

**Ohio Farm Bureau**

# **2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**



Our members believe that when people work together to find solutions, we can generate prosperity in ways our founding farmers never imagined. Whether it's creating an environment for businesses to succeed, advocating for common sense public policy, creating constructive dialogue about food production or establishing great companies like Nationwide, good things happen when people work together.

Today, it doesn't matter if you grow food or purchase it: Ohio Farm Bureau invites you to work with your neighbors to enhance the quality of life in your community and the unique ways agriculture touches our lives.

## Making a difference

As a grassroots membership organization, Ohio Farm Bureau programs ensure the growth of Ohio food and farms, such as advocating for good government policy, developing opportunities for young farmers, providing student scholarships and grants, supporting local food efforts, creating food literacy programs for kids, hosting community building events and funding efforts to protect the environment, water quality, farmland preservation and more.

Through county Farm Bureaus, members have a forum to discuss current issues impacting agriculture, food production and their community. Farm Bureau offers opportunities throughout the year to meet with public officials to implement these ideas, and staff advocates on their behalf at the local, state and national levels.

## Mission

*Working together for  
Ohio farmers to advance  
agriculture and strengthen  
our communities.*



# Farm Bureau Policy

Ohio Farm Bureau is directed by its members, at all levels of the organization. Through an annual policy development process, members define the positions the organization takes on issues affecting farmers and rural residents. The grassroots process leads to the creation of policy positions that guide legislative and regulatory action by the organization on important issues.

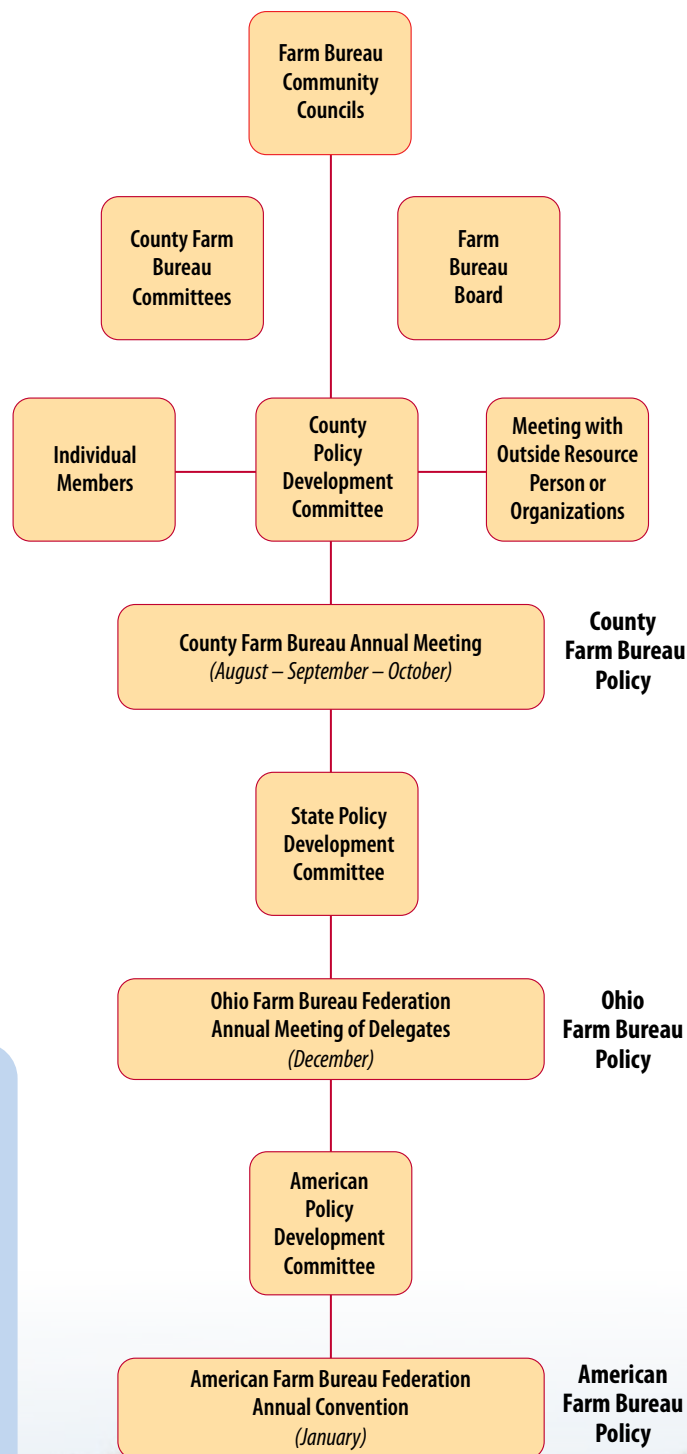
## How is Farm Bureau Policy Developed?

The flow chart at right shows how Farm Bureau policy begins at the local level and eventually becomes approved county, Ohio and American Farm Bureau policy.

## Farm Bureau

is a multilevel organization, meaning members receive membership and benefits at the county Farm Bureau, Ohio Farm Bureau, and American Farm Bureau levels. The membership teams at each of these organizations work hard to identify and negotiate exclusive benefits that will not only provide discounts, but also give deeper value to overall membership.

From exclusive member benefits, to quality programs, to award-winning publications, there is much the Ohio Farm Bureau has to offer.





## Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

# 2023 Board of Trustees

As of December 9, 2022

### **James (Bill) Patterson, President (District 4)**

Bill Patterson of Chesterland was elected president of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in April 2021. He joined the board as District 4 trustee in 2011 representing Farm Bureau members in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties. Patterson farms with his family, raising apples, strawberries and peaches. They also have a farm market and a wholesale cider operation. Patterson received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Ohio State University.



### **Cy Prettyman, First Vice President (District 7)**

Cy Prettyman of New Bloomington was elected First vice president of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in April 2021. He has served as District 7 trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation since 2012, representing members from Crawford, Marion, Morrow and Richland counties. Prettyman farms with his family, raising corn, soybeans, and has a direct-to-consumer beef enterprise. In addition, he has an over 30-year agricultural career serving members in Ohio's cooperative system. He has a bachelor's degree in animal sciences from Ohio State University and has been active with local and state Pork Producers Councils and Ohio Cattlemen's Association.



### **Chris Weaver, Treasurer (District 1)**

Chris Weaver of Lyons was elected treasurer of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in December 2022. He joined the board as District 1 trustee in 2013, representing members in Defiance, Fulton, Henry and Williams counties. Weaver is a graduate of the University of California, Davis and received a degree in managerial and agricultural economics. He farms with his wife, Katie, and parents, Leon and Nancy. They operate a dairy, and raise corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa. Their farm also operates a methane digester.



### **Bill Myers, District 2**

Bill Myers of Oregon was elected District 2 trustee in December 2021. He represents the interests of Farm Bureau members from Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood counties. He and his wife, Saletta, have two children. Myers farms with his brother, Bob, and his son and daughter. The farm produces corn, soybeans, wheat and hay. Myers is a 25-year member of Lucas County Farm Bureau and has served as president, annual meeting delegate and public policy chairman. He also participated in AgriPOWER Class I. He is president of the Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association and a member of CedarCreek Church in Perrysburg.



### **Adele Flynn, District 3**

Adele Flynn of Wellington was elected District 3 trustee in September 2018 representing members from Cuyahoga, Erie, Huron and Lorain counties. She and her husband, Eric, have three children and farm full time. They run a cow-calf operation, raising freezer beef, show calves and breeding stock. The Flynns are also co-owners of Gordon Farms, producing cash grains, along with Adele's father and uncle. Adele is a 4-H advisor, serves on the Centerra Co-op board of directors and is chairwoman of the board for the Center for Food Innovation at Oberlin.



### **Craig Pohlman, District 5**

Craig Pohlman of Venedocia was elected as District 5 trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in December 2019. He represents Farm Bureau members in Allen, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert counties. Pohlman and his wife, Sheila, raise corn, soybeans and grain sorghum. He is a 17-year Van Wert County Farm Bureau member. An Ohio State University graduate with a degree in agriculture economics, Pohlman is an independent seed salesman and is active with the Van Wert Soil and Water Conservation District.



**John Bolte, District 6**

John Bolte of Tiffin was elected to the board in December 2022. He represents the interests of members from Hancock, Hardin, Seneca and Wyandot counties.

Bolte and his wife, Sarah, operate Bolte Farms, a small grain farm and pumpkin operation, which also includes an 1860s bank barn, Arlington Acres Ohio, that is used as a wedding venue. He is the head trader for Seneca Trading, LLC, and is a graduate of Ohio Farm Bureau's AgriPOWER leadership development program. He has a bachelor's degree in agricultural business and applied economics from Ohio State University.

**Roger Baker, District 8**

Roger Baker of Wooster was elected District 8 trustee in 2011. He represents members in Ashland, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties. Baker had the opportunity to participate in a trade mission trip to Europe with Ohio Farm Bureau in 2000 and was a Discussion Meet finalist in 2001. With a degree in agronomy and agricultural business from Ohio State University, Agricultural Technical Institute, Baker provides leadership to several local agricultural and community groups while raising hay, row crops and Hereford cattle with his family.

**Danielle Burch, District 9**

Danielle Burch of Salem was elected District 9 trustee in May 2021 and represents members in Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage and Stark counties. Burch and her husband, Andrew, have three children and operate a 250-acre freezer beef and pork operation in Salem, where she is a member of the Winona Fire Department Auxiliary and Hanoverton Church of Christ. She has served as president of Columbiana County Farm Bureau, was a member of the OFBF Young Ag Professionals State Committee, served on the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Policy Development Committee and Code Committee and is also a graduate of American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Communications Boot Camp. Burch received her bachelor's degree in political science and history at the University of Mount Union in Alliance and master's degree in education at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

**Mike Bensman, District 10**

Mike Bensman of Sidney was elected District 10 trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in December 2014 and represents members from Auglaize, Logan, Mercer and Shelby counties. He and his wife, Martha, have a grain crop farm plus farm in partnership with his three brothers, Dave, Greg and Dale. For 41 years he has worked at Koenig Equipment Inc. in Botkins, presently serving as manager of equipment delivery. Bensman was Soil Conservation Cooperator of the Year in 1990 and is a member of the American Soybean Association and National Corn Growers Association.

**Katherine Harrison, District 11**

Katherine Harrison of Canal Winchester was elected District 11 trustee in 2011, representing members in Delaware, Franklin, Madison and Union counties. She is the owner of Harrison Farm, where she raises goats, sheep and chickens. Harrison Farm provides agritourism opportunities for visitors from the metropolitan area, offers educational internships for students, and is a farm incubator for young agriculturalists. Harrison is a graduate of AgriPOWER Class II and served as a McCloy Fellow in 2011. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and world religions from the University of Richmond.

**Kyle Walls, District 12**

Kyle Walls of Mount Vernon represents the interests of Farm Bureau members in Coshocton, Holmes, Knox and Licking counties. His election took place in December 2021. He and his wife, Ashton, have built and manage a herd of cow-calf Mexican Corriente cattle, which are primarily used for competitive rodeo events. They also raise laying hens for egg production. The Walls were the Young Agricultural Professionals Excellence in Agriculture winners in Ohio in 2019 and were Top 10 finalists in the American Farm Bureau national competition. They previously served as co-chairs of the Ohio Farm Bureau Young Agricultural Professionals State Committee. Walls is currently with AgReliant Genetics as a distribution strategy specialist for their Eastern U.S. markets. He is a graduate of Indiana University, where he received a business management degree.

**Mackenzie Deetz, District 13**

Mackenzie Deetz of Sugarcreek was elected to the board of trustees in December 2022. She represents the interests of Farm Bureau members from Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson and Tuscarawas counties. Deetz is a 6th generation dairy farmer, working alongside her father and two brothers in the Ragersville Valley, where they milk 1,700 Holsteins. Deetz attended Ohio State University and has previously worked in the health care and education fields. She volunteers as a host farmer for the Dairy Excellence Foundation and American Dairy Association Mideast, teaching children about agriculture and the dairy industry.





**Matt Aultman, District 14**

Matt Aultman was elected District 14 trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in December 2020 and represents the interests of Farm Bureau members in Champaign, Clark, Darke and Miami counties. He and his wife, Morgan, and their children raise row crops, hay, produce, mums, cut flowers, Nigerian Dwarf goats, chickens, and show rabbits. He is a feed nutritionist at Treaty Mills, LLC and also helps his grandfather and father with their daily farm operations. Aultman attended Edison State Community College to study business and machine engineering. He serves as a Darke County commissioner and sits on many boards, including the Coalition for a Healthy Darke County, Wayne HealthCare Foundation, Darke County Economic Development, Darke County Visitors Bureau and the American Red Cross.

**Michael Videkovich, District 15**

Michael Videkovich of Ashville was elected to the Ohio Farm Bureau board of trustees in 2013, representing members in Fairfield, Hocking, Pickaway and Ross counties. He and his wife, Kim, farm with her parents raising corn, soybeans, wheat, forage crops and beef cattle. A 19-year Pickaway County Farm Bureau member, he has served as its president and vice president, on its public policy committee and as a board member. He also has served on Ohio Farm Bureau's public policy and code committees, is a graduate of Farm Bureau's AgriPOWER leadership development program and is a member of the American Farm Bureau's Grassroots Outreach team.

**Matt Bell, District 16**

Matt Bell of Zanesville was elected to the board of trustees in December 2015. As a state trustee, he represents members in Guernsey, Morgan, Muskingum and Perry counties. Bell farms with his father, Irv, raising row crops, hogs and cattle and is the sixth generation on the farm with his wife, Melissa. He attended Ohio State University and Zane State College and graduated from Ohio Farm Bureau's AgriPOWER leadership institute. He is a member of the United Producers, Inc. board and Farm Credit Mid-America nominating committee and is a former member of the Ohio Pork Council, Ohio Corn Growers and Ohio Corn Marketing Program boards.

**Al Miller, District 17**

Al Miller of Marietta was elected District 17 trustee in 2008 and represents members in Belmont, Monroe, Noble and Washington counties. He and his wife, Jean, own a commercial cow-calf farm where they also produce hay. Miller is a township trustee, a delegate for United Producers, Inc. and he serves on the Washington County Planning Commission. He has been involved with county farmland preservation efforts.

**Lane Osswald, District 18**

Lane Osswald of Eldorado was elected District 18 trustee in 2011. He represents members from Butler, Hamilton, Montgomery and Preble counties. Osswald and his wife, Bambi, have four children and farm with his parents and two brothers, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, cover crops, vegetables and providing custom farming services. The Ohio State graduate owns and operates Growing Acres Farm and sells Stine seed. In addition, Osswald is a member of Ware's Chapel United Methodist Church, the Preble County Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation board of directors.

**Nicol Reiterman, District 19**

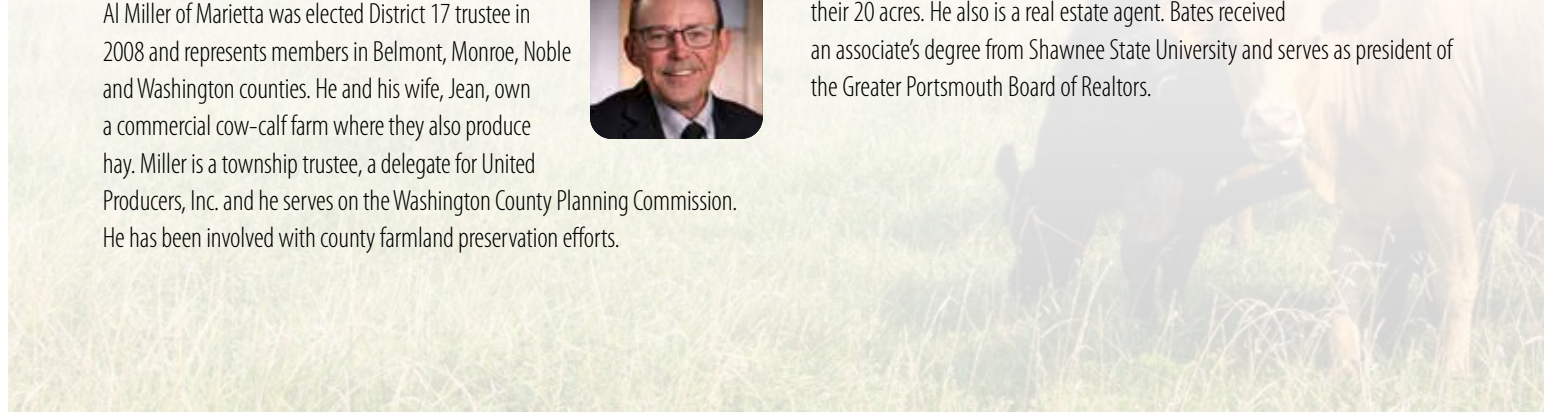
Nicol Reiterman of Washington Court House was elected to board of trustees in December 2022. She represents the interests of Farm Bureau members from Clinton, Fayette, Greene and Warren counties. Reiterman and her husband, Mike, farm 1,300 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat and malting barley. In addition, they own and operate Reiterman Seed Farms, and Nicol serves as co-manager of the family run feed store, Reiterman Feed and Supply. A member of Fayette County Farm Bureau for more than 30 years, she has served as the county Farm Bureau's president, membership chair, and currently is chair of the Public Policy Committee.

**Nathan Brown, District 20**

Nathan Brown of Hillsboro was elected in May 2017 as District 20 trustee, representing members in Adams, Brown, Clermont and Highland counties. A first-generation farmer, he and his wife, Jennifer, grow corn and soybeans and operate a cow-calf herd. He is a township trustee and is a member of Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers, Ohio Soybean Association, Ohio Cattlemen's Association, Ohio No-Till Council and Ohio Township Trustees Association.

**Wyatt Bates, District 21**

Wyatt Bates of Wheelersburg was elected District 21 trustee in December 2015. He represents the interests of members from Jackson, Pike, Scioto and Vinton counties. Bates and his wife, Patricia, are beekeepers and enjoy their 20 acres. He also is a real estate agent. Bates received an associate's degree from Shawnee State University and serves as president of the Greater Portsmouth Board of Realtors.



**Karin Bright, District 22**

Karin Bright of Athens was elected District 22 trustee in December 2014. She represents the interests of Farm Bureau members in Athens, Gallia, Lawrence and Meigs counties. Bright and her husband, David, farm with two of their children and David's brother, growing corn, wheat and soybeans. She attended Hocking College and graduated from Ohio University with a bachelor's degree in business administration specializing in marketing. She is president of the Athens County Food Pantry, works with Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council, Alexander FFA Alumni and the Tri County Career Center advisory board.

**Mike Boyert, Northeast Regional Trustee**

Mike Boyert of Seville was elected northeast regional trustee in December 2015 representing members in 20 counties. He and his wife, Patti, have a row crop and cattle operation as well as a greenhouse and nursery that they operate with their children. Boyert serves on the Farm Credit Mid-America Advisory Committee and previously was on the Medina County OSU Extension Advisory Committee and Soil and Water Conservation District Advisory Committee. He is a member of AmericanHort and is an Ohio State University graduate with a bachelor's degree in animal sciences.

**Jenny Cox, Southeast Regional Trustee**

Jenny Cox of Dresden was elected southeast regional trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in 2017 representing 24 counties. Cox received a bachelor's degree in communication and journalism from the Ohio State University and a master's degree in education from Mt. Vernon Nazarene University. She and her husband, Jared, own Cox Seed Sales selling Pioneer Hi Bred International seed, crop insurance and Pivot Bio. They also own and operate a family farm where they raise corn and soybeans. Cox is a graduate of the AgriPOWER institute. She is a member of the Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers, Ohio Soybean Association and the Mid-East Career and Technology School Board.

**Rose Hartschuh, Northwest Regional Trustee**

Rose Hartschuh of Sycamore was elected northwest regional trustee in December 2018 and represents members from 24 counties. She and her husband, Greg, were the American Farm Bureau 2018 Excellence In Agriculture award winners. They farm with Greg's parents, operating a dairy and raising grain crops, alfalfa and cover crops. In addition, they raise a flock of 150 black-faced club lamb and commercial ewes. She is a 4-H advisor and past supervisor of the Soil and Water Conservation District. She is a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in ag education.

**Steve Berk, Southwest Regional Trustee**

Steve Berk of Brookville was elected southwest regional trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation in December 2022. He represents the interests of members in 20 southwest Ohio counties. Berk, along with his wife, Cynthia, breed high-end replacement heifers for the Angus industry and manage a cow-calf operation of 15 brood cows. He also is the manager of Dull Homestead Farms in Brookville. Berk is a graduate of Ohio State University with a degree in agriculture and previously served 33 years with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

**Adam Sharp, Executive Vice President**

Adam Sharp was named executive vice president in 2016. In his role, he serves as the chief executive of the statewide organization and leads efforts to advance its mission: Working together for Ohio farmers to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities.

Sharp is highly experienced in developing and implementing farm policy at the state and national levels and has held several key positions at Ohio Farm Bureau since 2004. Prior to joining Ohio Farm Bureau, he held various policy and government relations roles with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Farm Bureau Federation. He also served as a teaching assistant for The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and as a radio producer for Agri-Broadcasting Network (ABN). He is a graduate of Ohio State University where he majored in agricultural communications with a minor in international economic and social development. Sharp grew up working on his family's farm in southern Ohio, which he now owns and operates with his brothers.





# Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation

The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. While the Farm Bureau Federation works to strengthen Ohio's farm and food community by advocating for good government policy, the Foundation utilizes philanthropy to invest in the next generation of farmers, scientists, and community leaders and works to build partnerships through grantmaking that will enhance our farm and food community.

Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation is governed by a 16-member executive board that is committed to being a national thought leader in terms of Youth Pathways into Careers in Agriculture. The foundation believes that an increased focus on careers in agriculture will have a direct impact on the strength of the farm and food community, food security and the well-being of Ohio. There are three philanthropic priorities that enable the foundation to expose, attract and support the next generation of agriculture leaders, producers and scientists:

## Mission

*Inspiring innovation and cultivating investment in Ohio's Farm and Food community.*

- **Innovative Programming** - The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation's signature program, ExploreAg, introduces high school students to the various careers in science, engineering and technology in the food and fiber industry and engages them in actively pursuing career paths that can help them become a part of the sustainable future of agriculture.
- **Youth Pathways Grants** - The Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation distributes up to \$100,000 annually to organizations and innovative partners within the state of Ohio that create career pathways that allow students to explore learning opportunities that present a wide variety of careers in agriculture related fields.
- **Scholarships** - Ohio students from rural, suburban and urban communities and pursuing degrees connected in some way to agriculture are invited to apply annually for a number of scholarships awarded by the foundation. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation awarded \$85,000 in scholarships statewide.



280 N. High Street, 6th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

614-249-2400 | [ofbf.org](http://ofbf.org)