

[Darke County Farm Bureau]

Summer 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi, my name is Matt Aultman. I am serving as the county Farm Bureau president this year and the current nominee up for election. I am honored to serve on the county board and to meet our members along with others throughout the state over the past 6 years. My wife, Morgan, and I live near Stelvideo and farm alongside my father and grandfather. We have made a home to raise our two children Sophia, 9, and William, 7, to allow them to experience what rural life has to offer. We like to try new things on our farm and share our experiences with the community and people around the state; to show that farming is more than planting corn, beans, and wheat and raising livestock. Agriculture is so much more.

Many years ago a farmer that I can't recall told me this: "As farmers we do not own the land we farm, we are renting it from future generations and we must protect, repair, and maintain our most precious resource." This very quote has hung with me for many years and influences what we do on our farm. I also strive to live by the quote: "This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good, but what I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain and not loss; good and not evil; success and not failure; in order that I shall not regret the price I have paid for it." With these in my mind and being able to share with others, we are able to make a difference within our community and each other. As a community, we are blessed with opportunity to be able to produce a safe, reliable food product to help feed the growing world. This is what makes our county so special to agriculture and why we are routinely ranked #1 or #2 within the state for gross agriculture receipts.

I remember back to when I was involved with Farm Bureau Youth, that our county Farm Bureau held events and supported projects throughout the county. At the time I had no idea why they had done so much for so many different groups until I came onto our board. I found out that this organization is family oriented that strives to support those in rural community's whether you are a farmer or not. Many times they do this without asking for compensation other than your continued support and membership in Farm Bureau. Many of our events are public and you can see your membership dollars at work, but more often than not Farm Bureau works behind the scenes helping change legislation that affects everyone throughout the state.

The most recent change is the reevaluation of the CAUV formula and how that relates to the property tax each one of us pay in one form or another.

Darke County Farm Bureau continues to support many groups throughout the county to inform the impact that agriculture has on our county's economy. From the coloring books that are handed out at farm safety days, to public service announcements, to a new fair booth spot this year near the youth building, and the reach at events held throughout the year. Our county is active spreading the word about agriculture. No matter how much the industry changes, our county Farm Bureau will adapt and be there for support.

Darke County Farm Bureau is 99 years strong this year! Many changes in agriculture and our community have happened since this organization was formed. As an organization this past year we have seen a couple of changes of our own. We adopted a new membership model with new levels depending on your level of interaction with agriculture, we have a new State Farm Bureau board President, Steve Hirsch, a new Executive Vice President, Adam Sharp, and our county has a new Organization Director, Melinda Lee.



Within our county, our past Organization Director Mandy Havenar changed her career path in January leaving a void for our county. A couple months went by and we have been lucky enough to have Melinda Lee come to fill those shoes and make them her own. You can read a little background on her and why she is doing a great job for us here in Darke County later in this newsletter. If you see Melinda out at an event here in the county or at the fair introduce yourself to her and help us as an organization welcome her to our part of the world. I am excited as board president to have her aboard and glad she can help share her knowledge and passion she has for agriculture with our membership. In closing, I ask you these 3 questions:

What makes Farm Bureau important to our County?
Why are you a member?
Why should you get involved?

I hope the answers come easy to you and that you can tell one friend why you are part of Farm Bureau so they can experience what we do and share the benefits of membership with them.

Thank You for being a member and supporting our county's organization.—Matt Aultman, Darke County Farm Bureau President

Darke County Announces New Organization Director Melinda Lee

Melinda is 2013 graduate of Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. She majored in Animal Sciences and Agribusiness. Melinda grew up in Cardington, Ohio on a beef, sheep, and grain farm. While in college she served as an Agricultural Ambassador for Ohio Farm Bureau at the Ohio State Fair. After graduation she worked at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center and most recently for Aldermere Farm, a program of Maine Coast Heritage Trust in Rockport, Maine. Her role at Aldermere involved planning and facilitating agricultural educational programs for members and the general public as well as working with youth involved in the farm's 4-H program. Melinda is excited to be working with Ohio Farm Bureau and looks forward to working with Darke County Farm Bureau.



SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING 2016

Join us for our annual meeting Thursday, September 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Christian Center
5256 Warner Road Greenville, OH 45331

Cost: FREE

We will be voting on polices that will help direct our programming for the upcoming year.

For reservations, please contact the office by August 25th

937-335-1471 or darke@ofbf.org

**Check us out at the 2016
Great Darke County Fair**

August 19-27



Stop by the All Ag Tent at the county Fair with your kids to meet the milk cow! - *Display milk cow, not a live cow.*



2016 DARKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU TRACTOR CRUISE TOOK PLACE JULY 9TH

This year we had nine folks come together at the fairgrounds for the second year for this spirited event. The group started off at the fairgrounds, traveled around Southern Darke County and made their way back to the finish line! The participants enjoyed a free t-shirt and a day full of great memories. Several door prizes were given away; one of which was a pair of Dayton Flyer tickets! The proceeds of the event will go toward several food banks in the county. Paul Morrison was the founder of this event and hopes to continue it for many years to come!



HOME GROWN IN DARKE COUNTY

The first two classes of the series were held at the KitchenAid Experience in downtown Greenville. The first night featured chicken, Chris Campbell from the Merchant House presented, and Levi King from King and Sons demonstrated how to properly cut a chicken. The second night the topic was beef with chef Michael Anthony from the Inn at Versailles. On July 20th, pork was the featured meat and Jeff Besecker with the Old Arcana was the chef. The final night will be held at The Winery at Versailles and the featured meal was vegetarian. The chef that night was Doug Surber.



Chef, Chris Campbell making the Yard Bird



Folks gathering at the Winery at Versailles



Chef, Michael Anthony making Hanger Steak

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County Staff

Melinda Lee– *Organization Director*
 mlee@ofbf.org

Betsy Staley– *County Office Administrator*
 bstaley@ofbf.org

Visit our website at
darke.ofbf.org



Darke County Farm Bureau
1554 McKaig Avenue Building B
Troy, Ohio 45373

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30-4 darke.ofbf.org

Email: darke@ofbf.org

Phone: 937-335-1471 **Fax:** 937-332-3606

A DAKRE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
MEMBER BENEFIT



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Darke County Farm Bureau

ADAM SHARP TAKES LEAD AT OHIO FARM BUREAU

“Preserving our agricultural heritage and keeping it strong—that’s something I enjoy talking about with our Farm Bureau members.” ~ Adam Sharp. Adam Sharp was recently hired to fill the shoes of the retired John C. “Jack” Fisher as executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Fisher retired in July after 20 years as Farm Bureau’s leader. After 10 years working in various policy and government relations roles with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Farm Bureau Federation in the nation’s capital, Sharp and his wife, Lisa, decided to move back with their children to central Ohio eight years ago. He’s been with Ohio Farm Bureau since 2004 and most



recently served as vice president of public policy. Sharp grew up working on his family’s Fairfield County farm, which he now owns and operates with his brothers Scott and Kyle. Another brother, Nathan, is studying at a Christian seminary in Kentucky. When he was introduced as the new executive vice president for Farm Bureau, newly elected State President Frank Burkett noted that he was “one of the nation’s foremost policy experts in agriculture and has a deep understanding of the rapidly changing food and agriculture industry.”

Visit: <https://ofbf.org> to read more about Adam.