

Winter 2026

AROUND OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU



Member Appreciation Breakfast

March 28, 8 - 10 AM

**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 menu will include breakfast casserole, sausage, donuts, fruit and beverages.

Kolesen McCoy, past State and National FFA President as well as current Gov. Affairs staff at The Ohio State University, CFAES will speak at 9 AM. His presentation is titled "The People Behind the Progress - How Ohio Farm Bureau Shaped My Journey in Ohio Agriculture."

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.

Members will receive an event reminder by email and mail later this winter. Please hold the date on your calendar!

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 Kevin Ungerer, Olivia Lang, Zach Steiner, Elaine Koch and Justin Esselburn for representing Wayne 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!

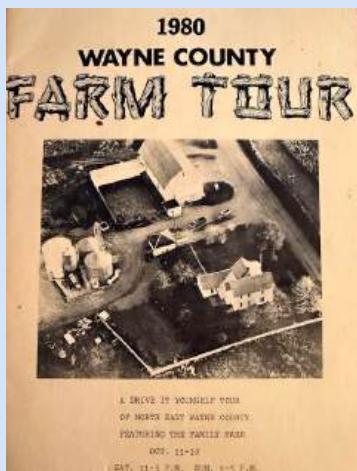
History of the Wayne County Farm Tour

A question by Ohio Farm Bureau staff about the history of the Wayne County Farm Tour for the Jan/Feb 2026 edition of the Our Ohio magazine led us down an interesting rabbit hole. We thought the membership would appreciate us sharing. If you have past tour brochures or more details about the history of the Wayne County Farm Tour, please share them with us!

The Wayne County Farm Tour was started by the Wooster Camera Club in 1966 and, sometime around 1970, a group called the "Ag Leaders" took over organizing the tour. In 1979, the tour did not take place but Wayne Co Farm Bureau took on the event in 1980 and has organized it ever since. It has been on the second weekend of October and rotated counter clockwise around the 4 quadrants of the county since 1980. To our knowledge, the tour has taken place every October since 1966 with the exception of 1979 and 2020.

The Wayne Co Farm Bureau volunteers who were instrumental in continuing this event after the 1979 pause were Fred Finney, Becky Workinger and Becky Leatherman. The early years of the tour were dedicated in memory of Becky Leatherman, as she tragically passed away in a car accident. Fred went on to become the District 8 State Trustee for Ohio Farm Bureau from 1984-1992 and Ohio Farm Bureau President 1989-1992. Becky Workinger was involved with the Wayne County Farm Bureau Women's Committee and Farm Tour committee in the 1980's and again in the 2000's.

A few memories that Fred and Becky have of the 1980 farm tour - it snowed on the Saturday of the farm tour. The first stop was in Smithville at the Landmark Cooperative. They had many people arrive early wondering where the bus was (they didn't realize it was a drive-it-yourself tour). For a number of years, school groups attended the tour on Friday as a field trip. The tour booklet also featured the church services that visitors could attend near the tour on Sunday morning if they were coming in from out of town.



1980 tour details...

- Northeast quadrant
- Oct 11 and 12
- Featured 9 stops
- Farm Tour committee members were -
 - Becky Workinger
 - Fred Finney
 - Jim Ogden
 - Ruth Mosher
 - Jim Toff
 - Don Abbott
- Interesting note - addresses were not provided. Attendees needed to be able to read the map!



The 1980 Wayne County Farm Tour Committee wishes to dedicate this tour to Rebecca Leatherman, a member of the committee, who was killed in an automobile accident, August 16, 1985. We express our gratitude to her family for their support and the time she gave in planning this tour. "Becky", as we affectionately called her, loved nature, animals, and all that country living had to offer.

- Stop 1: Smithville branch of the Wayne Landmark Cooperative
- Stop 2: S & J Dairy Farm operated by Stanley and Jay Moran
- Stop 3: Rittman Orchard operated by Mr and Mrs S. E. Klopfenstein
- Stop 4: Eggeman Brothers Hog Farm operated by Gary and Carroll Eggeman
- Stop 5: L & R Farms operated by Larry and Roberta Baer (dairy and eggs)
- Stop 6: Cloverdale Stables operated by John E. Best (race horses)
- Stop 7: McCoy Suffolk Farm operated by Jerry McCoy and family
- Stop 8: Wayne General and Technical College (now known as Wayne College)
- Stop 9: Miller Beef Farm operated by Robert L. Miller

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.**

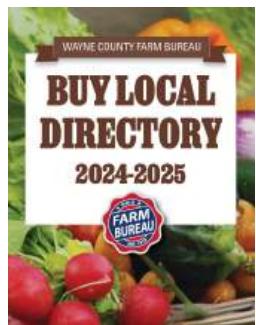
Scan Me



Questions to consider for your survey:

- Do you have a concern that 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 - Complimentary advertising for members!



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 wayne.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 Wayne County Farm Bureau and Ohio Farm Bureau Scholarships

Wayne 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, at least \$3,000 will be awarded to applicants enrolled in a 2 or 4 year program in the fall. The application deadline for a Wayne 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 Stan Smith for being named Wayne County Farm Bureau's 2025 Outstanding Volunteer!

Thank you for your years of service to Wayne County Farm Bureau as a board trustee, delegate, Secretary and President. We greatly appreciate the time that you have sacrificed to be away from your family, job and farm to participate in Farm Bureau activities. Thank you for your dedication Stan!



WAYNE COUNTY

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WAYNE COUNTY

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

**Save the date for the
Member Appreciation
Breakfast on March
28!**

Board of Trustees

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Olivia Lang, Vice President	Kyle Miller
Lisa Mangun, Secretary	Rachael Ramsier
Sean Fitzsimmons, Treasurer	Christian Steiner
Elmer Baer	Stan Smith
Frank Becker	Zach Trent
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Interested in serving as a trustee?

The WCFB board meets approx 9 times annually on the third Monday evening 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.