



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

OFBF Advocacy in Action Report August 9th, 2024

State Updates:

Water Quality- Gov. DeWine and ODA Director Baldrige have unveiled that a total of 2.2 million acres have been voluntarily enrolled in H2Ohio, an increase of 500,000 acres since its expansion in last year's operating budget (HB 33). The expansion has allowed all counties in the state to take advantage of H2Ohio programs, after the program saw success in the Western Lake Erie Basin and other surrounding counties. Over 525 producers in 51 new counties helped achieve this goal.

Energy Guide- This new guide to leases, easements, on-site generation and legal considerations for energy development on privately owned farmland in Ohio is now available to Farm Bureau members. Members can download the guide at ofb.ag/energyresourceguide or contact their county Farm Bureau to access the guide and learn about local education programs for members happening across the state. Members can also take an editorial view of all things energy in the September/October Our Ohio.

*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.

Ohio State Fair- OFBF policy staff and state fair interns had the pleasure of touring a host of officials at this year's Ohio State Fair, something we offer annually to various officials to showcase Ohio agriculture. This year's attendees included many of Ohio's congressional delegation, statewide elected officials, members of the Ohio General Assembly, and the Ohio Supreme Court candidates we recently endorsed as Friends of Agriculture. This year's highlights include showing construction progress of new and improved infrastructure on the fairgrounds thanks to the Expo 2050 project, the always-popular butter cow exhibit, and having elected officials interact with so many different sections of Ohio agriculture. Also held at the state fair was the annual Joint Ag Committee Hearing, where both Ohio House and Senate ag committees hear from various stakeholders in the OSF and Ohio agriculture. OFBF's own Adam

Sharp testified, thanking the members of the committees for their support for the Expo 2050 project. A link to the whole hearing can be found [here](#).

Capital Budget/Community Projects- Amidst a flurry of legislative activity before they went home for summer break, the Ohio General Assembly 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:

2024 Farm Bill- As the collective eyes of the agriculture industry remain focused on Capital Hill and potential movement of the 2024 Farm bill, OFBF signed on to a letter with over 500 other organizations calling for passage before the election. As of now there is uncertainty if this is still possible given the dynamics of this election year but we're committed to remain in the conversation with AFBF and the 50 other state Farm Bureau organizations.

Congressman Rulli sworn in to represent the 6th Congressional District- After winning special election on June 12th, former State Senator Michael Rulli was sworn in on June 25th as the Congressman to fill the vacancy left by Bill Johnson's retirement. This district contains the Ohio River Valley from south of Youngstown to Ohio's most southern county Scioto. After taking office Congressman Rulli was appointed to the House Judiciary Committee as well as the House Workforce and Education Committee. As someone who has worked in and is now one of the managing partners of Rulli Bros. Rulli spent his life around agriculture, food security, and the need for a robust food supply chain. OFBF looks forward to continuing our relationship with Representative Rulli in his new role.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel- On June 27th the US Department of Agriculture put out a Request for Information on the upcoming 45Z Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit. Last week OFBF submitted comments to the new package in reaction to the current 40B tax credit which came out earlier this year. In its comments, OFBF called for greater flexibility in the practices that can be "stacked" and would qualify for the climate-smart agricultural requirements as well as prioritizing domestic feedstocks ethanol producers would use. Our hope, along with our state and federal partners, is to have a new tax credit package that gives Ohio farmers an ability to comply while ensuring feedstocks for ethanol production come from our backyard and not somewhere overseas.