

BELMONT COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC
PROPOSED POLICIES 2016-2017

Belmont County Proposed Local Policies 2016-2017

1. We encourage the Belmont County Commissioners to explore more efficient broadband access in rural areas of the county.
2. In order to reduce the deer herd, we urge all landowners to replace their "No Hunting" signs with "Hunting with Permission" signs, and to organize hunting parties or lease their land for hunting. This would provide larger hunting acreages and allow increased deer harvest.
3. We support continued efforts for county recycling and litter prevention.
4. Local governments, school boards, and municipalities seeking additional revenue are encouraged to seek a sales tax increase so everyone contributes.
5. Landowners and residents of Belmont County and other areas are encouraged to contribute to the tax deductible Smith Goshen Rice Enrichment Fund which can only distribute funds for charitable purposes in Belmont County.
6. Belmont County Health Department should inspect all septic systems once every five years at owners expense. If system is failing, repairs must be completed by a certified contractor to meet Health Department requirements. Septic systems in a city, village or town with less than one acre of property must be hooked to the city, village or town sewer system to eliminate unwanted runoffs. No sewage should be permitted to be run into a storm drain, also no downspout drainage to sewage drains.

Belmont County Proposed State Policies 2016-2017

1. We encourage investigation of radiation in east central Ohio in relation to the higher incidence of cancer reported there.
2. We urge the Division of Wildlife to pay for the removal of dead animal carcasses from highways.
3. We support activities in the classroom that raise the awareness of students in agricultural processes, and other watershed education programs.
4. We urge Division of Wildlife reimburse landowners for crop damages caused by wildlife, measured by 1/4 animal unit per deer.
5. We oppose all efforts to make animal rights equivalent to human rights.
6. We encourage research to use bio products and waste to produce energy.
7. We support legislation to limit eminent domain by:
 - a. Eliminating eminent domain use for private groups.
 - b. Restricting municipalities from taking property from landowners by eminent domain for uses other than infrastructure.
8. We urge surveyors to inform adjoining landowners at least two days preceding initiation of surveying and increase the number of markings on the property lines, to establish a mid way pin and every 300 feet.
9. We support legislation that provides ownership of coal bed methane to the surface landowner.
10. We urge the Division of Wildlife to control Russian and Autumn Olive on all of their property, and restrict sale in Ohio due to invasive nature.
11. We strongly urge the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation to re-evaluate the methods they use to designate "Friends of Agriculture." We recommend at least an 80% vote.
12. We oppose any legislative increase in weight limits beyond 80,000 lbs.
13. We believe the State of Ohio should reinvest all monies received for drilling on state owned lands in our area back into our area.
14. We believe upon completion of mining in any given area the safety of the mine should be established immediately so permitting for oil and gas is an option so as not to block mineral extraction possibilities.
15. We support Oil and Gas policies that:
 - a. Landowners are cautioned not to sign a company lease without incorporating addenda that meet the needs of the landowner and limit the activities of the lessee.
 - b. We encourage landowners to join together in groups, thereby increasing acreages, to provide better negotiating opportunities when dealing with oil and gas companies.
 - c. We encourage landowners to seek legal assistance from an attorney who is not associated with the oil/gas company, before signing any lease. If large sums of money are involved, landowners should consult tax, CPA, estate and/or other financial professionals.
 - d. To protect property rights, we support legislation to establish the maximum pooling/unitization acreage at 640 acres for vertical wells and 1280 acres for horizontal wells.
 - e. Respect landowner's private property rights.
 - f. Once Oil & Gas leases are signed we encourage landowners to cautiously enter into selling royalties and/or mineral rights.
 - g. If a lease is "resold" to another company the landowner should be able to benefit from the transaction and be informed of all actions.
16. We urge an increase in penalties for anyone found guilty of trespassing on private property.
17. We encourage the "tire fee" be charged on all tires whether the owner leaves the tire or takes it with them, so as to discourage dumping on our roadsides.
18. We encourage more veterinarian students consider going into large veterinarian practice in our rural area.
19. We are opposed to the implementation of a severance tax on gas and oil as a method to reduce state income tax rates. Any severance tax legislation should be returned to the county in which it was collected to help with infrastructure, noise pollution, and environment issues.
20. Lawmakers, judicial officials, and other public officials convicted of a crime resulting in jail sentences shall lose all government pensions and retirement plans.
21. Persons driving vehicles without a valid license or under suspension shall not be entitled to any insurance compensation and will be charged "at fault".
22. We are opposed to the legalization of recreational marijuana within the state, oppose any monopoly structure and urge strict control of medical marijuana.
23. We are opposed to the marketing of powder alcohol within the state. Powdered alcohol is mixed with water to make a toxic drink.
24. Persons convicted of a crime and receiving public assistance, such as housing, medical care, and food stamps, shall have all forms of assistance immediately stopped for at least one year.
25. We need additional infrastructure upkeep on all roads and bridges.
26. We oppose the increasing of the state CAT tax. (Commercial Activity Tax)

Belmont County Proposed National Policies 2016-2017

1. AFBF should continue to work to limit the use of eminent domain.
2. We support the current USDA system of animal disease control.
3. We support our current immigration laws and regulations with enforcement, and request all incoming immigrants meet these requirements. Immigrants arriving illegally are not eligible for any government assistance.
4. We urge more "New Product" development be explored with check off dollars from Ag products.
5. We strongly request the Federal Government return the entire abandoned mine funds accumulated to the state requesting reclamation of abandoned mines.
6. We encourage research on backfill to reduce the subsidence caused by longwall mining.
7. We urge increased planning and upgrading infrastructure to include new refineries, electric power grids, roads, bridges and rail.
8. We urge development of plans for disaster that would be integrated at all levels (Local, State, and National) upgrading infrastructure as necessary to speed evacuations and influx of aid.
9. We oppose "Cap and Trade" until benefits are proven.
10. Hobby Farms – We oppose the IRS using a "Hobby Farm" designation for farms not showing profit; with capital improvements costs; and similar extenuating circumstances.
11. Propose Farm Bureau insist on a review of those receiving federal subsidies and accountability of those being deserving of receiving payment (s).
12. Farm Bureau should be ready to rebuttal misleading information on farm programs and funding issues.
13. We support mandatory drug testing for anyone receiving government assistance.
14. We should establish a preference of marketing our domestically produced petroleum products in the United States vs. overseas sales.
15. We support English as our national language.
16. We support no imports of commodities, if the commodities are to be sold below a yearly average producing market.