



# Montgomery County Farm Bureau County Messenger

March 2012

## Food Check-Out Week

Through the work of the PFB state Women's Leadership Committee and County Farm Bureaus across Pennsylvania, it was another successful year celebrating Food Check-Out Week. Events were held statewide to help educate the public about "Stretching Their Food Dollars" and creating awareness of the work farmers do to feed the world.

It was also another successful year raising money and donations for the five Ronald McDonald House Charities in the state. This year a total of \$60,200 was raised for the Houses. Since 1998, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has raised over \$770,000 for the Ronald McDonald Houses and local food banks of Pennsylvania.

In our county, Food Check-Out Day was celebrated this year at Freddy Hill Farms in Lansdale. Farm Bureau members helped raise over \$15,000 for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. Below pictured L-R are: Anne Scardino, RMH Board member, Ronald, Farm Bureau State Board Member Sonia Fink, Montgomery County Farm Bureau President John Caroff, and RMH Board Member and co-founder of the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, Jim Murray.

## Make Sure to Use Membership Codes When Applying for Discounts

Everyone loves to save money, but, in order to save money through Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's numerous discounts, you need to use a code. Using membership codes is the sure-fire way to ensure that you will get the discount! Membership codes are printed monthly in County Focus, and are also available at [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com) under the membership section.

Here's a few of the codes that members can use to save money:  
*To receive \$200.00 cash back from ADT use Code #A20435—To get free shipping and handling from Grainger use: #855488417—To receive discounts on reservation at Choice Hotels use: Code #00800585*





### Women's Leadership Committee Kicks Off FARM-tastic Book Program

The State Women's Leadership Committee is kicking off the FARM-tastic Book Program for Agriculture Literacy. Each State Women's Committee member will be working with their local Women's Committee or County Board to help activate the program. This year's book is "How Did That Get In My Lunchbox: The Story of Food" by Chris Butterworth, which has been designated as the American Farm Bureau Book of the Year.

The cost for each book is \$12 and sponsorships are encouraged to purchase the books. Each County Farm Bureau is asked to find sponsorships for each book and work with their local public and elementary school librarians to add the book to the library's collection.

Orders, money, and names of sponsorships should be turned into your State Women's Representative. The Committee will then place a bulk book order. After the books arrive, a name plate will be inserted in the front of the book, recognizing the sponsor, and will be delivered to the County Farm Bureau for delivery to the libraries.

Contact Bonnie Caroff or PFB Committee Director Laura Daubert at [ledaubert@pfb.com](mailto:ledaubert@pfb.com) or 717-731-3514 for more information.

### Preferred Nationwide Agents

\*This is only a partial list

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David Arnao	Collegeville	610.489.1122
Russell Baribault	Gradyville	610.358.2200
James Barton	Horsham	215.675.3030
Christopher Born	Exton	215.524.8222
Francis Bruno	Lafayette Hill	610.825.5541
Frank Catanzaro	Ambler	215.643.6267
Richard Cording	Philadelphia	610.487.0733
Deanna Coyne	Philadelphia	215.574.9080
James Curran	Hatboro	215.672.0600
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Joseph Fino	Harleysville	215.256.9800
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James Gambone	Worcester	610.272.4524
Ronald Gross	Souderton	215.368.8262
Kevin Halpin	Chalfont	215.997.1834
George Hibsman	Lansdale	215.362.1008
Ralph L. Kett	Glenside	215.886.2720
Jack Kustra	Lafayette Hill	215.825.7440
Thomas J. Lennon	Hatboro	215.956.1999

### Tick Talk – Time to Think PREVENTION of Lyme Disease

It's almost that time of the year again... spring is about here... and unfortunately that means the TICKS are coming out! MontCoLyme has already received calls reporting tick attachments. Tick bites put us at risk for Lyme and other, tick-borne diseases, like Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Bartonellosis, Mycoplasma, etc. About 40-60% of our local ticks carry Lyme and other diseases. If you get bitten, you have a good chance of getting Lyme disease in Southeastern PA. Children, ages 5 – 14 and adults over 50 are the most likely victims of Lyme disease.

Personal Protection:	Protecting Your Property:
1. Avoid grassy areas, edge of woods	1. Reduce tick habitats – clear under-Brush/trees to let sun in the yard
2. Wear tick-repellant/protected clothing ( <a href="http://www.insectshield.com">www.insectshield.com</a> )	2. Reduce mouse populations – the more mice, the more ticks
3. Spray your shoes and clothing	3. Spray perimeter of your property with Permethrin sprays
4. Check yourself and your family after outdoor exposure	4. Keep grass short
	5. 3 foot perimeter wood chip edging

**For More Information:** [www.montcolyme.org](http://www.montcolyme.org) Montgomery County Lyme Disease Info and Support Group provides resources, information, and monthly meetings with speakers. MontCoLyme provides the latest research and can refer you to physicians.



### GM Rebate Program is Stackable with Some Offers

American Farm Bureau Federation has recently signed a rebate agreement with General Motors. And that means Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members can receive a discount on cars and trucks. PFB members, who have been members for 60 consecutive days, can receive a \$500 discount on 26 different models of cars and trucks. Those deals apply to 2011 and 2012 models purchased from participating dealers. The special \$500 rebate program is stackable with some offers. However, PFB members are encouraged to speak with a representative with the dealer about specifics because certain restrictions apply.

When purchasing a new car or truck, make your best deal and then apply the rebate. Rebate certificates can be printed on your home computer, or at participating dealerships. For more information contact PFB representatives Kimberly Flegal at 717-731-3513, [kflegal@pfb.com](mailto:kflegal@pfb.com) or Todd Bailey at 717-319-5999 or [tdbailey@pfb.com](mailto:tdbailey@pfb.com)

### USDA Making Renewable Energy Loans Available

The USDA's Rural Development program is offering loans to help farmers make energy improvements on their properties, including installing renewable energy equipment. The Rural Energy for American Program (REAP) Guaranteed Loan program is available to farmers, ranchers and owners of rural small business to reduce energy costs, or utilize renewable energy sources. Projects eligible for loans include installing renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements and energy audits or feasibility studies.

The program allows farmers or business owners to work with local lenders who can use the USDA program for a loan guarantee of up to 85 percent of the loan amount. For more information on the REAP Guaranteed Loan Program, visit: [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/PA\\_Energy.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/PA_Energy.html) Applications are accepted on a continuous basis until June 29, 2012.

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### For Every stage of life

Be Sure You're Covered with PFB Health Service's Quality Coverage at Competitive Group Prices

For over 30 years, PA Farm Bureau and Blue Cross have teamed up to provide quality health care at competitive group rates with the personalized service you would expect from a Farm Bureau membership.

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**PFB Health Services**  
1-800-522-2375

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Check out Pennsylvania  
Farm Bureau on the web  
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### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, September 29, 2012**

The 62nd Montgomery County Annual Dinner Banquet will be held at Tylersport Fire Hall, Tylersport at 6:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Ryan & Friends. Please mark your calendars and look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Check out PFB on the web at [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com) and our county at [montgomery.pfb.com](http://montgomery.pfb.com).

## **2012 Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors & Officers**

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The Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets at the 4-H Center in Creamery on the second Thursday of every month. Please feel free to join us.