



Accent on Agriculture

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau

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Rep. Lawrence Named Vice-Chair of House Ag Committee

State Representative John Lawrence has been named Vice-Chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee for the 2021-22 session by House Speaker Bryan Cutler.

Lawrence has served on the House Ag Committee for five terms, advocating for Chester County's farmers with a focus on our mushroom and equine industries. He is widely recognized as a leader on dairy policy in the House, authoring a number of bills to help Pennsylvania's struggling dairy farmers. Last session, he authored legislation that passed the House unanimously to deal with the threat posed by the Spotted Lanternfly.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lawrence organized a House Ag Committee tour of some of our area's unique agricultural assets, including the New Bolton Center, Longwood Gardens, Herr Foods, and a local mushroom farm. Many members of the House Ag Committee had never been to any of these facilities, and gained valuable insight to the unique contribution our area makes to both the regional and national Ag landscape.

The grandson of a dairy farmer and a lifelong resident of Chester County, Rep. Lawrence is a longtime member of the Farm Bureau and a regular at our policy meetings and dinners.



Representative Lawrence with Nutmeg, an Ayrshire heifer, participated in the VIP Dairy Showmanship contest at the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

What's Inside

- PFB's New Chief Administrator, Pg 2
- Tick Safety, Pg 2
- 2021 Scholarship Winners, Pg 5
- New Conservation Bill Introduced, Pg 6

Dates to Remember:

June 21: Chester 4-H Aben-aqua

June 27: Membership Picnic and Buisness Meeting

June 28 - July 1: 4-H Pennsylvania Heritage Food and Folk Art Virtual Day Camp



Message from CDCFB President Daniel Miller

Spring planting is in full swing as I write this letter.

Moderate spring weather and an increase in commodity prices for field crops have many farmers hopeful for a good year for their businesses. After a number of years of low prices for crops, the agricultural industry is more than ready for a good financial year. Hopefully, weather will remain good through the growing season and commodity prices will remain at a high level through harvest this fall.

The effects of Covid-19 have been felt throughout our society and in the agricultural industry for over a year. Things are looking better this spring in the fight against the virus. Farm Bureau is encouraging everyone to get vaccinated so that this pandemic

can be put to an end in our communities. We vaccinate our animals to prevent disease and financial loss to our businesses. We should also vaccinate ourselves to protect our families and our businesses as well as society in general.

PA Farm Bureau and Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau have maintained the same membership dues level for over 30 years. This has been accomplished by cutting costs everywhere possible like most farmers do in their own operations. Now, due to ever-increasing costs, it is no longer possible to maintain that decades-old membership dues level. Our organization will see an increase in membership dues for the 2022 membership year. Our board of di-

Continued on Page 4

Use Tick Block or Go to the Doc

Reports from many people indicate that this could be a particularly bad year for the ticks that carry Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. In our family, we have found ticks on our dogs every month of the year, and since late March, we find ticks weekly. Our dogs are protected for fleas and ticks, so most of the ticks we find are dead or dying, but it does show how prevalent they are.

Ticks can cause permanent disability, if you acquire Lyme or one of the other diseases. Several thousand people a year die from their infection.

Ticks like areas without direct sunlight, and are prevalent in tall grass and brush areas. But most people are bitten in their own yard. If you see deer, you have ticks in your environment.

Since many of us spent considerable time in tick habitat, it makes sense to protect yourself. Experts say the best defense is clothing that

has been treated with permethrin. You can do this yourself, by spraying your clothes, and letting the clothes dry overnight. (Permethrin does not work if applied to your skin.) Those treated clothes will protect you from ticks and all other insects for a couple of months before re-treatment is necessary. The clothes can be washed a couple of times during that period.

An even better approach is to buy permanently-treated clothing. This method guarantees protection for at least 70 washings. All military field uniforms are treated this way. One company we can recommend is Insect Shield (www.insectshield.com). They have a full line of outdoor clothing for men, women, children, and even pets. You can get a 20% discount at checkout by entering "PFB" or "LDASEPA" in the coupon box on their order page.

Sometimes you do not have time to change clothes, so using an insect repellent containing DEET is



also effective for a short period of time. DEET is the chemical in "Off" and other similar bug repellents. But DEET spray must be reapplied every couple of hours to provide protection. A longer-lasting version of DEET is found in Ultrathon, a 3M product that lasts for up to 12 hours.

Changing to your treated clothes, or applying DEET while outside, is inconvenient, but certainly a small price to pay to prevent a serious illness.

For more information go to LymeBasics.org

Doug Fearn
PA Lyme Disease Awareness Chair

Meet PFB's New Chief Administrator



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's State Board of Directors has hired Michael L. Stolitca, Jr. as PFB's new chief administrative officer.

Stolitca started in the role April 19, filling a vacancy that opened when former chief administrator Sam Kiefer was hired for a position with the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The chief administrative officer serves as a bridge between PFB's State Board of Directors and professional staff, leading the organization's senior management team and overseeing the

day-to-day operations of PFB, PFB Member Services Corporation, and the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation.

Stolitca comes to PFB from Kubota, where he was regional sales manager and previously served as district sales manager for New Holland Agriculture. He has a bachelor's degree in government and legal studies from Bowdoin College and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Penn State. He grew up on a family farm in Westmoreland County.

On Your Marks, Get Set... Stay Safe!

It's "go time" again on the farm! Are you fully prepared for long hours in the tractor? Before you run out the door and fire up your iron horse, you'll probably think about what items you need to bring with you for the day. I'm betting that list is mostly tools and parts, isn't it. Did you think about taking along safety related items such as: gloves, ppe if handling chemicals, extra drink/snacks, fire extinguishers, medications, a good first aid kit, a charger for your phone, sunglasses, a flash-

light, a reflective vest, and a jug of water and soap to wash chemicals off skin if needed?

Another excellent precaution to take would be to inform family and team members about where you will be working today. It would also be wise to inform everyone what the closest mailbox address would be in case emergency crews need to be called to where you're working.

I know there may not be much room left in the cab of your truck or tractor after you pile all this stuff

in, but wouldn't you rather have everything you need during an emergency? Let's start the 2021 growing season off right by planning ahead and thinking about safety!

Darryl M. King
CDCFB Safety Committee Chair



Proposed Tax Plans Would Threaten Family Farms

American Farm Bureau Federation is opposing plans in Congress that would tax unrealized capital gains at death and eliminate the stepped-up basis on those capital gains, warning the move could force many family farms out of business. Enacting those changes would result in a significant tax burden for agriculture, putting at risk the ability of family farms to remain financially sustainable as they continue to the next generation.

"Taxing capital gains when a loved one passes away would have a devastating impact on farm and ranch families, even more so if the stepped-up basis tool is taken out of the toolbox," American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said. "Stepped-up basis encourages families to grow their businesses and pass them on to another generation, and elimination could force those families to sell their farms just to pay the taxes."

Stepped-up basis enables farms to reduce the burden of capital gains taxes by resetting the value of an asset when it is transferred between generations. It's especially important in agriculture because assets, such as land, are often held for decades and passed on from generation to generation.

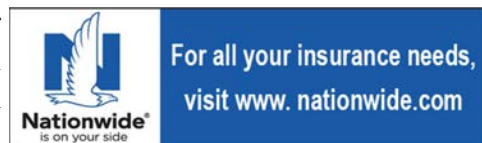
Currently, the capital gains taxes on the stepped-up value of an inherited asset are deferred until that asset is sold. So if capital gains are taxed at death and the stepped-up basis is removed, the next generation inheriting the farm could be forced to pay taxes on the increase in value over generations. "The value of many farms is tied up in land and equipment," Duvall said. "Cash flow on most farms is much too small to pay large capital gains taxes. These taxes would cause further consolidation in agriculture with small farms more likely to be forced out of business by the tax liability."

In Pennsylvania, the average cropland value has increased 168 percent since 1997, resulting in an estimated capital gains tax of \$890 per acre. In that scenario, the capital gains tax would be close to 10 times the average cash rental rate.

Make your voice heard!

Members of Congress need to hear from the farmers they represent how taxing capital gains at death and eliminating the stepped-up basis would be devastating to the future of Pennsylvania's family farms.

Make your voice heard by responding to PFB's Action Alert at www.pfb.com/ActNow.



Agritourism Liability Bill Advances in State Senate

A bill that would limit civil liability for farms that invite the public onto their property for agritourism activities, one of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's top legislative priorities, is a step closer to becoming law.

The Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee voted unanimously in March to send House Bill 101 to the full Senate for consideration. The bill cleared the state House of Representatives with a bipartisan vote in February.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Barb Gleim of Cumberland County, would offer common sense legal protection to farms that invite the public onto their property for

agritourism activities, such as corn mazes, pick-your-own produce, hayrides, and similar attractions. Specifically, the bill would grant farms that offer agritourism activities reasonable protection from lawsuits that arise from circumstances beyond their control as long as they warn visitors of the inherent risks of being on a farm. At the same time, farmers would still need to take steps to ensure guest safety.

The bill is modeled off similar laws already on the books in at least 20 other states, including New York and Ohio. Reforming civil liability for agritourism has been a longtime priority for PFB and other agricul-

ture organizations. The measure passed the state House last fall with a bipartisan vote. The Senate then passed the legislation as part of a separate bill related to COVID-19 but that measure was ultimately vetoed by Gov. Tom Wolf. Wolf cited concerns about the COVID-19 measure as the reason for his veto and did not signal any objection to the agritourism bill.



Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau Membership Picnic and Business Meeting

Sunday, June 27th 2021

12:00 – 3:00 pm

Penn Township Park

260 Lewis Rd, West Grove, PA
19390

RSVP is REQUIRED by June 20th
to [ChesterCountyFarmBureau@
gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com) or 610-932-7363

Boxed Lunches will be served. No
charge - just bring your appetite

This year we will be holding a Membership Business Meeting at 1:30pm during which there will be voting on changes to CDCFB Bylaws and an election for board director positions. Contact Julie Brady at the above email for a copy of the Bylaws if you would like to review them prior to the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

rectors has done everything possible to maintain a low membership dues structure, but an increase in membership dues on the state level necessitates a membership dues increase to \$100 per year in 2022 for Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau.

The membership dues that we all pay allow each of us to be a member of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, PA Farm Bureau, and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Your membership gives you and agriculture a voice in our local communities. Membership also allows Farm Bureau to influence state and national issues affecting agriculture and our communities. The voice of Farm Bureau is heard in local communities, Harrisburg, and in Washington, D.C.; making sure that agriculture's interests are well represented.

We thank you for being a member of Farm Bureau and share in your goal of keeping America's most basic and important industry strong. Agriculture is the backbone of any so-

ciety and we should all be proud of the fact that agriculture's bounties are needed by every person in the country-whether they stop to think about that at each meal or not. Through the Covid pandemic and some of the resulting food and product shortages, it has seemed evident that more of the public recognize their dependence on agriculture. Hopefully that trend will continue and Farm Bureau will not stop educating the public about what it is that we do to supply the necessities for their lives

Please reach out to any of the directors listed on the back of this newsletter if there is anything that you think we might be able to help you with.

Stay safe and thank you for being a member of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau!

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

Daniel Miller

Legislative Committee Meeting Goes Virtual

One of the most important things that the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau does is advocate for legislation that protects and aids farmers and the agriculture industry within our counties. Every year, members of our Legislative Committee travel to Harrisburg to meet with legislators about issues affecting farmers.

This year, with the Capitol still closed to visitors, we held a Zoom meeting on April 13th to discuss some current issues and bills that are being considered within the House and Senate. Thirteen CDCFB members hosted 16 legislators, or their staff members, at this virtual discussion. Topics included: Funding for On-farm Conservation Measures, State Bud-

get Priorities, Agritourism Civil Liability Reform, Rural Broadband, Stormwater Management Issues, State Tax Fairness and Reform, Legislation to Help the Dairy Industry, Lyme Disease, and Spotted Lanterfly.

Thank you to everyone that took time to join in this discussion! If you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committee, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com.



Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship Winners

The Board of Directors of the Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau proudly announces the Recipients of the 2021 Janet and Howard Robinson Scholarship Awards.

- **Jessica Burt** - Attending University of New Hampshire School of Applied Science
- **Patrick Conley** - Attending Penn State University for Agronomy
- **Joseph Commale** - Attending Delaware Valley University for Agribusiness
- **Gavrielle Goldie** - Attending West Virginia University for Animal and Nutritional Science
- **Sara Sabo** - Attending Penn State University for Environmental Engineering / Management



Welcome, New Members

Christian Brown, *Philadelphia*
 Ben Burkhart, *Cochranville*
 Megan E. Calibey (Meadow Spring Farm), *Oxford*
 Thomas M. Casey (Nature's Grace Farm), *Pottstown*
 Matthew Chapman, *Oxford*
 Madonna Clement, *Philadelphia*
 Andrea Collins, *Kirkwood*
 Philip Dutton (True Prospect Farm), *West Grove*
 Paul Gebauer (Pieces of Heaven Farm), *Cochranville*
 William Gock, *Monton*
 Matthew Goin (Katt & Matty Farms), *Landenberg*
 James Goslin, *Glenolden*
 Paul Grosso, *Phoenixville*
 Jenny L. Hines (Holly Hollow Farm), *Coatesville*
 Ron Hohl (Lyons & Hohl Inc.), *Honey Brook*
 Juanita Jenkins, *Philadelphia*
 Anthony Kelly (Kenrose Farm), *Chadds Ford*
 Stacy Kimble, *Coatesville*
 Kyle Kobilka, *Philadelphia*
 Robert Kustra, *Blue Bell*
 Benjamin Lapp, *Cochranville*
 Elizabeth Lapp, *Cochranville*
 Patricia O'Donovan, *Woodlyn*
 Stephanie Powers (Plan Bee Homestead LLC), *Landenberg*
 Darlene Pratola, *Avondale*
 Ashley Price, *Oxford*
 Dalton Ray (Bean Farm), *Coatesville*
 Mauro Roselli, *West Chester*
 Allen Robinson (Meadow Run Farm), *Cochranville*
 Robert J. Squitieri, *Berwyn*
 Patricia Ann Walker, *Pottstown*
 Kyle Wichser, *Malvern*
 Vicki E. Winnick, *Pottstown*
 William Yarnall, *Oxford*

Wedding Barn Bill Passed by PA Senate

A bill supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that aims to make it easier for farmers to rent out barns for weddings and similar social events has been passed by the state Senate.

Senators voted 28-19 in favor of Senate Bill 191, sponsored by Sen. Judy Ward of Blair County. The measure now heads to the House for consideration.

The bill would exempt certain agricultural buildings that are used occasionally for weddings or other social events from some parts of the Uniform Construction Code, as long as other safety conditions are met. The exemption would apply only to existing structures, not new

construction.

With more people wanting to connect with agriculture and hold events in rustic settings, wedding barns can be a great option for farms to diversify and bring in additional revenue to supplement farm income. However, some municipal governments have required farms that want to host events to retrofit historic barns and agricultural buildings to meet the entirety of the construction code, which can be cost prohibitive, especially if a sprinkler system is required.

The legislation would allow farms to avoid having to install a sprinkler system in existing buildings if they meet certain safety re-

quirements. Those include: ensuring electrical wiring is up to date, ensuring there are sufficient and operational smoke detectors and portable fire extinguishers on site, prohibiting smoking and open flames (except for food-warming trays), and ensuring there are multiple ways to exit the building safely in an emergency.

The bill is based on agreements that some farmers have reached with local officials in their municipalities and would establish a statewide standard that makes it easier for farms throughout the commonwealth to host events safely.

PA Senate Bill to Expand Conservation Efforts

Legislation that would provide new funding for Pennsylvania farmers to work with their local conservation districts on projects to improve water quality can now be considered by the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 465 was introduced by state Sen. Gene Yaw of Lycoming County and referred to the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee for consideration. The same bill was introduced last year but expired at the end of the legislative session.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau developed the legislation along with Yaw, Penn State, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The bill, modeled off of the state's Dirt and Gravel Roads program, would provide funding for county conservation districts to work directly with local farmers to implement on-farm conservation practices that improve water quality. Projects completed with the funding would be

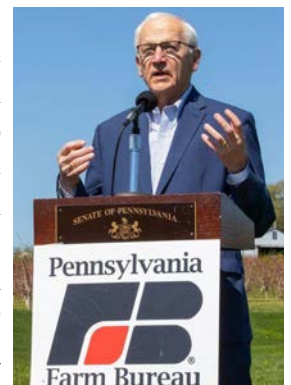
decided on and executed at the local level.

The push comes as Pennsylvania faces a heavy lift in meeting its federally mandated goals for reducing nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. While Pennsylvania has developed a detailed plan for expanding conservation practices in agriculture and other sectors to meet those goals, there is a shortfall in available funding to see the plan through.

The proposed program, which would be called the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program, would target the most funding to areas with the greatest need, such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, although all areas of the state would receive at least some assistance to improve water quality.

"Pennsylvania farmers have long been conservation minded and man-

age their farms in a way that protects natural resources," said PFB President Rick Ebert. "However, challenges remain in meeting water quality goals, especially within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We are pleased that lawmakers such as Senator Yaw acknowledge that farmers cannot go it alone, while also recognizing that environmental challenges are not going away. This agriculture conservation bill will help farmers make conservation improvements on their farm and bring Pennsylvania closer to meeting those water quality goals."



PA State Senator Gene Yaw at a press conference to announce the new new bill on April 17, 2021.

Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau

President: Daniel C. Miller	484-880-6431
1st Vice Pres.: Howard S. Reburn	717-572-7957
2nd Vice Pres.: Douglas B. Lapp	484-319-9952
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie A. Brady	610-350-8724
Ben Bates	484-639-2399
Harold Hallman III	610-827-7808
Dennis Breckbill	484-239-2657
Deborah Ellis	610-256-7483
Joseph Fecondo	717-798-6467
Charles Graydus	717-286-4702
Melissa Harrop	484-252-1342
Paul Mason	610-806-6923
Arthur Needham	610-869-9735
Janet Robinson	717-529-2508
Jeff Stoltzfus	610-593-5656
YAP Chairperson: Steven Barr	484-883-4051
Women's Committee Chair: Frances Sharon	484-732-7089
PFB Regional Organization Director: Ethan Howard	610-533-2558
PFB Board: Howard Robinson	

County Board Meetings are held at the Romano 4-H Center,
Honey Brook, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7
p.m.

All are welcome to attend.

Farm Management Account Supervisors

Tim Ard, Oxford	610-467-0016
Connie Flowers, Lancaster	717-397-1021
Carl D. Ganster, Wyomissing	610-678-1816
Tracy L. Garofalo, Dover, DE	717-927-9109
Vance Getz, Lancaster	717-945-6645
John Haggerty, New Cumberland	717-774-2986
David W. Mory, Bethlehem	610-419-0250
Devon Smoker, Conestoga	717-517-6957

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

Nationwide Insurance PFB Agents:

Jeffrey L. Bartlett, Downingtown	610-269-5887
Steven W. Bates, West Chester	610-429-9640
John R. Ferullo, West Chester	610-431-4005
John Fiorelli, West Chester	610-430-0644
*Maggie Garcia-Taylor, Oxford	610-932-4935
David Gosselin, West Chester	610-696-3894
*Jack Henderson, Kennett Square	610-444-2610
Teresa Ledezma, Kennett Square	610-444-2610
*Christopher Sniscak, West Chester	610-696-5130
Kurt A. Thompson, Downingtown	610-269-1544
Roger Boatwright, Newtown Square	610-359-9270
Daniel K. Burke, Havertown	610-449-4800
Robert J. Cellucci, Drexel Hill	610-449-5900
Charles E. Courtney, Media	610-891-7900
Mark A. Cox, West Chester	610-430-7955
Michele Deery-Thomas, West Chester	610-696-6560
David J. DiMeglio, Havertown	610-789-6131
John L. Dimeglio, Aston	610-485-5858
Diane and Sean Doherty, Aston	610-874-2500
Robert J. Dollfus, Jr., Phoenixville	610-933-6070
Michael Fiorelli, Jr., Upper Chichester	610-485-2543
Matthew Giello, Drexel Hill	610-623-8880
Earl W. Hagerty, Jr., Glen Mills	610-358-9111
Elaine C. Hanscom, Thorndale	610-384-2884
Brenda E. Hurley, Concordville	610-358-9422
Walter McClelland, Newtown Square	610-353-3000
Brian P. McKendry, Media	610-566-6129
Stephen K. Miller, Woodlyn	610-874-8200
Anthony G. Naab, Havertown	610-789-6250
*Jillian O'Brien, Swarthmore	610-534-9229
Lawrence Pellegrino, Folsom	610-237-6550
Rocco J. Polidoro, Springfield	610-544-8900
Sean Price, Morton	610-544-8070
Dean D. Young, Jr., Newtown Square	610-353-6116

*Farm Certified Agent

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