



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

OFBF Advocacy in Action Report July 19th, 2024

State Updates:

Water Quality- As Ohioans throughout the state are discussing water quality and developments in the work being done for such, Jordan Hoewischer with the Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio farmer Jeff Duling talk about the steps Ohio farmers are taking right now to help protect our water. Video here -

<https://www.wtol.com/video/news/local/protecting-our-water/farming-water-quality-and-whats-bei-ng-done-protecting-our-water/512-4300cc9a-5b9f-4ce3-be67-c9754ef62587>

Mr. Hoewischer was also recently on the Illinois Farm Bureau podcast, Taking Stalk.

Ep. 6 - Clean water, healthy soil: Conservation practices in the Corn Belt

What drives Illinois and Ohio farmers to implement conservation practices? IFB Vice President Evan Hultine makes his pod debut to talk with Jordan Hoewischer, Ohio Farm Bureau director of water quality and research, about the H2Ohio program and other incentives for farm-level nutrient management strategies.

<https://www.spreaker.com/episode/ep-6-clean-water-healthy-soil-conservation-practices-in-the-c-orn-belt--60676312>

AGGPAC -Ohio Farm Bureau members throughout the state completed the open seat screening and incumbent review process for their state and congressional representatives. Candidates who were designated a Friend of Agriculture will have the opportunity to be recognized at local events from now until the election. Ohio Farm Bureau members will have the opportunity to view the entire list of farm-friendly candidates, along with information about the Friend of Agriculture Ohio Supreme Court candidates, in the September/October Our Ohio, where the 2024 OFBF AGGPAC Election Guide will be published.

Members are also encouraged to attend the special event being held by Representative Bob Peterson, with support from the agriculture community, to support three Ohio Supreme Court Candidates. The July 24th ice cream social will be held at Rep. Peterson's farm in Sabina, from 5-7pm. Details can be found [here](#).

Joint Agriculture Committee Hearing- On July 31st at the Ohio State Fair, the Ohio House and Senate Agriculture Committees will again hold a joint hearing to discuss the Fair and many other issues important to agriculture. The hearing is a long standing tradition that OFBF has helped host for many years along with Ohio's other commodity groups and agricultural partners. OFBF's Adam Sharp will be testifying, along with other agricultural groups, including the new Executive Director of the Ohio State Fair/Expo Center, Adam Heffron. The hearing will be at 11:30 am on July 31st, and available to stream on the [Ohio Channel](#).

Capital Budget/Community Projects- Amidst a flurry of legislative activity before they go home for summer break, the Ohio General Assembly has passed the Capital Budget, which included over \$3.5 billion focusing on local capital projects, as well as \$700 million in similar community projects that would not normally be in the bi-annual capital budget. If you would like to research what else your county or area may have received, follow [this link](#) for capital projects and [this link](#) for community projects.

Federal Updates:

OFBF President Bill Patterson was recently joined by staff as he represented the Ohio Farm Bureau at American Farm Bureau's annual Council of Presidents in Washington, D.C. This is a time when all 51 Farm Bureau Presidents from the states and Puerto Rico come together to engage with federal legislators and regulators. Time was spent directly lobbying on Capitol Hill to advocate for a new Farm Bill before Congress breaks for the election. To join voices with members from across the country, please look to use this [AFBF action alert](#) to keep the chorus going that we need a new Farm Bill.

Time was also spent advocating for tax reform with many significant tax provisions expiring in 2025. Additionally, recognizing the opportunity for the ag community to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), OFBF directly engaged with the White House staff to lift up the importance of American agriculture being considered as a key source for a successful future of SAF. To learn more about the issue, please see the latest in this [AFBF Market Intel](#).