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Local News First!

Adams County Activity ▫

Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Noah Kuhn, Holly Kiser, Coreen Luckenbill, Kevin Greaney, Beth Ensor, William Tindall, Linda Leer, Mark Sneeringer, George Wessner, Paul Cavage, Stevn Gaudio, Brittany Harmon, Myra Hill, Roger Keefer, Jovin Petritsch, Richard Pickwell, Kevin Talmadge, Chester Tyson, Kimberly Yingling

Annual Meeting/Picnic

The Adams County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting/Picnic was held on August 20, 2023 at the York Springs Lions Club Pavilion. Around 30 members attended. The Adams County Dairy Princess, Ellie Widerman, gave a milk toast. Pulled pork was supplied by Andrew Reinecker and the Ruritan Ice cream truck was there to serve their delicious ice cream . Business was attended to with only one amendment to a policy pertaining to solar fields. Board members were re-elected with two seats still available to be filled.

Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Noah Kuhn, son of Kevin and Kelly Kuhn in New Oxford, Pa. Noah will be attending Delaware Valley University, majoring in Agriculture Education with a minor in AgBusiness. We congratulate him and wish him the best.



ROD Ken Sechrist

717-409-9170

Calendar of Events

October

5- Board Meeting

9- Columbus Day

24- YAP Committee Meet

November

2- Board Meeting

5- Daylight Savings Time

7- General Election

11- Veterans Day

12-15 -Annual Meeting

23 -Thanksgiving

December

7- Board Meeting

25- Merry Christmas

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New Scholarship

We are pleased to announce that the organization was the recipient of \$10,000.00 from the Timothy C. Brown Estate to establish a second scholarship. We are honored and grateful for this generous contribution to help the future of Adams County.

The monthly board meeting will be held on October 5, and November 2, and December 7 at the Ag Center in Gettysburg, PA.

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 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.

Ticks and Mosquitoes: Pests around the farm

Mosquitoes and ticks can be found almost anywhere including farms. When they are present, there is a risk for them to transmit numerous diseases not only to humans, but to livestock as well.

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Newsletter Editor

Deb Stock

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BE SAFE!

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

The most predominant mosquito borne disease in Adams County in people and livestock is West Nile Virus (WNV). People with WNV may develop flu-like symptoms and in severe cases require hospitalization or succumb to the disease. Horses with WNV may develop symptoms such as muscle tremors, stumbling/incoordination, and weak limbs. In severe cases, horses go down and can't get up or succumb to the disease. Domestic birds infected with WNV may also show signs of incoordination and die.

The best way to keep your livestock safe from mosquito borne illness is to prevent mosquitoes from breeding on your property. Ensure that tires, buckets, wheelbarrows, gutters, etc. are unable to collect water. Aerate lagoons, change out troughs with fresh water, and prevent tire ruts by mowing or harvesting when the ground is dry. If these areas continue to hold water, then use dunks to control mosquito larvae. Dunks are natural occurring bacterium (bti) that only affects mosquito larvae. It is also highly recommended to vaccinate your horses against West Nile Virus. Mosquitoes are most active during twilight hours. Bringing your livestock in during those times and keeping fans on them (mosquitoes are weak flyers) will help with bite prevention.

In addition to the Blacklegged tick and their ability to transmit several tickborne illnesses to both humans and companion animals, the newly discovered Asian Longhorned tick can impact livestock. While it is still unknown how they will impact human health, it has been proven that they can transmit cattle Theileriosis. This disease can have serious implications to the herd.

Limiting livestock exposure to tick habitat is the most effective way to combat tickborne diseases. Habitat management and exclusion can be helpful in reducing tick encounters for livestock. Keeping livestock and pets out of wooded areas and keeping grass low around fence rows can help reduce exposure to ticks.

There are also several things that people can do to help reduce the chances of contracting a tickborne or mosquito borne illness. Wearing repellent containing DEET can repel both ticks and mosquitoes. Permethrin can also be applied to clothing to kill ticks on contact. Most permethrin products will last up to 6 washes before a reapplication is necessary. Tick checks on both oneself and companion animals can reduce transmission of disease as well. Wear long sleeves and pants when outside during twilight hours when mosquitoes are most active. Install screens on doors so that mosquitoes can't come inside.

While there are some vaccinations for livestock against mosquito and tick-borne diseases, reducing mosquito and tick populations is the best prevention. With a few simple steps around the farm, you can help reduce the risk of vector-borne disease. Adams County Conservation District implements the DEP Vector Management Program, that conducts tick and mosquito surveillance, mosquito control, and pathogen testing. If you have any questions, please contact Christina Anders at canders@adamscountypa.gov or 717.334.0636.

From the State

BROADBAND / RURAL DEVELOPMENT

State Allocations Announced from the BEAD Program: On June 26, the

Thich Nhat Hanh

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

I

In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

Albert Einstein

National Telecommunications, and Information Administration (NTIA) announced state allocations for the \$42.5 billion Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The BEAD program was authorized by the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act of 2021, which AFBF supported. Pennsylvania is set to receive \$1,161,778,272.41 from the BEAD program

LIVESTOCK

AFBF Seeking Questions from State Farm Bureaus on Prop 12: In 2018, California's (CA) voters passed a law called Proposition 12 that requires veal, pork, and egg raised in confined areas to have a certain space minimum. Egg-laying hens must be cage-free; sows must have at least 24 square feet of usable floor space; and cows used for veal must have at least 43 square feet of usable floor space. AFBF and National Pork sued CA claiming a violation of the Interstate Commerce Clause. AFBF and National Pork gained the support of the U.S. Solicitor General, the highest ranking official of the Department of Justice. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in favor of CA. The decision was very close, and almost every Justice had a different reasoning for why they decided the way they did. Since the Supreme Court's decision, CA's Department of Agriculture (CDFA) has gotten flooded with questions concerning producer compliancy with Prop 12. CDFA has not been able to answer many of the questions from producers thus far. As more information become available it is important that AFBF staff receive input from states as to what questions need to be answered. Therefore, please collect any Prop 12 questions from your county Farm Bureaus and send them to Bailey Thumm (bmthumm@pfb.com).

WOTUS

2023 Waters of the United States Update

On May 25, the United States Supreme Court issued its long-anticipated decision in Sackett v. EPA, ruling that the EPA and the Army Corps wrongfully claimed oversight on wetlands owned by Chantell and Michael Sackett. The Court ruled unanimously, 9-0, that the Clean Water Act (CWA) did not apply to the wetlands on the Sacketts' property, striking down the "significant nexus" test in determining what is considered a WOTUS. Additionally, by a 5-4 vote, the Court adopted a more stringent test for what qualifies as an "adjacent wetland" subject to the CWA jurisdiction. Writing for the majority, Justice Alito concluded that the CWA applies to wetlands that are "as a practical matter indistinguishable from waters of the United States" because they have a "continuous surface connection" with a larger body of water. The decision will have positive, far-reaching consequences for the agricultural industry. While the Sackett case addressed the pre-2015 WOTUS definition, the Court took the opportunity to thoroughly dissect the 2023 WOTUS rule in Section IV. As a result, the 2023 rule technically is in effect, but functionally EPA and the Army Corps cannot enforce it. Moreover, the Court did note

When tillage begins,
other arts follow. The
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

that the current rule would not withstand judicial scrutiny. AFBF is currently suing the EPA and the Army Corps over the current WOTUS rule, and the Sackett decision will aid Farm Bureau's case significantly in arguments.

Farm Bureau Testifies Before PA House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee On How Pennsylvania Farmers are Improving the Chesapeake Bay

Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman testified at a June 26 Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on the ongoing efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Hoffman's comments focused on three 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.
- 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.

Ruritan Breakfast

The Hunterstown Ruritan Club will host their monthly breakfasts on **November 11 and December 9** at the **Great Conewago Presbyterian Church, 174 Red Bridge Road, Gettysburg, PA. 17325. Available 7:00 – 10:30 am.**

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PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

A total \$6 portion of annual operating dues covers subscription to these publications: \$2 for Eastern Pennsylvania and \$2 for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Greenback Advisor (formerly County News). Members receive 4 issues of each publication per year on a quarterly basis. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



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