

FARM BUREAU NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>Local Policies</i>	2
<i>Farm Lending Seminar</i>	2
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	3
<i>Requests for Proposals</i>	3
<i>Scholarships & Grants</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.



Lorain County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Lorain County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership in conjunction with Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District was held on September 5, 2013 at New Russia Township Hall. Over 120 members, elected officials, board members and guests were in attendance. This served as the fifth year that Lorain County Farm Bureau and Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District have jointly held their annual meeting together.

Meeting started with Lorain County Farm Bureau President Ron Pickworth and Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District Chairman John Born welcoming everyone, meal was served then the business meeting started. Minutes from the 2012 annual meeting were presented as well as financial report for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Policy Development Chair Russ Breyley gave the policy development report and members were asked to vote on proposed policies. *A list of local policies is on page 2, all policies are at www.northcoastfarmbureau.org*

Barb Ziegler gave the scholarship committee report; the 2013 scholarship recipients for Farm Bureau were introduced: Emily Edwards received the \$500 general scholarship, Jake Dovin received the \$1,000 agricultural scholarship, and both Kyle Canfield and Mara Gordon received a \$1,000 continuing education scholarship.

OFBF Trustee, Sparky Weilnau gave a brief report recapping what Ohio Farm Bureau has done for it's members in 2013. Organization Director, Amanda Denes presented a few awards and thanked every Farm Bureau member who volunteered in any capacity over the past year.

Peter Ballerstedt who serves as Forage Product Manager for Barenburg USA served as speaker for the evening highlighting human diet and health. What he's learned doesn't agree with low-fat-is-health dietary advice we've been given for more than 30 years. This understanding, combined with his forage background, has given him an interest in truly sustainable forage-based animal production systems.

After this election results were announced, meeting was adjourned and door prizes were awarded. Thanks to all that attended!

Pictured are Barb Ziegler with Mara Gordon (left picture) and speaker Peter Ballerstedt (right picture).



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 Buying Local

Lorain County Farm Bureau Policy Process

Lorain 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. Lorain County Farm Bureau met with numerous elected officials on July 15, 2013 at their annual Pork Chop Dinner. Both elected officials and Farm Bureau members were present for the meeting. Great discussion was had and everyone in attendance left 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 Lorain 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.

Lorain 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. Should Lorain County Farm Bureau support a change in the structure of the county govern-

ment that would better represent the overall diversity of the county? YES

2. We encourage Farm Bureau members to take advantage of higher education in Lorain County.

3. Lorain County Farm Bureau congratulates Lorain County Community College on 50 years of providing higher education to the citizens of Lorain County.

4. We support that storm water assessment dollars must be spent on projects within the political jurisdiction that they are collected in.

5. We oppose an increase in the storm water assessment.

6. We encourage the use of rumble strips and/or LED lighted stop signs at dangerous intersections.

7. We support increasing the minimum amount of insurance coverage for auto insurance.

8. We support restoration of local government funds.

9. We encourage Lorain County Commissioners to use monies gained through the casino revenues to fund Lorain County's Ohio State University Extension and 4-H programs and Lorain Soil & Water Conservation District.

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

Farm Lending Seminar

Lorain County Farm Bureau in cooperation with the Denny Bauer Nationwide Agency will be teaming up to host a Farm Lending Seminar on Wednesday, March 5. The seminar will help you learn about lending programs that can help you expand your farm business. Guest speakers will include Kurt Leber; USDA Farm Loan Officer and Stacey Dvorak; Ag Credit Account Officer. This information can make a huge difference for you in 2014!

The Farm Lending Seminar will be held at Fort's Old Town Tavern, 122 W. Herrick Ave., Wellington on March 5 at 7 pm. All we ask if that you **RSVP to 1-866-859-2415 or lorain@ofbf.org by February 26.**

Mark Your Calendars!

February 17 | President's Day Legislative Brunch with Huron County Farm Bureau

9 a.m. — Wellington Reservation – 535 Jones Rd.,
Wellington— *Please RSVP to office by Feb. 13*

February 26 | Membership Check-In

7 p.m.— Ziggy's Pub & Restaurant— 193 Park Ave.,
Amherst

March 5 | Farm Lending Seminar

7 p.m. — Fort's Old Town Tavern— 122 W. Herrick
Ave., Wellington— *Please RSVP to office by Feb. 28*

March 12 | Membership Check-In

7 p.m. — Bread-n-Brew – 100 S. Main St., Wellington

March 17 | Worker's Compensation Safety Meeting

7 p.m. — Lorain County JVS, Oberlin

March 24-28 | National Agriculture Week

March 31 | Scholarship Applications Due!

March 31 | Membership Recognition Dinner

6:30 p.m. — Location TBA

For all volunteers who sign one new or renewal member

Did You Know that Lorain County...

- Ranked 43rd in corn production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 152.3 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 36th in soybean production in Ohio in 2012 with an average yield of 48.4 bushels per acre?
- Ranked 5th in alfalfa production in Ohio in 2012?
- Ranked 37th in Ohio in the number of cattle and calves in 2012 with over 11,600 head?
- Ranked 17th in Ohio in the number of milk cows, with over 4,600 head in 2012?
- The average farm size in Lorain County is 139 acres and there were more than 840 farms in Lorain 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.

Lorain County Fall Farm Tour

Lorain County Farm Bureau's Fall Farm Tour will be held on September 27, 2014. This annual fall farm tour is traditionally held on the fourth Saturday of September. Fall farm tour locations are yet to be determined but if your farm is interested or you would like to nominate a farm please email lorain@ofbf.org or call the county office with suggestions.

Scholarships & Ag Awareness Grants Available

SCHOLARSHIPS: Lorain County Farm Bureau offers scholarships for both high school seniors and continuing education students which include: a General \$500 Scholarship for graduating high school seniors, an Agricultural \$1,000 Scholarship for graduating high school seniors and Continuing Education \$1,000 Agricultural Scholarships. Applications are available by calling Lorain County Farm Bureau at 1-866-859-2415 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 31, 2014.**

AG AWARENESS GRANTS: Ag Awareness Grants for both classroom and non-classroom uses are available. **Applications are due twice a year: January 31 and June 30.** Visit our website for an application, call the office or email lorain@ofbf.org

Lorain County Farm Bureau

8460 Ridge Rd.
North Royalton, OH
44133

Phone: 866-859-2415
E-mail: lorain@ofbf.org
www.northcoastfarmbureau.org

The Lorain County Farm Bureau newsletter is distributed to Lorain 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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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: Lorain 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: _____