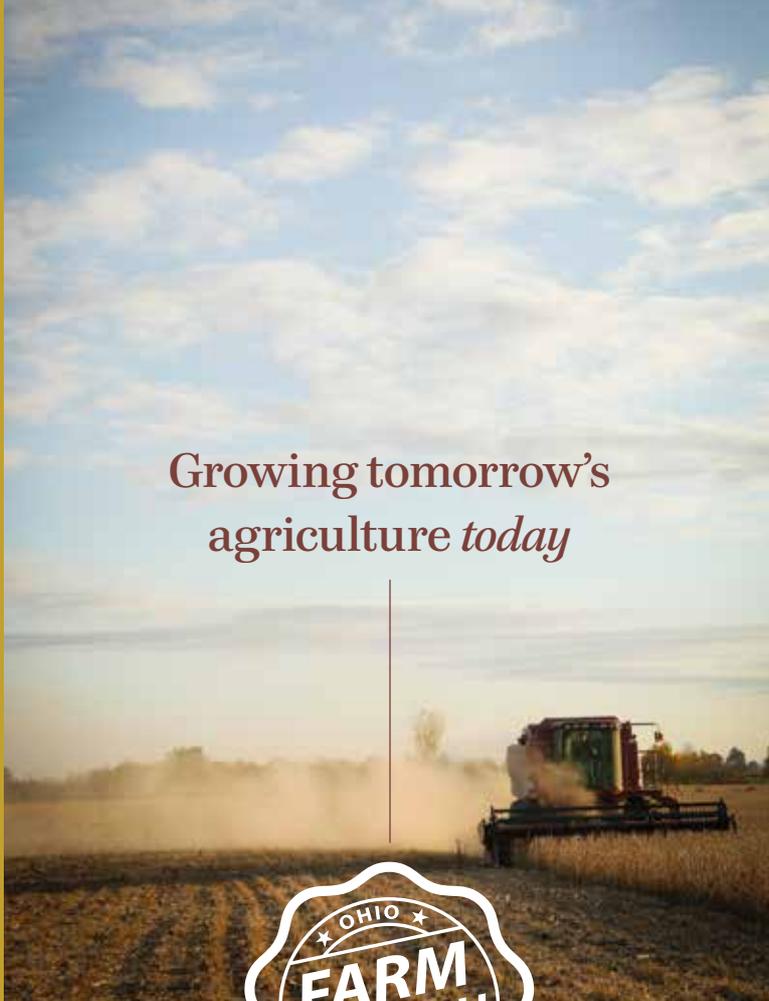


Growing tomorrow's
agriculture *today*





The foundation believes
that every young person
in Ohio has the potential
to grow their career in
agriculture.

—

That's why we need
your help to grow the
foundation's potential.

The food that *nourishes* you.
The landscape that *moves* you.
The legacy that *inspires* you.
They're all part of Ohio agriculture.

This land and the people who farm it are essential to our state.

They represent the backbone of our economy, the heart of our traditions and the energy of generations. And just like the soil and seeds and animals we nurture, we must tend to them carefully so they can grow in health and productivity.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation believes that for agriculture to continue to grow and thrive, we must cultivate it. We must ensure that our industry is valued, that it's fed by fresh talent and that it spreads through new initiatives and innovations. Ohio agriculture will flourish in the future when you invest in it today.

The federation and the foundation:

As the guardians of agriculture in the present and the champions of agriculture in the future, *we collectively ensure* the current health and long-term progress of our industry.





Established in 1919, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots membership organization committed to supporting our food, fiber and fuel producers.

Because members are our top priority, we are tuned into the top agricultural issues affecting their lives. You can find us in every county in Ohio, and the halls of local, state and federal government, advocating for policies and ensuring the success of Ohio's farm community.

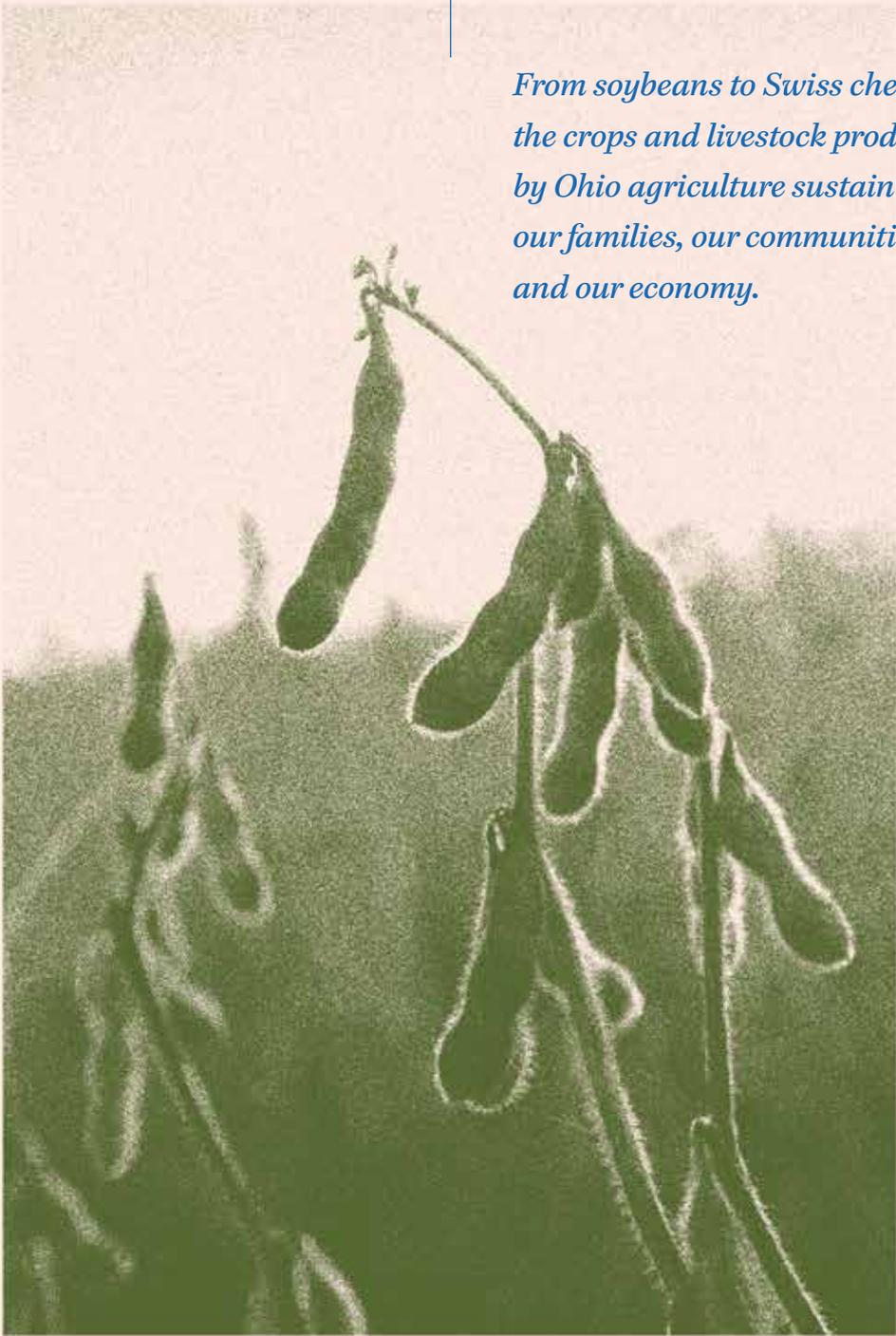
Founded in 1983, the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation inspires and educates the next generation of farmers, ensuring the progress and prosperity of Ohio agriculture far into the future.

We create pathways for young people to learn about the variety and viability of careers in agriculture. Through scholarships, programming and grants, the foundation builds a growing workforce of farmers who are passionate and prepared to grow Ohio agricultural communities.

Our mission:

Inspiring *innovation* and cultivating *investment* in Ohio's farm and food community.

Recognizing the Value of Farming



*From soybeans to Swiss cheese,
the crops and livestock produced
by Ohio agriculture sustain us,
our families, our communities
and our economy.*

The farms that enliven our state feed us, clothe us and fuel us. Some are the work of generations, handed down through the decades. Some are fresh enterprises, sparked by cutting-edge science. Some are co-ops, some are corporations. All are part of Ohio's landscape and legacy. All are part of Ohio's progress and prosperity.

Agriculture is one of the largest industries and economic contributors in our state.

Ohio's food & ag industry accounts for:

\$107.9 billion of direct economic output

18% of the state's economy

Over 778,000 jobs (1 in 8)

50% of land

Source: Feeding the Economy, feedingtheeconomy.com

Beyond the production of food, fuel and fiber, a huge range of related scientific and support industries contribute to Ohio agriculture.

Manufacturers, banks, research labs, insurance agencies, retailers—each plays a role in ensuring Ohio products reach dinner tables, dressing rooms, greenhouses, grocery stores and fuel tanks across our counties and the country. Yet as vast and productive as our agricultural industry is currently, **projections indicate that in the next 10 years, we will need:**

- *470,000 new workers in agribusiness*
- *90,000 new workers in direct farming operations*

Where will this workforce come from? How will we sustain the industry that benefits our state?

At the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation, we believe that the key to a vital agricultural industry in the next decade—and countless decades beyond that—is helping young people understand all the growth opportunities agriculture has to offer.

Our work starts with what we call “ag literacy”: educating students and teachers about agriculture and all the aspects of their lives that it impacts—whether it’s the milk they pour on their morning cereal or the wool sweater they grab when it’s chilly.



By helping young people gain ag literacy, we introduce them to the educational and employment possibilities related to farming. As they visit a tractor manufacturer, observe the use of robotics and precision technology or study food science, they learn not only about the industry, but also about their own interests and purpose. They see that agriculture includes entomologists and engineers, hog farmers and policymakers—and that it can include their aspirations and skills, too.

Through our work, the foundation inspires both the young people who will run the family farm, and those who will start their own entrepreneurial ventures. Those who love getting dirt on their hands, and those who love studying soil under a microscope. Those who want to climb into a combine, and those who want to climb the corporate ladder.



To cultivate future generations of Ohio's farmers, the foundation takes a three-pronged approach to inspiring their interest in and commitment to agriculture.

1.

Scholarships: We award scholarships to hundreds of students attending public, private and community colleges throughout the state, who are majoring in agricultural, environmental policy or agriculture-related fields, as well as to students whose career paths will enhance the agricultural industry. To support the future of agriculture throughout Ohio, each county has a scholarship fund to allot to its local students. Other scholarships focus on specific issues such as women's leadership in agriculture, livestock and crop sciences, sheep production and management and more.

With your contribution, the foundation will offer larger, renewable awards to more students. We can support the education of a steady flow of young people trained and excited to enhance farming for decades to come.



Rose Hartschuh didn't grow up on a farm. But her children will.

On their dairy farm in Sycamore, Rose is passing along her agricultural knowledge to her twin 8-year-olds, sharing what she's learned as a college student, dairy owner, county Farm Bureau member and a trustee of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation.

Rose credits the Darwin Bryan Scholarship she received from the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation for establishing her path. With the award, Rose says, "The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation made college attainable to me."

"The belief that the foundation placed in me to succeed was a motivating factor to make the most out of my college career."

While studying Agricultural Education at The Ohio State University, Rose found both community and purpose. She says, "I admired the camaraderie that existed within the industry, and I also appreciated the importance of feeding the world."

Degree in hand, Rose was prepared to begin her career in agriculture. But she points out that her scholarship did more than educate her. It connected her, by prompting her to get involved with the Ohio Farm Bureau. After graduating and moving to another part of the state, the first thing Rose did was join the county Farm Bureau board.

Rose explains, "It is the relationships I have formed with my peers, mentors and professionals in the industry that have continued to allow me to experience new opportunities and to grow as a person and as a professional."

Rose now passes along the support she's gained from the Ohio Farm Bureau to her young sons. That spirit of paying it forward underlies her advice to the next generation: "Give back to your community and serve those around you.

The rest will fall into place."



ExploreAg is designed to introduce participants to the range of careers in agriculture. Sometimes, one day is all it takes.

In 2019, ExploreAg offered a free one-day experience for teens to learn about Ohio Electric Cooperatives for a day. “Our connection to Ohio Farm Bureau harkens to our roots,” said Doug Miller, a VP with OEC and an Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation board member. Ohio Farm Bureau’s first Executive Secretary, Murray Lincoln, led the effort to bring electricity to Ohio’s countryside, which not only improved farm operations, but quality of life for rural residents in the 1930s.

Supporting electric services in rural communities prompted brothers Mike and Tim Taylor of Paulding County to sign up for ExploreAg. Being a lineman, Mike says, is “what I always wanted to do.”

*“But it’s one thing to dream about a job.
It’s a whole other thing to learn what it takes
to actually accomplish that dream.”*

“We got to talk to multiple linemen who have worked in the trade for a long time at the ExploreAg day,” Mike continues. “It was really cool to sit and talk with them, as well as people from different departments to see the wide variety of what is out there.”

That experience cemented the brothers’ choice: After ExploreAg, Mike and Tim went on to train with electric co-ops. Both now have those dream jobs—as a lineman and mechanic, respectively—ensuring the power stays on for their communities.



2.

Innovative programming:

Our signature ag literacy and workforce development program, ExploreAg, offers free immersion programs. In ExploreAg, teens learn about agriculture and related STEM fields from industry experts, scientists and educators. Participants visit producers like Smucker’s, manufacturers like John Deere and research laboratories at Ohio State; develop their leadership and collaboration skills; and prepare for college and career.

With a gift from you, the foundation will continue to motivate future farmers with these free educational experiences, and expand the reach of our programming into more counties.

3.

Grants: The foundation awards grants to county Farm Bureaus and partner organizations that share our goal of helping young people discover their purpose and passion in agricultural careers.

With your support, the foundation will issue grants in greater numbers and amounts. Likewise, we can partner with organizations in all of Ohio’s counties to strengthen pathways to careers in agriculture statewide.

In 2020, the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation issued a grant to Hocking County Farm Bureau and the Center for Cooperatives to launch an innovative online program: the Youth Cooperative Leadership Experience. This free program, currently offered to high schoolers in 32 of Ohio’s Appalachian area counties, is designed to expose future farmers to careers in agricultural cooperatives.

Students hear from leaders and members of feed and grain, restaurant and insurance cooperatives, learning about how cooperatives pool resources, share expertise and achieve success collaboratively. By participating in experiences like the Youth Cooperative Leadership Experience, students also learn about the vast range of opportunities within their county and community.



**Making the Investment
in Tomorrow, Today**



Just as it takes time to nurture a seed into a productive plant, we must start investing in our agricultural future *right now*. You can help us ensure Ohio's farming legacy remains strong, our industry thrives and our products grow in innovation and value.

Please join the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation in supporting the agriculture professionals of tomorrow.

With your contribution, we will fill our agricultural workforce for the next decade and beyond. We will form nonprofit partnerships that attract even more interest and engagement in agriculture. We will build resources for each county to strengthen our ag literacy programming across the state.

And with every scholarship, innovative program and grant the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation offers, we protect the food that nourishes us, the landscape that moves us and the legacy that inspires us.

To donate to the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation and learn more about our work, please visit

ofbf.org/foundation



Donate and learn more at:
ofbf.org/foundation

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