

Summer 2025

AROUND OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU



WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 26

Location: The Barn Restaurant (877 W Main St. Smithville)

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 PM - Dinner and social hour

7:30 PM - Business meeting begins

Cost: \$10 per person (payable at the door). Children 12 and under are free.

A code change will be presented at this meeting. Complete meeting details, including instructions of how to RSVP, will be sent via postcard later this summer.

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!



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.

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.



2025 Scholarship Recipients



Madison Wade– Madison is the daughter of Mark and Terri Wade of Dalton and is a 2025 graduate of the Wayne County Schools Career Center. Madison plans to attend Tennessee Tech University in the fall where she will work towards becoming a veterinarian. When asked about her career goals Madison stated: “My goal is to become a veterinarian with a focus on advancing genetic technologies in livestock breeding. I aspire to work with farmers and ranchers to implement sustainable practices that enhance productivity and animal welfare. By utilizing genetic tools like genomic selection and embryo transfer, I hope to help improve herd health, growth efficiency, and disease resistance.” Good luck, Madison!



Morgan Wiles– Morgan is the daughter of Jason and Sandy Wiles of Creston and is a 2025 graduate of Norwayne High School. Morgan plans to attend Purdue University in the fall to study Animal Science. When asked to describe her career goals Morgan stated: “I have set many current and future goals for myself to succeed. I plan to graduate debt-free. This is a big goal for me as out-of-state tuition is a big investment. I plan to study animal science and have considered applying for veterinary school after. Because of this, I plan to keep good grades, be highly involved, and take lots of opportunities. If I do not become a veterinarian, I plan to use my degree to get a career involving livestock nutrition or breeding.” Best Wishes Morgan!



Kyle Olszewski- Kyle is the son of Josh & Kristin Olszewski of Burbank and is a 2025 graduate of Norwayne High School. Kyle plans to attend Grace College in the fall to study Medical Imaging or Nursing. “After graduating from Grace College I plan to work in a local rural hospital. While I am working as either a Nurse or Radiology Technician I also hope to be able to work on the family farm. I have worked on our family farm since I was young and I hope to someday own the farm myself.” We wish you the best of luck Kyle!

Ohio State's Northeast Ohio Ag Innovation Center

Ohio State's Northeast Ohio Ag Innovation Center (AIC) is located on the OSU CFAES Wooster campus and has recently wrapped up a successful first year of operation. The AIC offers a variety of business development services to farmers throughout the region who want to add or expand their production of value-added food, fiber, or fuel products.

The team works with each client individually to assess their specific needs, connect to support services, navigate regulations, develop business plans, and examine financing options. They can also make connections with processors, markets, and distribution outlets throughout the region or identify new products and opportunities for farms.

In addition to providing technical assistance, the AIC staff will take into account your entire farm business with a holistic approach ensuring that your business growth compliments your personal needs and goals. When your business and personal lives align, it increases the likelihood of achieving profitability, life satisfaction, and long-term success!



Thanks to support from USDA Rural Development, Ohio State University Extension, and The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, AIC services are free of charge to Northeast Ohio farms (see map).

Interested in learning more? Complete the "Client Intake Form" on their website, email NEO-AIC@OSU.edu or call: 330-263-8071 and leave a message!

There will also be an opportunity to hear more about the AIC at the Wayne County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on August 26!

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

Twilight Tour & Dairy Summit - 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 Mideast. 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 or call 330-264-8722.

Wayne County Fair - Sept 6 through 11

The fair committee is seeking volunteers to help staff our display for 2 hour shifts throughout each day of the fair. We will be located in a tent across from the parlor (same as last year). As a token of our appreciation, we will provide an admission ticket or a milkshake voucher to anyone who signs up to help. Check out the shift availability and sign up by following the QR code to the online sign up or give us a call at the office.



2025 Wayne Co Farm Tour - Oct 11 & 12, 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 wayne.ofbf.org after Sept 1. Printed copies will be available at our office, the Wayne Co Fair and other agribusinesses in Wayne County.

The committee is still finalizing the full list of stops but the following entities have confirmed their participation!

- Lowe & Young
- OSU CFAES Wooster
- Woodlyn Acres
- Sunshine Flower Farm
- Wayne County Regional Training Facility



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.

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 this area in December. The simulator features a 20 foot trailer and 150-gallons of water to allow for hands on training. This training is designed for both first responders and livestock producers. More information will be available on ashlandswcd.com in the months to come. Follow their Facebook page for updates as well.



Thank you to our business partners!



Bakers Acres

The Fitzpatrick Family

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Susie Anderson, County Office Administrator
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Jennifer Fatheree, County Office Administrator
Jfatheree@ofbf.org

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.

Don't miss your save the
date to the Wayne
County Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting on
August 26!

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

