



SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL MEETING
2023

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

AGENDA

Welcome and Introduction of Guests	Tim Luther
Distinguished Service Award Presentation	Donna Cecil
Invocation	Tom Dayton
Dinner	
Business Meeting	
Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes	Tim Walsh
Review of Annual Financial Statement	Lindsay Tournoux
Approval of Annual Financial Statement	Chris Esker
Ballot Introduction and Election of Trustee & Delegates Tellers: Betty & Pieter van der Meer	Rodger Ramsthaler
Discussion & Voting of Policy Resolutions Tellers: Rose & Rose Kuner	Matt Hartong
Reports	
Ohio Farm Bureau Farm Bureau State Trustee	Roger Baker
SCFB Organizational Director	Lindsay Tournoux
Election of Trustee & Delegates Results	Chrissy Seyerle
Policy Resolutions Results	Paul Haberny
Door Prize Drawing	Carol Bessemer & Donna Cecil
Adjournment	Tim Luther

**SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**PRESIDENTTIM LUTHER
VICE PRESIDENTMATT HARTONG
SECRETARY-TREASURER.....DONNA CECIL**

CAROL BESSEMER	PAUL HABERNY JR	CHRISSY SEYERLE
TOM DAYTON	RON KUNER	JAMES VOGT
CHRIS ESKER	RODGER RAMSTHALER	TIM WALSH

ACTION TEAM LEADERS FOR 2022 - 2023

**COMMUNICATION.....CAROL BESSEMER & MATTHEW HARTONG
ORGANIZATION.....DONNA CECIL
PUBLIC POLICY.....TOM DAYTON
CENTER FOR FOOD & ANIMAL CARE.....CHRISSY SEYERLE & JAMES VOGT
MEMBERSHIP.....PAUL HABERNY & DONNA CECIL**

**STATE TRUSTEES.....ROGER BAKER & MIKE BOYERT
REGIONAL SUPERVISOR.....DANIELLE DUFOUR
ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR.....LINDSAY TOURNOUX**

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATORJAN WEAVER
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.....DIANE DRAUDT**

**Office address: 8460 Ridge Road North Royalton, OH 44133
Phone: 440-877-0706**

SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Pick's at Portage Lakes Akron, Ohio

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Tim Luther, Summit County Farm Bureau President, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:45 PM. He thanked all for coming and introduced many honored guests; Roger Baker – OFBF State Trustee, Danielle Dufour – OFBF Regional Supervisor, Jay Curry, Cory Linke and Jesse Hobel – Summit County Fiscal Office, Scott Dressler, Copley Township Trustee, Bill Roemer – OH Representative for District 31, Bob Young – OH Representative for District 36, Christina Roegner – Ohio Senator, Christina Trompower – representing Congressman Gonzales, Judge Thomas Teodosio – 9th District Court of Appeals, Brian Nelson – Chief of Staff of Summit County Executive's Office and Mike Vinay – Sanitary Sewer Services with Summit County.

Tim Luther asked Chris Esker to come forward and introduce us to our 2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Chris Esker read Jim St. John's bio for the Distinguished Service Award. Jim was genuinely surprised as Chris presented him with the award plaque. Jim thanked all for the honor and remarked that he was at a loss for words.

Tom Dayton delivered the invocation. Dinner was served.

President, Tim Luther called the business meeting to order at 8:05 PM.

Rodger Ramsthaler reminded everyone that the 2022 Annual Meeting Report was mailed to all the middle of August. The minutes from the 2021 Summit County Farm Bureau annual meeting, printed on pink paper, were enclosed in that report. Chris Esker moved to accept minutes, as written, seconded by Pete Schanz. All accepted. Motion passed.

Ron Kuner reminded all that the "partial" financial report ending June 30th, 2022 for the current fiscal year, printed on white paper, was mailed to everyone in the 2022 Annual Meeting Report the middle of August. Scott Dressler made a motion to accept the financial report "subject to audit", seconded by Rodger Ramsthaler. All accepted. Motion passed.

Donna Cecil asked all to pull the gold ballot from agenda packet they received when they registered. She reviewed the ballot and nominations to the SCFB board; Carol Bessemer, Donna Cecil, Matt Hartong, Rodger Ramsthaler, Chrissy Seyerle and Dr. Jim Vogt. She asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Donna reminded all that the delegates for the 2022 Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting were Tom Dayton, Matt Hartong, Brianna McVicker, Dr. Ben Pearson and the SCFB president. She then reviewed the ballot and nominations for the 2023 OFBF delegates; Mike Blinkhorn, Carl Harp, Dr. Ben Pearson, Dr. Jim Vogt and the SCFB president. Donna asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. She requested all to vote and pass their ballots to the tellers, Chrissy Seyerle and Rodger Ramsthaler. She then asked Carrie Arnold and Carol Bessemer to assist Chrissy and Rodger with the counting of the ballots.

Tim Walsh asked all to remove the green paper from the agenda packet they received when they registered. He explained that a committee representing SCFB has been working with Brian Nelson from the County's Executive's Office to develop a fair and equitable fee/tax for the Surface Water Management District. Tim asked Brian Nelson and Mike Vinay to come forward and share their thoughts, who explained the need to develop the Surface Water Management District. Tim read the proposed policy resolutions and asked if there were any questions. Chris Esker moved to strike sub section B (b. the classification of agricultural parcels and vacant parcels that do contain impervious surfaces are as residential) based upon Brian Nelson's explanation of the "fee" structure. Seconded by Carol Bessemer. All accepted. Motion passed. Tim asked if there were any additional policies to be submitted from the floor. There were none. Tim requested all to vote and pass their ballots to tellers, Chrissy Seyerle and Rodger Ramsthaler. He then asked Carrie Arnold and Carol Bessemer to assist Chrissy and Rodger with the counting of the ballots.

Matt Hartong asked all to take a look at the proposed code change on white paper with colored ink, read an explanation of the Code and asked Lindsay Tournoux to come forward and explain the proposed changes to the Code. Roger Baker explained that the delegates of the 2021 OFBF Annual Meeting decided upon a dues increase and a statewide dues rate, etc. He reminded all that Nationwide Insurance is still a large supporter of Ohio Farm Bureau. Donna Cecil asked Lindsay to explain the dues breakdown; amount to OFBF and amount to SCFB. After reading each amendment, Lindsay asked all to write either YES or NO at the top of the proposed code changes. Rodger Ramsthaler and Chrissy Seyerle collected the proposed code change forms, Carrie Arnold and Carol Bessemer assisted with the counting of the forms.

Roger Baker, OFBF District 8 State Trustee, shared his experience and visits with legislators at the recent President's D.C. Trip.

Lindsay Tournoux, Organizational Director, thanked the board of trustees for all their hard work throughout the year. She encouraged all to share the SCFB scholarship with interested students, reporting that you did not need to be a SCFB member nor need to be a specific major to receive the scholarship. Donna Cecil clarified that if the applicant was NOT a SCFB member, they would only qualify for the scholarship if they were going into an ag-related field. Lindsay also shared the need for an office admin in the Cuyahoga office.

Chrissy Seyerle thanked all for their votes. She reported that the results show, unanimously, that all trustees have been re-elected for another two year term and the delegates for the 2023 OFBF's Annual Meeting will be Mike Blinkhorn, Carl Harp, Dr. Ben Pearson, Dr. Jim Vogt and the SCFB president.

Rodger Ramsthaler thanked all again for voting on proposed policies. He reported that the results of the state policy are 49 yea and 0 nay and the results of the local policy are 46 yea and 3 nay.

Rodger Ramsthaler thanked all for voting on the code change. He reported that the results of the voting for the proposed code change are 40 yea and 1 nay.

Carrie Arnold made a motion to destroy the ballots, seconded by Chris Esker. All accepted. Motion passed.

Rodger Ramsthaler asked Donna Cecil and the Seyerle Girls to come forward to pass out door prizes. Tim Luther drew tickets and door prizes from a table of donated items were passed out. Donna Cecil announced that the person at each table that had a birthday closest to December 10th, Lindsay's due date, won the centerpiece.

Tim Luther thanked everyone for coming tonight. He thanked the annual meeting committee for putting on such a great event and Erin Hartong for the delicious cupcakes.

With no other business deemed necessary, Rodger Ramsthaler moved to adjourn at 9:40 PM, seconded by Matt Hartong.

Summit County Farm Bureau's 2022 – 2023 Year In Review

We just can't believe that another year is rapidly coming to an end for Summit County Farm Bureau. The SCFB's work year begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The end of our fiscal and program year means it's time for the Board of Trustees to develop a plan of work for the 2023 – 2024 program year. However, before we can move forward, we take a look back at the past year and gather ideas for us to continue to serve our members. Please join us as we look over some of the 2022 – 2023 highlights . . .

Sponsored Family and Community Events

SCFB members enjoyed a multi-county Family Fun Day at the Cleveland Zoo. SCFB encouraged members to participate in the annual BWC Safety Meeting. SCFB hosted the 13th Annual Farmers' Share Breakfast. SCFB sponsored a Farm Dog & a Farm Cat of the Year contests for members. SCFB will be hosting their Annual Meeting on September 28th at Houston Hall in Norton, Ohio.

Developed Educational Opportunities

SCFB hosted three educational seminars; Backyard Poultry, Blueberries In The Backyard, Freezing Fruits and Vegetables. SCFB awarded a "new" renewable/four year scholarship. SCFB members collaborated with the Vet Tech/Animal Science program of the Copley, Norton, Wadsworth, Barberton compact to provide students the resources to learn about their livestock course work in a practical manner. The museum videotaped vignettes were enjoyed by visitors to the SCFB Antique Museum during the Summit County Fair. SCFB supported a seed matching game within the SCFB Antique Museum during the Summit County Fair, participants selected from a variety of prizes. Organizational announcements and agricultural information were regularly posted on the SCFB website, SCFB Facebook page and through email blasts. SCFB funded the attendance of YAP members to the Winter Leadership Conference. SCFB funded the attendance of a member to the Ag In The Classroom Conference. SCFB members attended a multi-county seminar addressing the new appraisal calculations, "The Scoop on Soil Values". SCFB Board of Trustees were introduced to the Select Partners Program by OFBF's Nationwide Services Field Director.

Initiated Internal Improvements

The updated Business Member Directory was mailed out to all members and added to the SCFB website. The update Buy Local/Farm Markets Directory was mailed out to all members and added to the SCFB website.

Members received two paper newsletters, winter and summer, chock full of the organization's activities and information.
SCFB supported a Member to Member Discount Program at participating businesses.
SCFB ran a membership campaign.
The SCFB Board of Trustees initiated the annual financial review and compilation by an independent CPA for the SCFB.
The SCFB Investment Committee reviewed all investments to be sure they were performing well and made recommendations to the SCFB Board of Trustees.

Gave Back to Our Local Community

Donations were made to: Haven of Rest, Salvation Army, The Akron Canton Food Bank and the Norton Kiwanis Builders Club.
SCFB sponsored an ad in the Summit County Fair program/map.
SCFB participated in a multi-county fundraiser supporting Cultivating a Cure.
SCFB participated in a multi-county fundraiser supporting the Women In Ag Conference.

Served as Advocates for Our Members

The SCFB President, Vice-President and Young Farmer attended Ag Day at the Capitol to meet with local legislatures.
The SCFB President and delegates attended the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Columbus.
The SCFB Public Policy committee collected and reviewed policy suggestions from the SCFB members
The SCFB President traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with local representatives.
SCFB members continue to work with agricultural stakeholders in Summit County to help draft comprehensive Agriculture Ordinances.
SCFB members worked with the Summit County Engineer and Summit County Council to develop a fair and equitable taxation of agricultural parcels for the Summit County Surface Water Management District.

Supported the Summit County Fair and the SCFB Antique Museum

SCFB sponsored an ad on the back cover of the Summit County Fair program/map.
SCFB funded a professional cleaning of the museum and contents before the Summit County Fair.
SCFB funded an exterior repair and painting of the museum before the Summit County Fair.
SCFB members volunteered to supervise the museum during the Summit County Fair.
SCFB supported the 4-H program with the donation of meat cooking temperature guide cutout "give away gifts".
SCFB funded an overhaul and creation of a Farm Bureau informational corner and Farm Bureau raffle gift basket in the museum during the Summit County Fair.

August/September 2023 Organization Director Report

2023 has not been a year without its share of struggles but don't we have so much to be thankful for? We are thankful for this opportunity to discuss how to preserve, protect, and promote agriculture in the county, state, and around the world!

Thank you to the members

First and foremost, this organization would not exist without the support of members like you. Whether serving on the board of trustees, volunteering to help at an event, or supporting us through your dues payment and reading the publications we appreciate you!

The enclosed Year in Review features a summary of the past year. It took many hands to carry out those activities. If any of those sound interesting to you and you would like to get involved, please contact me or one of the trustees!

Victories

Ohio Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau have had a lot of legislative victories in the last 12 months. Please look to your publications and the Ohio Farm Bureau website for details! We are grateful for elected officials who support many of our policy priorities in the state house and at the capitol.

Thank you!

We have a couple of dedicated staff members that could not join us tonight but we want to thank for their great work. County Office Administrators in the North Royalton Office –Jan Weaver and Diane Draudt – work diligently to support Summit County Farm Bureau!

Thanks to all of you for supporting the Summit County Farm Bureau with your membership! I wish you a safe and bountiful harvest season!

Lindsay Tournoux
Organization Director

OHIO FARM BUREAU
EST. 1937
SUMMIT COUNTY

**Thank you to our
business partners!**

**CARL HARP
NURSERY**
est. 1963
COPLEY, OHIO

Dayton
Nurseries

**THE WINERY AT
WOLF CREEK**

Summit County Farm Bureau

Proposed Policies 2023

The policy development committee submits for your consideration the following:

LOCAL

Summit County Farm Bureau encourages that the development of solar panels or other renewable energy sources be built on lands where agricultural production is not suitable.

Yes _____

No _____

LOCAL

Summit County Farm Bureau encourages the utilization and use, when possible, of the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services and the Summit County Surface Water Management District by all Summit County political subdivisions, including townships and municipal corporations, rather than the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and supports those services being provided to Summit County landowners, residents and citizens in a comprehensive, fair, and responsible manner.

Yes _____

No _____

All Summit County Farm Bureau members are eligible to vote.

**SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU
2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

Each member shall have one vote except in the case of married members, in which event both husband and wife shall at all times be subject to the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and the Code of Regulations of this Corporation.

VOTE FOR SIX

_____ Tom Dayton

_____ Ron Kuner

_____ Chris Esker

_____ Tim Luther

_____ Paul Haberny Jr

_____ Tim Walsh

DELEGATE TO 2024 STATE ANNUAL MEETING

VOTE FOR THREE

_____ Chris Esker

_____ Hannah Getz

_____ Brianna McVicker

Note: President and Vice President are automatically designated as two delegates.