

Richland County Farm Bureau 2025 Adopted Policy

Local	
1	We support wind and solar projects prioritizing the use of non-agricultural land or land with limited agricultural value to minimize disruption of food, fuel and fiber production.
2	<p>We support: County or township zoning plans addressing the potential change of use of a parcel from agricultural to non-agricultural when larger parcels are subdivided.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lot split regulations should be extended for new parcels of 5-20 acres. Parcels from 5-20 acres creating new building sites should conform to a 4:1 depth-to-width ratio. 2. Avoid flag lots where building lots have long driveways with little road usage. 3. Agricultural and recreational uses of the land should continue to be exempt from the regulations.

State	
1	<p>We support: Providing information to ODOT, utility companies and lawncare companies of alternatives to herbicides and mowing to provide forage for bees and to reduce the risk of poisoning to pollinators visiting flowers. These alternatives include mowing before weeds bloom or using herbicides that have been found to be less toxic to bees and planting low growing groundcovers in utility easements.</p>
2	<p>We support: Any bottle of honey or honey product should have proof of registration of their apiaries and that the honey or honey products are made from their apiaries.</p>
3	<p>We support: Requiring "Ohio Proud" honey and honey products having proof of registration of all their apiaries (bee yards) and that the honey or honey products are made from their apiaries or other Ohio apiaries.</p>
4	<p>We support: Cooperation between county Farm Bureaus and their local Destination Marketing Organizations (ie. Convention and Visitors Bureaus) to identify existing agritourism locations and encourage more Farm Bureau members to pursue agritourism opportunities.</p>
5	<p>We support: Policies, programs and educational efforts that encourage succession planning by farm families and assist those farms with transitioning to the next generation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specifically the scheduling of more farm succession planning workshops utilizing Nationwide's Land As Your Legacy® transition plan and "Keeping Farmland in the Family" from The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.
6	<p>We support: County or township zoning plans addressing the potential change of use of a parcel from agricultural to non-agricultural when larger parcels are subdivided.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lot split regulations should be extended for new parcels of 5-20 acres. Parcels from 5-20 acres creating new building sites should conform to a 4:1 depth-to-width ratio. 2. Avoid flag lots where building lots have long driveways with little road usage. 3. Agricultural and recreational uses of the land should continue to be exempt from the regulations.
7	<p>Current Policy We support: Promoting laws that do not exacerbate food insecurity and inequality.</p> <p>Revised to state: We support: Laws that promote food security and equality.</p>

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State	
8	We oppose all special elections, except those necessary to fill office vacancies and for recall.
9	<p>We support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students desiring to vote should be required to vote in their home community. 2. A person designated as a student should not be permitted to register to vote in the college location unless he/she is a permanent resident.
10	<p>We support reforming the process to amend the state constitution, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the number of petition signatures needed to place a measure on the ballot. 2. Increasing the percentage threshold for approval by voters. 3. Strengthening the laws for petition signature gatherers. 4. Restricting the years in which an amendment may appear on the ballot to odd numbered years.
11	We oppose the cultivation and sale of marijuana in the state of Ohio for recreational use. The following principles and considerations must be addressed as part of any legalization of marijuana in the state of Ohio: funding for addiction/treatment programs, tax structure, exclusion from the Constitution, no monopoly structure, use of sound science and research, a strong regulatory system, federal reclassification, workplace regulation, grow sites and appropriate access.
12	<p>We support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The BioHio Ag Research Park and the Food and Agricultural Technology Commercialization and Economic Development Program (ATECH), AgBioscience Innovation Grant (ABIG) and Research-Enhancement Competitive Grant Program (RECGP). 2. Ohio Bio Preferred purchasing program.