

Winter 2025

AROUND OUR COUNTY



A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

WAYNE COUNTY

Member Appreciation Breakfast

March 15, 8 - 10 AM
The Connection Conference
& Event Center
1034 Country Club Drive, Wooster



Registration requested but not required to attend. Food available as long as supplies last.

We invite all members and prospective members to join us for our annual Saturday breakfast! This year's breakfast menu features sausage & cheese breakfast casserole, fruit, coffee and cold beverages.

In addition to breakfast, our event will offer a presentation at 9 AM featuring the "Who's Who" of agricultural-related agencies in Wayne County. Each agency will have the opportunity to share briefly about the basics of the services that they provide to farmers and landowners and we will end with Q&A. Our hope is that this will help our members put a face to a name and provide a "refresh" as to the services that each organization provides.

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, join as a new member or renew at the breakfast and receive \$5 in cash back OR a free t-shirt. Please register using the QR code, website or give us a call by **March 6**. Registration requested but not required. Food available as long as supplies last.

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."

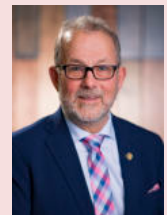
NATIONWIDE BENEFIT

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) for making this event possible!

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, five members of Wayne County Farm Bureau attended the Ohio Farm Bureau's 106th annual meeting as delegates. Thank you to Kevin Ungerer, Stan Smith, Frank Becker, Greg Sautter, and Duane Leaman for taking time to represent Wayne 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.

Roger Baker receives inaugural Advocacy in Action Award from OFBF

Roger Baker, Wayne County Farm Bureau member and previous District 8 State Trustee for Ohio Farm Bureau, was 1 of 2 recipients for this year's inaugural Advocacy in Action award at the Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Ohio Farm Bureau recently recognized two members with the inaugural Advocacy in Action Award. This accolade is given to those who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to agricultural advocacy. Recipients, nominated by their peers, embody the spirit of leadership, initiative and commitment to advancing agriculture in Ohio.

The winners of the 2024 Ohio Farm Bureau Advocacy in Action Award are Roger Baker of Wayne County and Neall Weber (posthumously) of Franklin County.

"Ohio Farm Bureau's bread and butter is advocacy on behalf of members," said Bill Patterson, president of Ohio Farm Bureau. "Through signature events like Ag Day at the Capital and our leadership trips to Washington, D.C., plus grassroots meetings with legislators, making contact with their offices, and hosting farm tours, our success in the policy arena would not happen without our members."

Baker is described by his colleagues as having a very 'arms wide open' approach to getting people in the room to talk about issues and advocate for a cause. He is diligent about including stakeholders at the table when advocacy is being discussed. He has hosted a Supreme Court candidate reception at his farm, hosted the Ag Advisory Council on his farm and is a relentless advocate in his local community. Congratulations and very well-deserved Roger!

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.¹

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



Scan to visit AgInsightCenter.com

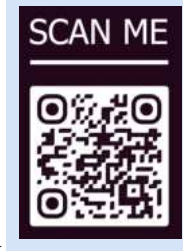


¹ Source: A.M Best Market Share Report 2022. Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau and the letters FB are registered service marks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used under license by Nationwide. © 2023 Nationwide FBO-0213OH (12/23).

Don't miss these opportunities!

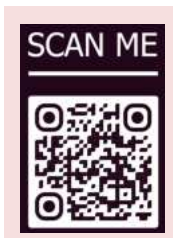
Policy Development 2025

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 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 2025

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 wayne.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 - Pam Haley

Congratulations to Pam Haley for being awarded Wayne County Farm Bureau's 2024 Outstanding Volunteer Award!



Pam has served on the Wayne County Farm Bureau board off and on over the last 15 years and also served on the OFBF state board as the Northeast Regional Trustee. The board appreciates her service and guidance on a variety of committees and offices over the last 15 years. Thank you for your service Pam!

2025 Wayne 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!



Fitzpatrick Family



Baker's Acres



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Susie Anderson, Sanderson@ofbf.org
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Interested in serving as a trustee?

The WCFB board meets approx 9 times annually on the third 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 WCFB. Please email wayne@ofbf.org with your nomination.



WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne 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 March 15!