



Accent on Agriculture

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau

Also serving Western Philadelphia County

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation

Happy Holidays from the Chester/Delaware County Board of Directors.

The year of 2020 will go down as one of the most mentally challenging years in history. We are so ever grateful to have your continued support as members of this organization.

As you enjoy this holiday season please take time to reflect on the reason for the season and why we pause to celebrate. The spirit of Christmas and the holiday season may feel different this year as we are farther apart but take the time to relax and reflect.

You are loved and appreciated.
~ CDCFB Board of Directors

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Message from CDCFB President Daniel Miller



I hope you all are doing well during this trying period in our lives. Covid 19 has affected a lot of what we do in ways that we never thought possible nine months ago. Hopefully, you and your families have found ways to cope with this different way of life.

Although the disruption caused by the virus continues, Farm Bureau is still working for its members on the county, state and national levels. On the county level, your board of directors is meeting mostly online although we were able to meet in an outdoors type setting for several of our monthly meetings. We were able to continue our scholarship program for students pursuing agriculture-related degrees. We also funded those agricultural youth events that were not cancelled this year.

Farm Bureau on the state and national level has been actively getting information out to farmers about programs that have been developed to aid agriculture during the Covid 19 crisis. This is an on-going effort so be sure to monitor your email and read the state and national Farm Bureau printed materials that you receive to stay up-to-date on what programs are available to you. Farm Bureau continues to work with state and national legislatures to not only develop programs for Covid 19 relief for farmers, but also to move the organization's legislation agenda along. On the county level, we are involved in the Restore Chester County Working Group organized by the Chester County Planning Commission. The group is searching for ways that the County government can

help industries (including agriculture) restore their businesses to pre-Covid status.

Our county volunteers, including our board of directors, continue to serve our members in many ways. During this time of Covid 19, their efforts are even more appreciated. One way you could help the organization is to send in your Farm Bureau dues in a timely manner if you have not already done so. It is going to be very difficult to make membership visits this year so please keep yourself and our volunteers safe by sending in your dues now. We thank you very much if you have already paid your dues! Please call Janet Robinson at 717-529-2508 if you have any questions about your membership.

You may notice changes to this issue of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau newsletter. Our second vice president, Douglas B Lapp, and his sister Elizabeth have taken on the responsibility of putting the newsletter together for the organization. We would like to thank them for all of their effort in doing this and we wish them well on their first issue. Thank you, Doug and Elizabeth!

Please stay safe during the remainder of the harvest season. We all appreciate the work you do for agriculture!

Daniel Miller



Remembering a Giant Within Our Industry and Our Community



If you have been involved in Agriculture within the southern Chester County region or beyond in the last few decades, the name Hostetter should sound familiar. The Hostetter Family has been incredibly involved within the community and particularly the agriculture industry for decades.

It was absolutely crushing for many of us when we found out that our dear friend, mentor, and business associate Barry Hostetter was given a terminal cancer diagnosis. Barry was always joyful anytime you would step into the Hostetter Grain office or call him on the phone. This left the Ag community wondering what we could do to show our support and thanks for our friend Barry.

I spent Sunday morning, October 18th, outside as a part of the truck convoy for Barry which was an entirely surreal experience. Reflecting on the day made me sit back

and appreciate the relationship I was able to have with such an incredible man. He touched so many lives as demonstrated by the hundreds of trucks and drivers who spent their Sunday morning showing their support and appreciation for a man of the community. Over 250 vehicles coming from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey formed a parade of tractor trailers and farm equipment including tractors, sprayers, milk trucks, wagons, etc., as well as pickup trucks and cars to drive by Barry's country home as a way of expressing their honor and support.

Over his life Barry served in many capacities within agriculture and the community. He served on the Chester County Holstein Club, the Oxford Zoning Hearing Board, the Penn Ag Industries Feed, Grain and Ingredients Executive Committee, and on the Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. As with anything he did, he served with passion in every single role.

Barry was heavily involved

with the Lighthouse Youth Ministry in Oxford. He was on the board of directors for the past 30 years, serving as chairman for 15 years and currently serving as Vice Chairman. He was a member of Mt. Vernon Christian Church currently serving as usher and many times as greeter. Barry's Faith and joy of serving the Lord was very evident in the way he loved people.

Barry exemplified what it truly means to serve and he did so every day he was with us. Barry Wilmer Hostetter, 60, of Oxford, PA passed away Monday, November 9, 2020 at home surrounded by his family and the prayers of all of us within the Agriculture Industry.

Fly High Brother Barry, Until we meet again.

Douglas B Lapp



Member recognized with 2020 Master Farmer Award

Congratulations to Arlin Benner for receiving the 2020 Master Farmer award.

Arlin and his wife, Deborah, are the owners of Yippee Farms located in Cochranville and Mt. Joy, PA. Together, they have five adopted children. They farm 1295 acres, have 2300 cows and nearly 1000

heifers with average production of 92 pounds per cow and a rolling herd average of 29,100 pounds.

Arlin, a CDCFB member, is also a board member of Dairy One, a delegate to Dairy Farmers of America, and also the DFA Gold Standard Superbowl of Forager, a member of the Professional Dairy

Managers of PA, as well as other organizations.

The Master Farmer Award is the lifetime achievement award of agriculture that recognizes exemplary role models of outstanding management, land stewardship and community leadership.

2021 American Farm Bureau Federation Convention Moves Online

AFBF's 102nd Convention will be held virtually, Jan. 10-13, 2021. In a recent Newsline, AFBF Executive Vice President Dale Moore said that amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the top priority is the safety of attendees. Moore also provided additional insights on the pivot to a

virtual event.

"We had been anticipating that this was a possibility, and when the convention center in San Diego announced that they were going to be closed through the end of January, that pretty much made a decision for us," Moore said. Further, "It has

given us the opportunity to take a whole other approach to our annual meeting and to our convention."

In November at the PFB annual meeting, multiple policies were approved to be sent to the AFBF annual meeting.

Delegates Set Policy Direction for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's "grassroots" focus was on full display during the 70th annual meeting November 16-17. Through an online platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, delegates from all 54 county Farm Bureaus approved policy resolutions on issues affecting agriculture and rural families that will guide the organization's advocacy in the coming year.

CDCFB members attending the virtual meeting were: President Daniel Miller, Vice Presidents Howard Reyburn and Douglas B Lapp,

Howard Robinson, Joe Fecondo, Harold Hallman, Melissa Harrop, Charlie Graydus and Julie Brady.

Policies approved by the delegates that deal with state issues will be formalized in PFB's 2021 Policy Book which will guide what PFB staff and volunteer leaders advocated for and against in Harrisburg. Those policies dealing with national issues will be considered by delegates from each state at the American Farm Bureau Federation convention held virtually in January.

Congratulations to CDCFB's Safety Contest Winners

Olivia Robinson and Madelyn Leib each won first-place in PFB's 2020 Safety Photo Contest. Olivia won the 16-18 year old category while Madelyn won the 13-15 year old category. Each were awarded \$100 for their first place win. Their photos can be seen on the PFB webpage along with all the other winning entries.

CDCFB also had two second-place winners at the state level

receiving prizes of \$25 each.

Gayle Reyburn was the second-place winner for her Safety Poster entry (ages 10-12).

Ruby Reyburn was the second place winner in the Safety Poster contest (ages 7-9).

Thanks to all our CDCFB artistic and talented youth who entered the contest. You all make us "Farm Bureau Proud!"

Volunteers Needed for Legislative Committee

Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau delegates were proud to represent the county at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau annual meeting. As in previous years, the policy resolution voting is both a tedious and exciting process. The policies of PFB become the organization's legislative goals. This is where you come in, we need more volunteers to interact with legislators on issues facing farming in PA. If you are interested in volunteering on a Legislative Committee, contact Julie Brady, Governmental Relations Director at ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com or 610-932-7363.

2021 CDCFB Scholarship applications are now open

The deadline to apply is March 15, 2021. See www.CDCFB.com for details and a printable application.



For all your insurance needs, visit www.nationwide.com

PA Young Ag Professionals Leadership Conference

Before the ground thaws and seeds are planted, Pennsylvania will host its State Young Ag Professionals (YAP) Leadership Conference. The goal of this conference is to help new young farmers and new Farm Bureau members establish their place on their farms and in Farm Bureau. The conference offers breakout sessions on commodity's, leadership, retirement/transition planning and financial planning.

The 2021 conference is currently scheduled to take place on February 27 -28, 2021. PFB YAP is still planning for this to be an in person event to be held at the Wyndham Garden on 310 Elks Club Rd. Boalsburg, PA. Follow PFB YAP on facebook for up to date information.



2021 YAP Survey

Are you Under 35 and involved in the Agriculture Industry? Take the YAP survey to help us design programs to benefit you!!

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PFB/Surveys/6433/Respond>

Register Now for Ag Literacy Week

The PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation is looking for volunteer readers to help connect students to agriculture by showing them where their food comes from. Plan now to join us for the 5th Annual PA "Ag Literacy Week" to be held March 15-19, 2021.

Volunteers will read the book, "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish – Tales

of a Dairy Godmother," to classrooms across the state.

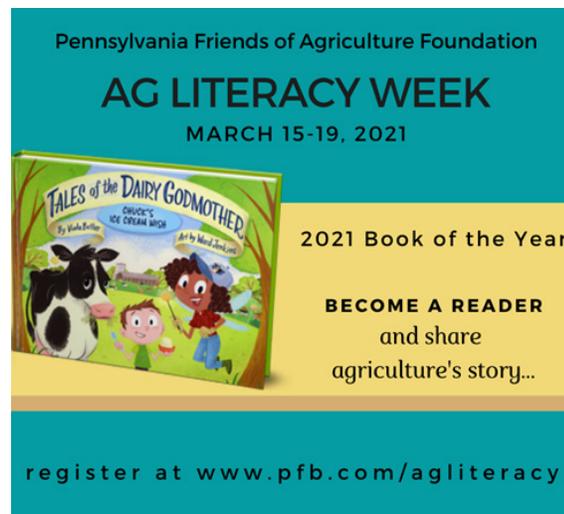
Volunteer readers are asked to make a \$10 donation for a book to be read and given to the classroom.

Also, the 2021 Ag Literacy Week is planned to be held either in-person or virtually as circumstances require.

To get involved:

1. Contact your local school and request to read to a kindergarten through second-grade classroom.
2. Collect classroom information (school, teacher name, teacher email, grade, number of students).
3. Register online by December 15, 2020.

If you have any questions and/or to register, you can go to www.pfb.com/agliteracy, or email alw@pfb.com.



Thanks for Being a Farm Bureau Member

The CDCFB Board of Directors would like to thank all of you who have renewed your membership for 2021. We very much appreciate your continued support!

Also, I wanted to let you know that if you have a family member, partner, or anyone you know who would benefit from being a farm bureau member that NOW is a great time to sign up new members in farm bureau! And here's why: anyone joining now is signing up for the 2021 membership year – the rest of 2020 is free!

Also, I wanted to remind those of you who have not yet renewed

your membership that there is an added benefit to renewing before December 31st: the value of your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Policy (a benefit of your membership) increases by \$300 each year (to a maximum of \$3,100) if you pay before the end of year.

For more information on signing up new members or any questions about your membership, contact me at jrob@epix.net or any of the CDCFB Board Members listed in this newsletter.

– Janet Robinson, CDCFB Membership Processor

Members Participate in Golf Fundraiser

CDCFB members, and nearly 100 others, hit the links again in September at the Annual Richard Prether PA Friends of Agriculture Golf Classic held in Hershey.

The event raised \$45,500 for programs that educate the public to better understand agriculture. Congratulations to Allison Hostetter who was the winner of the “Women’s Long Drive.”

Since 1993, the annual fundraiser has generated more than \$960,000 for the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation. The Foundation administers agriculture literacy and outreach programs such as the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab program, Ag on the Go, Ag Literacy Week and the Educator’s Ag Institute.

“Money raised from the tournament helps the foundation give the public—and especially the next generation—factual information about how food is produced,” said PFB

President Rick Ebert, the foundation chairman. “Thank you to all the sponsors and golfers for supporting the foundation’s efforts.”

Pictured below:

Team 1: Franny Sharon, Joe Fecondo, George Yarrish, and Bob Pepple.



Team 2: Alison Hostetter, Lamar King, Buzz Tyson and Bill Hostetter.



Welcome, New Members

Jeffrey Annaballi, *Downingtown*

Joy Beam, *Elverson*

Josh Beam, *Elverson*

Erica Boston, *Montchanin*

Rafael Almanza-Cruz, *Coatesville*

Karen Dumont, *Media*

Dr. George Fiore, *Downingtown*

Logan Hall, *Exton*

Elijah Jones, Sr., *Philadelphia*

Joshua Madarang, *Chester Springs*

Jackie Manfredi, *Toughkenamon*

Robert McKinstry, Jr., *Kennet Square*

Brenda Ann Neilson Hansen, *Chadds Ford*

William Tomlinson, *Elverson*

James M. Wood, Jr., *Havertown*

Yuji Yamaguchi, *Berwyn*

Jason Nicholas Yike, *Philadelphia*

Times Change, People Change, Organizations Stay the Course.

For decades, Janet Robinson has been a mainstay within the Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau serving in a wide swath of roles through the decades. She has been the institutional knowledge of our organization, able to point out things from the past as a sign of future results.

Since the 1980s Janet has served as the newsletter editor of this publication setting an incredibly high standard for the amount of information that each of our members are delivered to keep them informed on all things Ag. Unfortunately, times change. Janet made the tough decision that she was ready to pass on some of her roles with the Chester

Delaware County Farm Bureau. Janet has graciously been an incredible mentor to our new team helping them get all of the proper connections to make sure the newsletter would go without a hitch.

Meet the new kids on the block! Doug and Elizabeth Lapp have taken over as the new team of editors for the CDCFB newsletter. Doug serves as the second Vice-President on the CDCFB and farms with his father and grandfather in Cochranville. Elizabeth, Doug’s sister, is currently finishing her third year of law school at the University of Virginia. Before attending UVA Law, Elizabeth earned a dual bachelor’s degree in government and journal-

ism from Liberty University. Elizabeth was the Opinion and Editorial section editor of the Liberty University newspaper and currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Virginia Journal of Criminal Law. She plans to bring this expertise to assist her brother in sounding educated in his writing. We hope to be able to live up to the standards set by Janet over her decades of professionalism with providing such a great asset to CDCFB members.

If you ever find anything that you think should be in the newsletter please email CDCFBnews@gmail.com.

Chester County Commissioners Present Agriculture Awards

Farmers of the Year Award

The 2020 Chester County Farmers of the Year award was presented to Sonya Beltran and her family, owner-operators of First Generation Farms. The Beltran family grows fresh white and cremini mushrooms for restaurant and food service customers up and down the East Coast.

Sonya was initially nominated on her own for the award by the American Mushroom Institute, for excellence as a mushroom grower and industry advocate. Upon receiving notice of the nomination, she requested that her family also be recognized: "I wouldn't be where I am today without my parents' hard work and sacrifice."

Although the pandemic has been extremely challenging for the food service supply chain, Sonya says that worker safety has always been their business's number one priority. To that end, she partnered with La

Comunidad Hispana to offer voluntary onsite COVID-19 testing, and has worked with employees when they needed flexible schedules due to childcare disruption.

In addition to her work on the farm, Sonya serves as the Vice Chair of the Mushroom Council, the national mushroom trade promotion group geared towards expanding the consumer market for fresh mushrooms.

"There aren't a lot of women mushroom growers, but I didn't do this to be the next female Latina grower," says Sonya. "I am honored to be able to do this work and expand my parents' dream."

The Duncan Allison Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

In a typical year, the Chester County Commissioners and Ag Council present the Duncan Allison Award for Distinguished Service to

Agriculture to a deserving individual who has positively promoted, made significant contributions to, or provided exceptional services for the county's farming community.

Since this year has been anything but typical, the Commissioners and Ag Council have chosen to recognize the entire Chester County agriculture community for their many acts of service and food donations to residents in need during the pandemic.

"We usually think of agriculture as Chester County's top industry for economic reasons but its generosity of spirit, especially during tough times, is what makes agriculture the heart of our communities," says Chester County Ag Council Board Chair Chris Alonzo.

For more information about the Chester County Ag Council and our awards program, visit www.chesco-farming.org

Message from the CDCFB Farm Safety Committee

For most farmers the fall harvest season is a race against the weather because field conditions can drastically change in a matter of hours. To combat this challenge, most operations make the decision to push harvest and cereal grain planting activities well into the dark of night. While increasing productivity, night time operation also increases safety risks.

Poor lighting can be a HUGE hazard to operators and the general public in various forms. Such risks may take the form of combine operators not being able to see that a pickup truck bringing fuel and supper has been parked at the edge of the field and the driver is approach-

ing the combine on foot, or perhaps the driver of a minivan on the roadway isn't able to discern exactly how wide your vertical tillage tool is behind your tractor, or maybe the farmhand backing a no-till drill up to the seed tender isn't able to correctly assess how close the back of the planter is to the tender trailer. In all of these cases, properly functioning lights on machinery can help mitigate the chances of having an accident. Additional lighting and reflectors are always a great way to increase visibility for both the operator and those in the vicinity of the machine.

As you spend time over the winter months servicing and maintain-

ing your equipment, please be sure to check the condition of your field lights, warning lights, reflectors, and SMV signs on every machine—from the mighty combine to the trusty ol' wagon. If a machine doesn't have lights and reflectors, add some!

You'll feel much safer knowing you can see your surroundings and the general public can see you as you're transporting on the highway. You may even feel warm and fuzzy after stocking up on some lights and reflective tape at your local hardware store. With a little bit of care, we can all ensure that agriculture shines throughout our community.

– Darryl King, CDCFB Safety Committee Chair

Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau

President: Daniel Miller	484-880-6431
First Vice Pres.: Howard Reyburn	610-932-5685
Second Vice Pres.: Douglas B. Lapp	484-319-9952
Dennis Breckbill	610-932-9567
Deborah Ellis	610-256-7483
Joseph Fecondo	717-798-6467
Charles Graydus	610-286-0128
Harold Hallman III	610-827-7808
Melissa Harrop	484-252-1342
Paul Mason	610-806-6923
Arthur Needham	610-869-9735
Jeff Stoltzfus	610-593-5656
Fran Sharron (Women's Committee)	484-732-7089
Secretary to the Board: Julie Brady	610-932-7363
YAP Chairperson: Steven Barr	484-883-4051
PFB Director: Howard Robinson	717-529-2508
PFB Regional Org. Dir.: Ethan Howard	610-533-2558

County Board Meetings are held on the first
Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
All are welcome to attend.

Nationwide Farm Certified Insurance PFB Agents:

Maggie Garcia-Taylor, <i>Oxford</i>	610-932-4935
Gloria Forbes, <i>Media</i>	717-786-1711
Andrew Harris, <i>Coatesville</i>	484-288-8628
Jack Henderson, <i>Kennett Square</i>	610-444-2610
Jillian O'Brien, <i>West Chester</i>	610-696-5130



Women's Leadership Committee

2021 PFB Safety Contest: Lightning Can Strike More Than Once

The annual Safety Competition is for children ranging in age from 4 to 18 years old. The deadline for submissions in the 4-6 year old coloring contest is May 1, 2021. Those entering the 7-12 year old 3-D contest or the 13-18 year old video contest have until June 1, 2021 to complete their submissions

For more information and contest rules, visit
www.pfb.com/safetycontests.

Farm Management Account Supervisors

Connie Flowers, <i>Lancaster</i>	717-908-0482
Tracy L. Garofalo, <i>Dover, DE</i>	717-562-3316
Chester Holmes, <i>Chester Springs</i>	717-582-2807
Eric Knutsen, <i>Rising Sun, MD</i>	717-908-7449
David W. Mory, <i>Bethlehem</i>	717-908-0552
Graham Rumsey, <i>York</i>	717-908-7129



Don't Forget: Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount when renewing your Lancaster Farming subscription! Use the code: PAFB.

To keep up to date with the happenings in Chester and Delaware County Farm Bureau, visit our new website:

www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com

Please send items for the newsletter to:
Doug Lapp at CDCFBnews@gmail.com