



Community Council Newsletter

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Hello Everyone,

Thank you for being part of a *Farm Bureau Community Council*. Our organization's greatest strength lies in its grassroots approach to exploring issues, creating action plans and getting things done. As a member of a Community Council, you will be able to use lively discussion to enhance your county Farm Bureau's Policy Development activities. We invite your group to get involved in other county Farm Bureau activities, too.

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 July – September. Topics for discussion include:

- *Economic Development* - Farm Bureau members are working with community stakeholders to explore a variety of opportunities that employ agriculture as a catalyst for on-going economic development. Some rural residents see traditional farming operations as the foundation of economic activity in the area. Others want to use traditional agriculture as a springboard for new opportunities.

How do you define development? Should local agriculture maintain and/or take on a new leadership position in long term planning. How would you advocate agriculture's position at the community discussion table?

- *Elections and Political Education* - Farm Bureau members work through grassroots programs to enhance agriculture and its impact on creating strong local communities. Taking a look at long term shifts in rural and urban population, many political pundits feel that rural neighborhoods and small towns have less influence on state and national government with each passing election. This trend could translate into to less collaboration in local government activities where rural, suburban and urban interests come into play.

What options, programs and opportunities should Farm Bureau support to ensure that its members and allied community stakeholders continue to be heard?

- *Career Education* - Business leaders are seeing a growing trend back to domestic manufacturing and production. Benefit for benefit, many analysts see blue collar, technical careers providing as many opportunities as those found in many white collar positions requiring a college degree. Career and Technical Education (CTE) will need to accommodate changes in the local workforce.

Business development is moving at a rapid pace. How can local technical schools, career centers and training programs provide resources in time and in step to meet growing demand?

- *New Technology and Data Access* - Advances in technology are allowing farmers to collect an amazing amount of quality data. Programs and software in tractors, planting and harvesting equipment; coupled with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology allow them maximize efficiency and ensure profit. Since the data is collected and downloaded from the farmers' equipment, it becomes their intellectual property. They own their data.

Many agricultural service providers, research institutions and government agencies want to collect the data on the specifics of each field. Service providers would be able to aggregate data and predict yields and pricing faster than producers. Others would offer new equipment to capitalize on the data, but operating system software would remain the property of the company.

Unfair market advantage and potential avenues for control - Does data ownership need to be regulated? Do researchers and policy makers need to take a look at the issues and address problems before they happen?

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 Wanda Campbell know if you need more forms or have questions at wcampbell@ofbf.org; or by phone at 614.246.8271.

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

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



Agriculture and Local Economic Development

Defining the Issues

Farm Bureau members are working with community stakeholders to explore a variety of logistic, environmental and entrepreneurial opportunities that employ agriculture as a catalyst for on-going economic development.

Some rural residents see traditional farming operations as the foundation of economic activity in the area. Key programs supporting agriculture, new uses for farm products and/or further enhancing farm income are vital for continued vitality and growth. Others want to use traditional agriculture as a springboard for new opportunities. They are interested in agritourism and strategies capitalizing on aesthetic natural resources as local attractions.

Many stakeholders see agriculture needing to maintain and/or take on a new leadership position in long term land use planning. What type of plan needs to be in place ensuring that farm, residential, commercial and industrial use of available land and resources are in place to maintain balanced sustainability and the community's quality of life long term?

How do you define *development*? Your input is needed at discussions taking place at local, state and national levels. How would you advocate agriculture's position at the discussion table?

AFBF Policy – Farm Policy, USDA Programs and Resource Use

National Farm Policy

Agriculture is strategically important to the survival of the United States. Our nation's economy, energy, environment and national security are dependent upon the viability of the agricultural industry. Agriculture must be treated as a strategic resource by our nation and reflected as such in local, state and national government policies. We believe agriculture should not suffer disproportionate cuts in federal spending.

We support a consistent, long-term market-oriented farm policy that will:

- Rely less on government and increasingly more on the market as well as providing more options for insurance and revenue assurance products that are more equitable for all commodities in all production regions of the country against adverse market fluctuations and weather-related hazards;
- Allow farmers to take maximum advantage of market opportunities at home and abroad without government interference;
- Encourage production decisions based on market demand;

- Develop risk management tools to deal with the inherent fluctuations in revenue and income associated with farming;
- Improve net farm income, enhancing the economic opportunity for farmers, preserving property rights and conserving the environment are our most important goals; and
- Undertake a comprehensive effort to assure U.S. producer competitiveness. Competitiveness issues should include biotech seed cost, agricultural research, U.S. transportation infrastructure, U.S. farm bill structure and funding, exchange rates and other factors relevant to agricultural global competitiveness.

USDA Rural Development Programs

We support the important work of USDA Rural Development to improve the quality of life and increase economic opportunity in rural America. We encourage the long-term funding of the grant, loan and loan guarantee programs administered by USDA Rural Development.

We support:

- Legislation that encourages rural economic development, and emphasizes value-added opportunities in agriculture;
- USDA administering community development, business, and economic development programs for rural communities;
- Increasing technical and marketing assistance funding for the USDA Community and Economic Development programs;
- The USDA Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program issuing loan guarantees to farmer-owned projects sited in urban or urbanizing areas, if the locations will return economic benefits to the rural owners of the project;
- Increasing agricultural development funding through grants and low-interest loans equivalent to industrial development;
- Full funding for state rural development councils;
- Efforts that link retiring farmers with people seeking opportunities to enter agriculture or returning to rural communities;
- Stricter limits on participation in government programs that take land out of agricultural production due to negative economic impacts; and
- A moratorium on any new regulations on small business or agriculture.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- We are opposed to proposals which would prevent the economic development of a stretch of river which has potential resource value; necessitate the taking of scenic easements or fee title to privately owned land by eminent domain; or unnecessarily involve federal responsibility for a river which is being adequately managed by a state. We oppose adding more rivers and adjoining land to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and urge re-evaluation of all existing wild and scenic rivers. We believe that land acquired by the federal government to preserve scenic riverways should be returned to the original owners.

- A Wild and Scenic River suitability assessment should not be a requirement of the Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Forest Plans) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) (all areas, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Management Plans).
- Wild and scenic river advisory committees should be organized in each scenic river area, and a majority of the committee should be made up of local adjoining landowners. Such a committee should be sought for advice in management of the river.
- Any land designated for wild rivers should be subject to local zoning ordinances.
- Before a river is designated as a wild or scenic river, a comprehensive study, as mandated by law, should be completed on the exact segment of river that has been proposed.
- Effective control of noxious or invasive alien species in compliance with state and county laws must be a part of every plan for management of wild and scenic rivers. No legal weed control practice may be excluded for such environmental protection.

OFBF Policy – Agribusiness, Agritourism, AgBioResource and Land Use Planning

Ohio Agriculture

We support increased opportunities for agriculture to continue to grow as Ohio's number one industry. We are concerned about economic development and quality of life issues unique to urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the agricultural opportunities available to each. Therefore, we will support reasonable efforts and needed research to address local issues including, but not limited to, water quantity and quality, air quality, physical, social, communication, energy and utility infrastructure, and the adoption of Best Management Practices (BMP's) pertaining to these issues. Identifying needed research, compiling and distributing research data, and funding of these activities should be emphasized to enhance our ability to address the concerns and questions of farmers and neighbors.

We encourage all government officials, state and local, to recognize and promote agriculture and agricultural jobs as an economic development tool for Ohio including an agricultural component in JobsOhio. Greater emphasis should be placed on promoting the agricultural industry domestically and internationally.

We support a review of all state economic development activities to ensure consistent funding, support and project efficiency for agriculture and rural communities.

We will work with the administration to develop a positive business climate in Ohio

including references to job creation efforts in the Ohio Department of Agriculture and Ohio Agricultural Statistics Annual Report.

We oppose attempts to limit the production or use of genetically modified crops or livestock.

Agritourism

We support:

- Agritourism and its viability in Ohio;
- The Ohio Revised Code containing a definition of agritourism which should be applied uniformly throughout the state; and
- Ohio law providing adequate landowner and operators protection associated with agritourism.

New Uses for Agricultural Products (AgBioResources)

We support:

Expanding the funding of research and development of alternative uses of agricultural commodities for sources of energy, medical supplies, nutraceutical, building supplies, polymers, biodegradable packaging, etc.;

The BioHio Ag Research Park and the Food and Agricultural Technology Commercialization and Economic Development Program (ATECH), AgBioscience Innovation Grant (ABIG) and Research Enhancement Competitive Grant Program (RECGP); and the Ohio Bio Preferred purchasing program.

Land Use Planning

- We will work for sound land use legislation and programs.
- We support the establishment of a farmland preservation strategy that coordinates and guides state and local policies, programs and actions so as to avoid and minimize the unnecessary and irretrievable conversion of productive agriculture land to nonagricultural uses. Ohio Department of Agriculture should maintain final decision authority on acceptance into the agriculture easement program.
- We encourage the development of countywide, comprehensive land-use plans as an integral part of farmland preservation. Local control and local involvement should be emphasized.
- We encourage members to serve on zoning commissions and on boards of zoning appeals.
- We encourage members to be involved in the development and implementation of countywide comprehensive land-use plans.
- We support the use of Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Funds for the preservation of farms that contain creeks, streams, woods, or natural wetlands.

We recommend programs to address the following issues:

- Land use decisions made locally with adequate rural participation in sub-division regulations;
- Recognition of basic property rights of individuals. State law or regulation should not take away the economic value of property without fair compensation;

- Effective zoning to meet the needs of rural Ohio. We recognize the challenges being made to agricultural practices by zoning commissions and encourage members to fight these challenges and continue to support agriculture’s exemptions from Ohio’s zoning laws;
- Promotion of orderly development of urban areas including: the concentration of further development; the avoidance of needless sprawl of both strip and leapfrog development; the redevelopment of existing urban areas already served by infrastructure and public services; the redirecting of business and industry into rehabilitated brownfields by providing appropriate incentives; and support for a reduction in taxation as an incentive for people who rehabilitate old homes or build new homes on existing home sites.
- Infrastructure repair and reinvestment rather than new infrastructure development. In the case of new development, fully allocate all costs to the land developers and purchasers. Urge passage of legislation giving clear permission for political entities to impose impact fees on new non-agriculture construction;
- Coordination at all governmental levels, with consideration of adjoining land uses from county to county and from community to community;
- Long term highway construction right-of-way needs should be incorporated in any comprehensive land use plan. The Ohio Department of Transportation should make reasonable efforts to avoid taking prime farmland when planning a road project;
- The Ohio Department of Development should revise their program on “shovel ready” sites to give priority to infill and redevelopment of property rather than to clean sites of high acreage;
- We oppose zoning restrictions on timber harvesting in municipalities and other political subdivisions;
- State and local economic development initiatives should be required to include production agriculture in their recommendations;
- We oppose efforts to impose the installation of riparian buffers through zoning because it is a taking of private property. We encourage the development of educational programs to improve the understanding of farmland preservation and land-use issues. Some topics of importance are economic impact of the loss of prime farmland and Conservation Security Programs and Carbon Credit Programs, economic importance of agriculture business and agriculture related businesses of local economics.

Discussion Questions

1. How big of an impact does agribusiness make in your local community? What aspects make it a leader?
2. Along with agriculture, what current and/or potentially new businesses and industries do you see making a local development impact? How should agriculture work with these entities going forward?

3. How developed is local infrastructure (road, bridges, utilities, railroads, air transport, schools, etc.) in your community? What is the area's strongest attributes, and what needs to be improved?
4. What community based and/or natural resources could be used to attract additional business or tourism opportunities? How should agriculture be involved in these activities?
5. Community development for many folks means finding a *balance*. What parts of your community need to be changed and what attributes need to remain the same to ensure the quality of life in your neighborhood?
6. Along with representatives from the county Farm Bureau, who needs to be at the table to create a community and economic strategy for your area? How would your county Farm Bureau define its leadership position within these efforts?



Elections and Political Education

Defining the Issues

Local, state and national – Farm Bureau members work through the organization’s policy development process and grassroots programs to enhance agriculture and its impact on creating strong local communities. The organization is identified as the *Voice of Agriculture*.

Taking a look at long term shifts in rural and urban population, many political pundits feel that rural neighborhoods and small towns have less influence on state and national government with each passing election. This trend could translate into less collaboration in local government activities where rural, suburban and urban interests come into play.

An overwhelming majority of residents and community leaders strongly support the traditional one person/one vote principle for effective government. Where do we strike the balance to ensure all citizens have equal opportunity in the political arena? What options, programs and opportunities should Farm Bureau support to ensure that its members and allied community stakeholders continue to be heard?

AFBF Policy – Election Recommendations at a Glance

The federal government should not be involved directly in the elective process in any way, but should recommend certain uniform guidelines to the states to assure fair and proper elections.

We support:

- A national effort to require registered voters to show photo identification when reporting to the polling place to receive a ballot;
- Voters being required to register in person a minimum of 30 days prior to the election;
- Proof of citizenship being a prerequisite for voter registration;
- Voter registration being recorded rapidly to reduce duplicate registrations;
- Repeal of laws mandating use of multilingual ballots in public elections because a common language is essential to a unified country;
- Retention of the Electoral College for presidential elections and electors being required to vote for the candidates to which they were pledged;
- The use of leadership Political Action Committees (PACs) under federal election law;
- Changing the present election laws to limit compulsory union dues or any other compulsory mechanism, from being used in any way to influence federal or state elections;
- Efforts to further consolidate elections in order to streamline the system and reduce taxpayers' expense; and

- The ability to include auto political phone calls in the do-not-call list for individuals.

We oppose:

- Proposals to make the popular vote the sole determinant of presidential elections;
- Changes that restrict or curtail the right of an individual citizen, or any group of citizens, the right to express themselves as guaranteed by the First Amendment;
- The use of public funds and franking privileges in the financing of political campaigns;
- Government support, grants or other funding of organizations for political activity;
- The use of the Internet for voting in any local, state, or federal election; and
- The news media reporting election results and exit poll results prior to the closing of all polling places.

OFBF Policy – Elections, Campaigns and Political Education

Term Limits

- We support extending the term limit for state legislators to 12 years.
- We support extending the term length for a state representative from two years to four years and extending the term length for a state senator from four to six years.

Political Campaigns

- We support the enforcement of existing campaign finance laws and encourage the examination of further campaign finance reform.
- We support legislation to prohibit the solicitation of contributions at the time of gathering signatures for an initiative petition.
- We oppose contributions to political campaigns from foreign interests.
- We encourage political candidates to campaign on the issues and avoid negative campaigning.
- We support full disclosure of all campaign contributions.

Political Education

- Farmers should become better informed and seek elected office or become actively involved in politics and government at the local, state, and national levels.
- Many candidates for public office and many issues on the ballot are deserving of farmers' financial support. The Agriculture for Good Government Political Action Committee (AGGPAC) must rely on individual members for contributions since organization funds cannot legally be used. More funds should be generated to support or oppose issues on the ballot and to make contributions to deserving candidates who support Farm Bureau policy.
- The Ohio Farm Bureau should:
 1. Operate AGGPAC on a bi-partisan basis;
 2. Encourage the members to participate as individuals in political party activities and serve in various capacities of the political party structure. More farmer involvement in our political parties is seriously needed to strengthen and keep the parties responsive to the best interest of agriculture and rural communities;

3. Provide convenient opportunities for members to voluntarily contribute to AGGPAC;
4. Encourage member Farm Bureaus to promote or provide activities which inform members of political issues, candidates, and public officials and to recruit viable candidates to run for office;
5. Provide profiles of statewide candidates and issues;
6. Take a more aggressive role in recruiting and assisting candidates that are friendly to agriculture because of the effects of term limits; and
7. Encourage Farm Bureau members to take advantage of the credit against state income tax for contributions to candidates for state political office.

Judicial Elections

- All judges should be elected in a general election, and only be appointed to fill the term if a current judge cannot fulfill his/her duties.
- The role of the court is to interpret the law and Constitution(s), rather than making new law via decisions.

Special Elections

- We oppose all special elections, except those necessary to fill office vacancies and for Recall.

Student Voting

- Students desiring to vote should be required to vote in their home community. The person designated as a student should not be permitted to register to vote in the college location unless he/she is a permanent resident.

Help America Vote Act

- The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) provides regulations and finances to change the way Ohio votes. Administration of funds should not adversely affect local government finances. Local governments and their respective Boards of Elections should have the authority to choose election equipment and program vendors.

Right of Recall

- We support the right of recall for state, county and township officials.

Initiative and Referendum

- We encourage a comprehensive review of initiative and referendum provisions in Ohio law. Specifically, we believe that out of state petition gatherers, paid signature gathering and the amount of needed signatures requires review and reform.

Redistricting

- We support a comprehensive review and reform of Ohio's current redistricting and apportionment process. We believe revisions to Ohio's redistricting process should incorporate:
 1. Transparency, an open process and checks and balances;
 2. Redrawing of legislative districts along county lines whenever possible;
 3. Creating districts without reference to major metropolitan areas being used as the center or hub upon which the district is created or based; and
 4. Ensuring that land based, geographic references are used to connect all communities and political subdivisions located within the legislative district.

Early Voting

- While we support early voting, it should be limited to a reasonable time.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the most pressing election related issue in your community? What needs to be fixed and what suggestions do you have that could help address the issue?
2. Does your community support early voting? What reasonable time frame (number of days prior to the general election) should be allowed to enable residents to exercise this option?
3. 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?
4. 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 grassroots activities?
5. If you had the opportunity to eliminate all election rules and regulations and start from scratch, what would the new system look like? What assignments and responsibilities would you give local, state and federal government for administering elections in your community? Which area of government (local, state or federal) should have the most authority?

Career and Technical Education

Defining the Issues

Career and technical education (CTE) is changing in response to a variety of economic, and social issues. Business trends over the past several decades reveal that America exported manufacturing capacity overseas and capitalized in services. Accordingly, many students felt college over technical school was a first step in a career path.

Business leaders are seeing a growing trend back to domestic manufacturing and production. Benefit for benefit, many analysts see blue collar, technical careers providing as many opportunities as those found in many white collar positions requiring a college degree.

CTE will need to accommodate changes in the local workforce. Experienced instructors will need to be recruited. Program delivery options beyond the traditional class room will need to be created. Certification and continuing education programs for key occupations will need to be revised. Business development is moving at a rapid pace, will technical schools, career centers and training programs be able to provide resources in time and in step to meet growing demand?

AFBF Policy – Career and Technical Education

State and local groups should retain primary responsibility for career programs and technical education programs.

We support:

- Career and technical education and post high school job training and retraining;
- The eligibility of farmers and ranchers to participate in existing government-funded retraining programs;
- Federal funding at current or higher levels for career and technical education;
- Expansion of farm business management education and production and financial benchmarking programs as part of adult education;
- Career and technical education in the G.I. Bill, including an agriculture internship option; and
- Continued federal funding and appropriations for agricultural education within public schools via the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act.

OFBF Policy – Research and Sharing Information

Agriculture, Public and Continuing Education

We support:

- Adoption and promotion of nationally recognized best practices set forth for agricultural education programs. We recommend that all agricultural education programs be designed to address both educational performance standards and recognized industry standards.
- Funding for agricultural education instruction to occur beyond the regular school day, week and year;
- The development of agriscience based courses and the granting of science credit for such courses;
- Funding for agricultural education programs for all students, regardless of school of attendance, race, national origin, sex, religion, handicap, or age;
- Increased funding for Career Technology.
- FFA as a personal and leadership development program;
- State funding to all middle and high schools for agricultural education and FFA;
- Local educational systems which allow students to take college preparatory courses and agricultural education courses;
- Ongoing alignment of secondary agricultural education programs with related college programs that leads to articulated college credit and prepares students for high technology agricultural and agribusiness related careers;
- Requiring one semester of life skills education which includes an agricultural education component prior to graduation; and
- Programs that assure farmers have access to adult agricultural education that provides financial management, record keeping, financial analysis instruction, and retirement and estate planning.
- School teachers participating in the “Food, Land and People” training program to enhance “Ag in the Classroom”.
- Expansion of supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs and other experiential programs which encourage students to participate in out-of-school experiential learning activities that include internships, career research, job shadowing, job placement and entrepreneurial job activities. We encourage greater support of student out-of-school activities by industry and agriculture.
- Expansion of adult training and retraining programs, in view of accelerating technological and social changes. We urge that federal and state programs be coordinated to make better use of existing facilities.
- Retaining the agriculture education leadership team at the Ohio Department of Education that includes three agricultural education consultant positions and one administrative position to assist the programming needs of the Agriculture Education Program.

- Assisting the Ohio Department of Education in securing agriculture industry representatives to help develop career technical education content standards that is the foundation for agricultural education programs in preparing the future workforce.
- Efforts to secure funding for the construction of the Muskingum Discovery Center located at Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum.
- Efforts to promote, encourage, and educate regarding urban agriculture.

Higher Education

We support:

- State funded universities exploring cost containment measures including collaboration and consolidation because we are concerned about the effect of inflation on our institutions of higher education.
- Maintaining the funding needed to ensure a quality higher education program at all of our state supported institutions of higher learning.
- Offering agriculture related continuing education programs at the branch campuses and community and technical colleges.
- Informing youth of the diverse and attractive career opportunities available in agriculture to increase enrollment in post-secondary agriculture education.
- Encouraging shadowing and/or mentoring programs for students.
- Programs for careers in agriculture that are not as costly and demanding as the traditional four-year degree.
- Colleges and universities who have agricultural degree programs.

We oppose:

- Ohio's state-funded universities making political or social statements through their food purchasing practices.

Public Education

We support:

- Rural students having the same opportunities and benefits offered to their urban and suburban counterparts. Education programs should give breadth, quality and maximum opportunity in education to our citizens.
- Distance learning programs made possible by new technologies.
- A coordinated effort among agricultural groups to expand the Ag in the Classroom program.
- Creating the network necessary to establish farm to school food programs throughout Ohio.
- Family and Consumer Science courses including personal money management at our elementary, middle and high schools.
- The integration of agriculture and related industry in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) curriculum.

- Studies to examine the impact of extending the school year.
- A form of physical activity during each school day.
- The agricultural STEM schools.
- A Farm Bureau appointed seat on any agricultural STEM school governing board.
- School districts to accept an open enrollment policy.
- Organizations working together where possible in developing positive agricultural/environmental literacy programs for youth and adults.
- The development and use of materials and the necessary support to integrate basic agricultural/environmental concepts into K-12 grade instruction.
- Increasing school activities and programs to educate all students about the origins and production practices of food, fiber, and fuel.
- The enforcement of penalties for drugs, alcohols, and illegal weapons used or found in schools.
- Healthy food choices for all Ohio students utilizing Ohio farm products, to ensure the well being of Ohio youth. Vending machines in all school facilities should contain healthy options.
- The repeal of the Common Core Standards Act for the State of Ohio.
- Community, STEM and charter schools that use public funds be held to the same accountability standards as public education.

We oppose the establishment by law of a minimum school district population.

Discussion Questions

1. Much of OFBF policy focuses on ensuring that agriculture as a career option and associated subject matter stays in the forefront of CTE. While maintaining agriculture as a priority, should policy be adapted to support other CTE careers and initiatives? If so, which ones?
2. Many Ohio farms are multi-family in scope. While some family members have full time farm employment, others farm in partnership part-time, and welcome off-farm full or part time employment opportunities. In short, having a local job keeps some family members in farming. What local industries would you like to see grow in the community and what CTE needs to be offered to help in this process?
3. Along with agriculture, what businesses and industry do you see developing locally? Could and should farm leaders collaborate with several of these industries to promote CTE resources at the local level?
4. If you had the opportunity to help a younger family member choose a career path, and benefit for benefit there were several blue and white collar career choices, which would you recommend?
5. STEM education focuses on science, technology, engineering and math curriculum. STEAM education focuses on the previous four subject areas, but includes art, too. Which curriculum do you feel needs to be promoted?



Agriculture – New Technology & Data Access

Defining the Issues

Advances in technology are allowing farmers to collect an amazing amount of quality data. Programs and software in tractors, planting and harvesting equipment; coupled with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology allow them to identify exactly where to plant seed, apply precise nutrients, increase yields, maximize efficiency and ensure profit. Since the data is collected and downloaded from the farmers' equipment, it becomes their intellectual property. They own their data.

Many agricultural service providers, research institutions and government agencies want to collect the data on the specifics of each field – what grows well and where. In return, they could provide the farmers with information on the best ways to gain efficiency, manage resources, enhance sustainability and maximize profitability.

However, could this information be used against them? Service providers would be able to aggregate data and predict yields and pricing faster than producers. Others would offer new equipment to capitalize on the data, but operating system software would remain the property of the company.

Unfair market advantage and potential avenues for control - Does data ownership need to be regulated? Do researchers and policy makers need to take a look at the issues and address problems before they happen?

AFBF Policy – Data Collection and Access

Census and Survey Data Collection

We believe:

- Government agencies have the right to collect fundamental data on population counts for its census purposes. This data would include the names of individuals residing at the residence, the number of people residing at the residence, and the year of birth of people residing at the residence; and
- Any information requested in addition to this data must be voluntarily given by the individuals.

We oppose:

- The American Community Survey from the U.S. Department of Commerce because it aggressively and unnecessarily invades individual privacy with its data collection efforts;

- The use of fines to coerce citizens to submit to intrusive, mandatory personal data collection efforts by the federal government; and the use of statistical formulas or estimates in census taking.

Access to Proprietary Data

Proprietary data collected from farming and agricultural operations is valuable, should remain the property of the farmer, and warrants protection.

We support:

- Efforts to better educate farmers and ranchers regarding new technology or equipment that may receive, record, transmit, share and/or sell their farming and production data;
- Requiring anyone who is collecting, storing, and analyzing proprietary data, including photographs, to provide full disclosure of their intended use of the data;
- Formation of standardized protocols regarding privacy and terms of conditions to ensure a standard definition of all components within the contract. We should be an active participant in developing these protocols;
- Compensation to farmers whose proprietary data is shared with third parties that offer products, services or analyses benefitting from that data;
- Multiple participation options being included in all contracts;
- All proprietary information between the farmer and the company remaining between the two entities. This would not preclude a farmer from sharing data with whomever he/she chooses (e.g., a consultant);
- Ensuring proprietary data are stored at an entity that is not subject to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, utilizing all safeguards, including encryption, to protect the data;
- The farmer's right to enter into agreement and their rights to sell their proprietary data to another producer (e.g., in a land sale);
- Private companies entering into agreements which would allow for the compatibility/updating of equipment and updating of software;
- The right of a farmer to have access to their own data, regardless of when it was shared with a company;
- Language in user agreement contracts to allow producers to remove their past aggregated data from the company's database and revoke that company's ability to sell or use that data in the future;
- Programs to increase producers' awareness on how their data is being managed, secured, protected or used;
- Ag-tech providers (ATP) assuming liability of all data breaches;
- ATPs clearly explaining the definition of the terms "affiliate," "business partner" and "third party" and in all precision ag contracts;
- Farmers having the ability to control when and where they utilize precision ag technology, i.e. field-to-field kill switch; and

- The development and use of independent, third-party evaluation of the variables used by ATPs in their privacy policies and user agreements.

We oppose any federal agency or FOIA-eligible entity from serving as a data clearinghouse for all proprietary data or aggregated data collected by private companies.

OFBF Policy – Research and Sharing Information

Ohio Agriculture

- We support increased opportunities for agriculture to continue to grow as Ohio's number one industry. We are concerned about economic development and quality of life issues unique to urban, suburban, and rural communities, and the agricultural opportunities available to each.
- We will support reasonable efforts and needed research to address local issues including, but not limited to, water quantity and quality, air quality, physical, social, communication, energy and utility infrastructure, and the adoption of Best Management Practices (BMP's) pertaining to these issues. Identifying needed research, compiling and distributing research data, and funding of these activities should be emphasized to enhance our ability to address the concerns and questions of farmers and neighbors.

Nutrient Management

- We support an amendment to Ohio's Public Records Law that would prevent the release of proprietary or confidential information collected by any state or local agency related to the development and implementation of (nutrient) management plans.

Discussion Questions

1. What type of technology (field equipment, drones, special metering, etc.) would you feel most comfortable using to collect your own data on your farming operation?
2. If you had the capabilities to collect information on your operation, what data would you want (crop production data, feed to livestock weight ratios, nutrient/resource use, etc.) to have access to?
3. Should anyone have the ability to collect data on your farming activities (satellite technology, drive by analysis/measurement, etc.) without being on the farmstead?
4. What types of equipment/hardware would you be interested in purchasing with the understanding the software used to control the operating system is always owned by the company? What advantages or disadvantages do you see with this arrangement?

5. What value do you place on your data? Is its worth constant or does it change over time and/or certain marketing conditions? Is data an intrinsic, personal possession, commodity or combination of the two?
6. What basic rights and protections should farmers have when it comes to data generated on the farm? Under what conditions should it be shared with others?