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## NEW FORMAT! Local News First!

### Adams County Activity

#### Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Jason Sarine, Richard Bates, Eddie Miller, Susan Shoop, Gregory Newman, Joshua Newman

The Adams County Farm Bureau is once again offering two \$1000.00 scholarships to two either college student or high school senior attending or planning to attend college majoring in an Ag field. Fields accepted include: Agribusiness, Ag Science, Ag Engineer, Horticulture, Ag Mechanic, Forestry, Food Marketing, Genetics, Veterinary Science, Animal Husbandry, Ecology, Animal Science, Farm Management, Land Management, Crop Science, and Livestock Science. Scholarship should be at all the high schools guidance offices or it is available at [www.adamscountypafarmbureau.com](http://www.adamscountypafarmbureau.com). Deadline for applications is June 30<sup>th</sup>. The scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on August 16, 2020.

**The Adams County Farm Bureau has 2 openings on the board of directors. Any regular FB member may be on the board. If you are interested in helping to keep agriculture a priority and make our voices heard, then join the board. You are never too young or too old. Contact President Brock Widerman at 717-752-5402. Most meetings are held the first Thursday of the month.**

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, the Adams County Spring Meeting was cancelled. The Board meeting was also cancelled. The May meeting will be held via on-line on May 7.

IN March, the board welcomed Gene Moose and Christine Demas as new board members. Thank you both for stepping up to serve Adams County's agriculture community.

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## Calendar of Events

### May

7- Board Meeting via  
online

10- Mother's Day

16- Armed Forces Day

25 – Memorial Day

### June

1- PA Educator's Ag  
Institute Registration  
deadline

2- Primary Election

14- Flag day

21 Father's Day

Service Provider  
Quick Reference

### Nationwide Insurance Providers

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**Annual Meeting – At this time, we are still planning on holding the Annual Meeting and the picnic together on August 16, 2020. As with everything at this time, we will go one day at a time, one week at a time and one month at a time. More information will be in the July/ August issue newsletter.**

## From the State

- Learn more about the governor's order at <https://bit.ly/2X6NFzr>.

### Guidance for agriculture

PDA has issued important safety guidelines for farms and other agriculture- and food-related businesses to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 while continuing life-sustaining work. Some of the guidance related to production agriculture is summarized below. Be sure to visit [agriculture.pa.gov/covid](https://agriculture.pa.gov/covid) for complete guidelines.

- All farms and agricultural-related business should:
  - Sanitize all contact surfaces and common gathering places on a regular basis.
  - Provide guidance for employees on handwashing, handling materials and where they can find handwashing facilities and sanitizing materials. Make sure such guidance is also available in employees' native languages if they not native English speakers. Stagger lunch times or provide additional space to increase distancing.
  - Ensure that all sick employees stay at home and encourage employees to avoid large gatherings and practice social distancing during non-work hours.
- Farms should:
  - Identify a drop-off location for regular deliveries away from on-farm high traffic areas and housing. Drop-boxes are recommended to be placed near the road, before on-farm entry. If a drop-box is unavailable, designate a drop-off location on-site.
  - Create specific instructions for drop-off deliveries including location and procedures needed at the drop-off point. Create signage to easily identify drop-off points. List all points of contacts with contact information to assist with questions leading up to delivery and upon arrival. Practice distancing with delivery drivers by avoiding personal interaction if possible. If face-to-face contact is needed keep at least six feet away and do not shake hands.
  - Log all deliveries and on-farm entries and monitor your personal travel with a personal travel log.
  - Have a continuity of business plans to keep operations running smoothly in case of any disruption.
- Farmers markets and on-farm retail operations should:
  - Consider delivery, pick up or drive-through options.
  - Pre-packaging items to limit shoppers' handling of food and to keep customers moving along.
  - Provide instructions for customers via signs and social media on

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**BE SAFE!**

**You are never too old to  
set another goal or to  
dream a new dream.**

**C S Lewis**

**The best preparation for  
tomorrow is doing your  
best today.**

**H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

**Limit your "Always" and**

limiting food handling and other precautionary measures.

- Eliminate samples.
- Have a different person handle products and handle money or wash hands or sanitize in between these tasks. Encourage employees not to handle customers' reusable bags and let customers pack their own bags.
- Additional resources:
  - Visit [agriculture.pa.gov/covid](http://agriculture.pa.gov/covid) for additional guidance, including what to do if an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19 and precautions for livestock markets, retail food stores and food processors.
  - The Center for Dairy Excellence has guidance available specifically for dairy producers, including how to protect employees. Visit <https://bit.ly/2JtUqDe>.

#### **Dairy**

- Farm Bureau is aware of cases of producers being asked to dump milk as some Class I processing plants are operating at capacity due to complications related to COVID-19. We are continuing to advocate for dairy producers at both the state and federal levels in an effort to help bring about a solution to this situation and ensure producers have the resources they need to continue their important work.
- PDA has offered the following guidance for producers who have to dump milk:
  - If the milk never left the farm, it may be disposed of in the manure storage.
  - If the milk was sent to the processor and returned, the product that came back from the processor would be considered Food Processing Residuals, which is under the authority of DEP and provisions in DEP's food processing residual manual must be followed.
- Producers are encouraged to document all losses so they can apply for disaster assistance if it is made available through USDA.
- The Center for Dairy Excellence has resources available for producers on its website, [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org). The center can also help producers develop contingency plans to continue operations if they are directly affected by COVID-19.
- USDA has granted producers flexibility in regulations related to dumping milk. Visit <https://bit.ly/2Jv7WGy> to learn more.

#### **Farm labor and employees**

- The U.S. Department of State is expanding the number of H-2A visa applicants allowed to forgo an in-person interview, which will allow more agricultural guest workers to arrive to work on U.S. farms. This change was needed because visa services for immigrants and non-immigrants had been suspended by U.S. Consular Operations in Mexico and elsewhere, which affected the arrival of workers through the H-2A program. While this change will improve access to H-2A workers, it does not fully address labor-access concerns and Farm Bureau is advocating for additional solutions.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of Labor recently announced they will work together to help identify foreign and domestic workers that may be available to transfer to other U.S. agricultural employers.
- A new coronavirus-relief bill passed by Congress and signed by the president requires businesses with 500 or fewer employees to offer paid sick leave to

## **your "Nevers"**

Amy Poehler

**Don't let yesterday take  
too much of today.**

Will Rogers

**Happiness often  
sneaks in through a  
door you didn't know  
you left open.**

John Barrymore

**The most wasted of  
days is one without  
laughter.**

E.E. Cummings

**The pessimist sees  
difficulty in every  
opportunity. The  
optimist sees the  
opportunity in every  
difficulty.**

Winston Churchill

**We may encounter  
many defeats but we  
must not be defeated.**

Maya Angelou

**The ultimate goal of  
farming is not the  
growing of crops, but  
the cultivation and  
perfection of human  
beings.**

Masanobu Fukuoka

**He who sows courtesy  
reaps friendship, and**

employees affected by COVID-19 and expands the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Guidance on these new requirements from the U.S. Department of Labor is available at [www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic).

### **Transportation**

- The U.S. Department of Transportation is allowing some flexibility on drug and alcohol testing requirements in areas where testing availability is limited due to COVID-19. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2xEtXAc>.
- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has issued a waiver from some CDL-related regulations. Find more information at <https://bit.ly/343n2wx>.
- The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has exempted livestock haulers from Hours of Service rules that limit drive time until at least April 12. Additional details are available under the transportation section of our COVID-19 information page on [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com).
- PennDOT Driver License Centers and Photo License Centers will be closed for two weeks. Driver licenses, photo ID cards, learner's permits, vehicle registrations, safety and emissions inspection stickers and disability parking placards that have an expiration date between March 16 and April 30, will be valid until May 31.
- The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission is temporarily shifting to a cashless-only tolling system to avoid face-to-face interactions between toll booth workers and drivers. As a result, cash and credit cards will no longer be accepted at turnpike toll booths. Customers who have E-ZPass can continue to use it as normal. Customers who don't have E-ZPass should continue to use lanes marked "Tickets" on entry and "Cash" on exit, however they should keep moving through the lane at the posted speed without stopping. Instead of paying their toll on the roadway, they will receive a TOLL BY PLATE invoice through the mail.
- The Pennsylvania Turnpike previously closed indoor areas of service plazas but has reopened them for limited service. Indoor restrooms are open, tables and chairs are removed from the dining area, and there will one fast food restaurant open at each location from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. serving a limited take-out-only menu.
- PennDOT had previously closed all 30 of its rest areas but has reopened some based on which are most used by truck drivers. Indoor restrooms will remain closed but there will be five portable toilets at each open location. Electronic messaging signs will alert drivers to the nearest open rest area.

### **Federal government operations and regulations**

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued temporary enforcement discretion for livestock farms with NPDES permits so that farms making every effort to comply with environmental regulations are not penalized for complications related to COVID-19-related disruptions. That includes assurance that EPA will excuse permitted concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) that house more animals than normal because they are unable to send animals off-site.
- Congress passed and the president signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on March 27. The measure will: Replenish \$14 billion of the Commodity Credit Corporation's spending authority; create a \$9.5 billion emergency fund for producers, including dairy and cattle producers, fresh fruit and vegetable growers, and local food systems like farmers markets; provide extra funds for USDA's APHIS, FSIS, AMS and rural development; and provide cash payments to individuals and will

**he wh plants kindness  
gathers love.  
Saint Basil**

reduce or delay taxes paid by many farm and ranch businesses.

- USDA Farm Service Agency is relaxing its loan-making process and adding flexibilities for servicing direct and guaranteed loans to provide credit to producers in need. Learn more at [www.farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus).
- USDA Risk Management Agency is offering flexibility related to crop insurance, including enabling producers to send notifications and reports electronically, extending the date for production reports and providing additional time and deferring interest on premium and other payments. Learn more at [www.farmers.gov/coronavirus](http://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus).
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has closed the southern border with Mexico but has clarified that agricultural workers and lawful cross-border trade are essential travel that may continue.
- The FDA is relaxing certain regulatory requirements to allow veterinarians to better utilize telemedicine to address animal health.
- USDA Service Centers will serve Pennsylvania farmers by phone appointment and field work only. All service center visitors wishing to conduct business with the Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other USDA agency must call their service center to schedule a phone appointment.

#### **State government operations and regulations**

- Pesticide applicator exams have been canceled. Private applicators with March 31 expiration dates will be extended to June 1. For those who are currently licensed and need to renew their license, the PDA will be extending the private applicator renewal date to June 1. Private pesticide applicators may purchase and make pesticide applications legally until June 1 and are encouraged to use pesticide online resources to obtain recertification credits and pay for their licenses at [www.paplants.pa.gov](http://www.paplants.pa.gov). Contact **717.772.5231** or [pesticides@pa.gov](mailto:pesticides@pa.gov) for questions.
- The Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory and Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS) will remain open. The veterinary lab temporarily reduced hours to Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon but will accept samples 24/7. The PADLS labs located at Penn State and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center may have some limits on hours and services. Visit [agriculture.pa.gov/covid](http://agriculture.pa.gov/covid) for the most up-to-date information on hours and services.
- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regional offices are closed.

#### **Penn State Extension**

- Penn State has canceled all public events through at least May 15, which will affect Cooperative Extension programs. Registration fees paid for canceled events will be refunded. Some events will be rescheduled and people who registered previously will receive an invitation to attend.
- Extension offices are closed but staff remain available to support the agriculture community virtually. Learn more at [extension.psu.edu](http://extension.psu.edu).

#### **Daily Life**

- U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin announced that tax filing deadlines will be extended from April 15 to July 15. All taxpayers and businesses will have additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties. The deadline for 2019 income tax payments for individuals up to \$1 million and for C corporations up to \$10 million has been extended to July 15.
- Pennsylvania has also extended the deadline for filing state personal income

taxes until July 15. Some local governments have also extended tax-filing deadlines. Check with your local Earned Income Taxing authority to see if they have extended the filing deadline.

- Public schools are closed through the end of the school year.
- Pennsylvania's primary election has been postponed to June 2. Voters may apply for mail-in ballots online or by mail. Learn more: [votespa.com](https://votespa.com).
- The federal deadline to enforce REAL ID has been extended until October 2021, a one-year extension.
- State liquor stores are closed.

### **Help Available For Affected Businesses**

Assistance and resources are available for farms and businesses that have been financially affected by steps to control the spread of COVID-19.

- Small businesses and non-profits that are facing losses due to COVID-19 can apply for low-interest loans to help cover their continued operating costs. Loans of up to \$2 million are available through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. As of mid-April, most production agriculture operations were not eligible for such loans but many related businesses are, such as restaurant and craft beverage businesses. Farm Bureau is advocating for more agricultural operations to be eligible. Learn more and apply at [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19](https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19).
- Eligible businesses, including farms, with 500 or fewer employees can apply for fully-forgivable Paycheck Protection Program loans from the SBA to continue to pay employees and cover some overhead costs during the pandemic. Sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed people are also eligible. Loan payments will be deferred for six months and no collateral or personal guarantees are required. Farm Bureau is advocating to ensure there are not further restrictions on the program that would limit agricultural participation. Learn more at [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp](https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/paycheck-protection-program-ppp).
- Learn more about state financial resources for affected businesses at [dced.pa.gov/funding-programs](https://dced.pa.gov/funding-programs).
- USDA Rural Development has created a resources page for customers affected by COVID-19. Learn more at [rd.usda.gov/coronavirus](https://rd.usda.gov/coronavirus).
- The state Office of Unemployment Compensation has important resources available for affected employers. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/2UMmg20>.

### **Broadband Data Bill Becomes Law**

A Farm Bureau-backed bill that will improve data on broadband availability so that resources to expand service can be better targeted is now law.

President Donald Trump signed the Broadband Deployment Accuracy and Technological Availability Act last month, after the Senate voted to approve minor changes to that were made in the House.

The bill would require internet service providers to report more specific data on coverage, giving policymakers better information about where coverage exists and where funding to expand coverage would be best spent. The current coverage maps do not accurately assess broadband availability, especially in rural areas, because they consider an entire Census block served even if only one property in the whole Census block has service.

"Reliable access to broadband is no longer a luxury but a necessity for farmers,

ranchers and their rural communities,” American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said. “This legislation will create a more accurate National Broadband Map, which will help ensure resources are targeted to the areas that need it most.”

### **Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Area Expands**

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has added 12 counties to the quarantine area intended to control the spread of the invasive spotted lanternfly. New counties in the quarantine area include Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Columbia, Cumberland, Huntingdon, Juniata, Luzerne, Mifflin, Northumberland, Perry, and York. The added counties are not completely infested yet, according to PDA, but have a few municipalities with a known infestation.

The additions bring the total number of quarantined counties to 26. Counties that were already in the quarantine zone include Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill.

Businesses that operate within or cross through the quarantine counties must obtain a permit demonstrating that they can identify the spotted lanternfly and will take steps to stop its spread. An invasive pest native to Asia, the spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Berks County in 2014. It poses a major threat to agricultural commodities, including grapes, tree fruit, hops and hardwood.



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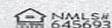
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\*3-year pickup warranty covers internal components and includes parts and labor. Does not include teeth or hardware for teeth. See local Vermeer dealer for details. Vermeer Corporation reserves the right to make changes in engineering, design and specifications; add improvements; or discontinue manufacturing or distribution at any time without notice or obligation. Equipment shown is for illustrative purposes only and may display optional accessories or components specific to their global region. Please contact your local Vermeer dealer for more information on machine specifications. Vermeer, the Vermeer logo and Atlas control system are trademarks of Vermeer Manufacturing Company in the U.S. and/or other countries. © 2018 Vermeer Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

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