

# *Around* **OUR COUNTY**

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

WINTER 2020

## *Counties receive American Farm Bureau recognition for grain safety facility project*

On October 1, Ashland, Holmes, Medina and Wayne counties were notified of their County of Excellence award from the American Farm Bureau Federation. This honor is only bestowed to 24 projects nationwide, 8 of which went to Ohio. Project leaders Bob Hange and Jon Orr attended the AFBF annual meeting in Austin, TX in January 2020 to share about the project.

The Safe Farms training prop at the Wayne County Regional Training Facility is in its final stages of construction! The steel framed building has been constructed and the training platform is due to be completed this winter. A ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively planned for May 2020. Please stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for details! If your farm or company is interested in utilizing the prop for trainings for your employees, please contact the training facility at [wcrtf@hotmail.com](mailto:wcrtf@hotmail.com) for details and scheduling.



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS PROJECT!**

#### **PLATINUM+**

Centerra Co-op  
Custom Agri-Systems  
Farm Credit Mid-America  
Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation

#### **PLATINUM**

Brock  
Caryle Cebul  
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#### **GOLD**

Ashland County Community Foundation  
Ashland County Farm Bureau  
CHS, Inc.

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Medina County Farm Bureau  
Orr Construction  
Wayne County Farm Bureau  
Wood Quarry

#### **SILVER**

Firelands Electric Co-op  
Grain Systems Distribution  
Honeyville Metal Inc. Topeka, IN  
KC Supply  
Medina Community Fund  
Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation  
Ripco Ltd

#### **BRONZE**

Advanced Drainage Systems  
Brenneman Trucking  
Gerber Feed Service  
Holmes County Farm Bureau  
Kalmbach Feeds  
Lisa Acker  
Loder Farms  
Loudonville Farmers Equity  
Lowe & Young  
Mast-Lepley Ag/Hardware/Turf  
Ohio Agribusiness Association  
Ohio's Electric Cooperatives  
Orrville Trucking & Grading  
Purina Animal Nutrition  
Shearer Equipment  
Trent Insurance Group

\*Donations are still being accepted for this project. Please contact Lindsay if you or your business is interested in donating.



# Highlights from 2019

## COUNTY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

A fantastic honor and opportunity to showcase the Safe Farms Facility project in Austin TX in January 2020. See front page article for more details.



## WAYNE COUNTY FAIR

Farm Bureau volunteers put together a new display this year for fair attendees to enjoy- baby animals! Thank you to the folks who volunteered their time to care for the animals throughout the fair. Look for us again in 2020!



## FARM TOUR

The 2019 Wayne County Farm Tour was located in the Southwest quadrant of Wayne County on October 12 and 13. It is estimated that over 2,500 people participated in at least 1 of the stops on the tour! A big thank you to the 2019 Farm Tour hosts: Hillside Feed Hay & Supply, Zido Valley Dairy, Green Field Farms Co-op, JR Acres, Moreland Historical Society, Moreland Fruit Farm, and Lincoln Way Vineyards!

## AG APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

New in 2019, WCFB along with Ashland, Holmes, and Medina County FBs collaborated together to offer an Ag Appreciation Breakfast at the Shearer Equipment Expo. Over 300 omelets were served!



## NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

The Akron RubberDucks hosted our 2nd annual Night at the Ballpark event in July. We had over 90 attendees from Wayne County join for an evening of food and family fun.

## YAP WINTER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The 2019 Winter Leadership Experience was held in Columbus and Wayne County, for the second year in a row, had the highest number of attendees with 28 people attending the two day conference! The 2020 conference will be held at the end of January 2020 and fingers crossed that we repeat our victory for a third year!



## AG TOY DRIVE

The Ashland/Wayne Young Ag Professionals and Medina County Young Farmers held their 3rd Annual Ag Toy Drive on November 21st and over \$2250 in toys were donated to Wayne County Toys for Tots! Special thanks to Legacy sponsors Bauman Oil and Rural King of Ohio - Wooster!

Thanks to ALL of our sponsors for giving the gift of agriculture to Wayne County kids this Christmas!

**Legacy:** Bauman Oil and Rural King of Ohio - Wooster

**Gold level:** AgPro, Bauman Orchards, Certified Angus Beef, Commodity Blenders, Gerber Feed Service, Homer Yost Agency, Lincoln Way Vineyards, Lowe & Young, Trent Insurance Group, WQKT

**Silver level:** BG's Main Event, Canaan Meats, Farm Credit Services Mid-America, Hartzler Family Dairy, K & M Builders, Mennonite Mutual Insurance Co., Miss Amy's Bakery, Park National Bank, Sterling Farm Equipment



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 31ST!

Wayne Co Farm Bureau is distributing a total of \$5,000 in scholarships via the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation in 2020. Please share of this scholarship opportunity with any Wayne County youth that will be studying in an agriculture-related field in the fall of 2020! To apply, go to [offbf.org/foundation/scholarships](http://offbf.org/foundation/scholarships) and complete the "Wayne County scholarship" application online.



# UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2020!

**January 25: Ohio Farm Bureau Night with The Cleveland Cavaliers!** Watch the Cavs take on the Bulls at 8 pm. Tickets start as low as \$24 and each ticket comes with a co-branded FB/Cavs t-shirt! To buy tickets, go to [www.rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/ofbf](http://www.rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/ofbf).

**January 30: AgPro's Expo at Fisher Auditorium** from 9 am to 4 pm. Free omelet Ag Appreciation Breakfast from 8-10 AM followed by various ag sessions. Keynote speaker is Ohio Farm Bureau's Ty Higgins! AgPro will also be providing a free lunch and various door prizes from vendors will be given out throughout the day.

**February 3: Membership kickoff!** Join Wayne County Farm Bureau volunteers for a free dinner and learn about our 2020 membership goals. Evening includes door prizes and an opportunity to learn about the exciting prizes you can earn for helping sign a new member! RSVP by Jan 31 to the office.

**February 6: Lunch and Learn: Farm and Small Business succession planning.** Location is Fisher Auditorium and lunch is available beginning at 11 and the program will begin at 11:15. There is no cost to members. Panel of speakers include Margo Broehl of Broehl Law Office, Wayne Zacour of Taggart Law Firm, Brad Fike of Fike Advisors, Brent Steiner of Ramsier Financial Services, Susan Marlar with Meaden and Moore and Paul Trent with Trent

Insurance Group. Space is limited. Please RSVP by Jan 29 to the office.

**March 15: Ohio Farm Bureau Night with the Cleveland Monsters** as they take on Rochester! Tickets are \$14 for upper bowl and \$30 for lower bowl. Lower bowl tickets include a hot dog, chips, and drink. All tickets include a skate after the game (you can bring your own skates or they will provide some). To purchase tickets, visit [rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/ofbf](http://rocketmortgagefieldhouse.com/ofbf).

**March 24: Safety Meeting** – Come for a light breakfast and learn about safety topics such as rural road safety and how to avoid taking on other's liabilities. Attendance at this meeting qualifies for worker's comp group rating program safety credits. Meeting is Tuesday March 24 from 8:30 to 11 AM at the Farm Bureau office in Wooster. RSVP to 330-263-7456 by March 20.

**May 2020: Ribbon cutting ceremony for Safe Farms Facility.** Date TBD. Please stay tuned to our Facebook page for details.

**August 6: Save the date for our Annual Meeting!**

**September 12 - 17: Wayne County Fair**

**October 10 – 11: Wayne County Farm Tour.** Location: Southeast region. The committee has begun the search for Farm Tour hosts! Please contact Lindsay at the Farm Bureau office if you are interested!

## 2019 Distinguished Volunteer – Jon Orr



Jon Orr is a native of Wayne County and grew up just outside of Apple Creek. As a partner in Orrson Custom Farming, Jon, his daughter Megan and son Justin along

with wife Melissa and a group of dedicated employees are on the road harvesting silage for dairy customers for 3-4 months a year. Jon has a passion for safety, especially after experiencing accidents that have directly impacted his friends and family. Jon was directly involved in the WCFB project that awarded grain bin rescue tubes to fire departments in 2016, even completing some of the welding himself. Since then, Jon has played an instrumental role in helping spearhead the Safe Farms Facility grain safety training prop at the Wayne County Regional Training Facility. Jon has also served as a Wayne County Farm Bureau board trustee. At the 2019 annual meeting, Jon was recognized as WCFB's Distinguished Volunteer. Jon - From your assistance in modifying the rescue augers to your tenacity in seeing the grain safety training facility completed— these projects would not have been accomplished without your efforts. We are deeply appreciative of you!

# MEET YOUR PRESIDENT, MATT VODRASKA



Many members may be familiar with Rittman Orchards or Bent Ladder Cider & Wine but may not be as familiar with one of the men behind the

operation! Not only is Matt Vodraska the President of Wayne County Farm Bureau but he is also Ohio Farm Bureau's 2019 Outstanding Young Farmer. Matt

spent the early part of his childhood on a diversified fruit farm in Ashtabula County. The Vodraska family moved to Washington when Matt was 11, then to Tennessee, then back to Ohio in 2005. From an early age, Matt loved being outside and observing nature. Matt studied photojournalism in college and, ultimately, moved back closer to home to help at the farm. In 2015, Matt and his family started Bent Ladder Cider & Wine in addition to Rittman Orchards and the market which had opened in 2005. Matt has been involved with Farm Bureau

for the past 11 years. He participated in the first Ohio Farm Bureau AgriPower class in 2008 and has since served multiple terms on the Wayne County Farm Bureau board, served as a Wayne County delegate to the OFBF annual meeting, and participated on a multitude of county and state Farm Bureau committees. Matt will compete at the American Farm Bureau's annual meeting in the national Outstanding Young Farmer contest (Jan. 18-21). Wish him luck and keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on the contest!

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### TRUSTEES

Matt Vodraska, President  
Don Shoup, Vice President  
Katie Esselburn, Secretary  
Pam Haley, Treasurer  
Richard Bloomfield  
Marlene Eick  
Bob Hange  
Josh Hershberger  
Bailey Morrell  
Josh Olszewski  
Jim Orr  
Rachael Ramsier  
Ben Rohrer



### COUNTY STAFF

**Lindsay Shoup**  
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**Susie Anderson**  
County Office Administrator  
sanderson@ofbf.org

**Jennifer Fatheree**  
County Office Administrator  
jfatheree@ofbf.org

**Interested in serving as a trustee?** The WCFB board meets approximately 9 times annually on the third Monday evenings of the month at 7 PM (winter) and 8 PM (summer). Nominations for trustees are accepted until July 1 and nominees must be members of WCFB. Please email [wayne@ofbf.org](mailto:wayne@ofbf.org) with your nomination.

## Buy Local Directory

We are now accepting submissions for our 2020 Wayne County Buy Local Directory. There is no cost to have your business included in the directory but you must be a current Wayne County Farm Bureau Member. We plan to print and distribute 500 free copies throughout Wayne County by offering them at local events and placing them at local businesses. More will be ordered and distributed as needed. The directory will also be available on our web-page. The booklet features any goods/services that are provided by our members. They do not need to be only agricultural! (View the 2019 booklet at [wayne.ofbf.org](http://wayne.ofbf.org)).

If you would like to be added to the Buy Local directory or amend your company's information, you can complete this paper form and mail to our office OR you can email [JFatheree@ofbf.org](mailto:JFatheree@ofbf.org) with the following: Please submit your information no later than March 31 to be included in the 2020 edition.

Business name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of business/products sold \_\_\_\_\_

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