

FARM BUREAU NEWS



Erie Co. FB Annual Meeting Held September 8th

The Erie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting of Membership was held on September 8, 2010 at the Erie County Conservation League. Over 90 members, elected officials, board members, and guests were in attendance. The evening started with a candidate's reception sponsored by the Erie County Farm Bureau. Elected officials and people running for political office socialized with Farm Bureau members and enjoyed the appetizers and punch.

The meeting started at 7 p.m. with President Denny Weilnau welcoming everyone. The meal was served followed by the business meeting. Introductions were made, minutes from the 2009 annual meeting were presented as was the financial report for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Both the minutes and financial report were approved. The nominating committee chairman Duane Stotz gave the report for his committee and then active members were allowed to vote. The policy development chairman John Wallrabenstein gave the policy development report and again active members were allowed to vote. All policies presented at the annual meeting were accepted. *For a list of these policies please contact the Farm Bureau Office at 888-216-5487 or view them on our website at www.northcoastfarmbureau.org*

The 2010 scholarship recipients were introduced: Emily Schaeffer, daughter of Michael and Carolyn Schaeffer, Jacob Otto, son of Jake Otto and Cindy Myers, and Joseph Trinter, son of Charlie and Barb Trinter.

State Trustee Sparky Weilnau gave a brief report. This was followed by Organization Director Amanda Denes presenting a few awards.

Children's book author, Stacey Gabel and illustrator, Richard Newman were the speakers for the evening. Stacey and Richard talked about the books they have worked on together to create. The evening concluded with the board members giving away several door prizes. If you were in attendance thank you for coming. If you weren't, we hope to see you next year or before then!



*Pictured to the left:
Annual Meeting Speakers;
Stacey Gabel and
Richard Newman*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Farm Tour Held</i>	2
<i>YAP Leadership Experience</i>	2
<i>Membership Campaign</i>	3
<i>Mark Your Calendars</i>	3
<i>Scholarships</i>	3
<i>Books & Potatoes</i>	3
<i>Benefits Brochure</i>	4

Farm Bureau Mission Statement

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



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.

ERIE COUNTY FARM BUREAU FARM TOUR

The Erie County Farm Bureau held an Erie County Farm Tour on October 10, 2010. The following farms were stops on the farm tour: Meadow Brook Farm, John and Kay Hartman, Willoway Nurseries, and Quarry Hill Orchard and Winery. Meadow Brook Farm, located on Mason Road near Berlin Heights, featured their angus beef cattle and talked about the care they provide to them. Willoway Nurseries offered tours of their greenhouse facility located on U.S. Route 6. Ag Credit gave away cookies and drinks to everyone at this stop. While Quarry Hill Orchard offered a wide variety of items at their farm market. K 96.1 also did a live radio broadcast from Quarry Hill Orchard. All in all the weather was fantastic and all of the farm tour visitors seemed to enjoy their time while on the tour. The Erie County Farm Bureau looks forward to holding a farm tour again in 2011.

YOUNG AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 11-12, 2011

The annual Young Agricultural Professionals Leadership Experience will be held March 11-12, 2011 at the Marriott NW in Columbus. This conference is geared for young farmers between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. The cost of the conference is \$150/person and the registration deadline is February 21. The Erie County Farm Bureau usually pays for \$120 of the \$150 registration cost. Making the actual cost to you only \$30. The conference starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11 and concludes at 4:45 p.m. on Saturday, March 12. Workshops included are Farm Bureau 101, Cooking Fresh from Your Garden, Making Change Easier to Digest, Starting Your Own Home Business, Livestock Care Standards Board Update, and Bridging the Generation Gap. Look for more information to follow in the mail.



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 to www.ourohio.org and click on the Buying Local Directory

2011 Membership Campaign

The Erie County Farm Bureau is seeking interested members and non-members to be involved with the 2011 Volunteer Membership Campaign. We will be having our Membership Kick-Off on January 26, 2011 at Edison High School at 7 p.m. Keith Stimpert, vice president for the Public Policy Department at Ohio Farm Bureau, will be our featured guest speaker. We will also be highlighting our other member benefits. We encourage all current and potential Farm Bureau members to join us on January 26. If you are interested in attending; look for your invitation to arrive by mail at the beginning of January. If you have any questions feel free to call the Farm Bureau office at 888-216-5487. Jeff Belmont, membership coordinator, welcomes any and all interested members and non-members to join us at our Kick-Off on January 26. If you come and bring a non-member with you, you will receive a special gift. We are looking forward to seeing you on January 26!

Mark Your Calendars!

Mark your calendars for the following events:

- January 26 – Membership Kick-Off Meeting at Edison High School at 7 p.m.
- February 21 – President’s Day Legislative Brunch with Ottawa County Farm Bureau – Place and time to be determined.
- March 11-12 – Young Agricultural Professionals Leadership Experience at the Marriott NW in Columbus
*See article to the left for more information and look for a future mailing from the Erie County Farm Bureau.
- March 15 – Scholarship Applications Due to the Farm Bureau office
- March 18 - Fun Night with Huron County Farm Bureau – Look for your invitation in the mail.
- March 20 – National Agriculture Day

Scholarships and Teacher Grants Offered

SCHOLARSHIPS: The Erie County Farm Bureau offers scholarships for both high school seniors and continuing education students.

Scholarships that the Farm Bureau offer include: a \$750 High School General Scholarship, a \$750 High School Ag-Related Scholarship, and a \$1,000 Agricultural Continuing Education Scholarship. Applications are available by calling the Erie County Farm Bureau office at 888-216-5487 or visiting their website: www.northcoastfarmbureau.org and clicking on “Scholarships and Grants.” Each guidance counselor and FFA advisor have copies of both of the high school scholarships. Multiple scholarships are awarded each year.

The scholarships are due by March 15, 2011. To inquire about the scholarship program, call the Erie County Farm Bureau office or make a request via email at erie@ofbf.org. We look forward to receiving your application.

Promotion and Education Committee Donates Books

The Promotion & Education Committee has recently donated the following agriculturally related books to five local libraries; Milan Public Library, Huron Public Library, Vermilion Public Library, Sandusky Public Library, and Berlin Heights Public Library. The books include: The New Blue Tractor, It’s Time to Combine and The Bulldozers Dig a Pond. These three books were all written by Stacey Gabel and illustrated by Richard Newman. Pigs: An A to Z Book and Pigs & Pork in the Story of Agriculture both written by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggie were donated to nine local school libraries.

Erie County Farm Bureau Digs Potatoes

Members of the Erie County Farm Bureau are working to fight hunger in Erie County through the Ohio Farm Bureau *Farmers Feed Our Needs* campaign. Recently Erie County Farm Bureau Board of Trustees members and their families gathered bright and early on a Saturday morning in Milan Township. They met to help in digging and picking up over 1,500 pounds of potatoes. These potatoes were grown on Tender Shoot Farm by Dave Weilnau, an Erie County Farm Bureau Member. The potatoes were then washed and donated to Victory Kitchen and Care and Share of Erie County in Sandusky. The potatoes will be used to provide food for many hungry people in Erie County.



SEEKING FARM BUREAU MEMBERS WITH BUSINESSES

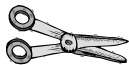
We are getting ready to prepare our 2011 Erie, Huron, and Lorain County Farm Bureaus Member Benefits Brochure. This brochure lists businesses that are Farm Bureau members and offer a discount to fellow Farm Bureau members. The brochure is put together by the Farm Bureau office and is then distributed 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 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. **You must offer a discount to be included in this brochure.**

Please fill out the form below and mail back to the Farm Bureau office, along with your membership dues of \$60, by December 31st to be included in the brochure.

Mail to: Erie County Farm Bureau, 530 S. Main St., Oberlin, OH 44074

**If you have already paid your current membership dues, please note that and we will contact you if our records indicate differently.*



Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Discount Offered: _____

Website (if applicable): _____

Name Which Membership is Under: _____

Erie County Farm Bureau

530 S. Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

Phone: 440-774-2211 or
888-216-5487

Fax: 440-775-2921

E-mail: erie@offb.org

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

Board of Trustees

Jeff Belmont - Huron
Greg Cumston - Milan
Mike Gastier - Oxford
John Hartman - Berlin Hts.
Charles Hummel - Sandusky
Chris Schaeffer - Castalia
Marshall Smith - Margaretta
Miriam Tommas - Oxford

Office Staff

Amanda Denes,
Organization Director

Andrea Roberts,
Administrative Assistant

Current Resident or:
Name
Street
Oberlin, Ohio 44074

Erie County Farm Bureau
530 S. Main Street
Oberlin, OH 44074

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oberlin, OH
Permit #117