

AROUND OUR COUNTY



ASHLAND COUNTY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Feb 24, 8 - 10 AM

Ashland County - West Holmes Career Center, 1783 OH-60, Ashland

We are changing up the menu for this year's breakfast and are excited to offer you made-to-order omelets prepared by your fellow Ashland Co Farm Bureau members! In addition to breakfast, our event will offer a presentation on CAUV at 9 AM by Leah Hetrick, Ohio Farm Bureau Director of Legal Education and Member Engagement. Cindy Funk, Ashland County Auditor, will follow to address Ashland County-specific questions regarding CAUV.

This event is **free** to members and their dependents. Non-members can attend at \$20 per person. Become a member of the Ashland County Farm Bureau at the breakfast and there is no charge! Bring a new member or join as a new member at the breakfast and receive a free t-shirt! Renew at the breakfast and receive \$5 in cash back. Please register using the QR code, website or give us a call by Feb 19.

REGISTRATION REQUESTED BUT NOT REQUIRED. FOOD AVAILABLE AS LONG AS SUPPLIES LAST.



NEW STATE TRUSTEE - MATT VODRASKA

Matt Vodraska of Doylestown has been elected to his first, three-year term on the board of trustees of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. He represents the interests of Farm Bureau members from Ashland, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties. His election took place during OFBF's 105th annual meeting, Dec. 7-8 in Columbus.

Vodraska farms with his brother, Chris, on a diversified specialty fruit operation where they produce estate wines and ciders on the family farm in Doylestown. He served as president of the Wayne County Farm Bureau and has helped to shape public policy at the county and state levels. He was named Ohio Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farmer in 2019 and was a member of the inaugural AgriPOWER class in 2009.

He also has been active in local and state activities with the Ohio Grape Association, Midwest Apple Improvement Association and the Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Association. Welcome Matt!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE - ROGER BAKER



Roger Baker, a first-generation farmer, owns and operates a hay and row crop operation west of Wooster. Roger just completed his final term as the District 8 (Ashland, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties) State Trustee on the Ohio Farm Bureau board after serving for 12 years.

There is no doubt that Roger has had a busy 12 years juggling his duties in Columbus and District 8, as well as running his farm. Despite all the balls he might have had in the air, Roger has always made time to talk with members and, to the best of his ability, assist them in finding a resolution. He has become a master of phone calls from the tractor cab – thank goodness for a hands-free headset!

Roger's 12-year tenure as District 8 representative has been marked by an unwavering dedication to advancing agriculture and strengthening our community. His sacrifice of time away from his family and farm is deeply appreciated, and his diligence and perseverance have brought great benefits to Ashland County, District 8, and all of Ohio's agriculture. Thank you Roger for your many years of service to Farm Bureau!

»»» LETTER FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GETTING FRANK ABOUT THE FARM TOUR

As many of you know, the Ashland County Farm Tour is a long-standing event that has taken place for multiple decades to the delight of many repeat visitors. We frequently receive calls and emails each fall with a request for the booklet to be shared with them. Many of these folks mention that they are from out of the county and their family has been attending for generations. We are thankful for the loyal attendance and support that the event has been shown. This board and the trustees before us have always valued this event for the agricultural education it provides to the non-farming public, but the board has been having some serious conversations about the future of this event and we felt it best to be transparent with the membership.

It has grown increasingly difficult to find hosts, especially farms, willing to participate on the Farm Tour. The 2023 farm tour committee made an exhaustive list of every farm that they could think of within the quadrant, asked for suggestions from members, and still went through a list of dozens of farms and agribusinesses before finally reaching enough hosts that they felt could create a nice event for the community. It took months to narrow down the host list for the tour and, quite honestly, it wasn't until early July that we even knew if a tour was going to take place.

We do not fault the folks who declined to be on the tour. We know that life is busier than ever, with extreme demands on business owners to keep their farms going. At the same time, we can't continue holding a Farm Tour if we don't have hosts willing to participate. In light of the challenges that we saw in 2023 and a reluctance to take away such a popular event for Ashland County - we wanted to share our position with members and ask for help.

Would your farm or business be willing to be a host on this year's (Sept 28 & 29) or a future farm tour? If not, would you be willing to serve on the farm tour planning committee to help us find other hosts? Would you be willing to provide recommendations for hosts? Would you be willing to help during the farm tour for a host that may need an extra hand? Please contact ashland@ofbf.org or give us a call with your response by Feb 28. Thank you for your feedback!



2023 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER BROOKE BERNHARD

Congratulations to Brooke Bernhard for being awarded Ashland County Farm Bureau's 2023 Outstanding Volunteer Award! Brooke - Thank you for your years of service to Ashland County Farm Bureau as a board member and for your efforts organizing the 3rd grade farm tour every year! We truly appreciate your efforts in donating your time and efforts to such a worthwhile cause educating the youth of Ashland County. Thank you for your dedication Brooke!

HUMMEL GROUP NAMED ASHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 2024 SELECT PARTNER



Hummel Group: Premier Farm Certified

Steve Rohrer (farm advisor)
srohrer@hummelgrp.com | 330-683-1050
Evan Hershberger (farm advisor)
ehershberger@hummelgrp.com | 330-893-2600
Karl Schlabach (financial advisor)
kschlabach@hummelgrp.com | 330-684-5913
Chris Gertz (health insurance)
cgertz@hummelgrp.com | 330-893-2600

Nationwide is the #1 insurer of farms and ranches in the nation and is Ohio Farm Bureau's approved insurance and financial services provider. The following agencies are appointed with Nationwide and have been strong partners of your county Farm Bureau. Ohio Farm Bureau members receive a discount on some insurance products.

Ag insights at your fingertips

Visit the **Ag Insight Center** by Nationwide® to tap into the expertise and insights from the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.!

And sign up for our newsletter to get expert tips delivered to your inbox.



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➤➤➤ TWO HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Ag Toy Drive



Over \$12,500 in ag toys were given to Ashland's Associated Charities, Medina Toys for Tots and Wayne Toys for Tots. A huge thank you to our committee co-chairs (Sara Tallmadge and Olivia Lang) and committee members (Hannah Becker, Kara Wolff, Brooklyn Sims, Abbey Werstler and Megan Timmons)

Scan to view the event photo gallery!
Download code 6151



Photo Gallery

Special thanks to our
Ag Toy Drive sponsors!

Platinum: Bauman Oil

Legacy

Apple Creek Banking Co, Andrews Auctioneers, Bent Ladder, Farm Credit Mid-America, Heffelfinger's Meats, Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative, Jones Livestock, Slicker Farms, Spring Mist Farms, Rural King Supply – Wooster, and Wayne Savings Bank

Gold

Ashland County Farm Bureau, Boyert's Greenhouse & Farm, CropKing, Farmers National Bank, Farmers State Bank, Homer Yost Agency, Lincoln Way Vineyards, Lowe & Young Inc., Maibach Tractor, Medina County Farm Bureau, Park National Bank, Rea & Associates, Sterling Farm Equipment, Trent Insurance Group, Tyler Grain & Fertilizer, Wayne County Farm Bureau, Wellington Implement, and WQKT Radio

2023 OFBF Annual Meeting



On December 7 and 8, four members of Ashland County Farm Bureau attended the Ohio Farm Bureau's 105th annual meeting as delegates. Thank you to Sara Tallmadge, Jacob Kline, Kent McGovern and Mark Fitch for taking time to represent Ashland County! Farmland preservation and development pressure were just a few of the important topics discussed by the delegates at Ohio Farm Bureau's 105th annual meeting. In all, 359 delegates representing all county Farm Bureaus participated in the debate and discussion.



SCAN ME

➤➤➤ POLICY DEVELOPMENT 2024

Due March 31

We would like to hear from you. This survey is designed to assist the Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee in identifying issues facing members and the agriculture community. Your feedback will be considered by the committee as they develop policy recommendations for the annual meeting. The policy survey can be submitted in whatever format is most convenient for you. Please let us know if you would like us to mail you a paper copy.

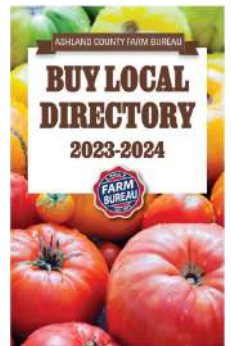
- Questions to consider for your survey:**
- Do you have a concern that ACFB should investigate that affects the agricultural community?**
 - What resolution would you like to see accomplished?**
 - What steps do you think ACFB could take to help achieve your desired resolution?**

BUY LOCAL DIRECTORY

Due March 31



Please complete this application (follow the QR code and fill out the form or find the application link at ashland.ofbf.org) if you would like to advertise your products and/or a discount in the 2024 directory. (Please note – this directory is for member advertising for those who offer goods or services to the public. If you advertised in 2023, your listing will remain unchanged from last year's directory unless we are notified that you want to cancel or change your listing.) Want to doublecheck last year's listing and can't find your 2023 booklet? Visit ashland.ofbf.org to open the digital version of the 2023 directory.



➤➤➤ 2024 ASHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS

Due March 15

Please visit the Ashland County Community Foundation's website to apply! There are a multitude of scholarships available for students pursuing additional education. Visit www.ashlandforgood.org to see the entire list!

Thank you to our Business Partners!



Board of Trustees

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Mark Fitch
Terry Hildebrand
Jacob Kline
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Lindsey Schwinn
Richard Sprague
Megan Timmons

Staff

Lindsay Tournoux
Susie Anderson
Jennifer Fatheree

email:
ashland@ofbf.org

Interested in serving as a Trustee?

The ACFB board meets 8 times annually on the second Monday evenings of the month around 7:30 PM. Nominations for trustees are accepted until July 1 and nominees must be agriculturalists and members of ACFB. Please email ashland@ofbf.org with your nomination.

Don't miss your
Member Appreciation
Breakfast invitation
within this newsletter!

Email: ashland@ofbf.org
Phone: 330-263-7456

We moved! Note the new address!

Ashland County Farm Bureau
2030 Portage Road Suite A
Wooster, OH 44691

