



Northumberland County Farm Bureau Newsletter

Affiliated with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation

Volume 2, Issue 5

Fall 2017

Reminder...

County Board Meetings:

First Monday of every month at 7 P.M.
Northumberland Conservation District Office

Annual PAFB meeting Harrisburg

To be held Nov 13th-15th

Share Your Story to Help Farm Bureau Advocate for You

It's one thing for Farm Bureau to TELL legislators, policy-makers and the press how laws, rules and proposals affect farmers. It's another thing to SHOW them by sharing the story of a real farmer who's living that issue every day.

Often, the most effective form of advocacy is telling a story. Officials tend to better understand an issue and its importance if they can see how it affects real people and their families. That's where Farm Bureau needs your help. Please help Farm Bureau put a face on the issues we advocate for by sharing your story.

You could talk about the struggles of dealing with burdensome regulations and taxes or discuss agricultural labor shortages and why reform is needed. You could tell a positive story about how you've been helped by tax provisions that help manage farm income volatility, why trade is important to your farm or how crop insurance enabled you to weather a bad year.

Farm Bureau has set up a Share Your Story website to make it easier for farmers to tell their stories. To learn more and tell your story, visit www.fb.org/advocacy/share-your-story.

Show Us Your Farm Bureau Pride!

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is encouraging members throughout 2017 to highlight their farms on social media and tell why they are Farm Bureau Proud!

The men and women of agriculture have the most scenic offices: views of beautiful sunsets, open fields and growing crops. You also have the chance to see the fruit of your labor, be it healthy animals, or a bountiful harvest.

We're asking members to share those pictures that showcase your efforts. Make sure to tag PFB on Facebook when posting your photo and use the hashtag #PFBproud for both Facebook and Instagram.

PFB will share some of these great photos on its social media accounts and may use some of the images during our Annual Meeting or other events. Social media is a great way for us in agriculture to tell our story and help the public understand the work we do every day.

Northumberland County Farm Bureau Elects New Officers

Tim Leshner, a dairy farmer from Pitman, has been elected President of the Northumberland County Farm Bureau.

The Farm Bureau's board met to reorganize for the year and also named the following additional officers: Brad Dressler of Northumberland remains as Vice President along with newly elected Jon Clemens of Paxinos; Karen Ulmer of Turbotville remains as Treasurer; and Shirely Snyder of Northumberland remains as Secretary. Remaining as County Board of Directors: Frances Appleman of Turbotville, Paul Todd Rapp of Paxinos, Dean Reiner of Dornsife and newly elected Ryan Snyder of Milton.

Harvest more savings with JOHN DEERE!

Effective, Monday, September 11th, PFB members are eligible to receive automatic access to John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program – Platinum 2 Level. Normally, a customer must initially purchase two pieces of qualifying equipment within 12 months to reach Platinum status but PFB members will automatically qualify for this upgrade by enrolling at www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau for these benefits:

- Discounts on the following categories of equipment:
- \$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing (zero turn, walk behind, stand-on, front and wide area mowers)
- \$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing (various lawn and residential zero turn mowers)
- \$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles (crossover, high performance and traditional Gator utility vehicles)
- \$200-\$350 off Tractors (series 1 through 5 subcompact & compact tractors)
- \$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf (top dressers, specialized mowers, aerators, bunker & field rakes, turf Gators, etc.)
- 17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite (skid steers, track loaders, wheel loaders and excavators)
- Plus, combine GreenFleet equipment savings with National Offers
- Special parts savings delivered to email inboxes
- 10% off Home & Workshop Products, including air compressors, generators and more!
- 10% off apparel and accessories at www.JohnDeereStore.com

Go to our website for full program details: www.pfb.com/johndeere

It's easy to become a GreenFleet member! Members simply sign up for the John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid PFB member ID and zip code for membership verification, and become a Platinum 2 level member by visiting www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!

Continued....

Good things to know:

- GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards benefits are only available at John Deere dealerships. Purchases from other stores will count towards GreenFleet status, but are not eligible for a GreenFleet discount
- There is no minimum length of Farm Bureau membership to receive the GreenFleet benefit
- Members sign up once for the GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program, then renew or reactivate their membership approximately every two years
- GreenFleet members can manage their account at www.MyJohnDeere.Deere.com
- Dealers can look up GreenFleet Loyalty accounts once enrolled
- This is an AFBF program; benefits may be used at John Deere dealerships across the country once a member enrolls
- For full GreenFleet Terms & Conditions, visit www.JohnDeere.com/GreenFleet

Spread the word about these great new savings with John Deere. It pays to belong! Stay tuned to your Facebook newsfeed for an official announcement you can share on social media too! If don't already, LIKE and follow along with our PFB Member Benefits page for regular news about members-only discounts and offers that help make membership even more measurable.



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Farm Bureau Host Member Picnic at Knoebels

On Thursday July 27 th, 2017 Northumberland, Union and Snyder County Farm Bureau's joined together to host a tri-county member picnic at Knoebels. A committee was formed and ideas were brainstormed to create a family event at Knoebels. On behalf of the County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, we would like to thank Clair Esbenshade and his committee for their work in planning the event. Committee members included Matt Ulrich & Susan Hauck of Union County; Jeremy Waite & Brian Gray of Snyder County; and Brad & Sarah Dressler of Northumberland County. Behind the scenes, Karen Ulmer, NCFB Treasurer served as our record keeper. The event was a huge success in its first year with over 180 members and guests in attendance. We hope the members enjoyed it! The Farm Bureau's worked along other local agribusinesses to help sponsor a catered lunch for our members and their families. We would like to thank the following agri-businesses who helped to sponsor the event, without them this event would not have been possible. Thank You!

D'Arcy Sampsell Nationwide Agency
Jeffrey Smith Nationwide Agency
Michael Kahl Nationwide Agency
Ag Choice Farm Credit
West Milton Bank
M&T Bank
Channel – Pine Hurst Acres
Pioneer – Mark H. Rohrbach Agency
Pioneer – Mark Keiffer & Son Agency
Pioneer – Moser Seed Agency
Pioneer- Apex Agronomics
Shade Valley Farm, LLC
Ritter Feeds Inc.

Stay tuned for future events, as we all work hard to promote the future of agriculture!

See Your Safemark Distributor for Farm Tires

Weaver's Tire Service, Northumberland
570-473-3380

Rovendale Supply, Watsontown
570-538-5521

Rovendale Ag and Barn, Watsontown
570-538-9564

Farm Bureau Calls on Congress for Tax Reform

Farm families need a permanent tax code that meets their unique needs and enables them to continue to grow the nation's agriculture economy, American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Scott VanderWal told a key congressional committee recently.

VanderWal, of South Dakota, discussed farmers' tax reform needs during testimony before the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Tax Policy. He said farmers need a tax structure that helps them stay viable in a business where margins are tight and income varies wildly between seasons due to uncontrollable and unpredictable factors such as weather, markets and disease outbreaks.

"Reducing effective tax rates is the most important thing that tax reform can do to boost farm and ranch businesses," VanderWal said. "Every dollar that we pay in taxes is a dollar that could be reinvested back into our farm, help lift my community and contribute to a robust agricultural economy."

Farm Bureau to Partner with FFA, 4-H on Shared Goals

American Farm Bureau Federation has signed memoranda of understanding with the national FFA and 4-H organizations detailing plans for Farm Bureau and the youth groups to work together to accomplish common goals, including developing future agriculture leaders.

Farm Bureau and FFA will collaborate to grow leaders by promoting agriculture education and connecting youth with a broad range of careers in agriculture; build community by making some AFBF programs available to students and strengthen connections between state and county Farm Bureaus and state and county FFA chapters; and strengthen agriculture by collaborating on policy and advocacy and making AFBF materials and training available to FFA officers.

Farm Bureau and 4-H will help build one another's brand awareness and engagement by promoting one another on websites, blogs, social media, newsletter and other materials and by collaborating on events.

The Future of Natural Gas Use on Farms

Pennsylvania's boom in Marcellus Shale hydraulic fracturing — or fracking — has produced a plentiful supply of cheap natural gas throughout rural Pennsylvania. Yet access to this energy source is limited for most farmers.

Although some farms now use low-pressure natural gas for heating, the plentiful supply of cheap, unconventionally produced natural gas provides an opportunity for producers to cut costs. By switching from propane to natural gas, farmers can power irrigation systems, dry crops, heat large buildings and greenhouses, and fuel farm trucks and tractors, said Thomas Murphy, Director of Penn State's Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research.

The cost savings of natural gas can be substantial. However, a lack of pressure regulation equipment and transportation infrastructure limits farmers wishing to capitalize on the surplus of natural gas.

Murphy noted that most gas produced in southwestern and western Pennsylvania is considered wet gas. This gas has a mix of hydrocarbon liquids that require processing before residential or commercial use. The bulk of gas produced in northern and north-central Pennsylvania is dry gas, meaning that it only requires pressure regulation.

Some gas companies may allow farmers with existing wellheads or pipelines on their land to divert some of the dry gas flow onto their farm for heating uses at a modest cost. However, the high-pressure, high volume output from unconventional shale gas wells requires users to implement costly regulators to decrease the pounds per square inch (PSI) of gas to a pressure compatible with on-farm heating and power generation systems.

In lieu of costly pipeline expansion from gas processing centers and/or regulation stations to rural areas, large businesses and agricultural operations can gain access to natural gas through a "virtual pipeline". This system connects industrial facilities and rural municipalities to the natural gas market

through a network of pipeline terminals, heavy trucks, and decompression stations. Murphy said this system is a great opportunity for Pennsylvania farms and related agricultural businesses. Large businesses or cooperatives that purchase truckloads of compressed natural gas through a "virtual pipeline" may be able to support surrounding farms with a reliable supply of gas, provided they install a local decompression station.

However, until public utilities are retrofitted to provide access to and regulate compressed natural gas throughout rural Pennsylvania, many farmers will forego conversion and continue using their traditional energy sources.

State Sen. Gene Yaw has introduced Senate Bill 140, which would expand natural gas distribution systems to rural areas throughout the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau policy supports initiatives that extend natural gas access to farmers through state investments in compressed natural gas refueling stations and the implementation of distribution pipelines. Additionally, PFB recommends that the Pennsylvania legislature provides tax incentives to farms and businesses that transfer their energy use to natural gas.

Account Supervisors in Northumberland County

The Accountant Supervisors in Northumberland County – who can handle all of your tax planning/preparation, accounting and business needs –are ready to lend a hand.

Tim Wirt
570-742-3199



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1-800-522-2375
www.pfb.com/healthinsurance

Regional Organization Director Field Notes

Greetings Farm Families,

The Northumberland County Board of Directors would like to thank those that attended the County Annual Meeting. We hope you stopped by the farm bureau booth at the Gratz Fair. A huge Thank You to Janette Leshner for organizing the booth and to all the volunteers who assisted during the week!

Farm Bureau would also like to feature additional member benefits for your farm family. Please see the PFB website for discount details and ways to save with these new benefits. If you have questions or concerns about member benefits, please contact the Member Relations Division at PA Farm Bureau at 717.761.2740 or visit the website at www.pfb.com.

- Save on Hershey Park in the Dark and Christmas CandyLane tickets with your Farm Bureau Membership
- New Discounts with John Deere

Again, on behalf of your County Farm Bureau and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau we thank you for your membership!

Wishing you a safe harvest season!

Johanna Rohrer
Regional Organization Director



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Email: FMS@pfb.com www.mscls.net

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Northumberland County Farm Bureau
903 Boyer Hill Rd
Sunbury, PA 17801

PFB Annual Meeting Approaching

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 67th Annual Meeting will take place Nov. 13-15 at the Hershey Lodge, Hershey. In addition to celebrating PFB's accomplishments, hundreds of members will gather to elect leaders and establish our policies on farming and rural life issues. Several important deadlines related to Annual Meeting are coming up.

The deadline for room reservations is Oct. 3. Reservations should be made directly with Hershey Lodge by calling 1.800.437.7439 or online at <https://aws.passkey.com/go/PFB2017>. Make your reservations by asking that your reservations be made with the "PA Farm Bureau" block of rooms. The room rate is \$165 per night plus 6 percent sales tax and 5 percent local taxes.

Meal tickets must be purchased by Oct. 27. Meal tickets can be ordered by filling out the form available at www.pfb.com/meals and following the instructions to submit the form to PFB. You can also contact PFB's Administration Division at 717.761.2740.

Detailed information about meal tickets, room reservation and the meeting agenda are available at <https://www.pfb.com/annual-meeting-home> or in the Annual Meeting Organizer available from your county Farm Bureau leaders. Members can also contact Kim Flegal, PFB's Annual Meeting Coordinator, at 717.731.3580.

Nationwide is on Your Side

Craig Love

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Mount Carmel, PA 17851-1475
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D'Arcy Sampsell

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