

**MINDY BANKEY**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Meet Mindy Bankey:**

Currently, I am serving as the CEO of the Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (OFSWCD), a position which I have held for the past 8 years. In this role, I work to represent Ohio's 88 soil and water conservation districts through the administration of grant programs, develop policies and outreach opportunities, coordinate events, follow legislative issues, provide support and more....

Before serving the OFSWCD, I served as the Interim Executive Director for the Ohio Forestry Association. While serving the OFA, I represented, promoted and supported the management of Ohio's forest resources and the improvement of business conditions for the OFA members, in addition to managing the Paul Bunyan Show.

The bulk of my professional career involved the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. I served as the Legislative Liaison and the Environmental Review Coordinator. During this time, I coordinated the agency's legislative initiatives, policies, and environmental review process to ensure compliance with federal and state environmental regulatory procedures. I worked with various ODNR directors, staff and divisions to create or update policies and procedures on behalf of the department. I also represented the agency during hearings, meetings, and more to present testimony or to act on behalf of the department.

Before serving the ODNR, I served as the legislative assistant to State Legislator Doug White, who served in both the House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate. I handled legislative and budget issues, constituent casework, developed press releases and weekly columns and tracked issues of interest to both the member and his constituency.

During College, I served as a Congressional Intern for Congressman Bob McEwen in Washington, DC.

In 1993, I graduated from Cedarville College (now University) with a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Social Sciences.

I reside in Grove City, am married and have two daughters. I am also a coach for the Grove City Christian Cross Country, girls Basketball and track & field teams.

## **Fred Yoder bio**

Fred Yoder is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer who has lived and farmed near Plain City, Ohio for over 40 years. Along with his wife Debbie and his 2 children he grows corn, soybeans, and wheat on his farm of 1500 acres. He also has operated a retail farm seed business for over 35 years, and sells seed to all kinds of farmers including those who use biotech varieties, conventional varieties, and also to those who grow organic crops. A few years ago, Fred formed Yoder Ag Services LLC, and brought in his son and daughter as partners to ensure the 5th generation would continue the tradition of the family's involvement in agriculture.

Fred has served as President of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA), which has over 40,000 dues paying members, and also represents over 300,000 corn farmers in the United States who support them with their check-off contributions. He has also served for many years in the Ohio Corn Growers Association in various leadership positions. He has also served as Chairman of the NCGA's Biotech Working Group, which helped to develop protocols to ensure that new emerging technologies could be used safely on the farm while protecting other existing crop systems. He currently serves as a director on the Ohio Corn and Wheat Growers Association. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Corn Marketing Program, which invests in the promotion of Ohio corn markets as well as funding research and education projects to ensure the long-term viability of the corn farmer in Ohio, as well as funding other projects that promote resilience and sustainability in all production systems.

Fred has traveled many times to the European Union to speak about co-existence of production systems, where both organic and other production systems can thrive side by side as neighbors.

Fred is also currently serving as the Chairman of the North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance (NACSAA) which includes farm groups, life science companies, commodity groups, ag equipment retailers, seed companies, nutrient retailers, academia, crop protection companies, green groups, government, and many more to discover ways to not only produce food, feed, fiber, and energy more sustainably, but how to adapt to a changing climate to ensure farms can be more resilient and profitable while also providing more ecosystem services to the consumer. Soil health is a primary focus as well as environmental outcomes since we are learning how

important the interaction between what is happening below the ground and on the surface is to the resiliency of all production systems. Cover crops have become a major focus as a tool to keep biological activity alive as well as scavenging excess nutrients to keep available for the next crop instead of always just adding more. This also adds value to water quality, as well as provide storage for future needs. Economics will be a primary driver for adaptation to new and better methods of production, and the alliance is working hard on showcasing those benefits.

Fred is co-chair of the Solutions from the Land non-profit which is helping lead a 2017 project: Ohio Smart Agriculture with support from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Fred also serves on the AGree Advisory Council, which is comprised of many members of all entities involved in the production, distribution, research, and policy development of food and agriculture, looking for ways that are transformative, ensuring we will be able to feed a hungry world into the future sustainably. He currently is serving on their risk management task force, where they are looking for ways to improve those tools available to farmers as well as looking for ways we can use various data sets that are collected separately, yet could be extremely useful if they could be accessed as a whole.

Fred also serves on a farmer advisory council for the Environmental Defense Fund, looking for environmental as well as economic solutions to water quality and sustainable supply chain challenges.

Fred has received various awards in Ohio for his conservation efforts, and was recently inducted into the Ohio Agriculture Hall of Fame. He has also been recognized by the White House as a "Champion of Change" for his work on climate change in agriculture.

Fred is still involved as an advisor to NCGA with their efforts to develop solutions to current issues that agriculture faces, including climate change, sustainability definitions, biofuel production, and other important issues.