



FARM BUREAU NEWS

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2011 Membership Campaign

Huron County Farm Bureau is having one more membership meeting on Thursday, March 10 at 7 p.m. and we hope you can join us at the Fisher Titus Learning Center at Norwalk High School. We hope you can join us on March 10.

Mike Myer from Monroeville is the membership coordinator for 2011. Other Huron County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees members are helping in the campaign and we hope you will be able to help us by signing one member. Huron County Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that works on the local, state, and national level for the benefit of its members. If you feel the Farm Bureau is a good organization to be a member of then we encourage you to sign up a friend as a member. You can call the office at 1-888-292-6442 or visit <http://ofbf.org/benefits-and-membership/become-a-member/>

Ag Day at the Capitol

Representatives from all 87 county Farm Bureaus attended Ag Day at the Capitol on February 16. They were provided with a priority issues briefing, attended a hot topics session of their choice, had lunch with their state legislators, and attended a rally on the statehouse lawn to help end Ohio's estate tax. If you have concerns about ending Ohio's estate tax please contact Senator Gayle Manning or Representative Terry Boose and let them know. After the rally members were able to attend meetings with their state legislators. *Pictured (from left to right) are Doug Brown, Public Policy Action Team Leader, Senator Gayle Manning, and John Brooks, President.*



Farm Bureau Mission Statement

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

Local Member Benefits in Huron County

Please visit the following Farm Bureau members and ask how you can save money with them: Merri-Land Farm / John Merrilees, Schick Apiary Farm / John Schick, Jake's Radiator, Inc. / Howard Wilde, Photography by Mahl / Carol Mahl, The Stitchey / Curt and Tammy Stang, and Harold's Custom Carts / Harold Abner.

Huron County Nationwide Agents:

Chris McAuley Nationwide Agency
22 E. Main St.
P.O. Box 546
Wakeman, Ohio 44889
440-839-2529

Tom Thompson Nationwide Agency
2660 U.S. Route 224
P.O. Box 177
New Haven, Ohio
419-935-5693

Greg Trent Nationwide Agency
101 E. Main St.
Norwalk, Ohio 44857
419-668-7446 or 800-947-2972



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 you enjoy.

For a listing of local orchards and other markets, log on to www.ourohio.org and click on the Buying Local Directory

2011 Huron County Farm Bureau Policy Set

Huron County Farm Bureau adopted the county, state, and national policies that were set at their county annual meeting in September. Listed below are the policies.

LOCAL/COUNTY

1. We request the removal of limited access signage from the US Route 20 bypass thereby allowing farm machinery to avoid the serious safety risks of other routes through and around Norwalk.

2. We support stiffer penalties for crop and property damage done by four-wheelers. We encourage four-wheeler owners to have written permission to be on property that is not their own.

3. We should oppose the study of the Vermilion River for Scenic River Designation because it infringes on property owner's rights.

4. We do not support unfunded mandates.

5. We recommend State Capital Improvement money and grants be divided more equally amongst the Ohio counties and communities.

6. We continue to support the funding for The Ohio State University Extension.

7. We support an income tax base for school levies with a reduction in real estate taxes.

8. We support the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and oppose animal rights groups such as HSUS, PETA, and MFA.

9. We support better vegetative control along roadways and encourage earlier mowing in the summer, to especially avoid safety risks of impaired vision at intersections and crossings.

STATE

1. We support stiffer penalties for crop and property damage done by four-wheelers. We encourage four-wheeler owners to have written permission to be on property that is not their own.

2. We encourage that any private property being considered taken for public use, the property owners should be notified by registered mail.

3. We recommend State Capital Improvement money and grants be divided more equally amongst the Ohio counties and communities.

4. We encourage drug testing for unemployment and welfare recipients and if the test is positive then they lose that benefit.

5. We do not support the Farm Service Agency dealing with crop insurance.

6. We continue to support the funding for The Ohio State University Extension.

7. We strongly oppose adding any more counties to the OD (organization director);

beyond the four counties that are currently in the state trustee district.

8. We support the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and oppose animal rights groups such as HSUS, PETA, and MFA.

9. We request more local control for Ohio school boards rather than mandates from the State Board of Education.

10. We support random fuel testing in the tanker prior to delivery to prevent Ohio from being a dumping ground for inferior fuels.

11. We request a permanent funding method of funding 911 in Ohio. We strongly suggest extending the wireless surcharge to all technologies accessing 911 lines (i.e. wireless, VOIP, cable, and landline).

12. We support local government NOT regional government.

13. We support the elimination of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERA), and the Federal Transportation Board (FTB). We believe that they have exceeded their statutory authority or refuse responsibility to fulfill their roles in public interest.

14. We request more information for the farmers on government programs such as ACRE and SURE before they are made available.

15. We support removing Ohio from the national health care system.

16. We support the streamlining of the Ohio Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL

1. We oppose any type of cap and trade legislation.

2. We support the elimination of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERA), and the Federal Transportation Board (FTB). We believe that they have exceeded their statutory authority or refuse responsibility to fulfill their roles in public interest.

3. We oppose the EPA livestock emissions standards.

4. We request more information for the farmers on government programs such as ACRE and SURE before they are made available.

5. We support removing Ohio from the national health care system.

If you would like to be involved with the policy development process for 2011 please contact us at huron@ofbf.org or call 1-888-292-6442.

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- **March 10** – 2nd Membership Check-In Meeting at Norwalk High School - 7 p.m.
- **March 15** – National Agriculture Day – Stop by the Farm Bureau office for free food and giveaways.
- **March 18** – Fun Night with Erie County Farm Bureau at Quality Inn & Suites in Sandusky – 5:30 to 10 p.m.
- **March 31** – New Member Dinner at Ag Credit - 6:30 p.m.
- **April 14** – Membership Recognition – Place TBA – 6:30 p.m. – For all volunteers who signed one new or renewal membership
- **June 16** – Policy Development Meeting with elected officials – Location TBA – 7 p.m.
- **July 16** – 4th Annual Appreciation Event at Huron County Fairgrounds – 2 to 7 p.m.

Did You Know that Huron County...

- Ranked 20th in corn production in the state of Ohio in 2009 with an average yield of 175 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 25th in soybean production in the state of Ohio in 2009 with an average yield of 47.5 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 15th in wheat production in the state of Ohio in 2009 with an average of 67 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 29th in alfalfa production in the state of Ohio in 2009?
- Ranked 55th in the number of cattle and calves in 2010 with over 9,000 head?
- Ranked 23rd in the number of milk cows, with over 3,800 head in 2010, and that over 70,000 million pounds of milk was produced from these cows?

The average farm size in Huron County is 282 acres and there were over 770 farms in Huron County in 2009.

March Featured Member Benefit

Each month the Ohio Farm Bureau is featuring a member benefit provider to highlight; for the month of March they will be featuring the Sherwin-Williams member benefit. As an Ohio Farm Bureau member, you're entitled to receive a discount card good for 25 percent off of the regular retail price of any product sold in a Sherwin-Williams company owned paint store. Members need to show a current member ID card to the dealer to qualify. The discount is not valid in conjunction with any other discounts and excludes Duration Exterior Coating, Duration Home, Color to Go, spray equipment and ladders. Visit Sherwin-Williams online at www.sherwin-williams.com

Virtual Farm Tour Video

Huron County Farm Bureau Food and Animal Issues Committee met in January and generated numerous great ideas. One of these ideas was to create a virtual farm tour video. With bio-security weighing heavier on the minds of many livestock farmers and school budgets getting tighter, the committee thought what a great way to get information about agriculture into the classrooms. The committee feels this video will not only be able to be used in classrooms; but also at local civic club meetings, for events where large crowds are present, and anywhere where someone wants to learn the story of agriculture. This video will feature the following types of farmers: dairy, beef, hog, veal, poultry, and possibly aquaculture. We are always looking for interested members to join this committee. If you would like to join the Food and Animal Issues Committee please contact Chris Walcher, chair of the committee, at walcher.chris@gmail.com or contact the Farm Bureau office at 1-888-292-6442. **The next meeting will be March 17 at Ag Credit in Norwalk, located at 735 U.S. Route 20 East starting at 7 p.m.**

Goals for the 2010-2011 Huron County Farm Bureau Year

The Huron County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees set these goals at their Reorganization Meeting in October.

1. Continue to hold the Annual Appreciation Day for Huron County Farm Bureau members.
2. Get more help with the membership campaign which will in turn provide you with more productive workers.
3. Have a presence at the Huron Soil & Water Conservation District Fall Fun Fest which the Huron County Farm Bureau donated \$900.00 towards the event.
4. Work on continued group buys for the farms and businesses in Huron County that would benefit from them.
5. Provide "Farm Facts" packets to local teachers.
6. Continue to be at the Huron County Chamber of Commerce Home and Business Show.
7. Get involved with activities for the benefit of young adults.
8. Improve attendance at the 2011 Huron County Annual Meeting from 2010.
9. Provide the local FFA banquets with information on Farm Bureau.
10. Work on public relations with the non-farm community; possibly hold a Business After Hours.
11. Provide our members with a newsletter at least twice a year.

Log onto www.northcoastfarmbureau.org to find more information about the Huron County Farm Bureau.

Huron County Farm Bureau

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The Huron County Farm Bureau Newsletter is distributed to Huron 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

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Vice President:

Rich Smith, Norwich

Secretary:

Chris Walcher, North Fairfield

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