

**MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU, INC
PROPOSED POLICIES 2016-2017**

Monroe County Proposed Local Policies 2016-2017

1. We continue to support the development of additional higher education opportunities within Monroe County.
2. We ask the Board of Education to promote agricultural education at all levels of the school system, with the reality of life science labs. We ask that special emphasis be placed on how the production of food and fiber affects all consumers.
3. We encourage our members to seriously consider enrolling their eligible lands in Agricultural Districts and CAUV through the auditor's office.
4. We ask that the local SWCD work with timber contractors and local landowners to protect our streams and property from the possibility of timber harvest damages.
5. We ask our Commissioners to work with our local CIC and other agencies to make local broadband available to the entire county.
6. We encourage appropriate trails to be developed by ODNR on public lands for equine riding as allowed in the Right to Ride Act.
7. We continue to encourage local landowners to use caution and forethought when entering into any contractual agreements especially in relation to any oil, gas or mineral rights and pipeline easements.
8. We encourage local officials to be aware of the damages to roads used by the oil and gas industry and plan accordingly for their upkeep and improvement.
9. We encourage our members to carefully research any leasing/selling of water from their property before signing a contract.
10. We support the U.S. coal industry and efficient, coal-fired electrical generating plants to help achieve independence and affordable electrical rates.
11. We ask that our State Government's Agencies seek out available funds or grants from the USDA Rural Assistance Program, so the Broadband Internet Service is available to all of our rural areas. We also ask that the Public Utilities Commission assist with expediting these applications.

Monroe County Proposed State Policies 2016-2017

1. We ask that before any new wildlife species or plants are introduced to local areas that the ODNR conduct issue ballots for approval. We also ask that the ODNR reduce problem areas when it becomes known to them whether it be wildlife or vegetation.
2. We realize the possible problems of long wall mining for landowners and we will work to protect the rights of landowners from short or long term damages; including the loss of water.
3. ODNR must control the deer herd to a reasonable level that is acceptable to both the landowners and sportsmen. ODNR should establish reserve funds to pay for claims of deer and other wildlife damages to active property owners. They shall also offer free hunting fees for veterans, senior/handicapped citizens.
4. We encourage the use of best management practices on timberland and support the policy of licensing of timber cutters. We request the OFBF to draft a sample timber contract to inform members of their rights and responsibilities.
5. We support the development of better roadway systems through Monroe County and other counties of southeast Ohio, plus establishment of I-68 from the West Virginia line to the intersection of I-77 in southeast Ohio.
6. We urge more equitable funding formula for construction of schools in rural area, taking into account the median family income.
7. We feel that the Eminent Domain practice must be limited to government usage only and not for blighted areas or economical gain.
8. We ask that the state agencies release monies within 30 days to our Ag producers once the Governor has declared a disaster, whether natural or man-made.
9. Any oil/gas production well on a landowners property, should have an accurate recording device that is easily read by the landowner. Also, if any landowner becomes an owner of an orphan well, the ODNR shall assist if it has to be abandoned.
10. We ask that our State Government's Agencies seek out available funds or grants from the USDA Rural Assistance Program, so the Broadband Internet Service is available to all of our rural areas. We also ask that the Public Utilities Commission assist with expediting these applications.
11. We support continued development of renewable fuels in Ohio to reduce our dependence on foreign production.
12. We encourage Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive, Spotted Knapweed, Tree of Heaven, and Russian Olive be listed as noxious weeds and state of Ohio charged to eradicate it.
13. We encourage best management practices be supported by ODA for livestock production and support meat production in Ohio.
14. We support an education on livestock production for consumers to be able to continue to choose animal products.
15. We urge careful monitoring of the EPA on authority issues dealing with Clean water, air and cap/trade issues.

16. We urge a return of a large percentage of any money generated from water sales be redistributed to the local area where water is obtained.
17. We support the adjustments made to date in the CAUV calculation process. However, we encourage the deductions for clearing be increased to \$3,700.

Monroe County Proposed National Policies 2016-2017

1. We urge all laws passed by Congress to be carried out under their congressional intent, not regulatory intent, especially in regard to Ag & EPA Acts. The Clean Water and Air Act must be economically feasible to the Ag industry.
2. We encourage the passing of a Private Property Act to protect our individual rights to continue farming.
3. We oppose any American Flag burning and desecration of any government property and propose jail time to said participant.
4. We support any and all timber sales to be free of capital gains if property owner has had property for over five years.
5. We urge the Federal Government to do all that is possible to help our companies to stay competitive in the world market, when they are enacting the Free Trade agreement. We ask that they look at all individuals/areas impacted and not just certain sectors of the population. Also, we ask that the permanent embargo against the island country of Cuba be lifted, so that once again free trade may be established.
6. We ask that when the President or Congress declares a disaster, that money be made available to our Ag producers on a much improved, timely manner than we currently have.
7. We support Country of origin labeling to affect all imported meats.
8. We oppose mandatory NAIS until it can be proven to be profitable for producers to implement.
9. We urge the prompt address of the issue of illegal aliens.