

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 Ways to Save</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 10

WHEN: Friday, March 10, 2017

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 10.

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, 2017. 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 Ways to Save

Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is excited about it's new discount program that members can access right from their smartphones or computers. This member exclusive discount program can save members up to 20%, 40%, to even 50% off on many nation-wide chains and even local dining, shopping, and services. Some stores and restaurants participating in your local area are Dairy Queen, Sonic, JCPenny's, Express, Books-A-Million, Sears Auto Center, Cedar Lanes, I-5's Bar And Grill, and many more. Members must have the app or a printed coupon in order to use the discount. Find the My Deals mobile app in the Apple app store or Google Play. You will need your member ID number in order to activate the service.

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 June 27, 2016. 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 below.

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 the creation of a local in-patient facility to deal with drug addiction, substance abuse and mental health issues.

4. We support continued testing by the Erie County Health Department for ecoli/sewage contamination in tributaries to Lake Erie in relationship to harmful algal blooms.

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

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



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 20 | President's Day Legislative Brunch with Ottawa Co. Farm Bureau

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

February 27 | Membership Check-In Period

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

March 10 | 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 13 | Membership Check-In Period

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

March 15 | Scholarship Applications Due!

March 13-15 | County Presidents' Trip to Washington DC

March 20 | Worker's Compensation Safety Meeting

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

'Continued from Page 1

In order to get the computer coupon go to <https://ofbf.org/member-savings-advantage/>. Also don't miss out saving on Rocky Brands and Lehigh Outfitters. This member benefit offers an online shopping discount of 10% or more on over 55 different brands of shoes and boots, and various apparel lines. Plus, FREE SHIPPING and FREE RETURNS on all orders! Brands such as Rocky, Georgia, Justin, Dan Post, Lehigh, Reebok, Timberland Pro, Muck, Dr. Martens, Rockport are all represented. Carhartt clothing, Rocky hunting apparel, slip resistant shoes and waterproof boots are available as well. Check out <https://ofbf.org/savings/rocky-boots-lehigh-outfitters/> for more information on this new member benefit.

Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership was held August 31, 2016 at the Erie County Fairgrounds. Over 70 members, elected officials, board members and guests were in attendance.

Meeting started with President Joe Trinter welcoming everyone, meal was served followed by the business meeting. Minutes from the 2015 annual meeting were presented as well as financial report for the 2015-2016 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 2017. 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*

OFBF Trustee, Al DiVencenzo recapped what Ohio Farm Bureau has done for its members in 2016. 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 token of appreciation.

Election results were announced, meeting was adjourned and door prizes were given out. Returning to the county board of trustees were: Joe Trinter and Cindy Thayer both serving in the East District, Gordon Hahn and Miriam Tommas both serving in the Central District, Charles Hummel for the West District. Winning as delegates to go to the 2017 Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting were board president (who automatically attends), Denny Weilnau and Marty DeMuth. Thanks to all that attended!

**Erie County
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*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 sup-
ports 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

Gordon Hahn- Huron

Charles Hummel- Groton

Marshall Smith- Margaretta

Cindy Thayer- Berlin Heights

Miriam Tommas- Oxford

Denny Weinau-Oxford

QBF Trustees

Al DiVencenzo- District 3

Mike Boyert-Northeast Region

QBF Staff

Amanda Denes-Diedrick,

Organization Director

Office Staff

Bev Cisar & Mary Wallencheck,

Administrative Assistants

SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WITH BUSINESSES

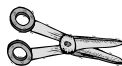
We are getting ready to prepare our 2017 Erie, Huron, & Lorain County Farm Bureau's Member Benefits brochure. This brochure lists businesses that are Farm Bureau members and offer a discount to fellow Farm Bureau members. The brochure is put together by the Farm Bureau office and is then distributed 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, 2017 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: _____