



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



## **Treasurer Candidate**

**Scott Schertzer**

*Democrat*

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

As the democratic party's candidate for Treasurer of State, I recognize the size, scope, and dynamics of Ohio's Agriculture Industry. Growing up in a family vested in agricultural business and as a former 4-H and FFA member, my appreciation is sincere as I understand the importance of Ohio's largest and most dynamic industry: Agriculture.

I find it inspiring that Ohio, with approximately 75,000 farms, include 90% or more that are family owned. Farm families are the heart and soul of Ohio and U.S. Agriculture. Ohio is a virtual oasis for agriculture; 30.7% of Ohio's land area is forested, and over 20% are cities, towns, villages, non-incorporated communities, and other complexes. Statistics show that 44% of Ohio is considered prime farmland with 60% of land in agriculture. With Ohio ranking in the top 10 in many specialty crops and in every major Ag commodity, we are arguably one of the most productive agricultural states in the U.S. given the land dedicated to agriculture.

With regard to partnerships, the link between the Treasurer's office and Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is paramount. The OFBF affiliation with the American Farm Bureau Federation allows the OFBF to gain powerful insight and information on the issues facing Ohio and U.S. Agriculture. The Ohio Treasurer's office needs to have a direct relationship with the Ohio Farm Bureau as we serve our rural communities, monitoring policy at state and federal levels, and service to our communities.

I believe that a strong relationship with the Ohio Department of Agriculture is also crucial. The services provided by ODA are imperative to understanding the unique needs of state/federal regulations, inspection, and compliance issues. Connecting to Ohio's commodity organizations is extremely important; these organizations serve as the voice for all growers in their respective associations. (commodity Ag: soybeans, corn, wheat, dairy, beef, swine, poultry and eggs).

Finally, I stand in the firm belief that relationships with Ohio's specialty agriculture and Ag products sector are imperative. Ohio ranks in the top 10 in several specialty crops and products: (#1) Swiss Cheese, (#3) Tomatoes, (#3) Pumpkins, (#5) Bell Pepper Yield,



(#5) Cottage Cheese, (#6) Sweet Corn, (#6) Cucumbers, (#7) Grapes, (#8) Ice Cream, (#9) All Cheese, and (#10) Strawberries.

<b>Specialty Crops</b>	<b>Placement in Top 10</b>
Swiss Cheese	#1
Tomatoes	#3
Pumpkins	#3

<b>Specialty Crops</b>	<b>Placement in Top 10</b>
Bell Pepper Yield	#5
Cottage Cheese	#5
Sweet corn	#6
Cucumbers	#6
Grapes	#7
Ice Cream	#8
All Cheese	#9
Strawberries	#10

My personal relationship with agri-business has existed my entire life. My father supported our family of five working in agri-business. I helped to support myself through college by working in agri-business at a grain elevator. It is because of these personal relationships, work and learning experiences that I assert that the Treasurer of State should have a deep understanding of the agricultural industry as it directly relates to Ohio's economy. The Treasurer of State should also possess deep understanding and application of the programs within the office such as the Ag-Link Deposit which supports Ag families and agri-businesses. As Treasurer of State, I will guarantee an ongoing link to the agriculture community in Ohio.