

AROUND OUR COUNTY



WAYNE COUNTY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Feb 3, 8 - 10 AM

Wayne County Schools Career Center, 518 W Prospect St. Smithville



The culinary students will be offering breakfast frittatas, potatoes and pastries. In addition to breakfast, our event will offer a presentation at 9 AM by David Marrison, Ohio State University Extension, on considerations for succession planning. Evan Callicot, Ohio Farm Bureau Director of State Policy, will then present on the Ohio Beginning Farmer Tax Incentive program.



This event is **free** to members and their dependents. Non-members can attend at \$20 per person. Become a member of the Wayne 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! Please register using the QR code, website or give us a call by Jan 26.

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



SCAN ME



QUESTION AND ANSWER WITH THE CANDIDATES

Feb 13, 6:30-8:30 PM (doors open at 6:15 PM)
RES - Auction Yard (375 Fry Rd. Wooster)

Planning to vote on the Republican ticket for the March 19 primary but feel overwhelmed by the number of candidates and not sure who to vote for? We'd like to invite you to a Q&A with the Republican candidates for Wayne County Commissioner (approx. 6:30 pm) and Republican candidates for State Representative (approx. 7:30 pm). Registration is not required to attend this event. Please pre-submit questions for the committee to consider asking at the event by Feb 8 to wayne@ofbf.org.

*Note - all candidates, even those running in unopposed races, will be invited to attend this event. But the bulk of the speaking time will be allotted to the above-mentioned races.

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»»» LETTER FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GETTING FRANK ABOUT THE FARM TOUR

As many of you know, the Wayne 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 over THIRTY FIVE 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 Wayne 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 (SW quadrant of county on Oct 5 & 6) 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 wayne@ofbf.org or give us a call with your response by Feb 28. Thank you for your feedback!

2023 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER - ROGER BAKER



This year's outstanding volunteer recognition was awarded to 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 Wayne County, District 8, and all of Ohio's agriculture. Thank you Roger for your many years of service to Farm Bureau!

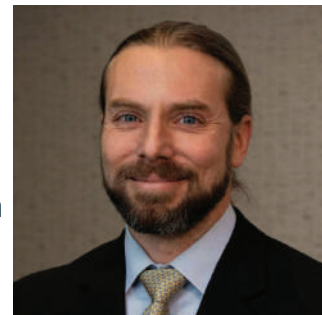
NEW STATE TRUSTEE - MATT VODRASKA

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!



➤➤➤ 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)



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



Jarra Underwood receives special award

Jarra Underwood was recognized in August with the 2023 Outstanding Public Service for Wayne County Agriculture award. This honor is not bestowed annually so it is an extra-special recognition for Jarra's service as the Wayne County Auditor. The Wayne County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees recognize Jarra for her hard work and dedication in upholding the duties of her office to the highest standard. Wayne County Farm Bureau appreciates the role that she has played across Ohio helping to educate other county Auditors and their staff about CAUV.

Announcement from the auditor: Their website (waynecountyauditor.org) has been updated with the new values and taxes. Give their office a call (330-287-5430) if you have any questions!



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 WCFB should investigate that affects the agricultural community?

What resolution would you like to see accomplished?

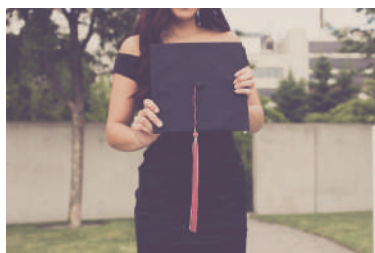
What steps do you think WCFB could take to help achieve your desired resolution?

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 wayne.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 wayne.ofbf.org to open the digital version of the 2023 directory.



➤➤➤ 2024 WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS

Due March 31

Please visit the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation's website to apply! There are a multitude of scholarships available for students pursuing additional education. Visit www.ofbf.org/foundation to see the entire list!



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



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**Don't miss our
 Member Appreciation
 Breakfast (Feb 3) and
 Candidate's Night (Feb 13)!**

Thank you to our Business Partners!



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Staff

Lindsay Tournoux
 Susie Anderson
 Jennifer Fatheree
 email:
wayne@ofbf.org

Interested in serving as a Trustee?

The WCFB board meets approximately 9 times annually on the third Monday evening of the month at 7:30 PM. Nominations for trustees are accepted until July 1 and nominees must be agriculturalists and members of WCFB. Please email wayne@ofbf.org with your nomination.