



*Working together for Ohio farmers to advance
agriculture and strengthen our communities.*

**Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 239
Before the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee
Tony Seegers, Director of State Policy
May 4, 2021**

Chairman Koehler, Vice Chair Creech, Ranking Member Brent, and Members of the Ohio House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, my name is Tony Seegers and I am Director of State Policy for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. On behalf of Ohio Farm Bureau and its members, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on HB 239.

Passage of HB 239 will provide a valuable resource to Ohio farmers by expanding on Ohio State University's current Farm Financial Management Institute by forming the Farm Production, Policy and Financial Management Institute.

The Morrill Act established the Land Grant college mission, which is to promote a sound and prosperous agriculture and rural life as indispensable to national prosperity and security. As a Land Grant college, The Ohio State University plays an important role to meet this goal in Ohio. Farm Bureau Policy wholeheartedly supports efforts to ensure food and agriculture research is applicable and readily disseminated in a usable format to farmers and allied industry members through Ohio State's College of Food Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. HB 239 helps achieve that goal.

Modern agriculture requires farmers to learn and understand many topics important to their success such as chemistry, agronomy, mechanics, as well as financial management and economics, just to name a few. The assistance the institute can offer farmers in the area of financial management in particular will be valuable in managing the financial complexities of running a farm.

Expanding the institute's suite of programs to include farm production practices, agricultural marketing and farm policy challenges will provide a significant benefit to Ohio's farmers. We also appreciate the addition in the bill of farm owners and managers to the priority list of enrollment as a classification to receive training in these areas.

For these reasons, Ohio Farm Bureau supports HB 239 and urges the Committee's favorable consideration of the bill.