



Field Notes for The Week Of

2-20-2023

Ag Day In the Capital

My office calendar tells me that it is still February and still considered winter, but my mind and body say it must be spring! It has been one of the strangest winters I've lived through, with above-normal temperatures and extreme changes in the weather pattern, wet to dry and cold to warm have been the name of the game this winter season. Last week was actually a very productive week for local producers as several drying days allowed the soil to settle up. As I made my rounds and talked to a few producers, there was no slack in work, grain, and hay were being moved, manure was being hauled, fences were being built, calves were being born, and even some early season tillage. It amazes me how just a few days with some wind and warm temperatures drastically change working conditions on the farm. The weather is not the only thing that can drastically change working conditions on the farm, global markets, environmental disasters, industrial expansion, urbanization, and laws and regulations are all factors that can have a great impact on agriculture. Farmers are very busy people and each and every day they have something new and changing to confront and deal with. The problem is that there is only so much time in the day and the workforce is limited. If one was to sit down with a farmer or go to the barn with them and ask them what they think needs to be done to deal with all the outside forces threatening their business, you better take a lot of paper and make sure your pen has plenty of ink. One thing I have heard many farmers say (including me) if I had the time I would go to the capital or Washington and give them a piece of my mind. But in reality, most farmers don't have that time, fortunately, farmers have a group in their corner call the Farm Bureau Federation. On February 15th, I had the honor of making the trip to the capital building to be part of a day that the Ohio farm bureau informs our state leaders on the issues that need to be addressed from across the state. The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots membership-driven organization that is committed to supporting Ohio agriculture. I would describe them as the voice for agriculture, when farmers are busy doing what they do best Ohio Farm Bureau can make sure their voices are not unheard and forgotten.

Some of the hot topics addressed at the Ag Day of the capital included:

- Solar Industry effects on ag land
- Eminent domain from utility and industry
- Labor regulation and H2A program
- Future livestock analysis lab at ODA
- Young and beginning farmer support and workforce development.
- CAUV
- H2Ohio conservation goals.

If you would like to learn more about Ohio Farm Bureau or become a member, go to ofbf.org

