

Summer 2026

# AROUND OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF WAYNE COUNTY FARM BUREAU



## Property Reappraisal Update

Auditor Russell Robertson and Chief Deputy Auditor Alison Suppes met with several WCFB trustees earlier this spring to give an update on the state mandated 2026 reappraisal. We appreciate their transparency to the farming community in this process.

The highlights included:

- Wayne County is undergoing a full reappraisal of all property in 2026 (pay 2027). Full reappraisals take place every 6 years.
- The Market Value of Agricultural Properties did not increase during the county's 2023 Triennial Update. Most Agricultural Properties in Wayne County currently remain at their 2020 Market Value for both land, buildings, and houses, meaning the 2026 Reappraisal will represent 6 years of value change.
- Market values for land, both CAUV land and Non-CAUV land, will likely see a significant value increase in 2026, for taxes payable in 2027.
- House values will increase in 2026, for taxes payable in 2027.
- CAUV will continue to provide substantial savings. CAUV currently decreases the market value of land in Wayne County by approximately \$2 billion. This represents an average savings of ~80% on land enrolled in CAUV.
- It is important to remember that when property values increase, property taxes do NOT increase by the same percentage.
- While recent tax reform bills will begin to offer some relief with 2026 2nd half tax bills, most of the reforms become effective for 2027 tax bills. The full impact of the tax reform bills will phase in by 2029.
- The Auditor's Office will be sending postcards sometime this summer giving property owners a heads up about the reappraisal.
- The Auditor's Office will send a letter with more details at the end of the year when tax values are finalized by the State of Ohio Department of Taxation.

### Want to learn more?

If you are interested in learning more about property taxes, be sure to check out the property tax webinar series that Ohio Farm Bureau's Public Policy staff has provided to members. Recordings are available to view for members as well.

May 6: Property tax and Ohio Farm Bureau policy review  
June 2: School Funding Overview  
July 10: CAUV

## 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 2026. For questions regarding the Growing Tomorrow Grant, please contact Ohio Farm Bureau at [thicks@ofbf.org](mailto:thicks@ofbf.org).



# 2026 Scholarship Recipients



**Breidyn Flinner**– Breidyn is the son of Shannon and Jessica Flinner of Shreve and is currently studying agronomy at The Ohio State University with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2027. When asked about his career goals Breidyn stated: “Following school I want to be able to find a job in the agronomy industry and gain experience and build a network of people that I can fall back on in times of need. I want to work in the industry long enough to support a sustainable level of farm growth at home, and eventually farming full time is what I would like to do in the future.” Good luck, Breidyn!



**Morgan Wiles**– Morgan is the daughter of Jason and Sandy Wiles of Creston and is a 2025 graduate of Norwayne High School. Morgan currently attends Purdue University studying Animal Science. When asked to describe her career goals Morgan stated: “After graduation, I plan to get a career in livestock nutrition or apply for veterinary school. Overall, my biggest career goal is to become actively involved in the agriculture industry by supporting local farmers and making a positive impact.” Best wishes, Morgan!



**Kate Johnson**- Kate is the daughter of Josh and Diane Johnson of Wooster and is a 2026 graduate of Northwestern High School. Kate would like to become a veterinarian specializing in small animals. “I plan to continue gaining hands-on experience in veterinary clinics while completing my education to prepare for veterinary school. I want to build strong clinical skills, advocate for proper animal care, and support pet owners through compassionate and science-based medicine. Ultimately, I hope to make a positive impact on animal health and welfare while contributing to my Wayne County community through veterinary service.” We wish you the best of luck, Kate!

## 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.

## Wayne County Farm Bureau Seeking Trustees

The nominating committee is currently accepting nominations for trustee candidates whose elections would take place at the annual meeting in August. Please contact Lindsay or a current board trustee if you are interested in nominating yourself or another member as soon as possible!

Benefits/Opportunities:

- Service as a trustee gives you the ability to serve as a voice for your township, district and county on agricultural and community-related issues.
- Networking with other trustees across the county and members as well as public officials. Several opportunities throughout the year to network with other trustees within the district (Medina, Ashland, and Summit counties).
- Leadership development opportunities - access to opportunities to grow in leadership development such as advocacy at the local, state, and national level.
- Service as a trustee gives you the opportunity to better understand the Farm Bureau Federation and its member benefits.
- Service as a trustee is a great resume builder!

Basic expectations:

- Individual needs to be an member of Wayne County Farm Bureau.
- If serving in a district seat, you need to live in that district.
- Board service would begin at the September 21, 2026 board meeting.
- Board meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 PM (7:30 in the warmer months) at the Wooster Farm Bureau office (no board meeting the month of May, August (due to the annual meeting) and December.). Meetings typically last 2 hours.
- Board members are not expected to attend every meeting but are expected to attend the majority.
- In addition to providing input at board meetings, board members are asked to participate in 1 ad hoc committee and 1 event committee. Time spent on committees vary by committee but, generally, take 2-4 hours.
- The term of service for the district seats are 3 years with the option to rerun for a second 3 year term. The term of service for the at large seat is 1 year with the option to rerun as well.

# Upcoming Events

## Wayne County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

**Date:** August 19, 2026

**Location:** The Wellspring (4470 W Old Lincoln Way, Wooster)

**Time:** 6:30 - 7:30 PM - Dinner and social hour  
7:30 PM - Business meeting begins

**Cost:** \$15 per member; \$30 per nonmember (payable at the door). Children 12 and under are free.

Complete meeting details, including instructions of how to RSVP, will be sent via postcard later this summer.



**Twilight Dairy Tour - The Wayne/Ashland Dairy Service Unit has announced that there will not be a 2026 Twilight Tour but their intent is to have one in 2027.**

## Wayne County Fair - Sept 12 through 17

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 milking 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. We will be emailing out the signup link in August for members to sign up for shifts, so please watch for our email!

## 2026 Wayne Co Farm Tour - Oct 10 & 11, 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](http://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 so far!

- Certified Angus Beef Education Farm at Chippewa Valley Angus
- Galehouse Tree Farm
- Centerra Co-op, Sterling Feed Mill
- Lavender Trails
- Varner Farms
- Smithville Historical Society



## 2026 Ag Toy Drive - Save the Date!

**Tuesday, Nov 24**

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

## Training Opportunity- Sept 26

Time and Location TBD

Central Fire District, supported by a group of sponsors, is excited to bring a one-of-a-kind manure pit rescue simulator to Wayne County in September. 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 at our website and Facebook page in the months to come.



# Thank you to our business partners!



## Board of Trustees

Kevin Ungerer, Pres	Sean Fitzsimmons, Trea	Andrea Esselburn	Kyle Miller	Stan Smith
Olivia Lang, Vice Pres	Elmer Baer	Dave Forrer	Rachael Ramsier	Zach Trent
Lisa Mangun, Sec	Frank Becker	Elaine Koch	Christian Steiner	

## Staff

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

Don't miss your save the date to the Wayne County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on August 19!