

Richland County Farm Bureau Adopted 2020 Policies

Local

We encourage all Richland 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 continue to encourage the collaboration among all parties concerned including municipalities, farmers and area landowners to address the issues of both water quality and flood control in Richland County's watersheds. Solutions must be cost effective and have the support of those affected by the project. We support continuous cleaning and maintaining of streams and waterways in Richland County.

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.

We support the inclusion of CAUV savings on county real estate tax bills and support educating landowners about the program.

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.

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.

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.

We support our County engineer's efforts to increase funding for the County roads and bridges.

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.

We encourage the appropriate use of SMV insignia on farm equipment and the enforcement of the law limiting their use to these uses only.

We support programs which will help our members become aware of the benefits of using consulting foresters to develop timber management and harvest plans for our wooded acreages to aid them in maximizing the use of these valuable lands.

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| <u>State</u> |
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| <p>We support the H2Ohio Initiative to Protect State Water Quality in that it provides long-term funding for a long-term problem. We support efforts to continue to improve the waters of Ohio, but efforts to do so need the inputs of all affected parties and must be developed in using sound science. 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, especially without outside sources of funding.</p> |
| <p>We support increases in Local Government funding from the state.</p> |
| <p>We encourage continued oversight of the CAUV program to keep this program up to date and a valuable tool for Ohio farmers. We believe woodland values and conversion costs are still in need of adjustment.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> |
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| <u>National</u> |
| <p>We are supportive of the EPA rollback of the Waters of the US rule. We believe this will ensure clean water without causing overburdening regulation. Any changes to the rule must not lead to over reach but truly deal just with navigable waters.</p> |
| <p>We encourage Congress to increase funding for the Highway Trust Fund so that our roads and bridges can be adequately maintained.</p> |
| <p>We support free trade and exports are vital to our industry. Tariffs as a long-term tool are detrimental to this free trade, whether used by our country or others. We support expanded trade deals being completed on a timely basis and the return to certainty for our farmers and our trading partners.</p> |
| <p>An abundant and well trained workforce is critical to businesses of all types, especially in agriculture. Immigration policies must seek to increase available legal workers without creating undue disruption for those businesses. We must have a legal track for these workers and eliminate the growth of those coming here illegally.</p> |