

Winter 2026

AROUND OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF ASHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU



ASHLAND COUNTY

Member Appreciation Breakfast

Feb 7, 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, applesauce and beverages.

In addition to breakfast, we will offer a presentation at 9 AM by Leonard Dolce and Aaron Easterling of Dolce's Tree Service. Topic: Drones in Agriculture: What, When and Where.

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.

An in-person night with Temple Grandin presented by Portage Co Farm Bureau

May 15, Ravenna HS Auditorium, 6589 N. Chestnut St. Ravenna

Dr. Grandin will be speaking on animal behavior and her humane methods of handling animals for processing. In North America, almost half of the cattle are handled in a Grandin-designed system. She has designed chutes, loading ramps, corrals and stockyards for local farmers such as Bonner Farms Beef and Market (Portage) and The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster as well as national and international producers such as McDonald's, Texas Pride Processing and clients in Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia and New Zealand.

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Book and autograph signing
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Speaker Presentation
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Questions from the floor

Ticket price:

All Farm Bureau Members/Students: \$20

Non-Farm Bureau Members: \$40

Tickets the day of the event at the door (cash only):

All Farm Bureau Members/Students: \$30

Non-Farm Bureau Members: \$50

To purchase tickets, call the
Portage Co Farm Bureau office
at 330-456-4889.



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.

Public Service Announcement

Regarding the discussion of a potential merger of several area cooperatives, there is an engagement opportunity that cooperative members have in this process.

- Cooperative members will receive direct communication by mail and email in January regarding informational meetings about the potential merger.
- There is an opportunity for all cooperative members to vote on the proposed merger.
- Contact your Cooperative or attend an informational meeting with questions.

End of Year Highlights

Ag Toy Drive



The Ashland & Wayne County Young Ag Professionals and the Medina County Young Farmers hosted their 9th Annual Ag Toy Drive on November 25, at Lincoln Way Vineyards. After sponsorships and individual contributions were counted, over \$12,000 in agricultural-themed 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 members - Olivia Lang, Hannah Hottel, Hannah Becker, Kara Wolff, Brooklyn Sims and Lauren Whitman.

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, Nationwide/Hummel Group Insurance, Tyler Grain & Fertilizer Co, Lincoln Way Vineyards, J Star Equipment, Tilted Farmer, Commodity Blenders & Medina County Farm Bureau

Gold

JTS Landscaping, Homer Yost Agency, Lowe & Young, Gerber Feed Service, Trent Insurance Group, BRB Show Cattle, Mike & Patti Boyert, Lang Productions, WQKT The River Radio, Hartzler's, CropKing, Certified Angus Beef, Wellington Implement, Rea & Associates, AgPro - Burbank & Wayne County Farm Bureau

2025 OFBF Annual Meeting



Thank you to delegates Ben Robinson, Richard Sprague, Mitch Rooks and Mark Fitch for representing Ashland County on December 11 and 12 at the Ohio Farm Bureau's 107th Annual Meeting. The 1.5 day event recognized many of our members and partners as well as held robust policy discussion. Topics included property taxes, farmland preservation, land use and more. Thank you delegates for giving your time to support this important grassroots event!

Hummel Group named 2026 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.



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 2026

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.**

Scan Me



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?



Scan Me



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 2026 directory. (Please note – this directory is for member advertising for those who offer goods or services to the public. If you advertised in 2025, 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 2025 booklet? Visit ashland.ofbf.org to open the digital version of the directory or email us and we can send you a picture of your listing. **Due March 31.**

2026 Ashland County Farm Bureau and Ohio Farm Bureau Scholarships

Ashland County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer members and dependents of members the opportunity to apply for scholarships through the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation. In 2026, \$3,500 will be awarded to applicants enrolled in a 2 or 4 year program in the fall. The application deadline for an Ashland County Farm Bureau scholarship is March 31.

Additionally, the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation offers 17 scholarships of their own each year. Its newest and most prestigious scholarship opportunity is the Ohio Farm Bureau Ambassadors Scholarship. This premier scholarship honors exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence, meaningful community service, and a commitment to pursuing careers that advance Ohio agriculture. The scholarship provides one renewable award of \$10,000, supporting a student pursuing a degree in agriculture or an agriculture-related field. The application for this scholarship is Feb 28.

Learn more and apply for these and other scholarships at ofbf.org/scholarships



2025 Outstanding Volunteer

Congratulations to Sara Tallmadge for being named Ashland County Farm Bureau's 2025 Outstanding Volunteer!

Sara - Thank you for your years of service to Ashland County Farm Bureau as a board member, delegate, Ag Toy Drive committee chair and President. Thank you for representing Ashland County so well as a State YAP committee member and as the Ohio Excellence in Ag recipient. Your thoughtful leadership has been valued by members on and off the board. We greatly appreciate your efforts. Thank you for your dedication Sara!

Thank you to our business partners!



Board of Trustees

Ben Robinson, President
Mark Fitch, Vice President
Kelly Hahn, Secretary
Richard Sprague, Treasurer
Doug Fitch
Terry Hildebrand
Austin Ledyard

Kent McGovern
Megan Timmons
Dex Rogers
Mitch Rooks
Sarah Sprang
Lauren Whitman

Staff

Lindsay Tournoux, Organization Director
Ltournoux@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 with your nomination.



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

ASHLAND COUNTY

**Don't miss your
invitation within this
newsletter to our
Member
Appreciation
Breakfast on Feb 7!**