

Winter 2025

# AROUND OUR COUNTY



A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF ASHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

ASHLAND COUNTY

## Member Appreciation Breakfast

**Feb 22, 8 - 10 AM**

**Ashland HS cafeteria, 1440 King Rd, Ashland**

We invite all members and prospective members to join us for our annual Saturday breakfast! This year, the popular pancake flipper (Mark with Katie's Pancakes) returns to offer you a breakfast that you have to catch yourself! Breakfast will also include sausage and beverages.

In addition to breakfast, our event will offer a presentation at 9 AM by Joe Webken with Trueland Implement about Ag application technology updates.

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. There is no RSVP required to attend this event.

### DiVencenzo Elected NE Region Trustee

Meet Hannah DiVencenzo, who was elected to the position of northeast regional trustee to the Ohio Farm Bureau State Board of Trustees at the OFBF Annual Meeting this past December. She will be representing members in 20 northeast Ohio county farm bureaus.

Hannah, her husband, Joe, and their three sons operate Healthy Harvest Organics (a pasture-raised poultry farm) in Grafton in Lorain County. They serve the community through direct-to-consumer sales, as well as educational events.

Farming and Farm Bureau has run in the DiVencenzo family for over 25 years. Joe's father, Al, served on the OFBF State Board from 2014 to 2018. Hannah has served on the Lorain County Farm Bureau board of trustees, received the 2022 Lorain County member of Distinction Award, served on the State Policy Development Committee in 2022, is a part of the AgriPower Class XV, and is co-chair of the OFBF State Young Ag Professionals Committee.

When not working on their farm, taking care of their three sons, or involved with Farm Bureau, Hannah is a Program Developer and Workforce Strategist at Lorain County Community College. She believes that "both education and agriculture play crucial roles in building strong, resilient communities, and that working in higher education gives her a unique perspective".



Hannah is committed to working with and for us - the grassroots of the organization, "together, we can build a future that honors our agricultural heritage while paving the way for innovative ag growth."

## NATIONWIDE BENEFIT

Nationwide is the Ohio Farm Bureau's approved insurance and financial service provider.

Nationwide is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of Ohio Farm Bureau. Since 1926, Nationwide has been providing insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members and remains committed to protecting what matters most. As a company with a deep agricultural history, Nationwide offers members of Ohio Farm Bureau a discount on farm insurance. Nationwide also offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members.

## Thank you for your service - Mike Boyert

Michael Boyert of Seville was elected as Northeast regional trustee to the Ohio Farm Bureau State Board of Trustees in November 2015. He represented members in 20 northeast Ohio county farm bureaus, working at the local, state and national level to make decisions that impact farming and their communities.



Mike's passion for agriculture and his belief in what farmers do (provide food, resources and jobs for our communities) served him well throughout his tenure on the OFBF board, often reminding those around him that one in seven jobs in Ohio is rooted in agriculture. Mike ended his tenure in December 2024 at the OFBF Annual Meeting, after completing his third term on the OFBF Board of Trustees.

Mike and Patti Boyert have been raising cattle, hogs, and chickens at their farm in Seville since the mid-1980s in addition to operating Boyerts Greenhouse, now with the help of several children and their children's spouses. We greatly appreciate Mike's service of 9 years on the OFBF board and recognize the sacrifice of time away from his family and operation that this role entails. **Thank you for your service Mike!**

# End of Year Highlights

## Ag Toy Drive



The Ashland & Wayne County Young Ag Professionals and the Medina County Young Farmers hosted their 8th Annual Ag Toy Drive on November 26, at Lincoln Way Vineyards. After sponsorships and individual contributions were counted, over \$12,000 in ag toys were given to Ashland's Associated Charities, Medina Toys for Tots, and Wayne Toys for Tots thanks to the generosity of sponsors, members, and the community!

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). The above picture with Santa includes Chris Box from Ashland's Associated Charities who joined us at our event!

## 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, Jones Livestock, Slicker Farms, Spring Mist Farms, Rural King Supply – Wooster and Farmers State Bank

### Gold

Ashland County Farm Bureau, CropKing, Davis Tree Farm & Nursery, Farmers National Bank, Gerber Feed Service, Hildebrand Farm, Homer Yost Agency, Hummel Group, J Star Equipment, JTS Landscaping, Kevin Ungerer & Family Farm, Lincoln Way Vineyards, Lowe & Young Inc., Mike & Patti Boyert, Medina County Farm Bureau, Mennell Acres, Muddy Meadows Farm & Market, Rea & Associates, Trent Insurance Group, Tyler Grain & Fertilizer, Wayne County Farm Bureau, Wellington Implement and WQKT The River

## 2024 OFBF Annual Meeting



On December 12 and 13, four members of Ashland County Farm Bureau attended the Ohio Farm Bureau's 106th annual meeting as delegates. Thank you to Sara Tallmadge, Willard Welch, Megan Timmons, and Ben Robinson for taking time to represent Ashland County!

The delegate body discussed and voted on policies that addressed a wide range of topics including energy, land use planning, carbon dioxide sequestration projects, and property taxes.

Sara Tallmadge, OFBF's 2024 Excellence in Ag contest winner, will compete in San Antonio in January at the American Farm Bureau Federation's national Excellence in Ag contest. Best wishes Sara!

## Hummel Group named 2025 Select Partner



### Hummel Group: Premier Farm Certified with Nationwide

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Karl Schlabach (financial advisor)  
kschlabach@hummelgrp.com | 330-684-5913  
Chris Gertz (health insurance)  
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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<sup>®</sup> to tap into the expertise and insights from the #1 farm insurer in the U.S.<sup>1</sup>

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



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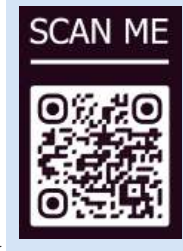


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# Don't miss these opportunities!

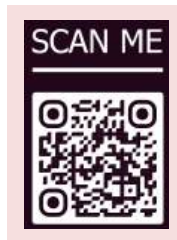
## Policy Development 2025

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. **Due March 31.**



## 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?



Please complete this application (follow the QR code or email us) if you would like to advertise your products and/or a discount in the 2025 directory. (Please note – this directory is for member advertising for those who offer goods or services to the public. If you advertised in 2024, 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 2024 booklet? Visit [ashland.ofbf.org](http://ashland.ofbf.org) to open the digital version of the 2024 directory or email us and we can send you a picture of your listing. **Due March 31.**

## 2024 Outstanding Volunteer - Willard Welch

Congratulations to Willard Welch for being awarded Ashland County Farm Bureau's 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Award!



Willard - Thank you for leading ACFB's policy development efforts for decades as the Public Policy Action Team Leader as well as also serving some of those years as a board member and delegate. We greatly appreciate your commitment to our organization!

## 2025 Ashland County Farm Bureau Scholarships

Please visit the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation's website to apply! There are a multitude of scholarships available for students pursuing additional education at <https://ofbf.org/foundation/scholarships/>.



**Applications are due March 31.**



## OHIO FARM BUREAU ENERGY PROGRAM

As a Farm Bureau member, you have exclusive access to the Ohio Farm Bureau Energy Program. This program helps you reduce energy costs with managed supply rates, and provides expert assistance in cutting your usage through efficiency projects and lowering your long-term costs with onsite power generation.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



# Thank you to our business partners!



## Board of Trustees

Ben Robinson, President	Kent McGovern
Mark Fitch, Vice President	Megan Timmons
Sara Tallmadge, Secretary	Mitch Rooks
Jon Spreng, Treasurer	Lindsey Schwinn
Terry Hildebrand	Richard Sprague
Mike Hlavaty	Sarah Sprang

## Staff

Lindsay Tournoux, Organization Director  
Ltournoux@ofbf.org  
Susie Anderson, County Office Administrator  
Sanderson@ofbf.org  
Jennifer Fatheree, County Office Administrator  
Jfatheree@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 PM. Nominations for trustees are accepted until July 1 and nominees must be agriculturalists and members of ACFB. Please email [ashland@ofbf.org](mailto:ashland@ofbf.org) with your nomination.



ASHLAND COUNTY

Ashland County Farm Bureau  
2030 Portage Rd. Ste. A  
Wooster, OH 44691

**Don't miss your  
invitation within this  
newsletter to our  
Member  
Appreciation  
Breakfast on Feb 22!**