

ag week



February 15-19, 2021

OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

BROADBAND ACCESS

Overview

Development of broadband infrastructure and increased access for high-speed internet is a priority issue for Ohio Farm Bureau. Our farmers rely on it for precision agriculture technology and information about their farms. As farmers are constantly being called upon to help solve Ohio's water quality issues, it is imperative for them to have the technology they need to utilize conservation practices. In addition to best management practices, farmers need the internet to comply with many state and federal regulations as most agencies have transitioned to electronic filing.

Whether it be for education, business, health care, or entertainment, our need for reliable internet access is very important. With new broadband access comes increased economic and educational opportunities and development. Without it, Ohioans in these unserved and underserved areas will continue to fall behind. According to a study by The Ohio State University, 1 million Ohioans — 11.7% of its residents — are unserved or underserved by reliable, high-speed internet simply because of where they live.

Ask for Legislators

- Support SB 8 and HB 2 that would fund broadband access.
- Share your story of how you have been personally impacted by a lack of affordable high-speed internet access.

Relevant Ohio Farm Bureau Rural Broadband Policy:

We support:

- Increased access to high-speed internet connections in rural areas, including wireless, that is reliable and price competitive.
- Rural broadband initiatives, including federal funds or grants, in Ohio and recognize the increased economic development opportunities that come to rural areas with increased access.
- Local government, education and business aggregation to increase demand for rural areas.
- The elimination of the local match requirement from state funding sources.
- Disconnection of state funding from FCC coverage maps.
- The formation of public-private partnerships to help plan, fund, regulate and maintain high-speed internet serving middle mile and last mile customers.
- Incentivizing service providers willing to build into impoverished, low population density areas.
- Non-traditional providers in deploying broadband including electric and telecommunications cooperatives.

