

Show 664_Dorothy_Pelanda

Joe Cornely The Ohio Department of Agriculture is very familiar to most Ohio farmers with its role in pretty much every facet of Ohio's impressive food industry. Consumers probably should be familiar too because ODA is at the forefront of assuring food safety. Dorothy Pelanda is Ohio's 39th director of agriculture. Today she's in with Farm Bureau's Adam Sharp to talk about water quality, food safety, farmer mental health and a variety of other current topics. ODA Director Dorothy Pelanda on Town Hall Ohio.

Joe Cornely Dorothy Pelanda grew up on her family's farm, practiced law for nearly 30 years, served in the Ohio House of Representatives for eight years and this past January was sworn in by Governor Mike DeWine to be Ohio's director of agriculture. Since then she's been busy traveling the state getting to know many of the people who make up Ohio's largest industry and leading the department's work on a long list of important initiatives and today she made time to join our Town Hall Ohio listeners. Director Pelanda welcome to the show.

Dorothy Pelanda Thank you, Joe. It's great to be here with all of you.

Joe Cornely Adam Sharp, executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau. Glad to see you back in the studio

Adam Sharp Absolutely. Thanks, Joe.

Joe Cornely So I didn't really get into a whole lot about what Ohio Department of Agriculture does, Director Pelanda, other than to mention that it goes far beyond just its relationship to farmers. Tell us a little bit about the department that you head up, its history, its mission. What's ODA all about?

Dorothy Pelanda Well it's great when you bring up the history because I'm so proud to say that my great great great uncle Gideon served on the Ohio agriculture board of trustees in the early 1900s. So our family comes from a long line of farmers in Union County.

Dorothy Pelanda If I had to describe the Department of Agriculture in two words as what its mission is, it would be education and safety. Safety in the food we eat and the plants and animals that surround us.

Dorothy Pelanda And actually in the amusement rides that we enjoy. I cannot think of a more diverse department in the state of Ohio than the Department of Agriculture. Of course Joe I think the crown jewels of our department are our two state of the art laboratories -- one for plant, one for animals and then our consumer protection lab. Every day we have scientists from around the world who come to work at our department to make sure that A) our races, our horse races are fair and that winning horse that crosses the finish line is not adulterated in any way. We also do that right now for all of our county and state fairs. So testing of the animals to make sure that we keep our competitions fair is really an important job that we do. Consumer protection lab in working with Terry Gerhart our chairman of food safety. Now every day we're sampling foods that are out there on the shelves to make sure that working with the health departments, the local health departments that our food is safe to eat. Investigating new meat markets et cetera to make sure that they're following the regulations. Some people say to me sometimes Joe I really don't want to be regulated. I would say to them actually you do. You want to know that the

food you're buying at your grocery store has been inspected by us, for quality and for safety. Now every week ...today for example we hold educational seminars for farmers and agribusinesses who want to apply fertilizers or pesticides because they're required to have ongoing training. So once again you know we're making sure that those people that are doing that have the best and latest information available to them so they can be responsible guardians of our land.

Joe Cornely Adam for an organization such as ours whose one of its most crucial missions is to look out for farm families in Ohio. It's extremely important that we know what ODA is doing. We get the opportunity to interact with them, to be a part of that process that the director just described.

Adam Sharp That's right. The director laid out really well that broad scope of the things that the department of agriculture here in Ohio has to deal with and it's a lot. And that's right. They have a lot of pages of regulation that they have to enforce here in the state and it is important that we have good regulation, regulation that the individuals that are being regulated regulated understand and also that compliance assistance side...the department does a lot of outreach constantly. As the director mentioned with individuals across the state in lots of different areas. So whether you're talking about on farm animal care which is another area that they have a very specific space in over to dog breeding. You name it. You know there's a whole series of different things that the department has to deal with. They do a very good job of having that outreach but also it's important that they're able to take those phone calls from those individuals to make sure whether it's food safety or animals or plants or dairy inspection you name it. There's a series of things that they're on call for to both be out there regulating but also to help producers and help those in regulated industry understand their obligations.

Joe Cornely Director, what did you feel like when the incoming governor of Ohio called you or had you come into the office and say that's something I'd like you to do for me.

Dorothy Pelanda I was thrilled and honored. And of course even then had didn't have a full grasp of exactly how diverse the department was. As I continue to live on the family farm where I was raised, all those life lessons of wildlife management, conservation practices, learning to be good stewards of the land I think have helped me come into this position. I think also my experience as a lawyer and a legislator helped me understand that the most important thing someone can do to be successful in any business is the building and sustaining of relationships. That's why it was so exciting and challenging at the same time when the governor said to me when I was appointed Dorothy your office is the state of Ohio. I want you to go out there and meet with farmers and listen to what they have to say. What's on their mind? Because he believes as I do that nothing compares to just a one on one conversation with people. And that was an amazing journey for me in the first few months of my taking office.

Joe Cornely As you got around to see a lot of the folks of Ohio you had interacted with your constituents as a legislator for a long time and now you are, well you know a regulator or a bureaucrat whatever the term is you're an agency director. How does that aspect of public service differ from being a lawmaker? How did one influence what you're doing now? How do those compare to you?

Dorothy Pelanda Well you know right away one of the first things we tackled was the state budget and and ODA's budget that that they submitted so it to me was very beneficial to have had relationships with the state legislators who were asking me Well

Dorothy why are you asking for this amount of money for this this and that? Again the relationships that I had established in the legislature were once again coming into play this time in a different capacity. There were some really tough issues. And so I knew that the one on one meetings with the legislators would be so beneficial to helping them understand what we were asking for with regard to H2Ohio for example or why we were why we needed four more inspectors for ride safety. A lot of times I felt as a legislator intimidated to ask a question in a committee. So it was important I knew to have a one on one meeting with them where they felt more comfortable asking perhaps what they felt to be an obvious question. I think it went a long way to having a very successful budget experience in my first year as director.

Joe Cornely Adam. It could have been maybe just a little bit easier on Director Pelanda to have come into office 5 or 6 years ago when economically things were pretty good on the farm sheet. She comes into office at a pretty tough time for farm family's bottom lines.

Adam Sharp We appreciate the work that the governor has done and the director has done these last nine months. When you look at the timing of them both taking office. And as Mr. DeWine came in as one of the things that we really appreciated he was very open and wanting to work with the agriculture community and make sure that as he named a director Director Pelanda that it was somebody that we could work with right and have an understanding and an openness to want to understand and really work with the challenges that we know we have in agriculture. So whether you talk about the economics, which you know we're 50% lower commodity prices now than we were in 2014. We're 30% lower on overall farm income than we were just a couple years ago. That's drastic. You know that's half. You're getting half the price that you did as farmers for your products from just a couple of years ago from just less than five years ago. Then you throw on top of that rain, rain and rain that never stopped all through the winter and spring. And we appreciate the director and the governor having to you know really deal with an issue that was unexpected, that was developing as we moved along through the year. So you know that's a hard thing. You know for new folks coming in with all the different pieces of the department and the different rules and regulations the director has to carry out that they'd have to pick up another whole really emergency situation that developed was it was a big load. So we do appreciate the time that she spent getting out there around the state into those places and understanding those challenges and then being able to take action which has been very helpful.

Dorothy Pelanda You know Joe I think one of the most impactful meetings we had was up in Continental, Ohio with a local farmer who invited several farmers to his house to talk with Governor DeWine about the urgency and the importance of asking Secretary of State Sonny Perdue to declare the state of Ohio a disaster due to excessive rain. That had never been done. And I'm so proud that Governor DeWine based upon those meetings that he had with the farmers did in fact do that. He was the first governor in the nation to request this of Sonny Perdue. I think to date, Adam can correct me, 54 of Ohio's 88 counties have been declared disaster due to excessive rain allowing farmers to take advantage of various different opportunities to avail themselves of some relief. We know Governor DeWine knows and I know that it won't make them whole but at least it was an opportunity for them to move forward in a more hopeful way.

Joe Cornely So of the farm community has this tradition of just sucking it up being tough and pushing through whatever challenge happens. As Adam pointed out we've seen five or six years of declining prices. You throw in enough rain that many farmers could not plant a single crop. And the pressure on the individual builds, builds and builds. You've

recognized that and have created an outreach type of plan to help farmers address potential mental health challenges.

Dorothy Pelanda Yes. Joe we have. You know the governor set aside a program called Recovery Ohio that had a certain pot of money to address mental health issues. He also encourages the different departments to work together as often as they can to come up with solutions. We started watching what some other states were doing and I went to the governor and said You know I think we need to really look at mental health issues not only the farmer but the entire farm family. And so to that end, and with the governor's support, we created a program with the Department of Mental Health, Laurie Chris is director, called Got Your Back. The purpose behind this is to provide tools for the farmers in each of our 88 counties to have someone to reach out to, someone that's an expert in mental health to provide them with the tools to have positive ways of moving forward.

Joe Cornely This is a crucial program. I think it's one that agriculture highly values and we want to talk more about

Joe Cornely Welcome back to Town Hall Ohio and a special guest joining us this week is Dorothy Pelanda, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Executive Vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Adam Sharp in with us as well. Director Pelanda, before the break we began talking about the Got Your Back campaign, an outreach opportunity to get to the farm families of Ohio and tell them they're not alone. Give us a little bit more detail on how Got Your Back is actually going to function. How does it work?

Dorothy Pelanda Well Governor DeWine has dedicated Recovery Ohio monies to efforts that will be available in all 88 counties. We have really set about a marketing mission with the help of Farm Bureau with the help of the Department of Mental Health Services and with other agencies. Adam can talk a bit a more too about how I and others have really taken this on. The purpose and the goal we have right now is to market this, to really help farmers understand that there are resources out there, that Governor DeWine has dedicated resources so that families who typically as you said are resilient, don't like to talk about these things very much. We recognize that it's upon us to reach out to them to tell them about these about these services that are available. Adam, you want to talk a bit more about this?

Adam Sharp Yeah that's it's a very important point the director makes that you know in the farming community you know we were used to helping our neighbors and helping each other in some ways. But when it comes down to you know some of that mental stress and that mental help we maybe not do that as quite as well end up that's the idea behind this campaign is to really make it easy make it easily accessible to a series of information, whether you're talking about economic stress or mental stress, but things that are bothering you with your farm this year with things that are going on. We put together a nice resource page. ODA has this up and running so it's GotYourBackOhio.org That's the website that we encourage people to go to to find these informational resources that the Department of Ag has put together and as you mentioned ourselves and our other agriculture partners are trying to heavily promote this right now so that farmers have a place they can turn to find some additional resources as are looking for them.

Joe Cornely So our hope is that Got Your Back is only needed for a very short amount of time. An issue though that came to the forefront back in 2014 and is being worked on but isn't going away quickly is how do we resolve agriculture and water quality issues in Ohio.

Director Pelanda, I know that when the governor was in here he began to talk a little bit about what H2Ohio was going to look like. Give us your take on the program.

Dorothy Pelanda From the beginning, Governor DeWine identified that going forward we really need to engage the Farm Bureau, the commodity groups, other stakeholders including agribusinesses in looking for solutions about how we move forward with water quality. Now the governor believes and rightly so that the people closest to the problem probably have the best solutions. So one of the purposes and in my listening tour around the state was to talk to farmers about water quality and you know we clearly knew going into it that there would be some very real conversations. What we learned was that there really is not going to be one single solution to improving water quality rather in meetings with Farm Bureau members with agribusinesses and with the commodities we're looking at about 20 interventions that combined together in part such as soil testing, Nutrient Management Plans, variable rate of fertilizer application and cover crops are things that we know over time will result in better nutrient management and better water retention. We also know however from conversations with our friends at Farm Bureau and farmers in the field that you know one field may be appropriate for certain practices even parts of that one field and may not be for others.

Dorothy Pelanda So it's been a really interesting fascinating process to work with these folks to figure out where we want to put H2Ohio monies to recover the best solutions.

Joe Cornely We don't yet have all of the specifics as the DeWine administration is working through that. But the concept, Adam, of putting money into programs on the ground. We've been pushing for that for a lot of years and Governor DeWine listened.

Adam Sharp Yeah I would say a couple things. You know first off, you have a series of already current mandates on agriculture across the state. You have mandates on large livestock. You have mandates on all livestock. You have a series of special restrictions in the northwestern part of the state on what farmers can do around nutrient application whether it's fertilizer or manure and then you have additional fertilizer mandates that actually the director mentioned earlier on when we talk about fertilizer trainings. So we have a whole series of these mandates that are already out there. Then we have a whole series of voluntary actions behind that that agriculture as a broad community has engaged in. So you know if there's things out there that people think are the 'easy win' those things are done. Those things are happening already. We're down into the complex situation that the director was speaking of, how do you address agriculture's part of this issue at that ground level and in very different environments across maybe even a single field. So we're down into that very complex level. And we appreciate that the governor and the director have listened agriculture saying that's where we are. If we're going to address this issue we've got to get down to that level and deal with it. In that regard and in that case H2Ohio is a very new approach. It's a great way that it's going to allow that flexibility to get down into those very technical issues.

Dorothy Pelanda The key to this is which of these practices will have the best return on investment and we can talk about that a little bit more but that's... People ask me what's different about this money going forward. It's looking what best practices have the best return on our investment.

Joe Cornely Our director of agriculture for the state of Ohio is our special guest this week on Town Hall Ohio Dorothy Pelanda with Farm Bureau's Adam Sharp. Director I had to cut you off for break there, but I want to come back to it. You were starting to touch on a very

important question. We've done things, we've done things and now we're going to do something new and different. But what makes this different in terms of your and Governor DeWine's approach to the algae and agriculture problem.

Dorothy Pelanda I think Joe two major things are different and that is from the start when the governor introduced his H2Ohio program, he made it very clear that we could not be successful without the engagement and active participation of our Farm Bureau members, our agribusinesses and our farmers. So from the very beginning we began having conversations with them about what's happening on the field right now, what's working, what's not working and how do we partner together to market these interventions that we know will have a positive effect.

Dorothy Pelanda We've done some great things and one of the things I learned in my travels across the state is farmers are true environmentalists. Farmers care about clean water. They care about it for their families, their children and our grandchildren and the things that they've done and the things that they they have shown me that they've done have really been impressive. We know however that in order to move forward we need to do more. We need to do more of these practices. So with Farm Bureau's help with some of our agribusiness leaders, we're going to move forward and really market some of these interventions that we know are going to be successful.

Joe Cornely Farmers like any business person are often portrayed as Don't regulate me. I think what I've learned after being around these folks for a long time is you know if regulations are necessary, we need to know that it's going to do the job does it it's designed to do it right.

Adam Sharp Yeah and part of our challenge has been up to this point is well we've had a series of mandates in the state and a series of volunteer activities. The state itself hadn't come forward with shared resources to really implement a complex plan. This is the first time. So if you look at a series of firsts here, this is the first time the state of Ohio in this debate around water quality has come forward with significant resources for nonpoint source pollution, for what's happening out on farm fields. The state's put good money into point sources around the state but nonpoint source and that's where agriculture is. That's where septic systems are. That's where water overflow is from lots of different types of sources of pollution. So you know specifically when you're talking about managing nutrients... that first time we have edge of field studies so we so we really know what's happening coming off a farm field surface and subsurface. So that's unique. That has now told us what practice is a better idea, what practices really do work. First time agriculture and environmental groups have come together to work on a project like this. A broad big project and long term. First time the researchers have come together on this and it is the first time you're having a coordinated approach in all those places. So it's a lot of firsts and we appreciate this administration for taking up this complex situation and moving forward now and building these types of bridges that are going to that are going to be truly meaningful for not just Lake Erie but water quality across the state including the Ohio River.

Joe Cornely I want to change topics while we've got just a couple of minutes before we have to go to break. You mentioned at the top some a function of Ohio Department of Agriculture a lot of people may not recognize: you're responsible for amusement ride safety at county fairs and at our amusement parks in Ohio. Why ODA and what is it you do?

Dorothy Pelanda Well I don't know why but I think at some point the legislature vested me with that responsibility immediately upon being appointed to this office. We knew that we needed to make our inspections more transparent and to capture more information about a ride inspection. I think our team does a magnificent job and the new inspection reports are done with laptop, real time inspections and as you probably know at the state fair we had some rides that just weren't going to be able to be part of the fair this year because they did not pass muster.

Dorothy Pelanda I told the governor that I would not be afraid to shut down a ride or to disqualify a ride if it didn't meet our standards and it's all about the public knowing that we will do our job and we need to.

Joe Cornely Our guest is Dorothy Pelanda, the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Adam Sharp of the Ohio Farm Bureau's in the studio with us as well. We've only got about a minute before break so let's just start this, but you come into office when Ohio farmers now have a brand new crop to look at. Tell us about that.

Dorothy Pelanda Hemp. Once my friend Senator Huffman introduced the bill, our team at Ohio Department of Agriculture began traveling the nation visiting nine states I believe looking at what other departments of agriculture's were doing to create a program to promote hemp as a new product in Ohio. And so with that knowledge we're very excited to be creating rules and regulations pursuant to this bill. It is our intention and our hope that farmers will be able to grow hemp next spring. One of the most important things is Adam will probably agree with is we have to make sure we have a market for it.

Joe Cornely We're going to explore more about hemp production in Ohio what Senate Bill 57 actually did and functions of the Ohio Department of Agriculture in helping to develop what potentially is a good new place for farmers to maybe consider making a buck. The hemp industry in Ohio.

Joe Cornely Welcome back to Town Hall Ohio and welcome back to Dorothy Pelanda, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Adam Sharp back in with us. He's the executive vice president of Ohio Farm Bureau and Director Pelanda, we appreciate you making time. We were talking about a new industry that has the opportunity to develop in Ohio and that is the production of hemp. Now I'm not a scientist but let's just make it clear hemp and marijuana are basically the same plant but one is an intoxicant. Hemp is not. What kind of things will we use hemp for that might be grown here in Ohio?

Dorothy Pelanda Well Joe first of all the definition of hemp is a cannabinoid that has delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3%.

Joe Cornely That's what I meant to say. (Laughter)

Dorothy Pelanda So that's an important distinction. Because visibly you cannot tell whether a certain plant is marijuana or hemp. To answer your question, hemp is primarily used for three major things: grain, fiber and CBD. And so you will grow a particular type just like we have different kinds of corn you'll have different kinds of hemp that will be manufactured or grown for different purposes. Typically and how we're going to do it in Ohio, typically a farmer will contract with a processor who will provide that farmer with either the cutting or the certified seed to grow it because the processor wants the farmer to be successful. They may be very involved in the harvesting of that product. Our team has to go out right before harvest to certify the THC level of that hemp product before it can be

sold to the processor. CBD is an interesting product. And the hemp that's grown for that is an interesting plant. But CBD is still considered by the FDA to be limited in its use. Primarily now it has been approved for very two very specific juvenile diseases.

Dorothy Pelanda Other than that it's deemed to be homeopathic. So whether or not it is a benefit to certain individuals is going to be up to the user. Right now you can buy CBD products all over the place everywhere from Giant Eagle to DSW. Our job at ODA is to begin testing those products to determine two things 1) whether or not it has CBD in it and how much 2) whether or not it's been adulterated with pesticides or metals. And so we have an opportunity if we determine that a certain certain product is unsafe to ask the store owner to either remove it or relabel it. But I would just say at this point buyer beware. There is a lot of things out there that are really not safe for human consumption or use and our job at ODA is of course to protect the public.

Joe Cornely So Adam the director just described ODA's role on this. Down at the university, the College Food Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences doing what they do -- researching, production, marketing on and on. What are Farm Bureau members ask their organization to do in this whole hemp space?

Adam Sharp Well we get a lot of questions about what is hemp? What are the markets in particular for it? Where can it be grown? How can it be grown? So a lot of those types of questions so we've been doing that work as well of being able to help try to answer questions and also guide them toward either the work that ODA will be doing or the work that OSU is doing. So that's been a lot of what we've been working on. It is interesting. I mean there's some hemp growing in Ohio right now. There's a little bit growing out at the Department of Agriculture, a little bit growing out here at the Farm Science Review site that Ohio State has, so work continuing right now on these different types of hemp that the director described and what will be those best types of plants that will work here in the state of Ohio and that can be marketed. You know farmers look at hemp I think a lot of them look at it like they do any other product as far as potential for a specialty crop opportunity. Some will look at it and say there might be something here that I can invest in and work with a producer and find a market for and figure out if it fits my type of farm or not. And and I think that's the debate that a lot of farmers are having right now. They're learning a lot. They're asking a lot of the right questions and trying to determine is there gonna be a market or not and can I produce it or not. So so those are all the right questions. As we move toward next year which is when a lot of this will really kind of 'rubber will meet the road' because this past year when the farm bill was passed that's what set all this in motion. When you had the farm bill pass at the national level it allowed states to start taking actions like this.

Joe Cornely I will mention to those of you who were Ohio Farm Bureau members in your next edition of Our Ohio magazine Ty Higgins has an article. He and Jack Irvin of our team went down to Kentucky, met with a hemp farmer and lots of great information that you'll want to take in in the next edition of Our Ohio magazine.

Joe Cornely There is a program that ODA administers called Ohio Proud. It is an exceptional program. We're going to learn about that in a few more things that are going on at the Department of Agriculture when we continue today's conversation. Our special guest Dorothy Pelanda, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Adam Sharp, executive vice president of Ohio Farm Bureau. We'll learn about Ohio Proud when we come back on Town Hall Ohio.

Joe Cornely We welcome you back to Town Hall Ohio. Our guest is Dorothy Pelanda, the director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Our boss here at Farm Bureau Adam Sharp is in the room with us as well.

Joe Cornely Director Pelanda, I mentioned the Ohio Proud program. Now I've been around long enough that I was here when it launched and I can't even remember what year it that was, but tell folks about Ohio proud at ODA.

Dorothy Pelanda Ohio Proud is a program that promotes products made by Ohio farmers, promotes not only those made but produced here in Ohio and it's a way to help small business owners and farmers promote and advertise their Ohio-based products. Just last Friday we had an Ohio Proud Summit and we had an amazing turnout for that where we can help farmers and people who are just beginning to diversify their farming product with things like maple sugar production, honey making and things like that to help promote it and provide trade opportunities for them. I have to mention that at the Luke Bryan concert two Fridays ago, Luke Bryan walked out wearing an Ohio Proud T-shirt. We could not have been happier with that promotion for it and our phone has rung off the hook with people wanting to know where they can buy those those Ohio Proud shirts. So it's a way of assisting the farmer who is attempting to diversify with a new product by advertising that product for him.

Joe Cornely So win Ohio Proud first launched and I don't think I was exaggerating too much but it was almost experimental, Adam, I mean there wasn't that much enthusiasm for these locally made, handcrafted products. That market has exploded and it's changed and it's been just a financial and just a wonderful opportunity for so many farm families. A lot of them the smaller farmers.

Adam Sharp Farmers across the board obviously it's helpful, but you'll find a lot of those markets in the state of Ohio where you have 11 million people and you know 14 million acres of crop ground and it's all intermixed right with large cities and farms all around them. So in our state maybe as much or more than most states there is that opportunity for that direct connection with consumers from farmers producing things. And Ohio Proud has been a very instrumental part of that of being able to promote products directly to consumers in the state that are grown by our good Ohio farmers. And oftentimes that's right. That's very smaller specialized markets. But they're all important.

Joe Cornely So couldn't what folks just come to the ODA web site and learn more and get the program parameters, maybe how to find some support.

Dorothy Pelanda Absolutely and you know as Adam talks about the explosion, we've seen that also in farmers markets and so it's an opportunity for us for the Department of Agriculture to really seek out some of these new ventures and help them understand how Ohio Proud program can help really promote their product and expand the number of places that they can sell the product or promote it.

Joe Cornely So we've got just a couple moments left. You have done a lot of traveling around Ohio and in your first what 10 months as director of agriculture. You've met with a lot of farmers. I'm sure you'll be meeting with a lot of nonfarmers too. As you get that opportunity to sit down in the room with vital know the Lions Club or the Kiwanis or the Business Bureau in Cleveland, what do you want them to know about Ohio agriculture and Ohio's farm families?

Dorothy Pelanda First and foremost that Ohio farmers feed the world. I think the majority of people do not realize how every single day the food they eat at breakfast, lunch and dinner where it comes from, how it's been produced and what the true cost is. So it's just a great opportunity when I do speak at Kiwanis or Lions or the Chamber of Commerce to have them really understand and think about how much they interact, whether they realize it or not, every single day with an Ohio farmer and why that continues to be the number one industry in Ohio.

Joe Cornely So I'm sure your job keeps you busy. What do you do for fun when you get when you get a little time away from the job but how do you kick back? How do you relax?

Dorothy Pelanda There are so many places in Ohio to visit. Just two Fridays ago we had dinner on the bridge. Union County boasts seven covered bridges and we have an annual Bridge Festival where we close down the bridge and we have a four-course dinner on the bridge. Every weekend Sam and I my husband and I look at the various Ohio magazines and decide where we want to visit. There are so many unique places and we're going to Leeds Pumpkin Farm this weekend with our grandchildren.

Joe Cornely OK Rob (Leeds) will look forward to that. (laughter) Thanks for your time today, Dorothy.

Dorothy Pelanda Great to be here.

Joe Cornely The director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture Dorothy Pelanda. Adam Sharp, I bet you'll be back with us soon.

Adam Sharp Absolutely, thanks Joe.

Joe Cornely Executive Vice President Adam Sharp at the Ohio Farm Bureau. Thanks to them and thanks to all of you for tuning in. We'll be back next weekend at the same time with more Town Hall Ohio.

Announcer Town Hall Ohio is a project of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and is brought to you with the support of Nationwide. Nationwide is on your side. Join us again next week for Town Hall Ohio.