

Around OUR COUNTY

A PUBLICATION AND MEMBER BENEFIT OF MEDINA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

WINTER 2018

Meet Your President: Ben Richardson

Medina County Farm Bureau President Ben Richardson was elected into his second 1-year term as President in September 2017 and he has been busy! Since his election, Ben has attended Ohio Farm Bureau's (OFBF) Ag Day at the Capital in Columbus, OFBF's County President's Trip to Washington D.C., and served as a voting delegate for Medina County at the OFBF's annual meeting. At the county level, Ben has stayed busy leading monthly board meetings and sitting on various committees.



in Brooklyn Heights after the Civil War and then moved to Medina. Richardson Farms has been a long-standing fruit and vegetable farm. Ben's Grandfather Neil began selling flowers for spring sales in the 1960's.

In addition to serving as a Medina County Farm Bureau President, Ben also has sat on the Medina County Fall Foliage board for the past 2 years. When asked why he got involved with Medina County Farm Bureau, Ben answered "I

always wanted to be involved in my local community and my family have been on county Farm Bureau boards in the past for a long time." Ben's goals for Medina County Farm Bureau in 2018 include increasing membership and improving young farmer involvement.

Thank you Ben for your commitment to Medina County Farm Bureau! We are lucky to have you!

A graduate of Cloverleaf High School, Ben was born in Cleveland and has lived his entire life in Medina County. Ben will soon be celebrating 6 years of marriage with his wife, Stefanie, and they have three children – Lillian, Finley, and Oliver. Ben is a 6th generation farmer and co-owns Richardson Farms with his parents. Originally, their family began farming

Submit your photos to be in the *Medina County Farm Bureau Calendar!*

- Must be your own farm or ag-related photo taken in Medina County and must be submitted by a Farm Bureau member.
- Up to three photos per member may be submitted. Please include member name, location, and photo description with your submission.
- Photo particulars: 300 dpi, color, 10x8 horizontal.
- Please visit medinafb.org for more details on the contest.

Photos are due May 11th and can be emailed to lshoup@ofbf.org.



A LOOK BACK AT 2017...

MCFB hosts Leadership Medina - In March 2017, Medina County Farm Bureau hosted the Leadership Medina class of 2017 for an "Ag Day". Participants were fed a breakfast and lunch of locally-sourced foods and visited various farms and ag businesses in Medina County including Boyert's Greenhouse, Buckin' Ohio, Ramsier's Willow Spring Farm, Boyert's Beef Farm, Arters Farms, and Richman Farms.

2017 Season's Harvest - In August, Medina County Farm Bureau held the 7th annual Season's Harvest dinner at Boyert's Farm in Seville. One hundred thirty people enjoyed a gourmet meal while participating in a silent and live auction. \$22,000 was raised for Feeding Medina County thanks to the efforts and generosity of Chef John Kolar of Thyme2 Restaurant and the volunteers of Medina County Farm Bureau.



Agriculture Acre at the Medina County Fair - Agriculture Acre was held throughout the week of the Medina County Fair and offered activities for children and families both in the tent and around the fairgrounds. Fairgoers had the

opportunity to interact with chicks, calves, and goats, learn about ag trivia, participate in daily activities sponsored by Medina County businesses, and complete a scavenger hunt around the fair.

Agriculture Acre received recognition from Ohio Farm Bureau as one of the top 25 programs in the state for 2017!



Medina County Young Farmers - Medina County Young Farmers met several times throughout 2017 for various farm tours and professional development nights.

Farms hosting the Young Farmers included Buckeye Fresh, Spring Mist Farms, and Eichel's Tree Farm. Medina also participated with Ashland and Wayne counties in holding an Ag Toy Drive in December. A total of \$3500 worth of toys were donated to area Toys for Tots. Special thanks to Davis Tree Farm for being a gold sponsor to this event!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018!

- **Trip to Fair Oaks Farm** - Join Ashland, Holmes, Medina, and Wayne County Farm Bureau members on April 12th and 13th for an overnight trip to Fair Oaks Farm in Fair Oaks, IN! Cost is \$175 per person and includes: Tour bus, overnight accommodations (double occupancy), group meals, tours at Fair Oaks Farms of the Dairy, Pig and Crop Adventures, and tour of the Wilson Ball Factory. Call 330-263-7456 to reserve your spot!



- **Night at the Ballpark** - Join Farm Bureau at an Akron RubberDucks game on Friday evening, June 1st!
- **2018 Season's Harvest** - The 8th annual Season's Harvest dinner will be held Thursday, August 16th at Barn Talk Hops Farm in Sharon Center. Tickets will go on sale June 1st.
- **Family Fun Night** - Medina County Farm Bureau will join Summit County Farm Bureau for a Family Fun Night in the Richfield area on Saturday, September 29th. More details to come!

2017 DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER DEBBIE INDOE



Debbie Indoe was recognized at the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting as Medina County's 2017 Distinguished Volunteer. Debbie became a Medina County resident after her family moved to Wadsworth from Summit County when she was 5. Debbie grew up on a beef farm in Wadsworth and married Tom Indoe 38 years ago. The Indoe family owns and operates Richman Farms, a dairy in the Lodi area. Debbie has served on the board off and on over the last 30 years. In the last 7 years, Debbie has been the chairman of

Medina County Farm Bureau's Season's Harvest which is a dinner-on-the-farm event which benefits Feeding Medina County that raised over \$22,000 this year alone. Debbie also served this year as nominating chair, organized events for the Medina Co Young Farmers, and assisted with membership. Medina County Farm Bureau is truly blessed to work with Debbie Indoe!

BAKER RE-ELECTED TO SERVE THIRD TERM FOR THE OHIO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Roger Baker of Wooster has been re-elected as District 8 trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. During his third three-year term, he will help govern the state's largest general farm organization and represent Farm Bureau members from Ashland, Medina, Summit and Wayne counties. His re-election took place Dec. 8 during Ohio Farm Bureau's 99th annual meeting.

A 27-year member of Wayne County Farm Bureau, Baker has served as a county board trustee and chairman of the public policy committee and is a past vice president of the board. In 2001, he was an OFBF Discussion Meet finalist and participated in a trade mission to Europe in 2000. He also has served on the Wayne County Extension Advisory Committee and the state Extension Advisory Committee.

Baker graduated from Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute with an associate's degree in agricultural business and agronomy. He and his wife Diane are parents of a daughter, Mary, and they raise row crops and hay and have a small beef cow herd.



WATER QUALITY POSES A MAJOR TOPIC IN 2018

2017 held many agricultural policy victories for Ohio with the reformulation of the CAUV formula being one of the most notable which should bring property tax relief to Ohio farmers over the next six years. As we look to 2018, water quality continues to pose a major topic for Farm Bureau. Ohio Farm Bureau has been active in addressing this topic over the last 4 years and released the 2017 water quality status report in June. This report highlighted the efforts of local farmers in improving water quality through fertilizer application training, use of cover crops, waste management plans, and research and development on their properties. These efforts have been recognized and Ohio Farm Bureau has been asked to contribute details on Ohio farmer's voluntary efforts to reduce P levels in Lake Erie in the Ohio action plan required by the federal EPA. Research and volunteer efforts will continue into 2018 so keep an eye on your Buckeye Farm News for policy updates from Ohio Farm Bureau!

CHECK OUT THIS LOCAL MEMBER BENEFIT FOR MEDINA CO FARM BUREAU MEMBERS!



**Save 20% at
The Painted House
& More in Lodi.**



**Thank you to our
group members!
Boyert's Greenhouse Inc.
and JTS Landscaping!**



SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MARCH 31ST!

Medina Co Farm Bureau is distributing a total of \$7,000 in scholarships via the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation for 2018. Please share of this scholarship opportunity with any Medina County youth that will be studying in an agriculture-related field in the fall of 2018! To apply, go to ofbf.org/foundation/scholarships and complete the "Medina County scholarship" application online. Scholarships will only be awarded to students who are members or whose parents are members.

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