

[Miami County Farm Bureau]

Summer 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello from your Miami County Farm Bureau president. For those of you who do not know me, I am Bill Wilkins. My wife and I, Shauna of 38 years own and operate a farm south of Troy. I grew up on a large grain and livestock farm in Champaign County. I worked to grow the farm operation after graduating from high school in 1971 with a goal of taking control of the operations in the future. Plans changed in 1974 when a tractor accident paralyzed me from the waist down. After spending over a year recovering, I began college and eventually received a degree in Agricultural Economics from Utah State University. My professional career began in California where I was hired as a loan officer for Farm Credit. In 1987, I took a position as Branch Manager of the Troy, Ohio office of Farm Credit. During my 20 years with Farm Credit, I moved up to middle management and served as Vice President of Lending where I supervised the credit operations and staff of several offices serving farmers in 9 counties in southwestern Ohio. Meanwhile, my wife and I purchased the farm south of Troy where we now live and enjoy raising corn and soybeans. I left Farm Credit in 2001 and formed Consolidated Appraisal Services Company with a friend. The appraisal business has grown and now employs 16 people who complete farm, commercial and residential appraisals throughout Ohio and eastern Indiana.

This has been the year of change. A new membership structure was implemented on December 1, 2016. Leadership changes in the organization took place from the top down. Zippy Duvall was elected as our new American Farm Bureau Federation president during the AFBF convention in January. Frank Burkett was elected as the new president of Our Ohio Farm

Bureau Federation in April. In July, Adam Sharp was hired as the new Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation taking over the position held by Jack Fisher. Melinda Lee was hired as the new Organization Director for Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, and Miami counties in March. These changes in leadership assure that the organization will leap forward with positive adjustments to better serve our members and the farm community now and in the future.



I want to invite you to join us in several activities that are coming up with our county Farm Bureau. Be sure to attend the Miami County Fair that runs from August 12-18. Stop by the Conservation Area at the fair where we will have a display and information. Visit the Dairy Bar and get one of our legendary milkshakes. Plan to attend the All Ag Meeting and Banquet on August 25th at the Troy Eagles Campground. Pack up the family and come out to the Lost Creek Reserve and enjoy the Miami County Park District Fall Festival on October 8th for a day of fun activities and our Movie Night on the Farm beginning at dusk.

Let your family, friends and neighbors know about Farm Bureau and invite them to join as members. The different classes of members provide a good fit for all. I invite you to get involved with our county committee and the many activities that are planned. Contact our county office if you have concerns, issues or needs that should be addressed. Your input and comments help us to better represent the needs of our county members.

It is an honor to be your county Farm Bureau president and be provided the opportunity to lead the local organization.

Board of Trustees

Bill Wilkins– *President*
Dan Sturgill– *Vice President*
Craig Lichtenberg– *Secretary*
Dennis Barbee

Grant Davis
Cynda Shuman-Renner
Josh Roeth
Ryan Moore

County Staff

Melinda Lee– *Organization Director*
mlee@ofbf.org
Betsy Staley– *County Office Administrator*
bstaley@ofbf.org

Miami 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 Miami County Farm Bureau.



MOVIE ON THE FARM

At Lost Creek Reserve

Featured Film: TO BE ANNOUNCED

OCTOBER 8, 2016



Mark your calendar
Movie Night on the Farm
will be in conjunction with the Miami County Park District Fall Farm Festival on Saturday, **October 8th** at Lost Creek Reserve. More details to follow.



Check us out at the Miami County Fair 2016

Be sure to visit the Dairy Bar During the Miami County Fair August 12-18!!

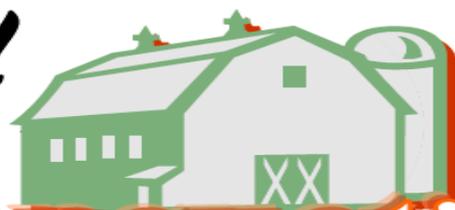
Stop by the Conservation Area at the Miami County Fair with your kids to meet the milk cow! - *Display milk cow, not a live cow.*

If you would like to help out at the Dairy Bar during the 2016 Fair please call the Farm Bureau office. We have shifts on Friday, Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday.



12th Annual

All Agricultural Meeting & Banquet!



Thursday August 25th 2016

Troy Eagles Campground 2252 Troy-Urbana Rd Troy

HOMERUN

Only \$5

IF payment accompanies registration by **AUGUST 19th.**
\$10 after 8/19 & at the door.

C Kristin @ Miami SWCD
A 335-7645
L Betsy @ Farm Bureau
L 335-1471

Kids 12 & under eat FREE, enjoying pizza & games w/ Miami East FFA !

AGENDA

5:30 - 7:00: MEET THE CANDIDATE
MIAMI SWCD VOTING
SILENT AUCTION & DISPLAYS
6:30: CATERED MEAL BY LYONS CATERING
7:00 - 7:30: Guest Speaker DOUG CHRISTIAN
& THE HISTORY OF MIAMI COUNTY
7:30 - 8:30: PROGRAM & AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

Partnering to serve you better:



Reservations for the 2016 Miami County All Agricultural Meeting & Banquet

Name: _____

Number Attending: _____ at \$5 each = _____ (Checks payable to Miami County Farm Bureau)

Return by August 19 to: Miami County Farm Bureau
1554 McKaig Avenue Building B
Troy, Ohio 45373

*We will be voting on
Farm Bureau Policies at
the Banquet*



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

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

Email: clark@ofbf.org

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

A MIAMI COUNTY FARM BUREAU
MEMBER BENEFIT



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Miami County Ohio 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.