executive branch's ability to designate national monuments. Congress, with the approval of state and local governments, should be the body to designate national monuments.

Transfer of Federal Lands: We support the transfer of public lands from federal land management to state and local governments, including privatization. Lands transferred to state and local control should be administered under multiple-use management.

Clean Water Act Framework: We support the concept of cleaning up our nation's water; however, the goal of zero water pollution should be substantially modified. The current focus of the CWA should remain that of achieving fishable and swimmable standards. CWA and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) regulations should not infringe on property rights, should not result in unfunded mandates for state and local governments and should be subject to cost/benefit and risk assessment analysis. Reauthorization of the federal CWA and CZMA should not alter federal or state water rights and water allocation systems and should encourage state control over these programs.

Fish and Wildlife Service: FWS should follow applicable federal laws and presidential orders that support local government and citizen involvement in management planning and/or the execution of management plans.

OFBF Policy

State Funding, Efficiency and Shared Services: As a cost savings measure, we support the evaluation of increased efficiencies in local government. Furthermore, we should incentivize local governments to eliminate inefficiencies, both with respect to multiple units of government and within the unit itself.

We support allowing local governments the ability to share resources and to more efficiently offer services while still maintaining each unit's identity.

We support state legislation to provide a larger percentage of available funding for local governments.

We oppose the imposition of auditing fees and requirements that can burden local governments with excessive costs.

The limit on force accounts should be raised and indexed to inflation.

Court systems need to live within their budgets as set by the county commissioners. We support limitations on judges and prosecutors for the purpose of bypassing the appropriations process

Discussion Questions

1. Have any of your council members had the opportunity to hold office and/or serve on a local government board, commission or committee? Describe your experiences.
2. What “working knowledge” do you feel local government officials need as they enter public office?
3. Should local government partner with other local jurisdictions and private business to enhance current local services? Could sharing resources be used to create new services in the community?
4. Getting a community leader prepared to run for public office takes considerable interest in public service, practical experience, encouragement from peers and financial resources. To what extent should your county Farm Bureau be involved in recruiting and supporting candidates for public office?
5. How many of your Community Council members participate in county Farm Bureau political education, policy development and/or issues briefings with government officials? Who from your group would be interested in participating in these grass roots activities?