

# 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.



## ERIE COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

The Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership was held September 16, 2013 at St. John's United Church of Christ. Over 90 members, elected officials, board members and guests were in attendance.

Meeting started with President Denny Weilnau welcoming everyone, meal was served followed by the business meeting. Minutes from the 2012 annual meeting were presented as well as financial report for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Both the minutes and financial report were approved. Greg Cumston gave the nominating committee report and then members were asked to vote for board of trustees members and OFBF Annual Meeting delegates for 2014. Policy Development Chair, John Wallrabenstein gave the policy development report and again members were asked to vote on proposed policies. *A list of local policies are on page 2, all policies are at [www.northcoastfarmbureau.org](http://www.northcoastfarmbureau.org)*

The 2013 scholarship recipients were introduced: Megan McNulty, daughter of Michael & Elaine McNulty, Daniel Steltzer and Nicholas Stelzer, sons of David & Christine Stelzer, Jessica Stacy, daughter of Mark & Mary Stacy, Zoe Gastier, daughter of Mike & Kathy Gastier, and Emily Bailey, daughter of Mark & Lisa Bailey.

OFBF Trustee, Sparky Weilnau gave a brief report along with Northeast Women's OFBF Trustee, Pam Haley. Organization Director Amanda Denes presented a few awards and thanked every Farm Bureau member who volunteered in an capacity over the past year.

Steve Schauer spoke about his experience viewing a total solar eclipse in Mexico. After this election results were announced, meeting was adjourned and door prizes were given out. Thanks to all that attended!



## 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 22, 2013. 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.

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

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 continuance of farmers' markets to support consumption of locally grown foods for county residents.

3. We support enforcement of traffic laws for bicyclists. Employers would be responsible for providing bicycle education and training information and be held accountable for reflective devices.

4. We support Erie Soil and Water Conservation District 4R program of: right source, right rate of application, right time and right field to improve and maintain county land and water systems.

5. We support a 1/2% sales tax increase for one year to be used only for county infrastructure improvements.

6. We support the county health department's efforts to establish a local facility for rehabilitation of those with alcohol, drug, and mental health problems.

7. We support continued testing by the Erie County Health Department for e-coli/sewage contamination in tributaries to Lake Erie in relationship to harmful algal blooms.

8. We support Erie County Health Department programs that educate users in recognizing the nutritional value of locally grown produce.

9. We support an active program to identify and eliminate vacant structures.

### Food & Farm Facts Breakfast- March 22

Erie County Farm Bureau will host a Food & Farm Facts Breakfast on Saturday, March 22 starting at 8 am. Breakfast will be held at Erie County Fairgrounds, Building #1. Cost for the breakfast will be \$2 each for everyone that attends. Look for more information on our website soon.

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

Mark your calendars for the following events:

### **February 3 | Membership Check-In**

7:00 p.m. — Berardi's, 218 Cleveland Rd. E., Huron

### **February 17 | President's Day Legislative Brunch & Membership Check-In**

9:00 a.m.— Perkins Restaurant, 4710 Milan Rd., Sandusky

### **March 10 | Membership Check-In**

7:00 p.m. — Berardi's, 1019 W. Perkins Ave., Sandusky

### **March 14 | Family Fun Night with Huron County Farm Bureau 5-10 p.m.—Rain Water Park/Cedar Lanes, 1935 Cleveland Rd., Sandusky**

### **March 17 | Worker's Compensation Safety Meeting**

7 p.m. — Lorain County JVS, Oberlin

### **March 22 | Food & Farm Facts Breakfast**

8 a.m.—Erie Co. Fairgrounds, Building #1

### **March 31 | Membership Recognition Dinner**

6:30 p.m. — Location TBA *For all volunteers who sign one new or renewal member*

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

- Ranked 40th in corn production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 145 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 45th in soybean production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 47.4 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 23rd in wheat production in Ohio in 2012 with an average of 64 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 23rd in alfalfa production in Ohio in 2012?
- Ranked 80th in Ohio in the number of cattle and calves in 2012 with over 2,400 head?
- Ranked 66th in Ohio in the number of milk cows, with over 500 head in 2012?
- The average farm size in Erie County is 208 acres and there were more than 390 farms in Erie County in 2011.

\*Data acquired from the 2012 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 [aflfoundation.org/grants](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.

## **Promotion & Education Committee**

The Promotion & Education Committee meets monthly on the second Monday of each month during the winter months. They take tours of local agricultural businesses to further educate themselves and promote Erie County Farm Bureau. If you are interested please let us know at 1-888-216-5487 or email [erie@ofbf.org](mailto:erie@ofbf.org).

## **Scholarships Available**

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

Scholarships that the Farm Bureau offer include: a General up to \$750 Scholarship for graduating high school seniors, an Agricultural up to \$750 Scholarship for graduating high school seniors, and a Continuing Education up to \$1,000 Agricultural 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.

**Scholarship applications are due by March 15, 2014.** 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.

**Erie County  
Farm Bureau**

8460 Ridge Rd.  
North Royalton, OH 44133  
Phone: 440-877-0706 or  
888-216-5487  
Fax: 440-877-0750  
E-mail: erie@ofbf.org  
www.northcoastfarmbureau.org

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*The Erie County Farm  
Bureau Newsletter is distribut-  
ed to Erie County Farm Bureau  
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:** Cincin-  
dy Thayer- Berlin Hts.  
**Secretary:**  
Becky Colon- Berlin Hts.  
**Fiscal Reporter:**  
John Wallrabenstein- Oxford

Board of Trustees

Greg Cumston- Milan  
Dawn DeMuth- Vermilion  
Marty DeMuth- Vermilion  
Charles Hummel- Groton  
Marshall Smith- Margaretta  
Miriam Tommas- Oxford  
Joe Trinter- Vermilion  
Nicki Watson- Groton

Office Staff

Amanda Denes,  
Organization Director  
Bev Cisar & Mary Wallencheck,  
Administrative Assistants

**SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS  
WITH BUSINESSES**

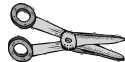
We are getting ready to prepare our 2014 Erie, Huron, & Lorain County Farm Bureaus Member Benefits brochure. This brochure lists businesses that are Farm Bureau members and offer a discount to fellow Farm Bureau members. The brochure is put together by the Farm Bureau office and is then distributed to 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, 2014 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: \_\_\_\_\_