



# Accent on Agriculture

Spring/Summer 2024

## Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (also serving western Philadelphia County)

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation

I am writing this as we come out of one of the mildest winters I can remember. Summer-like temperatures arrived before spring. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for spring work and we will get timely rains.

Your local farm bureau board has been busy since our last newsletter. In March, we lobbied our legislators in Harrisburg at the state legislative conference. State representatives heard our views on equal and fair distribution of the over order premium for dairy farmers, and not allowing solar farms on class 1 and 2 soils. In addition, labor and hunting issues were discussed. On a national level, American Farm Bureau was successful in removing reporting requirements for farmers in the latest environmental regulations.

The PFB mobile agriculture education "Immersion Lab" is scheduled to be in Chester County this summer at the Springton Manor Sheep and Wool Day on April 27th, 2024 and at the OA BEST Expo at Octorara Junior/Senior High School on May 18th, 2024. This is a great opportunity for introducing agriculture and food production to the public.

In addition to bringing the ag lab to our area, we continue supporting our youth by sponsoring various 4H and FFA events, purchasing ag-themed books for libraries, having members reading about agriculture in public school classrooms, sponsoring the Envirothon, and awarding scholarships to high school seniors entering ag-related fields of study.

Thank you for supporting Farm Bureau and we look forward to seeing you soon.

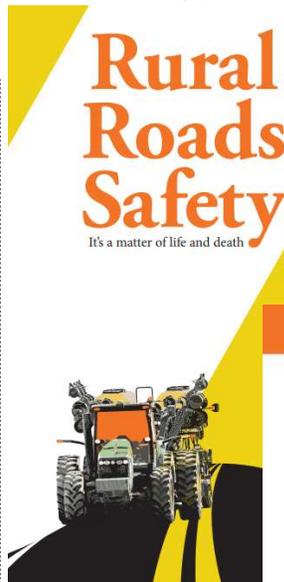
Howard S. Reyburn – CDCFB President

**The advent of spring means the return of slow-moving farm equipment on rural roads.**

**Here some important tips to remember when sharing the road with slow-moving vehicles:**

Do not pass a slow-moving vehicle if:

- You cannot see clearly in front of you and the vehicle you intend to pass;
- There are curves or hills in the road ahead;
- You are in a designated "No Passing Zone"; or
- You are within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad crossing, bridge, elevated structure, or tunnel.
- Do not assume that a vehicle operator who pulls the vehicle to the right side of the road is turning right or letting you pass. The operator may be swinging wide to execute a left-hand turn.
- Watch closure time while on rural roads. Closure time is the time a driver has to recognize and respond to a slow-moving vehicle. Farm vehicles usually travel less than 25 mph, while horse-drawn vehicles range in speeds between 5-8 mph. Be alert and prepared to stop.



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### Tips for Farmers

Farmers play a key role in rural roads safety. Here are tips to alleviate hazards when taking wide equipment onto the road:

- Pennsylvania law requires a SMV reflector to be placed on any vehicle that travels the road at 25 mph or slower. The SMV triangle should be pointed in the upward position.
- Keep the SMV clean to maximize reflectivity and replace the emblem when it fades.
- Avoid travel during rush hour and bad weather.
- Use a pilot car for longer distances. Hang an orange flag out the window.
- Install mirrors to increase awareness of motorists around you.
- Mark edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors.
- Turn on your lights when driving before sunrise and after sunset.
- Install retrofit lighting on older machinery.
- Turn off rear spotlights when on the road because from a distance they can be mistaken for headlights.

### Save these Dates:

#### Policy Development Meetings

Thurs, Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> - Upper Oxford Township Building

Weds, Aug 28<sup>th</sup> - Romano 4H Center

#### Fall Banquet

Fri, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> - Stroud Water Research

# Advocating for Farmers at the State Capitol

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.

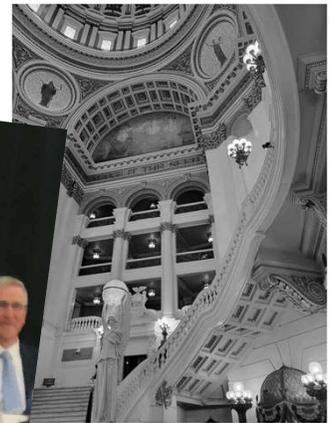
Every year, members of our Legislative Committee travel to Harrisburg to meet with legislators to discuss current issues and bills that are being considered within the House and Senate. On March 26th ten CDCFB members met with 12 legislators and staff members to discuss these issues. Topics included ~ Crop and revenue loss from wildlife damage; State Budget Priorities - including funding for Penn Vet and a new state laboratory in western PA; bonding requirements for decommissioning of Solar energy projects, and prioritizing these projects on non-prime farmland; Dairy incentives and over-order premium; relief from excessive Stormwater Management fees and credits for BMP's.

After meeting with representatives and senators, the committee spent time dropping off informational packets to staff in the offices of legislators that had other commitments and were not able to meet with us in person.

Following a morning in the Capitol office building, we enjoyed a luncheon where the guests speakers were Russell Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture; Governor Shapiro; Senator Judy Schwank, Minority Chair of the Ag and Rural Affairs Committee; Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski, Democratic Chair of the Ag and Rural Affairs Committee; Rep. Dan Moul, Republican Chair of the Ag and Rural Affairs Committee; and PFB President Chris Hoffman.

Thank you to everyone that took time to join in this discussion! For more information on these topics or if you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committee, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or [ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com)

Julie A. Brady, CDCFB Governmental Relations Director



**Policy Development** is the most important activity of the county Farm Bureau. It is an organized and on-going program of gathering ideas and opinions from the members. The county Policy Development Committee is responsible for editing, compiling, clarifying and submitting these ideas for discussion and action at the county annual meeting.

Resolutions on state and national issues that are suggested by the majority of voting members at the county annual meeting are submitted to the state Policy Development Committee, and resolutions passed concerning local issues become county policy. The State Policy Development Committee then decides, by majority vote, which ideas are to be submitted as resolutions to the voting delegates at the PFB annual meeting. The voting delegates then decide, by majority vote, which resolutions are to be adopted as PFB policy.

These resolutions are published in an official policy book for the year and policies that are of national interest are then submitted to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) Resolution Committee and voted on by voting delegates at the AFBF annual meeting. Adopted resolutions are then published after the annual meeting in the AFBF policy book.

Resources for your farming business are available at <https://pfb.com/allresources/resources-for-farming-and-agritainment-business/>



Farmers Allied for Responsive More Effective Representation

Engage with the FARMER PAC and find out more about supporting candidates who keep farming first.

## Ag Literacy Week at Elk Ridge Elementary



Pictured above from left to right Liz Ward, Pam Mason (Mason's Chrome View Ltd. Farm), Kaitlin Bell (B&R Angus Farm), Dennis Byrne (Spring Hope Farm), Anna Brown, Alicia Mc Garvey (Oxford Feed & Lumber.)

We read to 20 classrooms with an average of 22-25 students per classroom. Our story this year was "Any Where Farm" by Phyllis Root. The story explained to the students that you can plant and grow things anywhere you try, as long as you had the key ingredients: dirt, seeds, water and sunshine.

The story was followed by a small active of planting some lettuce seeds. Each child received a small plastic bag, a cotton ball, some water on the cotton ball and a few seeds. The cotton ball acted as the dirt, we wet the cotton ball and added the seeds to the bag (the bag active as a small greenhouse).

The children were engaged and had great questions about Agriculture and in some senses had all the right answers to questions. About 10 days later, I reached out to Laura James, the teacher who was responsible for arranging the classrooms and times for the reading to check on the status of the seeds. Guess what? The seeds sprouted! Success!!! After speaking with Mrs. James, we have been invited again for next year. Elk Ridge might request more readers after such a positive response to this year's reading. Which means I will need to recruit more readers. HINT! HINT! HINT! This is truly a wonderful program and I look forward to doing it again next year.

Last note, all 20 books were donated by Farm Bureau members!

If you are interested in reading or sponsoring a book next year, please reach out; 610-656-4898!

Liz Ward – Ag Literacy Week Coordinator

## ROAD CONCERNS?

Have you noticed any annoying pot holes in your neighborhood roads this winter or perhaps some dangerous tree branches reaching into the roadway? Anyone can report these issues directly to the folks at PennDot via the website <https://customercare.penndot.gov/eCCC/eCCC.nsf/Index.xsp>. Even if you are unsure whether the road in question is maintained by the state or by a local authority, this site will sort the issue and notify the proper office for you. The first prompt will ask you to classify the type of issue based on categories listed. The next prompt will allow you to locate the issue on a map and drop a pin at the closest locale to help narrow down where the responding crew needs to go in order to find the issue. The final prompt allows the user to describe the issue in great detail, attach a picture of the issue if so desired, and provide contact information in order to allow for follow-up and verification of receipt. Upon completing the steps on the site, the user will be issued an automatic email verifying receipt of the concern, as well as a response shortly after from the responsible authority stating that some sort of action will be taken to remedy the situation. As our state struggles to fill vacancies in the maintenance departments, it is of the utmost importance for residents to take up the job of notifying the authorities of road safety issues so repairs can be done in a timely fashion.

Darryl M. King - CDCFB Safety Committee Chair



## Sustainable Practices for Chester County Farms Survey

The Chester County Planning Commission has developed a brief survey for Chester County farmers to identify their interest in implementing a variety of practices, to identify what barriers might exist, and to learn what might help them move forward with implementation. Survey is online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6FJCQP>

## From the desk of the Membership Chair

The Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau, would like to thank you for your continued support and dedication to our organization as a valued member. Your membership allows us continued success, as a grassroots organization, advocating for agriculture at a pivotal time. Our Bureau is member driven. We are continuously working to gain new members and engage, members like you.

We welcome your feedback, suggestions and involvement, as we aim to provide value to you now and into the future.

Please reach out to me, Harold Hallman, Membership Chair, or any of your County Board members. We always appreciate hearing from our members.

Once again, thank you for your valued membership in the Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau. We look forward to many more years of growth, success and promotion of agriculture. Your membership and support is the heart of our Farm Bureau, and we are deeply grateful for that.

- Harold Hallman - Membership Chair

# TRICENTENNIAL FARM HONORED



At the Pennsylvania Farm Show, Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding honored six families whose farms had been in the same family for more than 100 years. Among the farms recognized was a Chester / Delaware County Farm Bureau Member Robert F. Cochran, Jr. of Cochranville. The Cochran Farm, which was established in 1724, is only the second farm in the state to reach the Tricentennial Farm milestone. Other farms recognized were in Lehigh, Montgomery, Perry, and Union counties.

“These families represent the best in Pennsylvania agriculture,” Secretary Redding said. “Reflecting the 2024 Farm Show theme, *Connecting Our Communities*, they have been uniting and feeding our communities for generations. They are connecting future generations to their legacy.”

Since the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture started the Century Farm program in 1977 and the Bicentennial Farm program in 2004, over 2,300 Century and Bicentennial Farms have received the honor.

In a town named after their family, Robert Cochran’s family farm endures as a significant tribute to 300 years of local history. Today, 120 acres of the original farm remain in the Cochran family, who preserved the farmland in 2003, ensuring that the farm will remain a farm and not be sold to developers.

A decorative certificate with a blue and white color scheme. At the top center is a circular logo featuring a sun, a red barn, and a green field. Below the logo, the text reads: "THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CHESTER DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024 Janet and Howard Robinson Scholarship Awards". The recipients listed are: "GEORGIA WESLIE HOROSKY ATTENDING WILMINGTON COLLEGE FOR AGRICULTURE BUSINESS", "VICTORIA MARTINEZ GARCIA ATTENDING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR VETERINARY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES", "MOLLY SCHMIT ATTENDING UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST FOR ANIMAL SCIENCE/ PRE-VET", "JARLENY AGUILAR-ACUNA ATTENDING PENN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR VETERINARY AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES", and "MELISSA GRISWOLD ATTENDING TUFTS UNIVERSITY FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH / FOOD SYSTEMS". The certificate has a decorative blue border with a scalloped edge.

## FARMER held its annual fundraising dinner on March 25



This year, attendees got to hear from ABC27's This Week in Pennsylvania (TWIP) team for a lively discussion on the current political climate in Pennsylvania, with expert analysis from Christopher Nicholas and Brittany Crampsie.

Nicholas and Crampsie participated in a spirited discussion that included their thoughts on heated 2024 elections. The crew was joined by award-winning political reporter and host of TWIP, Dennis Owens. Owens shared current news with the audience and gave an inside look into how the show is taped each week. Owens also interviewed Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman about current issues in agriculture.

TWIP airs Sundays across the state and brings together a unique slate of opinions traversing the political spectrum.

FARMER will use the funds raised from this event to support a slate of candidates seeking election to the General Assembly. Every two years, our PAC identifies candidates with a demonstrated record of supporting agriculture. We truly have friends in Harrisburg, and FARMER is a great way to thank them for their steadfast support of our industry.

### Thanks for Being a Farm Bureau Member

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your Farm Bureau membership; we very much appreciate your continued support! And an incredibly special THANK YOU to our 200+ "New" members who have joined the Farm Bureau for the very first time. Your membership is not only beneficial to you – it also supports the future of agriculture!

Did you know that your Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (CDCFB) membership also includes being a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) which is the largest, most-effective grassroots agricultural advocacy organization in Pennsylvania!

And, you also have a membership in the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). We are fortunate in our region, at the national level, to have our PFB President Chris Hoffman a member of the AFBF Board of Directors; also, Paul Hartman (our region's PFB Director) is a member on the AFBF Farm Policy Committee.

Your CDCFB board of directors also work with our legislators, county commissioners and other local, state and national officials to keep agriculture viable in our area.

Each year in March, many local Farm Bureau members and hundreds of others from across the state meet with their legislators in Harrisburg to discuss important issues related to agriculture. At noon, the legislators take time from their busy schedules to have lunch with the farmers. My husband and I joined the Farm Bureau many years ago mainly because of the legislative advocacy that the Farm Bureau provides.

Your Farm Bureau membership also includes benefits and discounts that are available on Grainger products, John Deere, Case I-H, Cat equipment, Ford vehicles, Avis and Budget car rentals, Choice and Wyndham Hotels, Nationwide Insurance, AmeriGas, and others. It really does pay to be a Farm Bureau member!

– Janet Robinson - Membership Processor

## Protect Your Agritourism Operation from Civil Liability by Being Act 27 Compliant

Did you know that Act 27, which was signed into law in 2021 by then Governor Tom Wolf protects farmers that host agritourism events and activities on their farms? The law is based on similar protections that have been adopted in more than half of the other states across the country. Protecting agritourism businesses from frivolous lawsuits had been a long time chief legislative priority for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and remains a priority for us.

To be covered under Act 27, farmers must take two different actions to be protected under the legislation, including having posted warning signs and a waiver, which can be a signed agreement or language posted on the back of a ticket, or wristband.

Farm Bureau does offer signs and wristbands that are compliant with Act 27 for purchase. The wristbands costs 4.9 cents each plus shipping, while signs are 24-inches by 36-inches, are constructed from .040 aluminum and 3/4-inch rounded corners. They are waterproof and UV safe and are guaranteed to last a minimum of five years and not rust. The signs are Act 27 compliant and cost \$65 each, plus shipping.

Anyone wishing to purchase wristbands can do so by contacting Ginny Keever at [ykkeeever@pfb.com](mailto:ykkeeever@pfb.com) or calling 717-731-3540.

### WARNING

Read your written agreement or the back of your ticket. Under Pennsylvania law, except for limited circumstances, an agritourism activity provider is not liable for any injury to or death of a participant resulting from an agritourism activity. Do not participate in the activity if you do not wish to waive liability. 



*Farmers Care is an annual program run by our Women's Leadership Committee that recognizes the commitment of farm families to raising healthy food for our communities. At the same time, it allows a way for farmers to help those in need. Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau supports this program by giving monetary donations to local food banks.*

### **The organizations that were recipients of the 2024 Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Farmer's Care Program are:**

**Mighty Writers El Futuro**, an organization that is located in Toughkenamon and teaches kids reading and writing skills by offering free out-of-school writing programs and workshops to kids ages three to seventeen. They also support nearby communities with food distribution and access to essential resources such as clothing and household items.

**The Lighthouse Youth Center** located in Oxford is a para-church organization that reaches youth ages nine to eighteen. It is a safe haven offering free essential resources to youth in six key areas: relational, intellectual, educational, physical, financial and spiritual. The Lighthouse offers free daily meals to program participants.

**The Garage** located in Kennett Square has a daily program that includes a set hour for homework completion, activities that engage students with new skills, nutritious meals and snacks. Their goal is to serve as a safe community space where teenagers can participate in educational, social and recreational activities.

**PACS** (Phoenixville Area Community Services) helps people get through difficult or challenging periods in their life by offering food, information and referral services. Their mission is to be a lead resource for food insecurity in the community.

*Fran Sharon – WLC Chair*

## **It's Not Just Lyme Disease**

*Doug Fearn – Lyme Disease Awareness Committee Chair*

Lyme disease is the most common insect-caused disease in the U.S., with over 600,000 new cases every year. We tend to focus on Lyme infection because it gets the most publicity. But the truth is that ticks in our area carry about 20 additional diseases. Some of these other tick-borne diseases (TBDs) can be very serious, even deadly. The medical community focuses on Lyme, and often the other diseases go undiagnosed and untreated. Patients treated only for Lyme disease usually do not regain their health. Many doctors have never even heard of some of these other TBDs, and even if they recognize the name, they are not up to speed on diagnosing and treating these diseases. For example, Babesiosis is a very common tick-borne disease in our area. It is not caused by bacteria like Lyme, but it is a blood parasite closely related to malaria. Antibiotics used to treat Lyme will have no benefit for a patient with Babesiosis. Anti-malarial medications are needed.

Another common one is Bartonella (Bartonellosis). This one may be responsible for many of the neurological complications attributed to Lyme disease. It can cause mental disorders. Like Lyme, it is caused by a bacteria species. But the antibiotics used to treat Lyme have no effect on the Bartonella bacteria. You need an entirely different class of antibiotics to treat Bartonella. And the last one I will mention is Powassan Fever. It is caused by a virus, so antibiotics have no effect on Powassan Fever. In fact, there is no known treatment. It kills up to 20% of those infected, and most of those who survive will have permanent life-altering neurological damage. Powassan Fever can be acquired after only 15 minutes of tick attachment. It is still rare, but it has been found in ticks in all 67 PA counties. In some places, over 90% of ticks are carrying the disease. I've mentioned only 3 of the 20, but these are the most consequential diseases carried by ticks in our area. All 3 require entirely different treatment than Lyme disease. Treating one or two TBDs and ignoring the others means that patients never get better.

If you need help finding an expert doctor to diagnose and treat the entire range of TBDs, LymeBasics.org can help. Call 610-388-7333 or go to the web site for more information.

Stay informed about what is happening in  
**Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau**

Visit our website [www.CDCFB.com](http://www.CDCFB.com)  
[ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com)

Phone: 610-932-7363



Members are welcome to attend board meetings to learn more about what CDCFB is doing. Email for time & location.

## Sign Up for PFB Text Message Alerts

Be the first to know about major developments in Pennsylvania agriculture, state and federal policy, and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts. PFB keeps members informed through our print and digital communications. But sometimes, there's news you need to know right away. That's why we've developed PFB text message alerts to send important updates right to your phone. Signing up is easy. Simply text "PFBALERTS" to 833.554.0849 or sign up online at [www.pfb.com/text-alerts](http://www.pfb.com/text-alerts). By texting to this number or signing up online, you agree to receive promotional messages sent via an autodialer, and this agreement isn't a condition of any purchase. You also agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Msg&#amp; data rates may apply. Up to 5 msg/mo. To unsubscribe, text STOP to 833-554-0849.

# FARMERS AT WORK



# SLOW DOWN

Did you know that CDCFB has  
"Farmers at Work SLOW DOWN"  
(pictured above)

yard signs available FREE for our farmers?  
If you need one for the roadway by your  
farm, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or  
[ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com)



**YOU** are the most important part of Farm Bureau. We want to hear from you. Contact us with questions, concerns, news, and ideas!

[www.CDCFB.com](http://www.CDCFB.com)  
610-932-7363

[ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com)

### CDCFB Board of Directors

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Andy Engle, Vice President -- 717-572-7083  
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Daniel Miller – 484-880-6431  
Julie A. Brady, Secretary /Treasurer -- 610-932-7363

## 2024 Safety Contest is Open

Theme: **Grain Bin Safety**

Submission Deadline: **May 1st, 2024**

Find out more at

<https://pfb.com/be-involved/womens-leadership-committee/safety-contests/>



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