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## Local News First!

### Adams County Activity <sup>□</sup>

Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Nathan Oleniacz, Kevin Tuckey, Paula Shoop, Steven Weiser, Brian Stump, Katherine Dotterer, Jason Roche, Larry Musselman, Bupp Brothers and Son, and Denise Staub.

### *Scholarship Winner*

Samantha Schulteis was once again the winner of the Arthur B. Musselman Scholarship. Samantha is the daughter of Winn Schulteis and is a junior at Duke University studying Environmental Science & Policy. She said so would "like to work in agricultural sustainability as an extension agent so that I can help farmers to implement sustainable farming practices in the most cost efficient, effective, and environmentally-friendly way possible". We congratulate Samantha on her hard work and wish her the best this school year.



Samantha Schulteis and President Brock Widerman  
NEW PRESIDENT

During the September 2<sup>nd</sup> reorganization meeting, President Brock Widerman stated that he wanted to "step down" as president for family reasons. Brian Davis was asked if he would be willing to "step up" into the position, and he graciously accepted. We thank Brock for his wonderful leadership this past 5 years and look forward to Brian

## District 9 Director

Rick Leese

301-678-9226

## ROD Kyle Kotzmoyer

717-215-0765

## Calendar of Events

### October

7- Board meeting

11- Columbus Day

28- State Policy  
Development Committee  
meeting

### November

2- General Election

4- Board Meeting

11- Veteran's Day

15-17- PFB Annual  
Meeting

25- Thanksgiving

### December

Membership Kickoff

2- Board Meeting

24- Christmas Eve

25- Christmas Day

31- New Year's Eve

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taking the lead.

### Legislative Tour:

On September 1, 2021, Mark Widerman, ACFB's legislative chairman, arranged a tour for the legislatives of our area. Aides from Congressman's John Joyce and Senator Doug Mastriano were there. Also in attendance were Representative Torren Ecker and Representative Dan Moul. It was a very rainy day but Brian Davis from Hilltop Farms and the Hess family from JoBo Farms made room in the dry for everyone. Thanks to Mark and everyone who participated.



Watching and discussion topics from the observation room at JoBo Farms

Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus, the Adams County Farm Bureau Board has not been able to meet at the Ag Center. Instead, meetings are held at members' homes or other venues determined each month prior to the meeting. Members are always welcome to attend board meeting, so if you wish to attend a meeting, please contact board secretary Deb Stock at [edstock1005@gmail.com](mailto:edstock1005@gmail.com) to find out where the meeting will be held.

### 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.

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**of hope.**

**Brian Brett**

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.

#### **Membership Dues –**

Please renew your membership for 2022 as soon as possible – Farm Bureau needs as many voices as possible to remain an effective voice for agriculture. A donation to the Arthur B. Musselman scholarship helps provide funds to those pursuing post-high school education in a variety of ag sectors.

Anyone involved in any kind of agriculture qualifies for Farm Bureau membership, so if you know someone who isn't a member, please invite them to join. Board members can assist anyone interested in becoming a member.

If someone asks 'what can Farm Bureau do for me', explain that the organization's policies make a positive impact on everyone in the county, state and nation – because everyone is affected by agriculture.

### **From the State**

#### **PFB Members Stress Importance of Commonsense Water Rules**

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that farmers can continue to rely on clear and commonsense rules governing federal regulation of waterways.

The message was delivered during a recent public comment period for the agencies to solicit input on their plans to do away with the Trump administration's 2020 rule establishing federal jurisdiction of waterways and begin the process of drafting a new rule.

PFB President Rick Ebert testified on behalf of the organization during a recent listening session hosted by the agencies. In addition, hundreds of PFB members sent in comments by responding to a PFB Action Alert.

"It is...critical for EPA to remain objective and balanced in considering any further change to current criteria governing (federal waterways)," Ebert said. "Please actively seek input from farmers and try to understand the unique circumstances in land conditions and agricultural production that farmers around the nation face."

In June, EPA and the Army Corps announced a two-step process for overhauling federal water regulation. First agencies are reversing the Trump administration's 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, effectively reverting back to the decades-old rule that was in place prior to the Obama administration's 2015 Waters of the U.S. Rule. The second step is developing a new rule.

The question that the Obama, Trump, and now Biden administrations have sought to answer is how to define "waters of the U.S." (or WOTUS), which refers to those waterways that fall under the federal government's jurisdiction to regulate under the Clean Water Act. Farm Bureau led opposition to the 2015 WOTUS rule, which took an overly broad approach to defining federally regulated waterways and would have subjected nearly all of Pennsylvania farmland to federal water regulation. The rule was put on hold by several federal

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

**Laughter heals. It is the only language that everybody speaks**

Shayla Rivera

**If you can't have the best of everything, make the best of everything you have.**

**"There is no "right time"; there is just time and what you choose to do with it"**

Mel Robbins

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

Noa Shaw

**Monday's are a great day to focus on what we get to do, instead of what we have to do. Life is a gift, not an obligation.**

Jon Gordon

**We think it's the big things that are going to change the world, but it's all the little**

court rulings that expressed agreement with Farm Bureau's assertion that EPA and the Army Corps overstepped its authority under the Clean Water Act. The 2020 rule was largely welcomed by agriculture as more clearly defining which waterways are subject to federal regulation.

"Last year's changes brought some basic reasonability and common sense to the 2015 WOTUS rule," Ebert said. "I hope and strongly recommend you not revert to the political or regulatory actions you performed during the 2015 adoption of the WOTUS rule. Any rule that treats nearly all of Pennsylvania's land mass as part of federally regulated waterway network is senseless and unacceptable

### **Cover Crop Rules for Prevented Planting Updated**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now allow agricultural producers with crop insurance to hay, graze or chop cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage at any time and still receive 100 percent of the prevented planting payment. Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after Nov. 1, or the prevented planting payment would be reduced by 65 percent. The change gives producers greater flexibility for the 2021 crop year and into the future.

USDA's Risk Management Agency will not consider a cover crop planted following a prevented planting claim to be a second crop. But RMA will continue to consider a cover crop harvested for grain or seed to be a second crop, and that crop would therefore remain subject to a reduction in the prevented planting indemnity.

### **EPA Will Continue to Allow Paraquat Application, Expand Safety Measures**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has finalized an interim decision on the herbicide paraquat, allowing the product to remain on the market for another 15 years but putting new safety restrictions in place.

The agency walked back a proposal to ban aerial application but will limit pilots to spraying 350 acres per day and impose residential buffers during aerial applications. The new rules also require enclosed tractor cabs for farmers or farmworkers applying paraquat to more than 80 acres per day, banned use of paraquat in backpack sprayers, and prohibited workers from entering a field until 48 hours after paraquat is applied.

Paraquat is applied annually to control invasive weeds and grasses in certain crops, including corn and soybeans. It's a Restricted Use Product, meaning it can only be used by certified pesticide applicators

### **Changes to Red Tag Program Preliminarily Approved By Game Commission**

At the recent meeting in July, the Board of Game Commissioners granted preliminary approval to some big changes to the Deer Depredation Program, or "Red Tag."

The proposed changes come after a review in response to stakeholder requests for modifications, including advocacy from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The commission held meetings and open discussions with various organizations, including PFB, to collect recommendations to attempt to improve the program.

Some of the changes include removing the public access requirement and signage requirements; allowing four permits per person to be consistent with DMAP; changing valid permit dates to Aug. 1 through Sept. 15, and Feb. 1 through April 15; allowing hunters to keep all deer harvested; and removing the landowner reporting requirement, as well as opening participation to non-

**things added together  
that make life matter.**  
Jennifer Dukes Lee

**The beginning is the  
most important part  
of any work.**

Pennsylvania residents.

If approved at the upcoming meeting in September, the changes would take effect in July of 2022.

### **REAP Tax Credits Available for Conservation**

Pennsylvania has opened its Resource Enhancement and Protection program for 2021-2022. The program offers state tax credits to help farmers implement conservation practices that improve soil and water quality.

There is \$13 million in REAP credits available this year, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

REAP tax credits are available to agricultural producers who implement best management practices or purchase equipment that reduces nutrient and sediment runoff. Farmers may receive up to \$250,00 in and seven-year period, and spouses filing jointly can use REAP tax credits.

Examples of funded projects include no-till planting and precision a equipment, waste storage facilities, conservation plans, nutrient management plans, barnyard runoff controls, cover crops, and riparian buffers.

Farmers may receive REAP tax credits of 50 to 75 percent of the project's eligible out-of-pocket costs. Farmers whose operation is in a watershed with an EPA-mandated total maximum daily load, such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, can receive REAP tax credits of up to 90 percent of out-of-pocket cost for some projects.

Tax credits can be used in conjunction with other funding sources such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program, or Conservation Excellence Grants.

To learn more and apply, visit

[www.agriculture.pa.gov/PlantsLandWater/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov/PlantsLandWater/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx)

### **Annual Meeting**

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting is returning to an in-person format for 2021. This year's event will be bigger and better than ever with top-notch entertainment and educational sessions as well as attractions for the entire family.

PFB's 71st Annual Meeting will take place Nov. 15-17 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. We will honor achievements in membership and Farm Bureau's accomplishments over the past year. We will also recognize farmers who have made an impact on agriculture in Pennsylvania.

This year, attendees will hear from keynote speaker Greg Peterson, of the YouTube sensation The Peterson Farm Brothers, whose popular, agriculture-themed parody music videos have both engaged farmers and helped educate consumers about agriculture. Throughout the event, we will offer valuable seminars that can help your farm operation, including a look at how cutting-edge augmented reality technology will transform agriculture.

You can register yourself and your family and purchase meal tickets at [www.pfb.com/AnnualMeetingRegistration](http://www.pfb.com/AnnualMeetingRegistration). The deadline for meal tickets is Oct. 29.

Please note: County Farm Bureaus often register and purchase meal tickets for delegates, alternate delegates, county board members and some other members. If are serving as a delegate or alternate or have other reason to believe your county may be purchasing your meals or booking your hotel room, PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU before registering,

booking a room, and purchasing meal tickets for yourself and/or your family. Duplicate meal tickets purchased cannot be refunded.

### **Mental Health Resources Available**

Research has found that many farmers are experiencing new stress and mental health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the farm economy and other pressures.

If you or someone you know is struggling or has concerns about their mental health, please **know that you are not alone and there is help available**.

There are unique factors that affect stress in the farming community as well as unique warning signs that someone is struggling. Those include:

- Change in routines or social activities
- Decline in the care of domestic animals
- Increase in illness or other chronic conditions
- Increase in farm accidents
- Decline in appearance of the farm
- Decreased interest in activities or events
- Signs of stress in children including struggles with school

### **Help and Resources Available:**

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or use the online chat at [suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat) 24/7 for free and confidential support and to be connected with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support via text.
- **PA 211** is a United Way statewide partner which offers trained resource navigators who can tell farmers what services may be available in their area to help with a variety of health and human service needs, from utility or food assistance to mental health support. Visit [www.pa211.org](http://www.pa211.org), dial **211** from any landline or cell phone, or text your zip code to **898-211**.
- **Avera Health Farm and Rural Stress Hotline:** Call 800-691-4336 to be connected with a skilled, compassionate mental health professional.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment locators, SAMHSA's National Helpline, a Disaster Distress Helpline and other important information.

Find additional resources, learn tips for starting important conversations about mental health, and register for free rural resilience training by visiting [farmstateofmind.org](http://farmstateofmind.org).

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A \$3 portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Members can receive either 8 issues of the Country Focus newspaper or 4 issues of the quarterly Positively Pennsylvania magazine. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.

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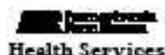


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