

THE BUD

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Serving the Amish and Mennonite Communities Throughout th

\$2.00

A GOOD WORD...

*Words of Wisdom
from Budgetland*

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little rain is
often needed.**

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One & Only



Jason Fawks

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Obituaries

Levi Miller, 84, Dundee

Marie Miller, 55, Baltic

Roy Miller, 88, Apple Creek

Sara Miller, 64, Fredericksburg

Simon Miller, 74, Fredericksburg

Ag growth in Wayne County



Photo by Beverly Keller

Participants at a discussion held at Seacrest Welcome Center in Wooster worked together to place markers on supporting business to the ag community.

By Beverly Keller
The Budget

Opportunity is ripe for the picking when it comes to the agriculture sector of Wayne County. An event held last month that partnered the Wayne County Farm Bureau, Local Roots, FoodSphere, Plain Partners, American Farmland Trust, OSU-OARDC, and OSU Wayne County Extension, offered an opportunity for groups to learn about each other and work together at the same time.

Dr. Shoshannah Inwood, Associate Professor at The Ohio State University, shared that Pathways to Prosperity is a collaborative project that is aimed at building rural wealth through value-added food and agriculture.

Approximately 40 percent of the ag base of Wayne County is based in the dairy industry. In 2021, approximately \$8 million in ag related good sales were recorded.

Dr. Inwood presented data from a 2020 Ohio Farm Poll conducted in Wayne and Holmes counties. It noted that an average of 70 percent of respondents said they are concerned about the future of farming in this area. While an average of 37 percent of respondents said they would encourage their children to become farmers. About 50 percent noted they didn't believe their children could take over the farm.

SEE FARM ... PAGE 8

CR 16



Holmes County Road 160 near Youngburg is closed until further notice following a single vehicle accident involving a Chevrolet Avalanche Wednesday afternoon. According to Holmes County Engineer Chris Young, the damage is extensive and not repairable. The concrete base is cracked. A new box culvert could not be installed until September, leaving Youngburg at all other possible options. The road is a main artery for workers for businesses including Case Farms, B and Wayne Dalton and connects Carawas County Road 95 (Trail Road).

LaRose stops in Millersburg

Garaway Dram

FARM ... continued from Page 1

With those numbers in mind, Dr. Inwood noted that Wayne County's farmers are relatively young. Approximately 21 percent are less than age 35 while 19 percent are 35 - 44 and another 19 percent is 45 - 54. Farmers from age 55 to 64 make up 22 percent of the total picture while those over the age of 65 accounts for 19 percent of the total.

Dr. Inwood noted that the goal of the event was to increase collaboration within the county and create working relationships for those who find ag at the core of their lives. She noted that 75 percent of the land in Wayne County is farmland - a whopping 268,298 acres.

Johnathan McCracken from USDA Rural Development noted there are various programs available from loans to grants to help farmers with their needs from operational growth and development to marketing and everything in between. Andrew Dumont and Julia innovators shared information about how they work to keep farmers on the land in Ohio and throughout the country as a farmer working the land means there will be goods to sell.

To engage the group, an exercise to help identify the assets of Wayne County was conducted. Maps were notated and then shared after a lunch prepared by Local Roots. The goal to strengthen and collaborate in order to build wealth through agriculture and food products in Wayne County was mapped to help bring Amish farmers at produce auctions and vegetable grower cooperatives to the same table as Local Roots where small farms are working to direct market to consumers. An ag success team that includes processors, ag innovators like Pioneer and banks as well as OSU Extension, Farm Bureau and Wayne County Commissioners is on the horizon.

"Our goal is to increase the collaborate nature of agriculture," Dr. Inwood said. "By enhancing our connections to each other and our communities, we can make a difference."

Swiss Festival Queen hits the road



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Local Edition

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CR 160 CLOSED

