

A story on Farming and Taxes...

Does anyone know where New Albany Ohio is? Perhaps you've heard of Les Wexner?

New Albany was founded in **1837**, but its story really begins in the late 1980s, when Wexner was looking for somewhere to build a country home. The Columbus, Ohio, native spent weekends scouring central Ohio for the perfect spot to construct his rural getaway. – *Bloomberg May 17, 2019*

I'm a sixth generation farmer who grew up farming in New Albany, Ohio. My ancestors were one of the founders of New Albany in the early 1800's. For nearly 200 years my family has worked the soil and land of New Albany. Now, New Albany's known for Wexner and all his great ideas and accomplishments.

My Grandpa Doran was born in 1900 farming his whole life, and passing it along to his 6 children; one of them my dad who was born in 1939 at their New Albany farm house on Bevelhymer Road. Perhaps you've heard of Bevelhymer Parks? That was our old cattle farm, where my parents raised around 50 black angus cattle and their 13 children, me being number 10 of the 13. Growing up in this family and this upbringing taught me the meaning of a close family and hard work. Along with the farm, my parents owned a restaurant, Doran's Dairy Delite. My parents would bounce back and forth between the farm, the kids, and the restaurant. We farmed around 1400 acres all over New Albany, leasing most of the land. Little by little the land diminished as Wexner set in and fields were bought up for development. We've watched New Albany totally transform in the past 30 years.

The farm my dad still owns is on Bevelhymer Road. We bought the 40 acre farm in 1987. When we bought the land the total property tax was \$3,000 per year. Now, 30 years later the taxes on the same property is over \$17,000 per year (that's over \$1,400/month). After centuries of the Doran's farming the lands all around New Albany, sadly none of dad's children stayed in New Albany.

It's hard to farm your land when your taxes are so high. There is no crop we can grow on the farm that would even cover the cost of the property tax.

HB 95 will not only give younger (fresher) farmers an incentive, but also the older (retiring) ones a tax break. The farmers and people still taking care of this land needs a break and as much help as they can get.