

Ohio Township Association Legislative Alert



August 25, 2017

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Does Your Township Have An Agritourism Operation?

Last year, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation pertaining to agritourism operations in Ohio (SB 75, 131st GA). Among other things, the new law defines agritourism, states a county or township may regulate certain factors pertaining to agritourism and addressed immunity of said operations in certain circumstances. The bill went into effect in August 2016.

The OTA is looking for feedback from townships that have zoning and have an agritourism operation in their township. Do you have any issues? If you do, please contact the State Association at 614.863.0045.

Ohio Ethics Commission Newsletter Now Available

This week the Ohio Ethics Commission released their latest newsletter, [The Voice of Ethics](#). The third quarter newsletter includes information on the upcoming Safeguarding Integrity Conference and how the Ethics Law applies when a public official serves an agency that is considering a regulatory matter in which the public official has an interest.



To view the newsletter, please click [here](#).

Farmland Preservation Certification Process Now Open



Counties, soil & water conservation districts, land trusts, cities and townships are invited to apply to the Office of Farmland Preservation for Local Sponsor Certification. The [Application for Local Sponsor Certification](#) is open from August 21 through October 13, 2017. Any organization interested in being a local sponsor for the 2018 landowner application year must apply during this time period. FAQs about the program may be found on the Department of Agriculture's [website](#).

Local Sponsors who complete the above mentioned Local Sponsor Certification application and qualify will be allocated a portion of the [Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program](#) (LAEPP) 2018 funds. These funds are used to purchase agricultural easements on Ohio farms. For a list of upcoming dates and deadlines for this funding round, please click [here](#).

Questions? Please contact:
[Office of Farmland Preservation](#)

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Let's Talk About Local Research - ORIL's Idea Discussion Site is NOW AVAILABLE!

Are you interested in local-focused transportation research? Do you have an idea for a project, but aren't sure if you want to submit it to the Ohio's Research Initiative for Locals (ORIL) Board for consideration? Would you like to have other transportation professionals weigh-in on your idea? Are you not a representative of a local public agency, but want to provide input on topics that could potentially become research projects?



Join the conversation! ORIL is pleased to announce the new [ORIL Idea Discussion Site](#). This site is meant to encourage conversations about transportation issues that are important to Ohio's local public agencies. It's a forum to solicit input from colleagues, experts, and practitioners on ideas, challenges or best practices for the local transportation system. Anyone can participate in the [ORIL Idea Discussion Site](#) and it is updated with new information every two weeks.

So, what are you waiting for? Go to the [ORIL Idea Discussion Site](#) to learn more and become part of the conversation!



The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is seeking entries for the 2018 Safety Innovation Awards. Winners will receive \$1,000 to \$6,000 in cash awards and be recognized at the 2018 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo. Your innovation must demonstrate reduction in safety or ergonomic risk factors, or occupational health exposures. The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2017. Learn more and apply [here](#) today!

Register Now for the 2017 Ohio Environmental Leadership Program

"Developing Leadership in Ohio's Urban Environmental Landscape"

The Ohio Environmental Leaders Institute provides environmental, natural resource and sustainability professionals (and professionals-in-training) with the skills needed to better address complex environmental issues in our state.

This annual, cohort-based program seeks participants from the private, public, non-profit sectors. Individuals who lead, or who aspire to lead, collaborative planning and decision-making processes that integrate science and public values will benefit the most from participating in OELI. Each annual Institute cohort joins an expanding leadership network to advance civil, constructive policy discussions in Ohio. Sessions are designed to increase your knowledge and skills in communication, negotiation, civic engagement, collaborative problem-solving and leadership.

This year's program will focus on urban environmental issues, including (but not limited to) local foods, safe drinking water, environmental justice and climate adaptation. Participants will learn through a diverse offering of activities, including case studies, small-group and panel discussions, role-plays, and presentations from subject-matter experts and environmental leaders from around Ohio.

Session Dates: October 10, November 9 and December 5.

**Optional dinner and discussion events are held the evening before each session.*

Registration deadline: September 22, 2017

Registration fee: \$300.00 (includes materials and meals) Single session: \$125.00

For more information: Please click [here](#) or contact Mary Slyby at 614.688.3421.

Registration is Now Open for the Ohio Electronic Records Commission's (OhioERC) 2017 Fall Workshop

"To Scan or Not to Scan: That is the Question!"

This FREE workshop will investigate the pros and cons of scanning various types of records, as well as demonstrate a new feasibility tool developed by the OhioERC for evaluating records for digitization. Following the presentation, there will be 4 session rotations that will allow attendees to take a fun, hands-on, small group, deeper dive into uncovering the hidden costs and variables before, during, and after digitizing, as well as utilizing the feasibility tool and touring the Delaware County Records Center and Archives reformatting operations.

This training has been certified for:

- * 2 hours toward NAGARA's Local Government Archives and Records Administrator's certificate in the core competency of Reformatting
- * 1 credit toward the Ohio Records Association professional development
- * 2.5 certification maintenance credits for CRMs and CRAs through the Institute of Certified Records Managers

Again, this workshop is free to attend, plus a travel stipend for mileage is being sponsored by our partner organizations.

Date: Friday, October 6, 2017

Time: 9:00-11:30 a.m. OR 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Location: Delaware, Ohio

**Seating is limited to 50 per session, so register early.*

For more details, the agenda, physical location, and travel stipend information, please visit <http://ohioerc.org/>. To register, please click [here](#).

Questions can be directed to:

OhioERC@ohiohistory.org

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Ohio Township Association

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