



**House Agriculture Committee
HB 65 Proponent Testimony
Evan Callicoa, Director of State Policy
April 2, 2025**

Chairman Creech, Vice Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 65, or the "Agriculture Appreciation Act." Ohio Farm Bureau proudly champions the success of Ohio agriculture, sharing our members' amazing stories so that Ohio's #1 industry can continue to be just that. HB 65 designates multiple days throughout the year that will help bring consumers and producers better awareness of Ohio agriculture.

4-H and FFA are critical partners in preparing the next generation of our workforce, often as students' first interaction with agriculture in their whole lives. Founded in Clark County, Ohio, by AB Graham in 1902, 4-H currently has almost 6 million youth members, with over 500,000 volunteers nationwide. Through cooperative extension, 4-H is the nation's largest youth development organization, partnering with over 100 public universities to "make the best, better." FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real-world success. Acknowledging 4-H and FFA Weeks will give due recognition to two amazing organizations that have done so much for us, not just in Ohio, but our country and our world.

As consumers drift further from the farm, it is crucial to spotlight agriculture and those who work in it, so that consumers have a better understanding of where their food originates. Recognizing Agriculture Day and Farmer's Day will strengthen the connection between the public and our industry, ultimately fostering a healthier society. Celebrating Soil Health Week is a fitting tribute to David Brandt, a pioneer in soil health and a tireless advocate for agriculture wherever he went. Pioneering the usage of no-till and cover crops, David Brandt made an immeasurable impact on agriculture that will resonate for generations.

We appreciate Representatives Klopfenstein and Peterson for introducing this legislation and the opportunity to testify in support of HB 65 this morning. Ohio Farm Bureau and its members are grateful for every opportunity to highlight not only our amazing industry but our way of life. I'd be happy to answer any questions at this time.