

In This Issue

- Cookbook
- Membership Dues
- Educator of the year
- Annual Meeting
-
- Board of Directors

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Local News First!

Adams County Activity ▯

Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Theresa Adamik, Matthew Brand, Sue Clapsadle, Calvin Bream, Clinton Rice, Richard Lucas, Ryan Zimmerman, Victor Ochieng, Ray Bohacz, Jared Winand, John Zaracki

Spring Meeting!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! The Adams County Farm Bureau will be holding their Spring Meeting this year on **Thursday April 28, 2022**. It will once again be held at the Great Conewago Presbyterian Church at 174 Red Bridge Rd. Gettysburg, PA. 17325. With the Ruratin Club providing the meal. Social will start **at 6:00 pm**. Cost is **\$20.00** per person, payable at the door. The meal will consist of Roast Beef, Chicken, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, vegetables, and the Ruritan's famous ice cream for dessert. Contact Deb Stock @ edstock1005@gmail.com or 717-476-5921 to **reserve your seat by April 20, 2022**

Mark Your Calendars for Chicken Bar-B-Q JUNE 4, 2022

The Adams County Farm Bureau is holding a chicken BBQ during the South Mountain Flea Market and Craft Show on June 4, 2022. Cost for ½ half chicken, potato, applesauce and roll will be \$10.00 per meal. Presale tickets will be available April 18, 2022.



Contact any Board Member for tickets.

Baked goods will be available to purchase separately.

ROD Kyle Kotzmoyer

717-215-0765

Calendar of Events

April

4-FARMER dinner

5- State Legislative Conf.

7- Board Meeting

15- Good Friday

17- Easter

18-23- Rural Road Safety Week

28- Spring Meeting

May

5- PSU Trustee Election

8- Mother's Day

17- Primary Election

21- Armed Forces Day

30- Memorial Day

June

1- Educator's Ag Institute Registration deadline

2- Board Meeting

4- Chicken BBQ & Cookbook sale

13- Foundation Golf Tournament

14- Flag Day

19- Father's Day

26-30- Educator's Ag Institute

**Service Provider
Quick Reference**

Scholarship Available

**If you have a child or grandchild interested in furthering their career in agriculture, we have a scholarship for them. The Arthur B. Musselamn Scholarship will be awarded to a full-time, undergraduate applicant, enrolled in a 4-year, 2-year, or technical school in the field of agriculture or life science. This year there will be a \$1000.00 scholarship. Deadline for applications are June 30th. Contact Deb Stock at edstock1005@gmail.com
Also check out Adams County Community Foundations website for more scholarships.**

The monthly Board Meetings will be held April 7 @ 7:30 at the Ag Center, May's meeting will be held April 28 following the Spring Meeting, June 4 following the BBQ sale and July 7 at the Ag Center.

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.

On March 14, 2022, Commissioners Randy Phiel, Jim Martin and Marty Qually met up with members of the ACFB Board to tour Knouse Foods facility in Peach Glen. It was a very interesting and educational tour. Later they had lunch at the Apple Bin Restaurant in Biglerville to discuss current events and the future of agriculture in Adams County. Thank you to President Brian Davis and to Mark Widerman for coordinating this event.

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Reminder: If you have not renewed your membership already, now is the time to do it! 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 of the agricultural community.

Sunday, May 8 – HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, June 19 – HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

The Hunterstown Ruratsins will be hosting their monthly breakfast at the Great Conewago Presbyterian Church at 174 Red Bridge Rd.. The date is April 9. Breakfast runs from 7 – 10:30 a.m. and the cost is \$7.00 for adults. This helps support their scholarship program.

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

From the State

PFB Reacts Favorably to Governor's Budget Proposal

CAMP HILL – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) is pleased that Gov. Tom Wolf's 2022-2023 budget proposal prioritizes key areas for agriculture. It presents an overall positive plan for delivering the tools Pennsylvania farmers need to continue to grow the state's economy and continue producing food for their communities, state and beyond. The plan proposes an increase in funding for many key agriculture programs, including to Penn State University's agricultural research and Cooperative Extension services, as well as increases for University of Pennsylvania veterinary school. The plan also calls for increasing funding for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS), which assists with getting excess food from Pennsylvania farms and food processors into the charitable food system. The proposal maintains or increases funding for most programs, with a proposed increase of \$12 million – or 7% – over last year. "We are pleased that the governor's budget proposal recognizes the importance of supporting Pennsylvania's number one industry by maintaining or increasing funding for several key agriculture programs," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "We believe this plan highlights the importance of agriculture to the state's economy and continued growth. It will serve as a good starting point as we advocate for programs and services that help our farm families innovate and grow their small businesses. We look forward to working with the General Assembly in the coming year to find further opportunities to invest in farmers' success." While not reflected in Gov Wolf's budget address Tuesday, the Governor has previously stated his intention to allocate federal dollars given to Pennsylvania as part of the American Rescue Plan, on new conservation initiatives, including the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). This program would give a yearly allocation to county Conservation Districts to help farmers with

BE SAFE!

**Farming is a profession
of hope.**

Brian Brett

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

**The greatest mistake
you can make is to be
continually fearing that
you'll make one**

Elbert Hubbard

**Worry never robs
tomorrow of its sorrow;
it only sap today of its
strength**

A.J. Cronin

**Kindness is one thing you
can't give away. It always
comes back**

George Skolsky

**"You'll have true
happiness when you
live to give, not to get.**

Noa Shaw

projects that focus on water quality. "Farmers in the state have been leaders in improving water quality, and we know that protecting the environment and natural resources is vital to the success and future of our farms COMPANION N Your Communications February 2022 and communities, but many of the investments needed are too costly for farms to afford on our own," said Ebert. "Funding programs like ACAP is critical so that farmers can work with our conservation partners to grow our conservation efforts."

American Ag Leads the World in Climate-Smart Farming.

Despite Critics' Claims American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall responded to recent inaccurate claims about U.S. agriculture's role in climate change. The following response was posted on fb.org: "I'm a big believer in taking the high road. When media present inaccurate or incomplete portrayals of U.S. agriculture, my job and the job of Farm Bureau is to help them understand where they went wrong and to set the record straight. We had our work cut out for us with a recent New York Times opinion video. It was so disappointing to see a respected media outlet present a distorted picture of agriculture without so much as acknowledging that farmers play an essential role in stocking America's pantries. AFBF jumped into action. We drafted a response and had a productive conversation with decision makers there, but unfortunately, they declined to accept my guest essay, which provides a more complete and honest picture of agriculture. What a disservice to their readers and to the disappearing tradition of honest debate. So, I'll use my own platform to share my response. Before I do, I'll note that I'm intentionally omitting a link to their piece. These days, media measure success in clicks and views and this piece simply isn't worthy of your time or their publication. Still, it's important to set the record straight. American agriculture leads the world in climate-smart farming, making up just 10% of greenhouse gas emissions, much lower than transportation, electricity generation and industry. I want to be clear about something else. People have every right to their opinions about agriculture whether positive or negative – even the New York Times. It's just disappointing that the New York Times would provide such an incomplete and misleading portrayal of agriculture in order to win the day. They're better than that. So, here's the rest of the story. American agriculture leads the world in climate-smart farming, making up just 10% of greenhouse gas emissions, much lower than transportation, electricity generation and industry. It's not by chance that America has made progress quicker than our international counterparts. Through public and private partnerships and investments in innovative technologies, America's farmers and ranchers have been able to reduce per-unit emissions of livestock over the past 30 years by 8-26% depending on the species. We are able to grow more food using fewer resources than ever before. Advances have been made in carbon sequestration as well. 140 million acres are enrolled in voluntary conservation programs. To put that in perspective, there are more privately owned acres reserved for conservation than the size of California and New York combined. The use of no-till or low-till planting methods, which means the top soil is disturbed as little as possible, is now used on more than half of the corn, cotton, soybean and wheat planted across the nation. That's more than 200 million acres. And, the use of cover crops continues to grow, increasing 50% between 2012 and 2017. These practices not only reduce the amount of water, fertilizer and

**Living is the art of
getting used to what
we didn't expect**

Eleanor Wood

**Great opportunities to
help others seldom
come, but small ones
surround us every day**

Sally Koch

**In the face of
uncertainty, there is
nothing wrong with
hope.**

Bernie Siegel

**No day in which you
learn something is a
complete loss**

David Eddings

**Love doesn't make the
world go round. Love
is what makes the ride
worthwhile.**

Franklin Jones

**The most sincere
compliment we can pay
is...Attention .**

Walter Anderson

pesticides needed for crops, they help keep carbon trapped in the soil and out of the atmosphere. The beef industry, which has become a target in the environmental debate, is also making great strides. Beef production accounts for just 2% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, much lower than the global average. Almost half of all farm acres are used as permanent pastureland. Those lands are good for raising cattle, and the soil remains undisturbed, which ensures it can continue retaining carbon. It's estimated that the land cattle graze contains 10-30% of the carbon stored in soil, making them crucial for carbon sequestration. These advances are being made in all 50 states and Puerto Rico by families on both large and small farms. Critics like to point the finger at so-called "factory farms," but the reality is, of the just more than 2 million farms in America, almost all of them are family owned and 1.9 million of them are classified by the government as small family farms. We need operations of all sizes if we are to feed a country that is about to surpass a population of 330 million people and a world that will soon pass the 8 billion mark. We will meet the challenges ahead while protecting the environment by working together. It's one of the reasons AFBF was a founding member of the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance. The group, now more than 80 member organizations strong, consists of agriculture, food, forestry, sportsmen and environmental groups. Naysayers might claim Farm Bureau and groups like the Environmental Defense Fund and The Nature Conservancy don't have anything in common, but we all saw the need to break through historical barriers to find solutions to our environmental challenges. Together, FACA came up with more than 40 recommendations that are having a real impact, helping to shape the Growing Climate Solutions Act, which passed in the Senate with bipartisan support, and USDA's new Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities pilot programs, which are a direct outcome of FACA's work according to Secretary Vilsack. Both respect the role of farmers. Together we can be proud of the advancements we have made in climate-smart practices and our commitment to continuous improvement. Can we do more? Absolutely. But it will take all of us, not just the farmers and ranchers, to create a better world. That doesn't happen by mandates or by perpetuating a false narrative. It will happen through honest dialogue about investments in innovation and partnerships with farmers. It's easy to forget that we live in a country with an abundance of safe, healthy and affordable food. Without the worry of where our next meal will come from, we're free to pursue our dreams and careers. Agricultural advances give many that freedom with only 2 percent of the population now supplying food to the other 98 percent – a complete reversal over the decades. It's really important for us, as farmers, to deliver the message about our commitment. Remember that 87% of the public trusts farmers. However, very few understand how food is produced. Farmers are in the best position to provide an honest window into agriculture. Sharing real, positive stories from the farm is one of the most effective ways to counter misinformation. America is listening. Let's reassure all those who put their faith in us that we are humbled by it and determined to do the right thing for our land and our animals."

USDA Introduces Micro Farm Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally

The USDA is rolling out a new Micro Farm policy designed specifically for agriculture producers with small farms who sell locally. The new policy, which will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year, will simplify record keeping and cover post-production costs like washing and packaging commodities and value added products. The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less. The Micro Farm policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers, which includes Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) that provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for the Micro Farm policy. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation approved the Micro Farm policy in September.



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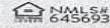


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