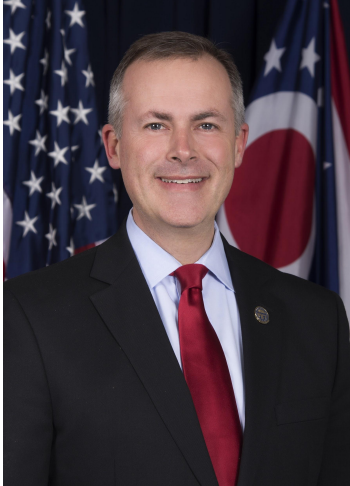




OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION  
**Agriculture for Good Government**  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



## **Treasurer Candidate**

**Robert Sprague**

*Republican*

*Incumbent*

### **-What programs and partnerships do you see between the Treasurer's office and agriculture in Ohio?**

The Treasurer's office prides itself in supporting Ohio's ag community, and we're working hard to ensure the industry maintains its status as the backbone of our state's economy. That sentiment was at the heart of our recent work to modernize the long-standing Ag-LINK linked deposit program.

Since 1986, Ag-LINK has helped ag businesses manage the upfront costs of the annual growing season in the form of reduced interest operating loans. Toward the beginning of each year, eligible farmers and agribusinesses could receive interest rate reductions on loans up to \$150,000 that could be used to purchase feed, seed, fertilizer, fuel, equipment, and other costs. For years, Ag-LINK has served as the office's most popular linked deposit program - and for good reason.

But I knew we could do more.

Last year, I traveled the state meeting with farmers and ag industry leaders from across Ohio. I heard countless stories about the new challenges being born from skyrocketing inflation and supply chain bottlenecks. We listened, we gathered ideas, and we tapped into the expertise of Ohio's ag community to create a proposal that completely revamps this time-tested program in order to keep pace with today's volatile economy.

Passed with unanimous, and bipartisan support, our office's Ohio Gains proposal included a series of reforms centered around Ag-LINK. First and foremost, the restrictive and outdated \$150,000 caps on loan size have been removed from statute. This means the previous \$150,000 loan cap is no more, allowing the program to keep pace with modern borrowing needs. Moving forward, loan caps will be assessed and set by the Treasurer's office on an annual basis, allowing the program to keep pace with farmers' borrowing needs.

The Ohio Gains legislation also included a provision to add co-ops to the list of eligible borrowers under Ag-LINK. Co-ops face many of the same challenges as other farmers and agribusinesses that have long-been served by the program. Opening the program to co-ops further recognizes their valuable contributions to Ohio's economy and agriculture industry.

In addition to all this, now – for the first-time ever – Ag-LINK loan applications are being



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accepted year-round. This new, year-round application period provides borrowers with greater flexibility and ensures they can access lower-cost capital whenever they may need it most. This particular effort to modernize Ag-LINK also makes the program more convenient for both crop and livestock farmers with diverse borrowing needs that occur throughout the year.

If given the opportunity to serve as Ohio's Treasurer for a second term, I pledge to continue making our partnership with the ag community a priority. Our team will seek out your feedback and find ways to keep putting the power of the Treasury to work for Ohio's agriculture industry.