

FARM BUREAU NEWS



SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WITH BUSINESSES

We are preparing our 2010 Erie, Huron, and 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 FB 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 are a Farm Bureau member (or your business is a member), you offer a discount of some type to Farm Bureau members, and your current membership dues payment of \$60 is enclosed with the form below. If you have already paid your membership dues, then simply note that on the form.

Please fill out the form below and mail back to the FB Office by January 30th to be included in the brochure. Mail to: Erie County Farm Bureau, 530 S. Main St., Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

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Farm Bureau Mission Statement

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



Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Discount Offered: _____

Name That Membership Is In: _____

Please only fill out the above slip if you would like to advertise in our tri-county member benefits brochure. Thank you!

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 that you enjoy.

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

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING

A big thank you goes out to everyone who filled out an involvement survey at the Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. These people agreed to help out with a future Farm Bureau activity. Thank you to the following people: Neill and Diana Welch, Alvina and John Schaeffer, Evelyn Johns, Phillip Grech, Ed Enderle, Bruce and Cindy Thayer, Elnora Sargeant, Don Tommas, Bobbie Hummel, and Jeff Belmont. Thank you again for volunteering at the annual meeting.

The Erie County Farm Bureau would also like to thank Luetta Prout for all of her work with the 'Vote Yes for Issue 2' postcards. Thanks Luetta!

FUTURE FARM BUREAU PROGRAMS, WE NEED HELP!

Your Erie County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees has adopted a very aggressive and greatly expanded Plan of Work for 2010. Listed below are suggested activities for the Communications Action Team, Organization Action Team, Public Policy Action Team, and the newly organized Food & Animal Issues Action Team. Please let us know if you would be willing to help with any of these: **Communications:** 1.) Hold a successful membership campaign – both active and overall gain, 2.) Award scholarships to high school students and continuing agriculture students, 3.) Sponsor an agriculturally-related activity at the Erie County Fair, 4.) Involve Huron and Lorain Counties in a tri-county fun event, 5.) Farm Tour in the summer or fall. **Organization:** 1.) Plan a successful annual meeting possibly a hog roast, 2.) Provide for a self-audit and budget for 2010-2011, 3.) Promotions for Nationwide Agents and staff, 4.) Organize a workers compensation and safety meeting. **Public Policy:** 1.) Improve contact with advisory councils, 2.) Hold a legislative breakfast with state and national representatives with Ottawa County, 3.) Attend Ag Day at the Capital, 4.) Hold a policy development meeting. **Food & Animal Issues:** 1.) Set up a table at local Farmer's Markets, 2.) Get involved with Senior Food Programs, 3.) Promote Food Check-Out Day with a table at local grocery stores, 4.) Earth Day events at BGSU Firelands.

****We are enclosing a survey for your interests and communication. The survey is on the last page of this newsletter. Please return to the FB Office at 530 S. Main St., Oberlin, OH 44074 or by e-mail to erie@ofbf.org**

2010 Membership Campaign

The Erie County Farm Bureau is moving toward a seasonal approach to our membership campaign in order to allow volunteers to contribute in ways that best suit their schedule, interests, and talents. Volunteers won't just be focusing on the winter months as they have done traditionally: With a seasonal approach, volunteers can have more flexibility to find a timeframe for involvement that works for them. The winter season will run from December to March, spring will be from April to May, summer season will be from June to August and the fall season will be from September to November. Farm Bureau believes that more volunteers will be able to become involved on their own terms with a beginning and an end to the season. Hopefully you will help us, by getting involved. Now is the time!

Communications Report

In the past year, the Communications Action Team has co-sponsored the COSI activities for Kids Day at the Erie County Fair with the Erie Soil & Water Conservation District. The Communications Team also sponsored three youth to attend the youth leadership camps that Ohio Farm Bureau has. This year we also held our 1st annual new member event at Paper Moon Vineyards in Vermilion.

The Erie County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees have been active in local, state and national meetings representing Erie County at all levels of government.

In 2010, we are hoping to get an Erie County Farm Tour established to showcase the agriculture in Erie County.

The Erie, Huron, and Lorain County Farm Bureau's website: www.northcoastfarmbureau.org has recently had a makeover. Please visit our new website and let us know what you think. While you are surfing the web, check out the newly redesigned Ohio Farm Bureau website at www.ofbf.org.

OHIO FARM BUREAU 2010 Alaska Cruise



STUNNING GLACIERS - CHARMING FRONTIER PORTS - BREATHTAKING WILDLIFE

June 19-26, 2010 from \$849 a person
**Experience the Thrill of an
 Alaska Vacation on the
 Diamond Princess® Sailing
 Northbound from Vancouver
 to Anchorage**

See all the best of Alaska by land and by sea with Princess Cruises, as we show you the towering glaciers, unspoiled wilderness, spectacular wildlife and charming ports of the Great Land.
www.farmbureaucruise.com or call the Farm Bureau Office for more information.

START AN ADVISORY COUNCIL!

Advisory councils discuss current topics of interest in agriculture and then provide their feedback back to the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. Advisory councils have been around for numerous years. Ed Enderle and Jeff Belmont are interested in starting a new advisory council in their area. They both live near Huron. Anyone interested in joining them, please contact either Ed or Jeff or call the Farm Bureau office. One of our goals for 2010 is to work more with the advisory councils. Maybe your council would like to sponsor a new council in your area and help them get started this year.

****President Dennis Weilnau would like to visit your advisory council meetings. Please call him at 419-499-4910 to let him know when your meeting is.****

Erie County Farm Bureau Scholarship Winner

Erie County Farm Bureau was happy to award Tyler Bouy, son of John and Amy Bouy, with a \$1,000 Farm Bureau Scholarship. Tyler is a 2009 graduate of Perkins High School and the EHOVE Career Center. Tyler plans to attend The Ohio State University's Agricultural Technical Institute to study agronomy. He has helped on his family farm for most of his life and has therefore developed an interest in agronomy. Tyler states that, "I think the future of agriculture is good and I would like to be a part of that future. Also, what I learn in college I will be able to bring back to the farm. Farming is not the same as when my grandfather and father started. It is much more technical and I can bring the knowledge I gain back to our farm."

Congratulations and best of luck in college Tyler! **Scholarship applications for 2010 are available on our website at www.northcoastfarmbureau.org and are due to the Farm Bureau office by March 15th, 2010.**

Erie County Farm Bureau

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Oberlin, OH 44074
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www.northcoastfarmbureau.org

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 supports Ohio farmers and promotes Ohio agriculture.

Executive Board

President:
Dennis Weilnau – Oxford
Vice-President:
Cindy Thayer – Berlin Hts.
Secretary:
Becky Dickerson – Berlin Hts.
Fiscal Reporter:
John Wallrabenstein – Oxford

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Jeff Belmont – Huron
Greg Cumston – Milan
Mike Gastier – Oxford
John Hartman – Berlin Hts.
Charles Hummel – Sandusky
Chris Schaeffer – Castalia
Marshall Smith – Margaretta
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Office Staff

Amanda Denes,
Organization Director
Karen Sfero,
Administrative Assistant

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You could be receiving this newsletter even if your membership isn't paid, please call the Farm Bureau office to make sure your membership is currently paid.

MEMBER SURVEY

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Please list your suggestions on what you feel your Farm Bureau Board of Trustees should plan or conduct in the future:

Should we host a fall farm tour in Erie County? Circle: Yes or No

Please list possible farms that could be stops on the tour:

Our membership campaign will become smaller with more definite time periods. We will have a seasonal approach with winter, spring, summer, and fall campaigns. Please indicate how you would like to become involved. (from the list below) Circle:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-renewal phone calls | <input type="checkbox"/> Door to door sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attending kick-off rally | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteering to help at events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist with new member event | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve as chairperson for a season |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with membership for: winter spring summer or fall season | |

Please list any person's name, address, and phone number that you think should be a Farm Bureau member.

Please return to the Erie County Farm Bureau at 530 S. Main St, Oberlin, OH 44074 or by e-mail to erie@ofbf.org