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Rick Leese

301-678-9226

Local News First!

Adams County Activity [□]

Local farmers working together

Welcome New Members: Mark Shupe, Ravi Vaylay, Todd Weikert, David Burrier, Zachary Hoffman, David Toms, Brock Scheuermann, Moniaca Berhod, Greg Gipe, Jake Grim, Julie Tonetti, John Hawk, Thomas Blair, David Weiser, Matthew Faulhaber, Jason Sarine, #ANON-219 ADAMS-3, and Rebeka Black.

Calling All COOKS!

The Adams County Farm Bureau would like to publish a cookbook as a fundraiser for the scholarship program. Anyone interested in submitting a recipe or more can mail them to Deb Stock, 359 Brickcrafter Rd., New Oxford, PA. 17350 or email them to edstock1005@gmail.com.

Catagories for the cookbook will be: Appetizers/Beverages, soups/salads, vegetables, main dishes, breads/rolls, desserts, miscellaneous.

We would want all recipes submitted by March 31, 2022. Please make sure The recipe is printed or typed and is legible to read. Make sure that your name is also printed. Let's make this a cookbook that will be handed down from generations to generations of Adams County kitchens.

The Adams County board is also looking to hold a BBQ later this year. Possibly in June. More details to follow.

Ag Literacy is March 14-18. If you are interested in reading to a classroom, you can still sign up on line at pfb.com, click on Resources, then to Friends of Ag Foundation. Contact a school or classroom you wish to read to.

ROD Kyle Kotzmoyer

717-215-0765

Calendar of Events

January

1- New Years Day

4-6 Keystone Farm Show

6- Board Meeting

8-15 – PA Farm show

17- Martin Luther King Day

February

2- Groundhog Day

3- Board Meeting

7-10 – Winter Ag Workshop

12-13 – YAP Conference

14- Valentine's Day

21- Presidents' Day

25-28 – AFBF YFR Leadership Conference

March

1- Fastnacht Day

2- Ash Wednesday

3- Board Meeting

10- Region 3 Farm Bureau Days

13- Daylight Savings Time Begins

15- Legislative update (virtual-evening)

17- St. Patrick's Day

21-25 – Ag Literacy Week

31- Recipes are due in

Service Provider

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 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.

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.

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.

The Hunterstown Ruratsins will be hosting their monthly breakfast at the Great Conewago Presbyterian Church on Red Bridge Rd.. Dates are February 12, March 12 and April 9. Breakfast runs from 7 – 10:30 a.m. and the cost is \$7.00 for adults. This helps support their scholarship program.

Board member Christine Demas has resigned due to a scheduling conflict. Contact President Brian Davis or a board member if you are interested in becoming a member of the board.

Quick Reference

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Congratulations to Adams County Wendy Stoner!

HERSHEY, Pa. – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's (PFB) Agriculture Promotion Committee has selected Adams County teacher Wendy Stoner as the 2021 Teacher of the Year. The award was presented during PFB's 71st Annual Meeting.

Stoner teaches 1st grade students at Conewego Township Elementary School. She was able to incorporate more agriculture-related activities into her curriculum after participating in the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation's Educator's Ag Institute.

"I thought agriculture is the perfect add-on to our curriculum to grab a first grader's attention and interest in learning," said Stoner. "Agriculture has plants, animals, dirt, food and machinery. Basically, it has something for every student's interest level." With the 2020-21 school year being disrupted due to COVID, Stoner had to retool much of her class preparation to navigate an unpredictable year. She developed online activities, had her class adopt a cow, and participate in virtual farm tours hosted by local farmers.

"This year was a bit different with not knowing whether the children would be in person or be online learning," she said.

Stoner also had her class complete a "Garden in a Glove" project, in which students sprouted pumpkin seeds inside a clear glove, and then were able to take their plants home to plant and watch them grow throughout the year. She also created an area in the back of her classroom painted to resemble a barn to house agriculturally themed books and activities.

"Wendy is a true success story for our Ag Educator's Institute," said Agriculture Promotion Committee Chair Chris Hoffman, who also serves as PFB Vice President. "Teachers participating in the institute help the foundation meet its mission of promoting and preserving agriculture by placing a special emphasis on educational programs for children across the Commonwealth."

From the State

Governor signs Bill 725 into Law

CAMP HILL, Pa. – Governor Tom Wolf recently signed Senate Bill 725 into law, which clarifies farmer's use of Class C driver's licenses, legislation that Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) supported. The bill, which takes effect immediately, specifically clarifies Act 170, which states that farmers do not need a commercial driver's license (CDL) to operate a farm vehicle, or combination, with a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of 26,000 pounds or greater.

"With harvest season underway, and with farmers needing to take heavier trucks out on the roads, it was essential for farmers to get this bill passed into law," said PFB President Rick Ebert. "We are pleased that the legislature and the Governor acted quickly to clear up this confusion, and farmers can continue to work without having to worry."

Recent action by State Police had left some confusion as to whether farmers needed a Class A license instead of the more common Class C when operating trucks or truck combinations with a gross vehicle weight more than 26,000 pounds. The law, introduced by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, now clearly states that farmers are permitted to operate vehicles with a GVW over 26,000 pounds with a Class C driver's license.

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 saps 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

PFB Annual Meeting Adds New Policies

CAMP HILL, Pa. – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members serving as delegates to the **71st Annual Meeting** approved a slate of new policies as part of the grassroots process which guides the organization and addresses emerging challenges in the agriculture industry, including solar energy development on farms, improving farmers access to meat processing, finding ways to deal with damage caused by wildlife and better data collection of on-farm conservation efforts.

Included in the slate of solar energy policies was support for programs that encourage the development of solar energy projects to occur on marginal farm ground and a strong recommendation to avoid the placement of solar facilities on the state's most productive farmland.

Delegates from the organization's 54 **county Farm Bureaus** also supported policy resolutions that will help additional meat processing facilities to open, or expand existing facilities, using state grants and incentives. Farmers also addressed ways to better address wildlife damages, including the creation of a management assistance program for the state's elk herd.

In order to better facilitate conservation efforts, delegates also approved policy that recommends that state and federal agencies coordinate when collecting data and reporting on agricultural conservation practices to better capture the efforts that farmers are already implementing in meeting the water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

"These policies will guide our efforts in the year ahead, as we begin to navigate new efforts to expand solar energy production in the state and continue to push for recognition of those conservation practices farmers are already implementing on their farms," said PFB **President Rick Ebert**. "Our grassroots process is Farm Bureau's greatest strength and it shows how engaged our members are on conservation efforts and responsibly growing new renewable energy sources."

Hundreds of farmers from across the state attended Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 71st Annual Meeting at the **Hershey Lodge** from November 15-17, to set policy for the statewide organization on issues affecting farm and rural families.

High-speed is slowly coming to Rural Areas

The Pennsylvania General Assembly passed House Bill 2071 this week, which will help bridge the digital divide when it comes to rural broadband in the state. The bill will establish the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority, that will address the lack of reliable broadband service in rural areas. The bill now heads to the governor for his expected approval.

The bill addresses the need for broadband expansion by creating an authoritative body that can implement a statewide broadband plan, and serve as a point of contact for entities that look to expand or start new services. The Broadband Development Authority will also oversee the allocation of federal dollars to these projects.

"We are very pleased to see this crucial bipartisan effort to address our lack of broadband access," said PFB President Rick Ebert. "Rural families and farm businesses have been under served, and the need to have access to high-speed internet is essential to compete and participate in the digital age."

The bill also puts in place safeguards to ensure that areas that have the slowest internet speeds or lack of access are prioritized, and that money and resources are being distributed to those areas first.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocated for the passage of the bill.

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

Livestock Mandatory Reporting

The House on Dec. 8 passed a pair of livestock bills supported by the American Farm Bureau Federation. One of the measures would extend Livestock Mandatory Reporting, while the other would create a contract library for the beef cattle industry, similar to the pork industry catalog.

Livestock Mandatory Reporting was extended through mid-February in the most recently passed continuing resolution, but the measure passed this week in the House would extend LMR through the end of the 2022 fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30, 2022.

The other livestock measure, the Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021 (H.R. 5609), would create a library for cattle contracts within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The bill would require packers to report terms of alternative marketing agreements between packers and producers, equipping ranchers with additional market data needed to make informed marketing and business decisions. The USDA library would provide producers with key details on cattle contracts, including the type and duration.

Both bills "provide crucial information, which is needed now more than ever as prices skyrocket at the grocery store while payments to farmers lag behind," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said in a statement.

He continued, "We appreciate the leadership demonstrated by Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott and the work of Representatives Dusty Johnson and David Cuellar. Their work on behalf of America's ranchers helped create overwhelmingly bipartisan support for both pieces of legislation. We urge the Senate to work together in a similar fashion to ensure market fairness for farmers and ranchers working to put food on dinner tables across the country."



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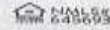


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A \$3 portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Members can receive either 8 issues of the Country Focus newspaper or 4 issues of the quarterly Positively Pennsylvania magazine. Publication frequency and details are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

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