

Summer 2025

# AROUND OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF ASHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU



ASHLAND COUNTY

## Ashland CFB and SWCD Annual Meeting

**Date:** Monday, August 18

**Location:** Ashland University's John C Myer's Convocation Center (820 Claremont Ave. Ashland)

**Time:** SWCD voting begins at 6 PM and dinner starts at 6:30 PM. Business meeting to follow.

**Cost:** \$5 per person (payable at the door).

**Menu:** Gourmet burger bar, picnic sides & dessert.



**RSVP:** Due Monday, August 4 via the QR code, emailing [ashland@ofbf.org](mailto:ashland@ofbf.org) or by phone (330-263-7456).



*There will be a proposed code change at this meeting. If you wish to view the proposed code change, proposed policies and election ballot before the meeting, these will be available at [ashland.ofbf.org](http://ashland.ofbf.org) beginning August 11.*

## 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.

## Growing Tomorrow Grant - Application deadline of July 31



This grant is the brainchild of Mike Boyert, a former Ohio Farm Bureau board trustee, and his wife Patti. Mike and Patti, residents of Medina County, remember well the struggles they encountered when they started their farming careers, and the difficulties they faced in starting, growing, and sustaining their farming business. The Growing Tomorrow Grant program is Mike and Patti's way of ensuring that creative young farmers can access opportunities they did not have, and enabling these young professionals to use their skills to alleviate the difficulties facing agriculture today, including a lack of public education regarding the importance of farms within the US food system and the significant economic hardships facing rural communities and farm workers.

**Who is eligible?** Young professionals and entrepreneurs who are looking to secure startup funds for a new business or seeking funds to enhance the impact of an existing business are encouraged to apply! Grant recipients should have a solid business plan and sustainable solution to one or more of the four challenges listed above. Please review the detailed requirements to apply for this grant at [ofbf.org/foundation](http://ofbf.org/foundation).

### What are the size of the grants awarded?

The Growing Tomorrow Grant program intends to award up to \$100,000 among the top finalists in late 2025. For questions regarding the Growing Tomorrow Grant, please contact Ohio Farm Bureau at [mklopfenstein@ofbf.org](mailto:mklopfenstein@ofbf.org).

# 2025 Scholarship Recipients



**Emily McGovern**- Emily is the daughter of Kent and Sheri McGovern of Jeromesville. She currently attends University of Mount Union where her major is Environmental Science with a minor in Biology. Emily's anticipated graduation date is May 2027. "I would like to work at a National Park doing research there for a time before moving back to the area to work on agriculture research. My goal is to be out in nature and to learn more about it in the process, and how I can help sustain it." We wish you the best of luck Emily!



**Katelynn Smeltzer**- Katelynn is the daughter of Jason and Jennifer Smeltzer of Perrysville. Katelynn currently attends The Ohio State University - Mansfield Campus studying Middle Childhood Education with a minor in Animal Science. Her anticipated graduation date is December 2025. "In the future, I would like to be a middle school science or math teacher. My goal is to immerse students into science where they learn about how the world works and where their resources come from. Once I have a good job and a family I would like to raise animals and help youth become involved in their communities in programs like FFA and 4-H." Congratulations Katelynn!



**Linde Hahn**- Linde is the daughter of Evan and Kelly Hahn of Perrysville. She graduated in May 2025 from Lincoln Land Community College with an associates degree in Animal Science. Linde plans to attend Texas A & M - West Texas in the fall and work towards her bachelors degree. "After graduation I am thinking about continuing to get my master's within these same study regions. If I don't go for my masters, I hope to acquire a job within corporations like Cargill, Tyson, or Certified Angus Beef. In 10 years, I hope to be making advancements and improvements within this industry. My end goal someday is to open and run my own custom kill operation." Best wishes Linde!



**Sage Runion**- Sage is the daughter of David and Laura Runion of Ashland and is a 2025 graduate of Ashland County West-Holmes Career Center. Sage plans to attend The Ohio State University - ATI where she will pursue an associates degree in Agribusiness. "Agriculture has provided me with so much, and I am committed to giving back by supporting local farmers, businesses, and others who have supported me in my journey. Whether it's addressing challenges, enhancing farming practices, or sharing knowledge, I am eager to make a meaningful and positive impact. Agriculture has been such an important part of shaping who I am today, and I am excited to continue making it an even bigger part of my life and future." Good luck Sage!

## Hummel Group named 2025 Select Partner



SELECT PARTNER



### Hummel Group: Premier Farm Certified with Nationwide

Evan Hershberger and Olivia Lang (farm insurance)

ehershberger@hummelgrp.com and

olang@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.¹

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



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# Upcoming Events

## Fair Kickoff Picnic - Sept 13

Ashland County Farm Bureau invites 4-H & FFA exhibitors and advisors to the 2nd annual Fair Kickoff Picnic located in the Coliseum. Stop by anytime between 5 and 7 PM to grab a quick dinner. All Farm Bureau member families of livestock exhibitors and advisors are welcome.

Non-member families are welcome with a donation.

Food available as long as supplies last.  
Want to help? Give us a call or email  
[ashland@ofbf.org](mailto:ashland@ofbf.org)!



## 3rd Grade Farm Tour - Sept 25 & 26

Members of Ashland Co Farm Bureau are in the midst of preparing for the annual 3rd grade farm tour. This year's host will be Ayers Farm in Perrysville. We are seeking volunteers who are willing to lead agricultural stations on 1 or both days. The time commitment is approximately 8:30 to 2:30 each day. Please email [ashland@ofbf.org](mailto:ashland@ofbf.org) if you are interested in helping!

## 2025 Ashland Co Farm Tour - Sept 27 & 28, 12 - 5 PM

We are so thankful for the willingness of these hosts who have agreed to participate in this year's farm tour! Tour booklets will be available on [ashland.ofbf.org](http://ashland.ofbf.org) after Sept 1. Printed copies will be available at our office, the Ashland Co Fair and other agribusinesses in Ashland County.

- J Star Equipment
- Pine Hill Park - Sauers Farm
- Gortner Maple
- Broken Arrow Cattle



## 2025 Ag Toy Drive - Save the Date!

**Tuesday, Nov 25**

Event updates will be shared on  
our website in the month  
leading up to the event.

# Other Community News

## Dairy Summit & Twilight Tour - July 15

Zido Valley Dairy (3024 S Jefferson Rd. Wooster)

Time: 3-5 PM (Dairy Summit); 6-9 PM (Twilight Tour)

The Dairy Summit will feature a lineup of speakers from OSU, Ohio Dept of Ag and the Ohio Dairy Producer Association and ADA Mid-east. The Twilight Tour will include an industry tradeshow and tour of Zido Valley Dairy. A selection of food trucks will offer meals for \$10/person and vouchers will be provided for attendees to receive ice cream at no cost. Parking will be available on the farm. In case of inclement weather, shuttles will transport attendees from Triway High School.

This event is put on by the Wayne-Ashland Dairy Services Unit, OSU Extension-Wayne County and Zido Valley Dairy. For more information, visit [wayne.osu.edu](http://wayne.osu.edu) or call 330-264-8722.

## Farm Tire Collection Event - August 26

Event is open to Ashland County farms only. Pre-registration required by calling the Ashland County Solid Waste District at 419-282-4338. Registration window is Aug 4 - 22.

Tires will not be accepted from those who do not have a confirmed registration and time. Tires cannot be on the rim. Cost per tire ranges from \$2 to \$10 and is dependent on size. Full event details will be available at the Ashland County Solid Waste District's website after July 4.



## Lagoon Lifeline - Dec 6

Valley Vista Farms (1567 County Rd 175, Jeromesville) | 9 AM

Ashland SWCD, supported by a group of sponsors, is excited to bring a one-of-a-kind manure pit rescue simulator to Ashland County in December. This training is designed for both first responders and livestock producers. More information will be available on [ashlandswcd.com](http://ashlandswcd.com) in the months to come. Follow their Facebook page for updates as well.

# Thank you to our business partners!



## Board of Trustees

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Lindsay Tournoux, Organization Director
Ltournoux@ofbf.org
Susie Anderson, County Office Administrator
Sanderson@ofbf.org
Jennifer Fatheree, County Office Administrator
Jfatheree@ofbf.org

## Thank you for your service!

Susie Anderson is retiring on September 30 after 25 total years of service to Farm Bureau and 15 years of service at the Wooster office. We will be recognizing Susie at our annual meeting. If you cannot attend the annual meeting and want to share well wishes, please feel free to mail a card or call the office!



Don't miss your invitation within this newsletter to the Ashland County Farm Bureau and Ashland Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting on August 18!