

FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Ag Day at the Capitol

Representatives from all 87 county Farm Bureaus attended Ag Day at the Capitol that was held February 15. They were provided with a priority issues briefing, attended a breakout session of their choice and visited with their state legislators. Session topics included CAUV, energy, the 2012 Farm Bill, water quality and nutrient management and Election Outlook 2012.



Pictured (from left to right) are State Senator Gayle Manning (R– North Ridgeville), Doug Brown, public policy action team leader, Elaine Conger, president and State Representative Terry Boose (R– Norwalk).

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.



Land as Your Legacy: It's your land. You should choose who inherits it!

You're invited to a *Land as Your Legacy*, sponsored by Huron County Farm Bureau and Trent Insurance, March 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Eagles Club.

Nationwide Insurance is an agricultural company that has farming and Farm Bureau deep in its DNA. It began as Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, started by Ohio Farm Bureau in 1926. Its name changed to Nationwide in 1955, reflecting the growth goals of the company at that time. Today, Nationwide Agribusiness is the #1 farm insurer, and nine of the 15 Nationwide board of directors are farmers themselves. These board members recognize the aging population of farm owners and managers. Accordingly, an initiative was created to use the intellectual assets at Nationwide to assist farmers through transition, retirement and estate planning. Farmers realize the need to address these issues, but typically are unsure where to start or who to ask for help. Eric Brown, financial advisor with the Trent Insurance Group and local farmer, works with the Advanced Consulting Group within Nationwide. Brown uses a team approach to create a plan to efficiently and effectively manage the farmer's financial situation. Extra attention given to the special circumstances created when wanting the farm to remain owned and operated by the family.

Join Eric Brown and Don Schreiber, director of Advanced Markets/Wealth Estate Planning from Nationwide's Advanced Consulting Group for the *Land as Your Legacy* program to learn more. **Please RSVP by March 22 to Stephanie at 419-663-3892.**

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, visit www.ourohio.org and click on the Buying Local Directory

Huron County Farm Bureau Policy Process

Huron 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. Huron County Farm Bureau met with numerous elected officials on June 16, 2011. 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 Huron County Farm Bureau prior to the annual meeting to review.

The 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 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.

Huron 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 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 local government and not regional government (ie. township trustees).
3. We support traffic lights and lighting at the intersection of U.S. Route 250 and U.S. Route 20.

4. 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.
5. We do not support unfunded mandates.
6. We recommend state capital improvement money and grants be divided more equally amongst the Ohio counties and communities.
7. We continue to support the funding for Ohio State University Extension.
8. We support an income tax base for school levies with a reduction in real estate taxes.
9. We support the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board and oppose animal rights groups such as HSUS, PETA, and MFA.
10. 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.

If you feel there is anything that the county Farm Bureau should be working on then contact a member of the board of trustees.

Ohio Department of Transportation U.S. Route 20 Bypass Public Meeting— March 15

**5 p.m. to 8 p.m.— Norwalk High
School, Room TBA**

Huron County Farm Bureau has been working to allow farm machinery on the U.S. Route 20 Bypass for 14 years. Exhibits of different options will be on display. Alternatives will be presented and information will be available.

Mark Your Calendars!

March 15 | Ohio Department of Transportation– U.S. Route 20 Bypass Public Meeting

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.– Norwalk High School, Room TBA

March 22 | CAUV Informational Meeting

7 p.m. — South Central High School Gym, Greenwich

March 24 | Fun Night with Erie County Farm Bureau

7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. — Ernsthausen Rec Center, Norwalk

Reservations are required to county office

March 29 | Land as Your Legacy Meeting

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. — Eagles Club, Norwalk

Reservations are required to 419-663-3892

April 9 | Membership Recognition Dinner

6:30 p.m. — Berardi's, Norwalk

For all volunteers who sign one or more member

June 21 | Policy Development Meeting with elected officials 7 p.m. — Place TBA

July 2 | Animals for Life request for proposals due

July 21 | 5th Annual Appreciation Day

3 p.m. to 7 p.m. — Huron County Fairgrounds Vets Pavilion, Norwalk

Sept. 13 | Huron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

7 p.m. — St. Alphonus Church, Norwalk

Did You Know that Huron County...

- Ranked 21st in corn production in Ohio in 2010 with an average yield of 156.6 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 19th in soybean production in Ohio in 2010 with an average yield of 48.5 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 7th in wheat production in Ohio in 2010 with an average of 70.9 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 34th in alfalfa production in Ohio in 2010?
- Ranked 58th in Ohio in the number of cattle and calves in 2010 with over 7,700 head?
- Ranked 24th in Ohio in the number of milk cows, with over 3,500 head in 2010, which produced 71,400 million pounds of milk sold? The average farm size in Huron County is 281 acres and there were more than 770 farms in Huron County in 2010.

*Data acquired from the 2010 Annual Report from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Report can be viewed at 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 2.

Fun Night with Erie County Farm Bureau

Fun Night with Erie County Farm Bureau will be March 24 at Ernsthausen Rec Center in Norwalk. Night will start with pizza, pop and ice cream in the community room at 7:30 p.m.. Members and their guests will then be able to use the facility from 8-11 p.m. Cost for members is \$7.50/person, nonmembers is \$15.00/person and children 2 & under are free.

Fifth Annual Appreciation Day

Huron County Farm Bureau will sponsor the Fifth Annual Appreciation Day **Saturday, July 21** at the Huron County Fairgrounds Veterans Pavilion. The day will start at 3 p.m. and end at 7 p.m. Bratwursts, burgers, salads, desserts and beverages will be served.

We hope that you will join fellow Farm Bureau members for a good time. Learn about all of Farm Bureau's benefits and how to get the most out of your Farm Bureau membership. A representative from Grainger will also be at the appreciation. Be sure to be there so you can take advantage of the 10% discount on catalog items and free freight. We will also have \$2,500 Reward signs and you can purchase your annual meeting ticket for September 13.

Look for your invitation in the mail closer to the event and be sure to RSVP with the county office.

Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV)

Informational Meeting

Thursday

March 22, 2012

7 p.m.

South Central High School Gym

3305 Greenwich Angling Road

Greenwich, 44837

Ohio requires a re-evaluation of all real estate property and all soil types every six years. This process is currently taking place in Huron County. In late 2012, new valuations for the 2013 real estate tax billing will be received.

We are holding a meeting to discuss the value changes for CAUV soils, which will affect properties in Huron County. Roland Tkach, Huron County Auditor, Larry Gearhardt, director of local affairs for Ohio Farm Bureau and Richard Hoffman of Appraisal Research Corporation will be explaining CAUV and the changes in soil rates that will affect every CAUV recipient in Huron County. Questions will be taken after the presentation.

For more information, call the Huron County Auditor's office at 419-668-4304, visit www.huroncountyauditor.org or email hcrea@hmcld.net.

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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.

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