



**SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**2024**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP  
SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

**AGENDA**

Welcome and Introduction of Guests	Tim Luther
Distinguished Service Award Presentation	Jim Vogt
Invocation	Pete Schanz
Dinner	
Business Meeting	
Approval of 2023 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: Ron & Rose Kuner	Carol Bessemer
Discussion & Voting of Policy Resolutions Tellers: Janet & Jim St John	Rodger Ramsthaler
Reports	
Ohio Farm Bureau Farm Bureau State Trustee	Matt Vodraska
SCFB Organizational Director	Lindsay Tournoux
Election of Trustee & Delegates Results	Paul Haberny
Policy Resolutions Results	Chrissy Seyerle
President's Reflection & Presentation of Gavel	Tim Luther & Matt Hartong
Door Prize Drawing	Carol Bessemer & Donna Cecil
Adjournment	Matt Hartong

# SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT .....TIM LUTHER  
VICE PRESIDENT .....MATT HARTONG  
SECRETARY-TREASURER.....DONNA CECIL

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

## ACTION TEAM LEADERS FOR 2023 - 2024

COMMUNICATION.....CAROL BESSEMER & MATTHEW HARTONG  
ORGANIZATION.....DONNA CECIL  
PUBLIC POLICY.....MATT HARTONG  
CENTER FOR FOOD & ANIMAL CARE.....CHRISSE SEYERLE & JAMES VOGT  
MEMBERSHIP.....PAUL HABERNY & DONNA CECIL

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STATE TRUSTEES.....MATT VODRASKA & MIKE BOYERT  
REGIONAL SUPERVISOR.....DANIELLE DUFOUR  
ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR.....LINDSAY TOURNOUX

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR .....JAN WEAVER  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.....DIANE DRAUDT  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR.....JOSIE ARMSTRONG

Office address: 8460 Ridge Road North Royalton, OH 44133

Phone: 440-877-0706

## **SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU 2023 ANNUAL MEETING**

**Houston Hall, Norton, Ohio**

**Thursday, September 28, 2023**

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, Mike Boyert – OFBF NE Region State Trustee, Jay Curry and Cory Linke – Summit County Fiscal Office, Jacob Pries – Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Scott Dressler - Copley Township Trustee, Bill Roemer – OH Representative for District 31, Bethany Mckenney - Summit County Council, Mike Vinay – Sanitary Sewer Services with Summit County and Betta Deblasio – attending on behalf of Congresswoman Sykes.

Tim Luther asked Donna Cecil to come forward and introduce us to our 2023 Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Donna Cecil read Paula Mularcik's bio for the Distinguished Service Award. Paula was genuinely surprised as Donna presented her with the award plaque. Paula thanked all for the honor.

Carol Bessemer delivered the invocation. Dinner was served.

President, Tim Luther called the business meeting to order at 7:55 PM.

Tim Walsh asked everyone to refer to the blue pages in the annual meeting packet, the minutes from the 2022 Summit County Farm Bureau annual meeting. He asked if there were any questions, corrections or concerns. Tim Crawford moved to accept minutes, as written, seconded by Rodger Ramsthaler. All accepted. Motion passed.

Lindsay Tournoux asked everyone to refer to the white pages in the annual meeting packet, as she reviewed the financial report ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for the current fiscal year.

Chris Esker asked for a motion to accept the financial report, by resolution. Tim Crawford made that motion, seconded by Rodger Ramsthaler. All accepted. Motion passed.

Rodger Ramsthaler asked all to pull the gray ballot from the annual meeting packet they received when they registered. He reviewed the ballot and nominations to the SCFB board; Tom Dayton, Chris Esker, Paul Haberny, Ron Kuner, Tim Luther and Tim Walsh. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Rodger reminded all that the delegates for the 2023 Ohio Farm Bureau annual meeting were Mike Blinkhorn, Carl Harp, Dr. Ben Pearson, Dr. Jim Vogt and the SCFB president. He then reviewed the ballot and nominations for the 2024 OFBF delegates; Chris Esker,

Hannah Getz, Brianna McVicker, the SCFB vice-president and the SCFB president. Rodger asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. He requested all to vote and pass their ballots to the tellers, Betty and Pieter van der Meer. Matt Hartong asked all to remove the gold paper from the annual meeting packet they received when they registered. Matt read the proposed policy resolutions and asked if there were any questions. He then asked if there were any additional policies to be submitted from the floor. There were none. Matt requested all to vote and pass their ballots to tellers, Rose and Ron Kuner.

Mike Boyert, OFBF NE Region State Trustee, thanked Roger Baker for his 12 years of service, explaining that Roger would be retiring at this year's OFBF annual meeting.

Roger Baker, OFBF District 8 State Trustee, reported that he was humbled to have served SCFB for the past 12 years, a county that's Ag education program is the tops. He encouraged all to develop a relationship with their elected officials and challenged all to inspire the young people in the county.

Lindsay Tournoux, SCFB Organizational Director, thanked the trustees for all their work throughout the past year. She highlighted the office staff, Jan and Diane, who work tirelessly to take care of the needs of the 13 counties in the North Royaltown office. She reported that they were looking to fill a couple positions in the office and asked all to share information with any interested individuals. Lindsay recognized the SCFB's 2023 scholarship recipient, Aislynn McVicker, and encouraged all to get the word out to any interested students.

Chrissy Seyerle thanked all for their votes. She reported that the results showed that all trustees have been re-elected for another two year term and the delegates for the 2024 OFBF's annual meeting will be Chris Esker, Hannah Getz, Brianna McVicker, the SCFB vice-president and the SCFB president.

Paul Haberny thanked all again for voting on proposed policies. He reported that the results of the first (top) local policy are 51 yea and 5 nay and the results of the second (bottom) local policy are 50 yea and 3 nay.

Chris Esker asked for a motion to destroy the ballots. Matt Hartong made the motion for all ballots to be destroyed, seconded by Tim Walsh. All accepted. Motion passed.

Carol Bessemer and Donna Cecil came forward to pass out door prizes. Tim Luther drew tickets and door prizes were passed out.

Tim Luther thanked everyone for coming tonight and wished them safe travel home. He thanked the annual meeting committee for putting on such a great event.

With no other business deemed necessary, Rodger Ramsthaler moved to adjourn at 8:40 PM, seconded by Matt Hartong.

Summit County Farm Bureau  
Profit & Loss  
October 2023 through August 2024

	Oct '23 - Aug 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
300 · Dues	
301 · Dues Collected	77,200.00
301A · Active Members	120.00
301B · Young Active Members	16,560.00
301E · Group Membership	
Total 301 · Dues Collected	93,880.00
310 · Less OFBF Equity	
310A · Less Equity Active Members	-59,444.00
310B · Young Active Members	-90.00
310E · Group Membership	-13,248.00
Total 310 · Less OFBF Equity	-72,782.00
Total 300 · Dues	21,098.00
350 · Unearned Dues	-2,008.42
501B · Membership Gain Bonus	1,500.00
509 · County Annual Mtg	1,329.00
517 · 1st Internet / Interest / #117	998.02
518 · 1st Internet CD / Int / #118	719.71
531 · Wells Fargo / Interest / #111	4,414.49
532 · Smuckers / Dividends / # 113	2,879.31
535 · Farmer Share Breakfast 2024	504.15
550 · Core Funding	11,000.00
575 · Fair Building - Income	1,500.00
594 · Unrealized Gain/Loss	2,971.79
597 · Miscellaneous Income	
597A · NW Income	30.00
597 · Miscellaneous Income - Other	97.27
Total 597 · Miscellaneous Income	127.27
598 · Donations - Income	50.00
Total Income	47,083.32
Gross Profit	47,083.32
Expense	
605 · Audit, Accounting & Legal	750.00
610 · Advertising	500.00
645 · Donations	82.01
655 · Employee Welfare	275.00
656 · Payroll Expense	21.58
656A · Payroll Bank Fee	659.51
656B · Payroll Taxes	12,026.06
656C · Staff Wages	
Total 656 · Payroll Expense	12,707.15
670 · Fair Expenses & Animal Purchase	350.00
675 · Fair Building Expense	2,046.90
681 · Insurance-General (Office)	1,231.00
697 · Meetings	
697A · County Annual Meeting	2,084.16
697 · Meetings - Other	578.12
Total 697 · Meetings	2,662.28
698 · Membership Campaign	
698A · Membership Dues Notices/Postage	1,793.17
698 · Membership Campaign - Other	584.06
Total 698 · Membership Campaign	2,377.23

**Summit County Farm Bureau**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**October 2023 through August 2024**

	Oct '23 - Aug 24
699 · Member Services	176.78
703 · Newsletter & Postage	1,998.31
704 · Office Supplies	275.93
705 · Postage	410.28
710 · Promotion and Education	3,736.19
710A · Farmer Share Breakfast	1,534.95
710B · Educational Seminars	120.00
720 · Rent-Building/Office	
720A · Utilities	404.04
720B · Gen Office Maintenance Fee	220.00
720 · Rent-Building/Office - Other	754.60
Total 720 · Rent-Building/Office	1,378.64
727 · Copier	
727B · Sharp BLK/CLR Copies	330.02
Total 727 · Copier	330.02
728 · Service Contracts	521.23
734 · Sec'y Benefits D.Shull	719.76
735 · Scholarship	7,000.00
765 · Telephone/Internet	177.56
780 · Travel	5.52
790 · Web Site	356.55
Total Expense	41,723.29
Net Ordinary Income	5,360.03
Net Income	5,360.03

## Summit County Farm Bureau

## Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2024

	Aug 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
103 A · Huntington Checking Account	11,046.37
111 · Wells Fargo	108,174.06
113 · ETrade (Morgan Stanley)	102,917.51
117 · First Internet Bank	11,111.73
118 · First Internet Bank - 12 Mth CD	35,719.71
Total Checking/Savings	268,969.38
Accounts Receivable	
119 · Accounts Receivable	787.00
Total Accounts Receivable	787.00
Total Current Assets	269,756.38
Fixed Assets	
152 · Office Equipment	17,026.00
162 · Accum. Dep. Office Equipment	-17,026.00
Total Fixed Assets	0.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>269,756.38</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	1,380.15
2000 · Accounts Payable	
Total Accounts Payable	1,380.15
Other Current Liabilities	
214 · In & Out	-100.00
250 · Credit Deferred Dues	9,747.18
Total Other Current Liabilities	9,647.18
Total Current Liabilities	11,027.33
Total Liabilities	11,027.33
Equity	
280 · Surplus - Begin of Year	253,369.02
Net Income	5,360.03
Total Equity	258,729.05
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>269,756.38</u></b>



## **The Year In Review, 2023-2024**

Another year is rapidly coming to an end for Summit County Farm Bureau. The SCFB's work year begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 2024 – 2025 program year.

However, before we can move forward, we need to 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 2023 – 2024 highlights . . .

### **Sponsored Family and Community Events**

SCFB members enjoyed a multi-county Family Fun Night at the Ballpark in June. SCFB encouraged members to participate in the annual BWC Safety Meeting. SCFB hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers' Share Breakfast. SCFB sponsored a Farm Dog and a Farm Cat of the Year contests for members. SCFB will be hosting their Annual Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> at The Winery at Wolf Creek in Copley, Ohio.

### **Developed Educational Opportunities**

SCFB hosted three educational seminars; a CAUV Informational Meeting, a Western Reserve Land Conservancy Informational Meeting, and a Healthy Soil = Healthy Crops seminar. SCFB awarded a "new" renewable/four year scholarship and a "new: one year Dean Hartong Memorial 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 Antiques Museum during the Summit County Fair. SCFB supported a seed matching game within the SCFB Antiques 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 a member to the Ag In The Classroom Conference.

### **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 and The Akron Canton Food Bank.

SCFB sponsored an advertisement in the Summit County Fair program/map.

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 legislators.

The SCFB President and delegates attended the Ohio Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Columbus.

The SCFB Board Members conducted congressional incumbent reviews and open seat screenings for political candidates.

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 continued to work with agricultural stakeholders in Summit County to help draft comprehensive Agriculture Ordinances.

SCFB members continued to work 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 Antiques Museum**

SCFB sponsored an advertisement 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 benefited from partnering with Ag Pro for a display in front of the museum during the fair, which helped defer the cost of the professional cleaning of the museum.

SCFB members volunteered to supervise the museum during the Summit County Fair.

SCFB supported our member's 4-H children, monetary donations were given to the students in the 4-H Pen/Project Plaque Program.

August/September, 2024

District 8 State Trustee Report

Greetings Summit County Farm Bureau,

My name is Matt Vodraska and I am your State Trustee for District 8. I farm with my brother in northeast Wayne County where we grow apples, peaches, and a wide assortment of berries, as well as run an estate winery and hard cider operation. This year I have sat in on many Summit county board meetings, getting to know your county leaders and the issues you face. I am humbled by the trust that has been placed in me and look forward to continuing the legacy of being a strong and vocal advocate for you, your farm operations, and this community down in Columbus.

2024 has been a challenging year. The agricultural community is facing a historic pullback in farm income this year. Our struggle has been compounded by the increased inflation that has hit us all in almost every facet of our lives. Through this, it is more important than ever that Farm Bureau is working together to advance agriculture and strengthen our communities. This is our mission and defines everything we do. Farm Bureau is committed to providing every single member with a competitive advantage so you can achieve the best farm future for your family. We have defined this Value Proposition into four key categories that shape our work.

### **Shaping Policy**

Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture. We passionately advocate for good government policy and a healthy business climate so our members can prosper. We work directly with lawmakers to ensure our member's voices are heard when it comes to regulation, litigation, and legislation. Issues like CAUV reform, water quality and land management remain central to our legislative agenda. We continue to work hard to achieve our goals and have seen continued success in areas like H2Ohio.

### **Leveraging Trends**

Many of you may have noticed changes to Our Ohio. Staff have been hard at work reimagining our magazine to provide our members with information to better prepare for what the future holds. Recent issues have tackled topics like farm labor, technology, and succession planning. The July/August issue was a deep dive into CAUV. Future issues this year will provide further resources on energy costs as well as safety and risk information.

We also want to call attention to the Ag Intelligence Service. This is a joint initiative between OFBF and Nationwide that helps our members identify trends, pain points, and insights to facilitate more informed decisions on the farm. This information hub is accessed on [offb.org](http://offb.org) and has information on topics including new ag technologies, labor and workforce hiring and retention, and more.

### **Advancing On-Farm Business Solutions**

We are working hard to provide things that help farmers and small business owners do what they do more profitably and effectively. Our partnership with Nationwide provides access to premier risk management tools, and members can even receive discounts on some Nationwide products. Other business solutions we offer now include the Health Benefits Plan, a flexible health coverage option for sole proprietors and small businesses in the ag sector, the Ohio Farm Bureau Energy Program which

helps lock in fixed-rate contracts for your natural gas and electricity needs, and our Worker's Compensation Group Rating Program.

Our newest business solution is the Small-Scale Food business guide. This resource is exclusive to members and provides a wealth of information about the rules and regulations for small food businesses. It covers federal and state regulations for selling food products such as raw meat, dairy, eggs, baked goods, cottage foods, fruits and vegetables, honey, and more. This joins other business resources available to members like the Trucking Guide and the Landowner's Toolkit.

### **Creating Opportunities for Growth**

Membership provides an opportunity for networking, plus personal and professional growth to help you get to wherever you want to go. We have been leading the way in our Young Ag Professionals program, providing community, leadership development, and professional growth opportunities for members between the ages of 18 and 35. The AgriPower elite leadership program, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is a national model for developing ag leaders. I am a proud graduate of the program and encourage anyone interested in it to reach out. ExploreAg wrapped up another successful season just last month. It is Ohio Farm Bureau's signature ag literacy and workforce development program that offers free week, multi-day and day/long immersion programs for high school students. And finally, the Ohio Farm Bureau Foundation has continued their wonderful work by awarding scholarships, investing in our ag literacy efforts, and most recently in establishing the new Growing Tomorrow grants for small business development.

There is so much more to a Farm Bureau membership than a slip of paper. If you haven't already, I urge you to visit [ofbf.org](http://ofbf.org) to access more member resources. Most of the benefits and resources I mentioned are exclusively for members only. So, please log in to the website using your membership credentials to get even more value from your membership. Once you have set up your membership account online, you'll be able to take advantage of all the membership benefits, view our member resource guides, sign up for various e-newsletters, and so much more. See our staff if you have questions about how to access your online account.

Thank you all for coming to the Annual Meeting. This is the magic of Farm Bureau; gathering as a community and working to make positive changes in our industry. We sincerely appreciate your leadership and involvement in Farm Bureau and I thank you for your time. You are what makes Farm Bureau strong. Godspeed and best of luck on a safe and prosperous harvest season.

Yours Truly,



Matt Vodraska

OFBF District 8 State Trustee

## August/September 2024 Organization Director Report

2024 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!

### Appreciation

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!

I also want to give a shout out to the members who participated in this year's Membership Campaign. Recruiting new members is not always the easiest task but doing so in a year after a dues increase is extra challenging. Numerous members on and off the board contributed to the membership campaign by soliciting memberships themselves and helping at member events over the course of the last year. Thanks to the volunteers' efforts, Summit County Farm Bureau ended the year with farmer gain and over 1,100 member families! What a great team!

### Victories

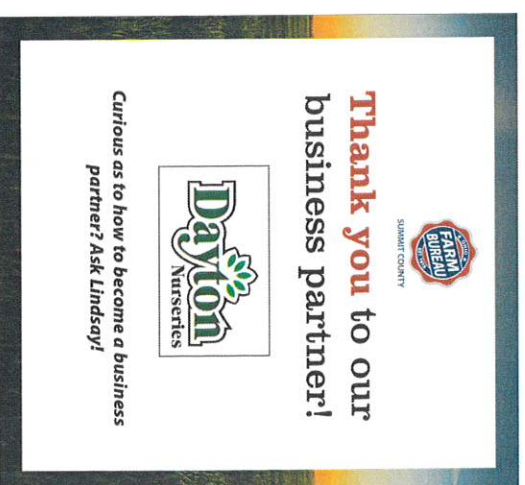
Ohio Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau have had a lot of legislative victories in the last 12 months. Please look to your publications and the Ohio Farm Bureau website for details! We are grateful for elected officials who support many of our policy priorities in the state house and at the capitol.

As you know, 2024 is an election year so make sure to refer to your Sept/Oct issue of the Our Ohio magazine for the 2024 election guide. This member benefit is provided to members as an election reference guide after months of hard work by county Farm Bureau volunteers and staff. It notes which candidates (incumbents as well as those running for open seats) who received the Friend of Ag designation from the Ohio Agriculture for Good Government Political Action Committee (AGGPAC). The AGGPAC is a separate entity that functions from donations from members (not by dues). **There are numerous individuals in Summit County who are in office or who are running for office that received the Friend of Ag designation this year! For the Ohio House - designees include Bill Roemer, Steve Demetrious, Veronica Sims, Derrick Hall, Jack Daniels and Jim Colopy. For the Ohio Senate - Casey Weinstein. Congratulations!**

### Thank you!

We have two outgoing board members that deserve a huge thanks for their years of service to Summit County Farm Bureau. **Carol Bessemer and Tom Dayton** are departing the board after 14 and 13 years of service, respectively. Thank you for your commitment to our organization! I'd also like to thank the County Office Administrators in the North Royalton office – Jan Weaver, Diane Draudt and Josie Armstrong – who work diligently to support Summit County Farm Bureau!

Last but not least, thanks to all of you for supporting the Summit County Farm Bureau with your membership!



## Summit County Farm Bureau

### Proposed Policies 2024

The policy development committee submits for your consideration the following:

#### LOCAL

We support municipalities and township officials holding public meetings as they create and update their zoning ordinances.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

#### LOCAL

We support zoning ordinances that accommodate a diversity of agricultural operations.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_

No \_\_\_\_\_

*All Summit County Farm Bureau members are eligible to vote.*

**SUMMIT COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
2024 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**

_____ Donna Cecil	_____ Matt Hartong
_____ Rodger Ramsthaler	_____ Chrissy Seyerle
_____ Jim St John	_____ Jim Vogt, DVM

**DELEGATE TO 2025 STATE ANNUAL MEETING**

**VOTE FOR THREE**

_____ Carl Harp	_____ Suzanne Crist Call	_____ Paula Mularcik
	Alternate: Jim Vogt	

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