

FARM BUREAU NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Family Fun Night</i>	1
<i>Scholarship Applications</i>	1
<i>Local Policies</i>	2
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	3
<i>New Membership Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	3
<i>Local Member Benefits Brochure</i>	4

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.



Family Fun Night with Huron Co. Farm Bureau on March 11

WHEN: **Friday, March 11, 2016**

WHERE: Quality Inn and Rain Water Park (Cedar Lanes and Thirsty Pony), 1935 Cleveland Road, Sandusky

TIME: **5:00 - 10:00 PM**– Pizza, pop & ice cream included.

WHY: Fun Night includes bowling, Rain Water Park, pizza, pop, ice cream, and cards & games in the Royal Palm Room for \$7.50 per Farm Bureau member and \$15.00 for non members. ***Bring a new paid Farm Bureau membership with you and you can attend for free!** Family members age 2 and under are free. Look for your invitation in the mail. We hope you can join us on March 11.

Scholarships Available

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

Scholarships that 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 Erie County Farm Bureau at 888-216-5487 or visiting: 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, 2016. To inquire about the scholarship program, call Erie County Farm Bureau or make a request via email at erie@ofbf.org. We look forward to receiving your application.

New Membership Opportunities

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is strengthening its advocacy efforts on behalf of Ohio's farm and food community with the implementation of a new membership structure. The new model includes four categories: *Active Members*– are farmers and those whose jobs are directly impacted by the health of Ohio agriculture. Benefits include the right to vote on policy positions, discounts on Nationwide Insurance products and access to many other products & services. *Young Active Members*– is for those 18-24 who are farmers or whose job is directly impacted by the health of Ohio agriculture. These members qualify for all Active Member benefits but at a statewide rate of \$25, a substantially reduced rate.

'Continued on Page 3

Erie County Farm Bureau Policy Process

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.

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 20, 2015. 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. These policies are sent to the eligible members of Erie County Farm Bureau prior to the annual meeting for them to review.

Ohio Farm Bureau's policy development process is a grassroots process. It starts on the county level in all 88 Ohio counties 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 August. They are listed to the right.

LOCAL

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

2. We support the county health department's efforts to establish additional local detoxification facilities for rehabilitation of those with alcohol, drug, and mental health problems.

3. 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.

4. We support a county water testing lab in Erie County.

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

6. We support, at least, partial restoration of local government funds; especially for townships.

7. We would encourage a local organization to locate grant money to maintain, repair, upgrade and provide education on rural on-site waste systems.

8. We support the five year renewal levy for Serving Our Seniors.



Want to know what fruits & vegetables are in season?

For a listing of what's in season visit www.ourohio.org and click on What's In Season

Mark Your Calendars!

February 15 | President’s Day Legislative Brunch with Ottawa Co. Farm Bureau

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

February 22 | Membership Check-In Period

7:00 p.m. — St. John’s United Church of Christ, 2712 W. Mason Rd, Milan

March 11 | Family Fun Night with Huron Co. Farm Bureau 5-10 p.m. — Rain Water Park/Cedar Lanes, 1935 Cleveland Rd, Sandusky

*Bring a new paid membership with you and you can attend for free!

March 14 | Membership Check-In Period

7:00 p.m. — At a Location to Be Announced—Call the office for location

March 15 | Scholarship Applications Due!

March 15-17 | County Presidents’ Trip to Washington DC

March 21 | Worker’s Compensation Safety Meet-

ing

7:00 p.m.— Lorain County JVS, 15181 St Rt 58, Oberlin

March 21-27 | National Agriculture Week

‘Continued from Page 1

Community Members– are those interested in local foods, landowner issues and rights, protecting agriculture and preserving Ohio’s farm heritage and lifestyle. Membership brings invitations to educational forums on issues such as taxes and property rights. This level also includes a variety of savings opportunities on everything from insurance to cars to travel and other products and services.

Our Ohio Supporters– are individuals who wish to stay connected to food & farm events and issues without joining as members. The low supporter rate of \$25 includes a subscription to Our Ohio magazine– Farm Bureau’s bi-monthly magazine. Everyone is invited to become part of Farm Bureau by visiting GrowWithFB.org

Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership was held August 26, 2015 at the Berlin Township Conservation Club. Over 70 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 2014 annual meeting were presented as well as financial report for the 2014-2015 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 2016. Policy Development Chair, John Wallrabenstein gave the policy development report and members were asked to vote on proposed policies. *A list of local policies are on page 2, all policies are at www.northcoastfarmbureau.org*

John Wallrabenstein gave the Code of Regulations committee report and then asked members to vote upon the proposed code change to increase Erie County Farm Bureau dues from \$65 to \$75 for a yearly membership. This passed with a unanimous vote. Dues will change effective December 1, 2015.

OFBF Trustee, Al DiVencenzo recapped what Ohio Farm Bureau has done for its members in 2015. Amanda Denes-Diedrick presented awards and thanked every Farm Bureau member who volunteered in any capacity over the past year. She also called the board of trustees members forward and presented them each with a sign. Denny Weilnau was also recognized for his 7 years of service as president of Erie Co. Farm Bureau.

Election results were announced, meeting was adjourned and door prizes were given out. Returning to the county board of trustees were: Marty DeMuth serving in a At-Large position, Marshall Smith for the West District & Becky Colon and Dawn DeMuth for the East District. Winning as delegates to the 2016 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting were board president (who automatically attends), Bruce Thayer and Cindy Thayer. Denny Weilnau then installed Joe Trinter in as president. Thanks to all that attended!

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage

PAID
Elyria, OH

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

The Erie County Farm Bureau Newsletter is distributed to Erie County Farm Bureau members to keep them informed of Farm Bureau issues, events, member benefits and agriculture. With direction from the county board of trustees, the organization supports Ohio farmers and promotes Ohio agriculture.

Executive Board

President:

Joe Trinter - Vermilion

Vice-President:

Marty DeMuth- Vermilion

Secretary:

Dawn DeMuth- Vermilion

Fiscal Reporter:

John Wallrabenstein - Oxford

Board of Trustees

Becky Colon - Berlin Heights

Greg Cumston - Milan

Charles Hummel - Groton

Marshall Smith - Margareta

Cindy Thayer - Berlin Heights

Miriam Tommas - Oxford

Denny Weillnau - Oxford

Open Seat - West District

OFBF Trustees

Al DiVencenzo - District 3

Mike Boyert - Northeast Region

OFBF Staff

Amanda Denes-Diedrick,

Organization Director

Office Staff

Bev Cisar & Mary Wallencheck,
Administrative Assistants

SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WITH BUSINESSES

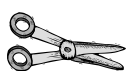
We are getting ready to prepare our 2016 Erie, Huron, & Lorain County Farm Bureau's Member Benefits brochure. This brochure lists businesses that are Farm Bureau members and offer a discount to fellow Farm Bureau members. The brochure is put together by the Farm Bureau office and is then distributed 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 31, 2016 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 #: _____ Email: _____

Discount Offered: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Name Which Membership is Under: _____