

# FARM BUREAU NEWS

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### Farm Bureau Mission Statement

Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers that meets consumers needs, addresses public expectations and ensures agricultural prosperity in a global marketplace.



## County Farm Bureau Office Move

The Erie, Huron and Lorain County Farm Bureau office has moved from it's location in Oberlin to North Royalton. We have moved in with Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau at their office which is located at 8460 Ridge Road (State Route 3) in North Royalton.

Each of the county Farm Bureau board of trustees in Erie, Huron, Lorain, and Cuyahoga counties discussed the possibility of the office move over the summer and by August all four counties had voted in favor of the move. A 90-day notice was given to Lorain County Farm Bureau's landlord and the office move was completed on November 30, 2012.

Toll free numbers, which is 1-888-216-5487 for Erie County, have remained in tact and each county Farm Bureau can be reached by email at [erie@ofbf.org](mailto:erie@ofbf.org), [huron@ofbf.org](mailto:huron@ofbf.org) or [lorain@ofbf.org](mailto:lorain@ofbf.org). The website has also remained the same which is [www.northcoastfarmbureau.org](http://www.northcoastfarmbureau.org). County specific information can be found at this website.

Productive conversation can be done with

# E-A-S-E!

Engage | Acknowledge | Share | Earn trust

Important conversations about how our food is produced are taking place, and farmers need to be a part of those conversations. Understanding what consumers want and allowing them to learn more about food production will build trust and confidence in food, farming and agriculture.

To help farmers and other key stakeholders have productive conversations that build trust and confidence in food, farming and agriculture, the U. S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance—which Ohio Farm Bureau belongs to—has developed the Conversation with EASE (Engage, Acknowledge, Share, Earn trust) program.

Conversation with EASE is not a spokesperson or media training program, but rather a movement specifically designed to help turn today's war of words about food, farming and agriculture into a conversation led by the people who know the subject best—farmers.

Talk is not cheap. Conversation is powerful. It can change opinions, it can enlighten and it can inspire additional conversation. It's one of the most powerful human interactions.



## EASE Training scheduled for June 13, 2013

## ERIE COUNTY FARM BUREAU POLICY

### **Member Benefit Minute**

*Did you know?*

*Farm Bureau primarily focuses on two goals: Legislative representation for members and promotion of agriculture. We work on issues important to you and strive to keep consumers connected to producers and local farmer's businesses.*



**Visit local orchards this year and meet the farmer that grows the food that you enjoy**

For a listing of local orchards and other markets, log on to [www.ourohio.org](http://www.ourohio.org) and click on the Buying Local Directory

Erie County Farm Bureau annually goes through the policy development process at the county level. They hold several meetings to assess the needs of the county where they determine if the problem is something that affects agriculture.

Erie County Farm Bureau met with numerous elected officials on July 23, 2012. Both elected officials and Farm Bureau members were present for the meeting. Great discussion was had and everyone in attendance left a little more informed. This meeting serves as a vital part to the policy development committee.

The committee then takes the information that was presented and formulates proposed policies. The policies are categorized by county, state, and national policies. These policies are sent to the eligible members of the Erie County Farm Bureau prior to the annual meeting to review.

The Ohio Farm Bureau's policy development process is a grass-roots process. It starts on the county level in all 88 counties of Ohio and works its way up to the Ohio Farm Bureau and then the American Farm Bureau.

The policies that are passed at the county Farm Bureau annual meeting then become the 'marching orders' for the county Farm Bureau.

Erie County Farm Bureau members adopted the county policies that were voted on at their county annual meeting in September. They are listed below.

### LOCAL/COUNTY

1. We support mowing, at least the corners at intersections, more often to maintain visibility for safety on county and township roads.
2. We support increased establishment of farmers' markets to support consumption of locally grown foods for county residents.
3. We support continued implementation of "central dispatch."
4. We support maintenance of local recycling centers with curbside recycling in metropolitan areas of Sandusky/Perkins and Huron, usage of Erie County landfill recycling, and installation of compactors at township facilities.
5. We support making more information available to the general public on the proper use of lawn/garden chemicals.
6. We support enforcement of traffic laws for bicyclists. Employers should be responsible for providing bicycle education and training information and be held accountable for reflective devices.
7. We support continued drug monitoring and enforcement programs and promote having drug drop-offs in secured locations for no longer needed medications.
8. We support Erie Soil & Water Conservation District's 4-R program of: right source, right rate of application, right time, and right field to improve and maintain county land and water systems.

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

Mark your calendars for the following events:

### **February 26 | Membership Check-in**

6:30 p.m. — McDonalds, 11015 U.S. Rte 250 N., Milan

### **March 8 | Family Fun Night w/ Huron County Farm Bureau**

5-10 p.m. - Rain Water Park/Cedar Lanes

1935 Cleveland Rd., Sandusky

### **March 12 | Membership Check-In**

6:30 p.m. — Berardi's, 1019 W. Perkins Ave., Sandusky

### **March 18 | Worker's Compensation Safety Meeting**

7 p.m. — EHOVE Career Center, Milan

### **March 19 | Membership Recognition Dinner**

6:30 p.m. — Location TBA

*For all volunteers who sign one or more member*

### **June 13 | Conservations with EASE Training**

7 p.m. — Lorain County JVS

### **June 24 | 12th Annual Ag Ecology Tour & Picnic**

6:30 p.m.— Location TBA

### **July 22 | Policy Development Meeting** with elected officials

9 a.m. — Great Wolf Lodge, 4600 Milan Rd., Sandusky

## **Did You Know that Erie County...**

- Ranked 45th in corn production in Ohio in 2011 with an average yield of 145.3 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 48th in soybean production in Ohio in 2011 with an average yield of 43.4 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 25th in wheat production in Ohio in 2011 with an average of 66.7 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 48th in alfalfa production in Ohio in 2011?
- Ranked 80th in Ohio in the number of cattle and calves in 2011 with over 2,500 head?
- Ranked 66th in Ohio in the number of milk cows, with over 500 head in 2011, which produced 7,200 million pounds of milk sold?
- The average farm size in Erie County is 209 acres and there were more than 403 farms in Erie County in 2011.

\*Data acquired from the 2011 Annual Report from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Report can be viewed at [www.agri.ohio.gov](http://www.agri.ohio.gov)

## **Animals for Life Requests for Proposals**

The Animals for Life Foundation, which works to educate the public about the value animals bring to human life and the care humans give their animals in return, is now accepting requests for proposals (RFP). Visit <http://aflfoundation.org/grants> for more information on how your organization can apply for funding. Requests for proposals are due by July 1. Community organizations can apply for this money.

## **Advisory Councils Name Changed to Community Councils**

Advisory Councils now have a new name. The name change to Community Councils is symbolic of the reason advisory councils were started: To make a difference in the community by identifying and helping to solve problems. The success of councils is largely based on the fact that group discussion is the method and problem solving is the goal. Councils should have received a workbook, in late January, that outlines several areas of discussion.

## **Scholarships Available**

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Erie County Farm Bureau offers scholarships for both high school seniors and continuing education students.

Scholarships that the Farm Bureau offer include: an up to \$750 High School General Scholarship, an up to \$750 High School Ag-Related Scholarship, and an up to \$1,000 Agricultural Continuing Education Scholarship. Applications are available by calling the Erie County Farm Bureau at 888-216-5487 or visiting: [www.northcoastfarmbureau.org](http://www.northcoastfarmbureau.org) and clicking on "Scholarships & Grants." Each guidance counselor and FFA advisor have copies of both of the high school scholarships. Multiple scholarships are awarded each year.

**The scholarships are due by March 15, 2013.** To inquire about the scholarship program, call the Erie County Farm Bureau or make a request via email at [erie@ofbf.org](mailto:erie@ofbf.org). We look forward to receiving your application.

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## Erie County Farm Bureau

8460 Ridge Rd.  
North Royalton, OH 44133  
Phone: 440-877-0706 or  
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Fax: 440-877-0750  
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[www.northcoastfambureau.org](http://www.northcoastfambureau.org)

*The Erie County Farm  
Bureau Newsletter is distrib-  
uted to Erie County Farm Bu-  
reau members to keep them  
informed of Farm Bureau  
issues, events, member bene-  
fits and agriculture.*

*With direction from the county  
board of trustees, the  
organization supports  
Ohio farmers and promotes  
Ohio agriculture.*

### Executive Board

#### President:

Denny Weilnau- Oxford

#### Vice-President:

Cindy Thayer- Berlin Hts.

#### Secretary:

Becky Dickerson- Berlin Hts.

#### Fiscal Reporter:

John Wallrabenstein- Oxford

### Board of Trustees

Greg Cumston- Milan

Dawn DeMuth- Vermilion

Marty DeMuth- Vermilion

John Hartman- Berlin Hts.

Charles Hummel- Sandusky

Marshall Smith- Margaretta

Miriam Tommas- Oxford

### Office Staff

Amanda Denes,

Organization Director

Bev Cisar and Ginny Venditti,

Administrative Assistants

## SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WITH BUSINESSES

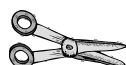
We are getting ready to prepare our 2013 Erie, Huron, & Lorain County Farm Bureaus Member Benefits brochure. This brochure lists businesses that are Farm Bureau members and offer a discount to fellow Farm Bureau members. The brochure is put together by the Farm Bureau office and is then distributed to the entire membership in the tri-county area. This reaches close to 11,000 people!

You can advertise in the brochure as long as you or your business are a Farm Bureau member, you offer a discount to Farm Bureau members, and your Farm Bureau membership is currently paid or is enclosed with the form below. **You must offer a discount to be included in this brochure.**

**Please fill out the form below and mail to the Farm Bureau office, along with your membership dues (if not paid), by March 1, 2013 to be included in the brochure.**

Mail to: Erie County Farm Bureau, 8460 Ridge Rd., North Royalton, OH 44133

\*If you have already paid your current membership dues, please note that and we will contact you if our records indicate differently.



Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Discount Offered: \_\_\_\_\_

Website (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Name Which Membership is Under: \_\_\_\_\_