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## Engaging the Ag Industry



## Updates from the CEO

Chris Henney, President/CEO

Fall is upon us and as the weather cools and leaves change color, farmers are beginning harvest. In Ohio we mostly think of corn and soybeans when we think of the fall harvest, but other crops, such as apples, pumpkins and gourds, are ripening as well. Our member companies are prepped and ready to aid farmers with this year's harvest. It sounds like it could be a big one!

USDA's September 10th U.S. crop production report surprised many with their latest estimates. They now predict this corn crop to total 14.184 billion bushels at an average yield of 169.9 bushels per acre. If realized, this would be the third-largest crop ever recorded. Soybeans were also increased. They are now estimated to be at 4.43 billion bushels on an average yield of 49.9 bushels per acre. Keep in mind these numbers do not include

any effects of hurricanes Harvey and Irma. It will be interesting to see October's report.

Our companies' grain elevators will be hopping this fall with employees working long hours to keep up with farmers' deliveries. Safety is a number one priority for these companies. One way we help reinforce this message is through our sponsorship and support of the annual Bin Entry/Tech Rescue Training held in Sidney, Ohio. This four-day program is conducted by SATRA (a pro-board accredited training institution) and designed to give first responders hands-on training with grain bin rescue for emergency situations at grain elevators and farms.

Don't hesitate to reach out if you are interested in learning more about our activities, member companies in your district, or if you'd like to have a tour of an Ohio agribusiness. You can reach me at [chenney@oaba.net](mailto:chenney@oaba.net) or 614-326-7520.

## OABA Student Credential Recognized by ODE

### Qualified students verified for work in agribusiness sector

The Ohio AgriBusiness Association Student Credential has become an industry-recognized credential through the Ohio Department of Education.

Now known as the Ohio AgriBusiness Association - Agribusiness and Production Systems Certification, the program provides an industry-recognized, agribusiness credential that verifies high school student expertise in the areas of agriculture, agribusiness and production systems.

"The OABA student credential was conceived as a solution to the growing need for qualified candidates in the agribusiness sector," said Chris Henney, president and CEO of OABA. "Recognition by the Department of Education allows our credential to have greater reach and impact on students across Ohio."

Since the program's implementation in 2016, 13 students have met the program standards to receive the credential. As these students enter the workforce, OABA encourages its members to seek candidates who have acquired the credential.

To be eligible for the program, a student must be enrolled in a career-technical agricultural program



Photo courtesy of Ohio FFA Foundation

and complete three agricultural courses to engage in learning and apply technical skills in foundational agricultural concepts.

Additionally, students must complete a course in agriculture business management and maintain a Supervised Agricultural Experience through their FFA chapter. More details on the credential, including requirements, current recipients and the application are available at [oaba.net/student\\_credential](http://oaba.net/student_credential).

**Read more OABA news and learn more about the association by visiting [oaba.net](http://oaba.net).**

## OABA Completes Ed Trust Endowment Fund



The OABA Board of Directors has voted to match the Educational Trust's initial contribution of \$50,000 to complete the Endowed Scholarship Fund. The endowment will provide \$8,000 annually in scholarship revenue, in perpetuity, to students studying agriculture at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster.

## Research, Technology Highlighted at 4R Technology Review Field Day



The 2017 4R Technology Review Field Day brought together more than 90 retailers, farmers and other interested parties to learn about agriculture's continued efforts to improve water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin and waterways across Ohio.

The event was held by OABA, in partnership with The Fertilizer Institute, Environmental Tillage Systems, Mosaic, Ohio Soybean Council, Ohio Corn & Wheat Growers Association.

## OABA Welcomes Meredith Oglesby

Meredith Oglesby is the student intern for the Ohio AgriBusiness Association for the 2017-2018 school year. She will provide support to OABA's membership, events, policy and other key efforts.

Oglesby is originally from Hillsboro, Ohio and is currently a second-year student at The Ohio State University studying Agricultural Communication. At Ohio State, Oglesby is a member of Ag-Ed Society and the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2020.



## Ohio AgriBusiness Association AWARDS INITIATIVE

### OABA to Recognize Agribusiness Leaders

OABA will recognize outstanding leaders in the agribusiness industry through the Awards and Recognition Initiative.

Members are now able to nominate their employees for two award opportunities: Excellence in Safety & Stewardship, sponsored by ABIS/J.H. Ward Agency and Achievement as an Emerging Leader, sponsored by FLM Harvest.

Award recipients will be recognized at the 2018 OABA Industry Conference on Feb. 1. Winners will receive complimentary registration and lodging for the conference, recognition in industry publications and a \$1,000 cash award.

### 4R Program Now Open to Retailers and Nutrient Service Providers Statewide

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification Program announced the expansion of its voluntary program statewide in Ohio at the "4Rs for a Growing Ohio" launch event Dec. 9 in Radnor, Ohio. Effective Jan. 1, all Ohio-based agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers will be able to participate in efforts to improve the quality of Ohio's waterways.



### 4R Program At a Glance In Ohio:

**40 Certified Branch Facilities**

**34 Branch Commitments**

**2,770,000 Total Acres Serviced**

**5,900 Total Clients**

## Industry in Action



In June and August, members raised more than \$53,000 for agribusiness student scholarships.



Mike Badger was recognized as the 2017 Golf for Scholarships Honoree.



At the 2017 Bin Entry/Tech Rescue Training, firefighters learned grain rescue techniques.



A partnership with OSU Extension, FSR Agronomy College covered current agronomy topics.