

Congratulations and gratitude to Police Chief William Talbott, the Swanton Police Dept., Sheriff Darrel Merillat and the drug task force of Fulton County for receiving indictments on 17 individuals and successfully arresting 11 to date on drug trafficking charges last week. Charges against those arrested range from marijuana to heroin trafficking. The joint effort between Swanton Police and the Fulton County Sheriff's office has been ongoing for over three months. Most of the accused are not residents of Swanton; however, their illegal activity has been taking place within Swanton and surrounding borders.

The drug trafficking problem was brought to my attention by many citizens when I was campaigning door to door last fall. At that time, I was personally unaware of the long term problem, but brought it to Chief Talbott's attention upon his hiring and asked him to concentrate on eradicating these drug dealers from our town. He has succeeded, with great cooperation from the Fulton County Sheriff's drug task force, and I am confident that it will continue to be at the forefront of his work here. We want to send a very clear message to the offenders that Swanton will not tolerate drug trafficking and will continue to be vigilant with our efforts in the future.

Two weeks ago, I spent an entire day touring Fulton County area farms. The tour was sponsored by the Fulton County Farm Bureau and led by Carol Willson. It was ladies day, and several area county and state women in office were in attendance. We visited a swine operation, a dairy farm, carrot harvesting, tomato harvesting, Metamora Elevator, and Falor Farm Service. The host farmers were so informative about their history and industries, and their hospitality was superb. I feel it is imperative as a public official to keep abreast and supportive of Ohio's number one industry, agriculture. My association with the Farm Bureau comes from two directions. My husband and his family are farmers and members of Farm Bureau, and my father's entire professional career was with Farm Bureau and Landmark. The experience was valuable, and I look forward to attending more events sponsored by Fulton County Farm Bureau.