

ag week



February 15-19, 2021

OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS

MEAT PROCESSING

Background

Livestock and poultry farmers have found that they cannot have their livestock processed in a timely manner due to limitations of local meat processing capacity and capable workforce in Ohio. This lack of capacity issue also affects the consumer base, as they are unable to get their locally produced meat and poultry cuts and other products.

These issues for Ohio meat processing were exacerbated in 2020 by the effects of COVID-19:

- Nationally, meat processing facilities experienced closures due to outbreaks among workers, forced shutdowns and workforce losses.
- Economists have estimated at the height of the crisis pork processing capacity was reduced by as much as 800,000 hogs per week nationally and beef processing capacity was reduced by more than 200,000 cattle per week nationally.
- Many farmers had nowhere to send their animals to be processed and the lack of more regional slaughter capacity created major supply chain disruptions.

What is causing the issue?

- Lack of small and medium meat processing plants to process the locally grown livestock.
- Lack of cooler capacity to hold harvested animals until they are able to be further processed into retail cuts.
- Lack of skilled workforce for local meat processing plants.
- In some minor instances, lack of Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) meat inspectors.

Message to Legislators

- Workforce development efforts by the state should include assistance for growing the labor force needed for meat processing.
- Increase funding for ODA meat inspection programs.
- Create incentives for new processing facilities and for vocational schools or high school programs to offer meat processing courses as part of their curriculum to increase workforce development for current and new meat processing plants.

MORE



Additional Talking Points

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

Challenges to private property rights continue to be an issue across Ohio, whether from governmental entities or private companies and organizations. Open, rural land becomes attractive to utilities and others with the power of eminent domain. While infrastructure development is important, private property rights should not be overly burdened in order to expedite unnecessary or speculative uses. Reform is needed to ensure Ohioans can have confidence that eminent domain is truly reserved for necessary projects and not speculative private enterprise.

Message to Legislators

- Ohio needs eminent domain reform that protects private landowners.
- Ohio is the only state where a landowner does not have the right to file a lawsuit against an entity when property is taken without proper process or compensation.
- Ohio's eminent domain system causes unnecessary burdens on the landowner through a cumbersome legal process that is time consuming and costly.
- Landowners are forced into David vs. Goliath lawsuits when an eminent domain action is threatened. The law should recognize and address the unequal footing of these types of lawsuits.
- The law should strike a balance between needed public development and respecting private property rights of landowners.



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