

Good afternoon,

I am an Ohio Agricultural Education Teacher here in Ohio and I have taught at Paulding Exempted Village Schools for 10 years now. I am writing on behalf of HB 96, 5th Quarter funding for Agricultural Education Teachers here in Ohio. Currently HB 96 is included in the state budget for \$600,000 dollars. We would like to have that amount increased to \$1.2 million each year over the next two years. This funding will go to help the over 500 Agricultural Education Teachers in over 300 schools here in Ohio better serve their over 30,000 Ag Ed/FFA Members each year. This funding is used to help Ag Teachers work with their students outside of the normal school day, where the vast majority of all of the FFA Activities and leadership development activities take place. I have worked with hundreds of students over the last 10 years outside of the normal school day hours and I believe this time has helped our students grow and learn in so many more ways than normal classes during regular school hours. This grant is vital to expand the programming for Ag Educators to maintain and grow their programs. This funding has allowed me to go out and get to see my students in their elements rather it be work based learning or their livestock or other SAE projects. I truly believe this grant funding has helped to strengthen my program. As CTE and Ag programs grow in the state this money is vital especially since many schools are having budget issues. I truly appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Staci Miller
Paulding Ag Educator/FFA Advisor