

Richland County Farm Bureau 2018 Policies

	<u>Local</u>
1	We encourage all Richland County farmers to adopt practices so as to minimize nutrient loss and improve water quality, by developing and following nutrient management plans, installing and maintaining appropriate BMP's and adhering to the 4R nutrient stewardship principles. We support the new regulations from ODA seeking to improve water quality and encourage all farmers to become Certified Nutrient Applicators.
2	We encourage the collaboration among the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District municipalities, farmers and area landowners to address the issues of water quality and flood control in Richland County's watersheds. We can only support solutions that are fair to landowners and address the many concerns that have been raised concerning the proposed plans.
3	We support and encourage the development, production, promotion and use of renewable energy. We encourage the education of consumers on the benefits of renewable energy.
4	We support the inclusion of CAUV savings on county real estate tax bills and support educating landowners about the program.
5	We support local funding for local agriculture agencies and programs. We encourage the county commissioners to increase funding to the Soil and Water Conservation District and the OSU Extension offices.
6	We support the use of bio-technologies that have been tested and found safe to aid in producing an abundant and wholesome food supply to feed a growing world population. We encourage dialogues with consumers to explain the need for and benefits of these production methods.
7	We support the purchase of locally grown foods and the sharing of the benefits that exist in keeping our food supply close to home. Additionally, we seek to connect people with their food to help them understand where it comes from and why it is grown that way.
8	We encourage our County engineer to monitor the road crossings affected by the installation of the large natural gas pipeline and wind farms in northern Richland County to ensure our roads and waterways are being protected. We support his efforts to increase funding for the County roads and bridges.
9	We support the Sherriff's office in their battle against all crime in the county and encourage programs to reduce drug use that drives much of that crime. We oppose the legalizing of drugs which will lead to increased crime.

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	<u>State</u>
1	We support the Healthy Water Ohio Initiative's collaborative approach to create a statewide water resources management strategy that includes all water users and interests. We need a solution which will not cause farmers to be forced out of business by necessitating unreasonable investments to be in compliance with new regulations on existing facilities.
2	We support increases in Local Government funding from the state.
3	We commend the State legislature and the Governor for including legislation in the state budget to correct problems with the CAUV formula.
4	We support the Ohio Department of Agriculture in reviewing the enforcement of the humane slaughter regulations dealing with rendering animals insensible to pain with a single shot. While the goal of 100% compliance is laudable, there must be some allowance for normal problems without severe penalties being levied.
	<u>National</u>
1	We are supportive of the EPA rollback of the Waters of the U.S. rule. We believe this will ensure clean water without causing overburdening regulation.
2	We encourage Congress to increase funding for the Highway Trust Fund so that our roads and bridges can be adequately maintained.