

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.



Huron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Huron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership was held on September 10, 2013 at Collins United Methodist Church. Over 70 members, elected officials, board members and guests were in attendance.

Meeting started with President Elaine Conger welcoming everyone, meal was served followed by Don Sweeting auctioning off an advisory council quilt from the 1980's. Winning bid went to John & Bev Brooks for \$775.00. This money will be used for scholarships and teacher's grants. Then the business meeting started. 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. John Brooks 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, Doug Brown gave the policy development report and again members were asked to vote on proposed policies. *A list of local policies is on page 2, all policies are at www.northcoastfarmbureau.org*

The 2013 scholarship recipients were introduced: Erin Kramer; daughter of Jim & Sue Kramer, Brandon Sparks; son of Brad & Becky Sparks, Daren Mull; son of Jim & Donna Mull were all recipients of an agricultural scholarship. Eric Leber; son of Fred & Theresa Leber was a recipient of a continuing education scholarship.

OFBF Trustee, Sparky Weilnau gave a brief report. Organization Director, Amanda Denes presented a few awards and thanked every Farm Bureau member who volunteered in any capacity over the past year.

Adam Sharp who serves as the Vice President of Public Policy at Ohio Farm Bureau served as speaker for the evening giving some political insight and reviewing how Farm Bureau has been involved in different issues during the past year. After this election results were announced, meeting was adjourned and door prizes were awarded. Thanks to all that attended!

Pictured are board members, Adam Sharp and Sparky Weilnau.



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 20, 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 Huron 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 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

1. We request the removal of limited access signage from the U.S. 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 re-

gional government (ie. township trustees) with 2008 local government funding levels restored.

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 The 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.
11. We support keeping the title office and license bureau in the same building (on south side of Norwalk) located in a county owned building.
12. We encourage all livestock farmers to utilize BMP's (Best Management Practices) for animal waste.
13. We encourage state and county highway departments and township trustees to pertain to safety at all intersection (in regards to trees and weeds).

Scholarships & Teacher's Grants Available

SCHOLARSHIPS: Huron County Farm Bureau offers scholarships for both high school seniors and continuing education students which include: an Agricultural \$500 Scholarship for graduating high school seniors and a Continuing Education \$500 Agricultural Scholarship. Applications are available by calling Huron County Farm Bureau at 888-292-6442 or visiting: www.northcoastfarmbureau.org and clicking on 'Scholarships & Grants'. Each guidance counselor and FFA advisor have applications. Multiple scholarships are awarded each year. **Scholarship applications are due by March 15, 2014.**

TEACHER'S AGRICULTURE GRANTS: Teacher's agriculture grants are available for the teaching of agriculturally related subjects. **Applications are on our website and are due by March 15, 2014.**

Mark Your Calendars!

February 12 | Membership Check-in

7 p.m. — Berry's Restaurant— 15 W. Main St., Norwalk

February 22 | Huron County Chamber of Commerce Home & Business Show

10 a.m.— 4 p.m.—Norwalk Middle School— 64 Christie Ave., Norwalk *free admission

February 27 | Membership Check-in

7 p.m. — Ag Credit, 735 US Route 20 E., Norwalk

March 13 | Membership Check-In

7 p.m. — D&D Smith Winery, 401 W. Main St., Norwalk

March 14 | Family Fun Night with Erie 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 31 | Membership Recognition Dinner

6:30 p.m. — Location TBA

For all volunteers who sign one new or renewal member

June 19 | Policy Development Meeting with elected officials 7 p.m. — Place TBA

Did You Know that Huron County...

- Ranked 14th in corn production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 143.5 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 22nd in soybean production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 44.9 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 20th in wheat production in Ohio in 2012 with an average of 63.7 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 11th in alfalfa production in Ohio in 2012?
- Ranked 58th in Ohio in the number of cattle and calves in 2012 with over 7,700 head?
- Ranked 24th in Ohio in the number of milk cows, with over 3,400 head in 2012?
- The average farm size in Huron County is 281 acres and there were more than 770 farms in Huron County in 2012.

*Data acquired from the 2012 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 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.



Huron County Farm Tour

Huron County Farm Bureau planned and held a farm tour on September 14, 2013. The tour featured four different farms that you could stop at. Stop 1 was Oney's Milkyway Farm near Greenwich, Stop 2 was Doug Walcher Farms on State Route 162, Stop 3 was Whispering Rain Horse Farm on Ridge Road near Norwalk and Stop 4 was LeeHaven on Laylin Road near Norwalk; owner Leon Hoernschemeyer raises Texas Longhorn cattle.

If you attended or helped with the farm tour thank you very much!

Positive comments were received from participants and Huron County Farm Bureau will be planning a farm tour for 2014. Watch for more information coming in 2014!



Huron County Farm Bureau

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North Royalton, OH
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Phone: 888-292-6442
E-mail: huron@ofbf.org
www.northcoastfarmbureau.org

*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

President:

Elaine Conger—Greenfield

Vice President :

Jason Nuhfer—Richmond

Secretary:

Dave Kamm—Hartland

Board of Trustees

Heidi Benich—New Haven

John Brooks—Peru

Doug Brown—Bronson

Chris Hilaman—Wakeman

Will Lewis—Peru

John Liles—Townsend

Bill Ommert—Norwalk

Jeremy Sherman—New Haven

OFBF Trustee

Sparky Weilnau - Milan

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: Huron 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.

Cut here -----Cut here

Business Name:

Contact Person:

Address:

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Discount Offered: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Name Which Membership is Under: _____