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Local News First!**Adams County Activity** ▫

Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Kyle Heidlebaugh, Elizabeth Hoffman, Tammy Shull, Troy Spahr, Elaine Potalivo, and Michael Jellison

Annual Meeting/Picnic

The Adams County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting/Picnic will once again be held at the York Springs Lion's Pavilion at 406 Main Street, York Springs, PA. 17372. It will be held on **Sunday, August 20, 2023**, starting at 1:00 p.m. Pulled pork from the Reinecker Farm and cole slaw from Myers Meat Market will be provided. Also there is rumor that the Hunterstown Ruritan Club's ice cream truck will be there. Please bring a covered dish for a side dish or dessert. Paperware and water will be provided. Bring other beverages if you wish. Cost will be \$5.00 to cover the cost of the meat.

Chicken BBQ

The second Annual Chicken BBQ was a huge success. The chicken BBQ was held at the Ag Center 670 Old Harrisburg Rd on May 20, 2023. 250 chicken halves were sold plus some baked goods and water. Total profit raised for the scholarship fund was \$1127.08. Thank you to all that participated in this fundraiser for making it a huge success. Plans are to have this as an annual event, so if you didn't get a chance to participate, there is always next year.

The monthly board meeting will be held on July 6, and August 3rd at the Ag Center in Gettysburg, PA. There will be no September meeting. A brief meeting will be held following the Annual Meeting.

Looking for a few good policies

One of Farm Bureau's most important activities is policy development. Members of each county Farm Bureau submit ideas and suggestions regarding issues that affect the farming community. These ideas are

ROD Ken Sechrist

717-409-9170

Calendar of Events

July

4- Independence Day

6- Board Meeting

10-New Member Sign up

August

3- Board Meeting

8 -10- Ag Progress Days

20- Annual Meeting/Picnic

September

4- Labor Day

7- No Board Meeting

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written as resolutions and voted on at the county annual meeting in November. Topics cover a wide range of ag issues including wetland management, wild game, commodities, animal health, vehicles, health and safety, taxes and water quality. If an issue involves ag in any way, it can be developed for policy.

After the county meeting, voting delegates from each county attend the state annual meeting and decide by majority vote which resolutions will be adopted as Pennsylvania Farm Bureau policy. While policies are not laws, they're supported legislatively by Farm Bureau at either the state or national level.

Ideas, issues and topics can be submitted at any time of the year via anyone on the county Farm Bureau board of directors or to policy chair Sally Scholle at 717-359-9472. Bring your ideas to the Annual Meeting/Picnic.

Remember to Renew your Membership.

Farm Bureau affects so many areas besides crop and livestock farmers. The policies that are passed and brought to the attention of the Pennsylvania legislators affect so many people from wineries, horse owners, to produce owners and sellers to commodity companies. If you know someone that isn't but should be a member, ask them to join, Farm Bureau is there to help all the agricultural community. Renewal notices will be going out soon, so remember to renew your membership and check with your neighbor to see if they renewed their membership or would like to become a member. July is the start of the membership drive.

There are two openings for a Board Member. If you are interested in sitting on the Board, contact President Brian Davis at 717-528-4485.

We Must Verify!

Some of you may have directly spoken to, or heard about, some contract workers housed at the Conservation District Office who have been tasked with what we call BMP Verification. The District received some funds from the state to "dip our toes" into this pool in order to gage its effectiveness and our interest in doing more. So what is this "BMP Verification", why is it being done and why should you care and/or assist us in this process?

As you know, PA and in particular farmers in PA, are being pressed very hard to step up their assistance in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay. Water quality and the Chesapeake Bay have been studied probably more than any other watershed in the country, if not the world. The result of these studies brings us a model that attempts to predict the nutrient and sediment savings that various practices have for the Bay. When these BMP's are put into the model they are given a "credit" toward cleaning up the Bay. But these practices also have an expected lifespan. For instance, a grass waterway or a diversion or a terrace has an expected lifespan of 10-years. Manure storages and barnyard projects have a 15-year lifespan. So, any practices that were entered into the model and

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Farming is a profession
of hope.

Brian Brett

The most wasted of all
days is one without
laughter.

The present moment is
filled with joy and
happiness. If you are
attentive, you will see it

Thich Nhat Hanh

have exceeded their lifespan, simply vanish. Meaning they do not continue to get “credit”. But of course, many of these practices are still in existence and continue to function properly.

The BMP Verification program is attempting to identify and document those practices that are still functioning as intended and have them re-entered into the model. To that end, we were able to obtain funds to hire two retired NRCS employees to review the old Chesapeake Bay Program contracts and attempt to visit sites to assess the vitality of the practices that were installed. Any BMP’s that they can determine are still functioning will then get re-entered into the model and given credit toward cleaning up the Bay. The funding will run out by the end of June, but additional funds are expected, and we anticipate the program starting up again in September or October.

So if you get a call from our office asking for a farm visit, I hope you will be willing to help not just us, but the farmers in Adams County get the credit they deserve for the good work they have done. Any questions, please call the Conservation District at 717-334-0636.

Brian Sneeringer, Ag Conservation Technician

From the State

Special Election Update

House District 108: Republican Michael Stender, a firefighter from Sunbury, has won the race for the 108th district, keeping the seat Republican. The 108th district encompasses Montour County and parts of Northumberland County.

House District 163: Democrat Heather Boyd, a former congressional and legislative aide, won the race for the 163rd district, keeping the seat in Democratic control. The 163rd district represents portions of Delaware County.

The House has no vacant seats, and the Democrats have a 102-101 member majority.

The House of Representatives returned to session on Monday, June 5th.

Senate Bill 277 (Sen. Yaw) – SB 277, restructures the board of directors for the Center for Rural Pennsylvania by removing the Director of the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development (which no longer exists) and adds a member from The Pennsylvania State Extension. Adding The Penn State Extension to the Board will allow for greater synergy between Extension and the Center in serving rural areas. This bill passed out of the Senate Ag & Rural Affairs Committee on May 9th and is on the Senate calendar for final consideration on June 5th.

LIBERTY Campaign Launch

On May 1st, the Legal Immigration and Border Enforcement Reform This Year (LIBERTY) Campaign launched with a press release and website. AFBF and PFB joined over 400 business groups urging Congress to take up immigration reform legislation in 2023.

Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.

William James

The farmer has to be an optimist or he/she wouldn't still be a farmer

Will Rogers

The story of family farming underscores a legacy of sustainability

Amanda Zaluckyj

Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle.

Napoleon Hill

A good farmer is nothing more or less than a handyman with a sense of humor.

E. B. White

In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

Albert Einstein

When tillage begins, other arts follow. The

PAL Act

On March 8th, [S. 719/H.R. 1495](#), the Precision Agriculture Loan (PAL) Act by Senators Deb Fischer (R-NE) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Representatives Randy Feenstra (R-IA) and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA). The PAL Act would be administered by FSA and would offer low-cost and long-term loans to agriculture producers who want to adopt precision agriculture technologies but cannot afford to through traditional financing. **Ask your U.S. House Member and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the bipartisan PAL Act.**

WOTUS

2023 Waters of the United States Update

WOTUS Victory

On May 25th, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the Sacketts in Sackett v. EPA. This was a major win for farmers and ranchers across the nation as the ruling provided much needed clarity to the definition of the “Waters of the United States”. Below are a few highlights from the decision.

- Significant nexus test: Justices ruled 9-0 to eliminate the significant nexus test.
- WOTUS Definition: The Clean Water Act’s (CWA) use of “waters” encompasses only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water forming geographical features that are described in ordinary parlance as streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes.
- Wetlands: The CWA extends to only those wetlands that are as a practical matter indistinguishable from WOTUS.
- Implications on 2023 WOTUS rule: The Sackett case addresses the pre-2015 WOTUS definition, not the 2023 rule. However, the Supreme Court took the opportunity to thoroughly dissect it in Section IV. As a result, the 2023 rule technically is in effect, but functionally EPA and the Corps cannot enforce it. AFBF’s litigation in Texas and North Dakota challenging the rule will likely be vehicle to strike down the rule.

Farm Bureau Submits Comments in Response to Proposed EPA Chesapeake Bay Lawsuit Settlement

Farm Bureau submitted comments to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the proposed settlement of the lawsuit filed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, several lower bay watershed jurisdictions, and other private groups and individuals against EPA over what the plaintiffs contend is Pennsylvania’s failure to submit a watershed implementation plan

farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization.

Daniel Webster

Strong communities are built around local, real food. Food we trust to nourish our bodies, the farmer and planet.

Kimbal Musk

for the Bay TMDL that properly controls agricultural runoff. Farm Bureau's comments focused on four key areas:

- **The work that Farm Bureau members are and have been doing to install conservation practices in Pennsylvania's portion of the Bay watershed (and in the rest of the Commonwealth).** Farm Bureau also touted the launch of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the positive additional effect it will have on these ongoing efforts. Farm Bureau advocacy was critical to the enactment of both ACAP and Pennsylvania's new "Fertilizer Law"—two elements found to be lacking in previous Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay responses.
- **The positive difference Pennsylvania farmers were already making for local water quality—and by extension, the Chesapeake Bay—according to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) data.** Well in excess of 90 percent of the operations evaluated by DEP in 2021-22 met the best management practice (BMP) implementation requirements of manure management plan (MMP) BMP implementation & maintenance, as well as the BMP implementation requirements of an agricultural erosion & sedimentation (Ag. E&S) control plan. The summary also indicated strong levels of administratively complete plans at the time of inspection (for operations required to have and implement such plans). Farm Bureau also fully supports ongoing efforts to ensure that Pennsylvania farmers' past and current BMP installations are properly credited and reported, including the work of the EPA-USDA task force created earlier this year to document un- and under-counted agricultural BMPs in the Bay watershed, as well as work by Penn State University and others to properly credit farmers for such practices.
- **The concerns we have with the content of the proposed settlement.** Given the progress outlined above, Farm Bureau was disappointed (but not surprised) by the announcement of the proposed settlement, and further questions why the decision was made to do so at this time. We are also concerned that the content of the proposed settlement itself raises privacy and other concerns for PFB members, despite assurances from EPA and others that farmers' personal information will be scrupulously protected. Past experience suggests that certain actors, whether inside or outside Pennsylvania, can (and likely will) attempt to use information gathered to scrutinize and target litigation against current (or future) PAG-12 farms, or, at a minimum, force current non-CAFO operations to become CAFOs or force current CAFO general permittees into individual permits.
- **Our vision for the future of the Chesapeake Bay restoration.** In conclusion, Farm Bureau argued that the past strategy of setting arbitrary deadlines and attempting to achieve environmental compliance and innovation through legal and bureaucratic intimidation has not worked, and there appears to be a recognition among at least some Bay stakeholders that something needs to change in order to avoid similar negative outcomes in the future. In our view, that change would include recognizing what is achievable with current levels of financial, technical, and human resources and in turn, being realistic with the public and policymakers about what can be achieved, all while continuing to advocate for the additional resources that will allow for faster progress.



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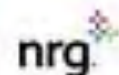
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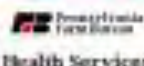


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