



Dear Governor DeWine, President Huffman, and Speaker Cupp:

On behalf of Ohio's livestock and poultry industry and the farmers we represent, we humbly urge you to take action to put locally sourced foods on the shelves of Ohio's foodbanks and the tables of the families they serve. As you are aware, the ongoing pandemic has and continues to adversely impact many Ohioans, especially concerning the important issue of food security.

**The Ohio livestock and poultry industry are requesting \$15 million in immediate funding to help Ohio's 12 regional foodbanks restock their shelves with livestock, dairy, and poultry protein sources – pork, beef, chicken, lamb, milk, cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese, eggs, etc.**

**Funded by Ohio ARPA or other funds as deemed appropriate, we request that foodbanks will procure foods from Ohio farmers, processed by Ohio companies, to be spent on livestock and poultry protein and to support the transportation, storage and distribution expenses for the meat, eggs and dairy items to the 12 Ohio food banks.**

Foodbanks have been extraordinary partners of ours, and we are proud to support their mission to keep every Ohioan nourished. Right now, our foodbanks are suffering from the impact of rising prices and supply chain instability. As supply chains remain tight and raw material shortages abound, individuals already impacted by food insecurity are hit the hardest with lack of access to affordable, wholesome foods. That's why more people are coming to foodbanks for help as their budgets won't stretch to afford higher food, fuel, and housing costs.

We want to thank the Ohio General Assembly and DeWine Administration for being champions of our foodbanks, and we are grateful for the actions you took early in the pandemic to allocate additional money from Jobs and Family Services to support foodbanks when there was a dramatic increase in customers.

We strongly urge you to use the funding at your disposal again, and allocate American Rescue Plan Act dollars, to help keep food on the shelves for Ohio's foodbanks and the families they serve. Our sector is eager to partner with them to drive affordable local commodities through their channels.

On behalf of Ohio's livestock and poultry community, we ask that you please support this request as part of your larger approach to stabilize and strengthen our agricultural industry in Ohio. Thank you for your leadership, and we are happy to discuss.

Sincerely,

Scott Higgins  
CEO  
Ohio Dairy Producers Association

Elizabeth Harsh  
Executive Director  
Ohio Cattlemen's Association

Roger High  
Executive Director  
Ohio Sheep Improvement Association

Cheryl Day  
Executive Director  
Ohio Pork Council

Jim Chakeres  
Executive Director  
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