

Dear Bedford County Farm Bureau Members,

I hope this letter finds everyone safe and healthy; this seems to be the new normal on greeting and good-byes. Though, what is the new normal? I would have argued heavily with everyone three months ago that our world could not change this much and this rapidly. The situation agriculture finds itself in is truly a dire one: from dumping milk, euthanizing hogs, gassing poultry, and not being able to sell beef when these products are all in high demand – though it seems no aspect of agricultural is exempt. On the green side, extremely low prices, the loss of ethanol, and no demand does not have many farmers jumping out of bed in the morning. With all of this being said, and the rest of the country being locked down, we still have to go to work in the morning: crops need planted, livestock needs tended to, cows need milk... this is nothing that we are not used to and cannot handle. For these reasons, being a Farm Bureau member is more important now than ever! When someone asks why they should be a Farm Bureau member when they feel they “don’t get anything out of the membership,” you can reply that Farm Bureau is the best voice for agricultural they have! Farm Bureau has been working diligently since the pandemic started; working to have processing plants open, finding a home for milk, and trying to keep trade deals alive, while trying to find a way to work with our legislators to help ease the financial burdens that agricultural is in. As a member, you have had three different opportunities to listen in on conference calls with PFB President Rick Ebert, Congressman GT Thompson, PA Secretary of Agricultural Russell Reading and staff from PFB and AFBF. These leaders are all working together to address the needs of agriculture and trying to find solutions in these uncertain times. We have been contacted by, and made contact with, many members who have had issues, and most cases we were able to help them resolve their issues. If you have problems or needs please let us know. We are here to help. Without Farm Bureau, you are a voice of one; with Farm Bureau, you are a voice of 50,000. One positive that I can see coming out of the situation is that consumers really seem to care where their food comes from. Unfortunately, it has taken empty grocery store shelves and higher prices to realize this. Our local farmers are stepping up to meet those needs. It is up to us to keep local agriculture in the forefront and educate consumers where their food comes from.

Thank you for being faithful Farm Bureau members, and cheers to a safe and productive summer! Again, thanks for being a Bedford County Farm Bureau Member. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely yours,
Bob Detwiler
President, Bedford County Farm Bureau

MARK YOUR CALENDAR WE ARE STILL PLANNING TO HAVE:

2nd Annual Bedford County
Farmers and Agribusiness
Appreciation Picnic

Friday, August 21, 2020
Meal served 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Southern Cove Power Reunion Grounds

RSVP by August 10:
Naomi Sollenberger – 814-766-2341
for tickets or mail your reservations:
202 Golden Rule Road,
New Enterprise, PA 16664

Ticket Prices:
\$10.00 per person
\$5.00 children 4 – 10
Children 3 and under – Free

Come on out to eat and fellowship
On Friday, August 21.



**Bedford County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**

President

- Bob Detwiler 814-766-3436

Vice President

- Curt Sweinhart, VP 814-766-3705

- Kenny Stanton, 2nd VP 814-285-1086

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- James Zembower 814-356-3561

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- Help needed

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- Larry Cogan 814-483-0627

Regional Organization Director

- Joseph Diamond 814-934-0330

MSC Account Supervisor

- Shane Barkman CPA. 717-908-0778

Safemark Dealers:

- Bence's Farm Equipment 814-623-8601

If you are interested in getting involved with any of our county or state Farm Bureau programs or if you have a project, program or issue that farm bureau should be involved in please give any of the board members a call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks for being a farm bureau member.

**Your Voice Needed to Secure
Additional Help for Agriculture**

The COVID-19 pandemic has dealt an enormous blow to farmers across the country. In nearly every sector. Producers have seen their markets shrink overnight or even disappear, while supply chains have been stretched to the limit in response to this emergency. The federal response to COVID-19 will require ongoing action to adequately address the needs of millions of Americans in crisis. Farmers must not be left out.

Right now, Congress is working on emergency legislation that is needed to help America's farmers and ranchers. This bill has the potential to provide a lifeline to farm families in their time of need. The drop in commodity prices and other serious disruptions to the food chain are affecting life on the farm.

Farm Bureau is committed to doing all we can to preserve the economic health of farm families as the nation fights this pandemic. Please add your voice to this effort by visiting www.pfb.com/ActNow to contact your members of Congress.

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June 2020

Volume 6, Issue 2

Bedford County Farm Bureau

1557 Salemville Road

New Enterprise, Pa 16664-8613



MILK GIVEAWAY

*Coordinated by: Bedford County Farm Bureau
& Bedford County Dairy Promotion Committee*

Saturday, June 20, 2020

10:00 a.m. until gone

Bedford Fairgrounds • 108 Telegraph Road • Bedford

- 2,600+ gallons of 2% milk to be given away
- Everyone welcome - no income requirement

Ministries and outreaches who would like to receive milk to give away, please call 814.934.0330





Farm Bureau Tire Service

A Division of Safemark

Currently operating in Adams, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montgomery, Perry and York

Farm Bureau members will receive special service pricing!



Firestone • BKT • Carlisle • Mitas
CEAT • Alliance • Bridgestone
Cultor • Michelin • Titan

Make Us Your Farm Tire Headquarters!

24-hr Emergency Service - Call 717.743.0167

Please call Steve at 1.866.438.1656 or 717.724.9484
to order new tires or schedule a repair
Middletown, PA

Confused by healthcare options?

Farm Bureau's experienced and trained staff are ready to help. At no cost to you, we can:

- Answer your questions
- Customize and compare your options
- Work within your budget
- Help you make informed decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.



For plan and rate information,

Call 800.522.2375

www.pfb.com/healthservices



For your always growing side.

We help protect your farm, family, finances and future. As a Farm Bureau member, you may be eligible for a discount on your farm insurance from the #1 farm insurer.¹

Learn more at nationwide.com/pfb.

¹SNL Financial, 2017 (National) Market Share Report. Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review, and approval. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle and Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau and the letters FB are registered service marks of American Farm Bureau and used under license by Nationwide. © 2019 Nationwide AFC-0315AO.2 (05/19) 11091933

Help Us Connect You with Customers Who Buy Local

Now more than ever, consumers want to buy their food locally.

Consumer preferences were changing before the COVID-19 pandemic, but uncertainty surrounding many aspects of our daily lives has also changed shopping habits. That has included consumers seeking local sources of agricultural products. This situation presents new opportunities for farmers to showcase their products.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is working to compile the most comprehensive database possible of members in Pennsylvania who are selling their products directly to customers. The goal is to create an online tool to help connect consumers who want to buy local with Farm Bureau members in their communities who can supply local items. We are asking for your help in creating this database. If you sell agricultural products to the public, please visit pfb.com/LocalFoodListing to submit your information.

Purple Paint Law Is Now In Effect

Pennsylvania's new purple paint law went into effect the last week of January.

The law makes it easier and less costly for landowners to post their land to prohibit trespassing by allowing the use of purple paint stripes in lieu of no trespassing signs.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau played a central role in introducing and advocating for the legislation. In fact, the measure was a Farm Bureau member's idea that surfaced through Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

Here's what you need to know:

How does it work?

Stripes of purple paint on trees or fence posts (provided they meet certain guidelines) will carry the same legal weight as no trespassing signs. If you post your property with purple paint and someone hunts on it anyway, they're breaking the law and can be prosecuted. It's as simple as that.

What paint can I use?

The law only specifies "identifying purple paint." Paint manufacturers make a shade called "no hunting purple" that's available in spray paint as well as regular paint. Expect to find it at retailers across the state as the new law takes effect.

How do I mark my property with purple paint?

Purple paint marks must be visible approaching the property and follow specific guidelines. Stripes must be, at minimum, 8 inches tall by 1 inch wide. The bottoms of the stripes must be between three and five feet off the ground. The markings can be no more than 100 feet apart.

Resources Available for Farms, Businesses

Assistance and resources are available for farms and businesses that have been financially affected by steps to control the spread of COVID-19.

- Visit **www.pfb.com/coronavirus** and select Help/Resources for the latest information on federal loan programs available.
- Penn State University has created a new online network to connect producers, suppliers, processors and workers throughout the food supply chain to minimize bottlenecks. The Pennsylvania Agriculture Resilience Network allows users to post offers to help, make connections throughout the supply chain to help farmers find a market for their products and match farmers with agricultural workers. Visit **parn.psu.edu** to learn more.
- Food processors and retailers can obtain free personal protective equipment for employees through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Equipment comes in boxes of 500. Request protective equipment at **https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QSiOQSgB1U2bbEf8Wpob3ped6g6V4uxBKHM0bKx_a79UODIzWUFCMVFNUIY3T1QxSDZIQTg2SjBBWi4u**.
- The Center for Dairy Excellence has grants available to reimburse costs associated with COVID-19 personal protection equipment and social distancing measures. The grants are available on a first-come, first-serve basis to Pennsylvania dairy processors, milk hauling companies, and dairy farms. Applications must be submitted online by June 15, 2020. Reimbursements are available for personal protective equipment, sanitizing supplies, bilingual training materials and signage, and thermometers for temperature checks. Learn more and apply at **<http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/covid-grants/>**.
- PennAg Industries Association's Center for Poultry & Livestock Excellence has funding available to reimburse processors or businesses providing support services for poultry, swine, lamb, goats and sheep for investments made to improve employee safety during the pandemic. Reimbursements are available for personal protective equipment, sanitizing supplies, bilingual training materials and signage, and thermometers for temperature checks. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis or until the application deadline of **June 12**. Learn more and download the reimbursement application form at **pfb.com/images/PennAg-PPE.pdf**.
- USDA is in the process of launching a program that will offer loan guarantees to rural businesses and agricultural producers that are not eligible for USDA Farm Service Agency loans. Learn more at **<https://bit.ly/2WSX0dv>**.
- USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is offering financial and technical assistance to swine and poultry producers for animal mortality disposal, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic through the Emergency Animal Mortality Management program. Visit **www.farmers.gov/coronavirus** to learn more.
- Learn more about state financial resources for affected businesses at **dced.pa.gov/funding-programs**.
- USDA Rural Development has created a resources page for customers affected by COVID-19. Learn more at **rd.usda.gov/coronavirus**.
- The state Office of Unemployment Compensation has important resources available for affected employers. Learn more at **<https://bit.ly/2UMmg20>**.
- DCED has created a directory for businesses and organizations in need of personal protective equipment to connect with manufacturers and suppliers. Learn more at **<https://bit.ly/2x4mF8W>**.
- American Farm Bureau's farm stress training program is now available to all Farm Bureau members for free. The Rural Resilience training provides value to anyone who is under stress and is designed for individuals who interact with farmers and ranchers to understand the sources of stress, identify effective communication strategies, reduce stigma related to mental health, and learn the warning signs of stress and suicide. Visit **<https://bit.ly/3bD6uP8>** to learn more.
- Penn State Extension has created a one-stop shop for COVID-19 resources on its website **extension.psu.edu/coronavirus**.

*NOTE: This information is accurate as of the end of May. As the situation has been changing rapidly, we encourage you to visit **www.pfb.com/coronavirus** for the most up-to-date information.*

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau continues to work hard for you. Did you know, there is more to membership than meets the eye? Cost savings of membership goes far beyond just State and Local benefits, how is that you might ask, let's explore.

Having a large united voice when it comes to legislation brought to the floor helps our staff guide our Representatives and Senators on the wants and needs of our members. The grassroots policy development work that we do as an organization directly impacts where we stand as an organization on legislation put forward in Harrisburg and D.C. and helps to save you hundreds to thousands of dollars each year. Examples of legislation our organization has supported that holds benefits for our members;

- **Pennsylvania Clean and Green Act-** through which farmers and qualifying landowners are able to obtain a lower tax assessment value of their property, and a lower property tax obligation
- **Sales tax exemption for purchases of farm trucks to be operated under the biennial certificate of registration exemption (Farm Sticker)-** Farm Trucks that fall under these guidelines are exempt from the states 6% Sales Tax
- **Lower Registration Fees for Trucks with Biennial Certificates (Farm Sticker)-**On top of the sales tax exemption farm trucks with the biennial certificates only pay registration fees every two years rather than annually
- **Exemption from liquid fuels tax in trucks with biennial certificates of exemption and implements of husbandry-** Farm Trucks, Tractors, and other implements of husbandry may be powered by fuel that is exempt from Pennsylvania's fuel taxes. Farmers who purchase taxed fuel may apply for and obtain each year a refund of the total amount of fuel tax they paid.
- **CDL Exemptions-**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau were instrumental in attaining for drivers of larger farm vehicles numerous exemptions from requirements imposed on commercial vehicle drivers under federal and state regulations. Farmers and their employees save in the costs of obtaining a CDL, medical certifications, and costs of equipment for electronic recording of driving.
- **Farming exemption from state sales tax for farm use of electricity and natural gas-**Electricity and natural gas used directly in farming is exempt from state sales tax, direct use includes powering equipment used in production as well as energy used to help product growth, (Sustaining a climate conducive to growing or sustaining plants and animals) or product preservation (refrigeration of product).
- **Farming exemption from state sales tax in purchases of other farm inputs-**Purchases of seed, fertilizer, chemicals, and other inputs for production of seasonal agricultural products, purchases of feed and supplements for consumption of farm animals and equipment to transport and supply feed, water and other materials, disinfectants and similar materials used in maintaining the health of farm animals, plants and products are exempt from the state's 6% sales tax.
- **Agricultural building exemption from requirements of Statewide Building Code-** Farm Bureau played a significant role in attaining provisions in Pennsylvania's Statewide Building Code and amendments to the code that exclude agricultural buildings from having to meet the codes rigid requirements and standards for construction or any alteration of commercial and residential buildings. Farm Bureau also sought and obtained a favorable interpretation from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry that prohibited municipalities from imposing "permit application" fees in construction of agricultural buildings saving several hundred to thousands of dollars in permit fees alone.
- **Farm family exemption from realty transfer tax-** Pennsylvania's farm families are exempt from having to pay state and local realty transfer tax in performing transfers of the family's farm to other family members. The current realty transfer tax rate is 2% of the value of property being transferred saving thousands.
- **Farm family and small business exemptions from state inheritance tax-** Exempts farm families from the 4.5% tax rate for transfers to direct descendants and 12% on transfers to siblings. Includes transfers ownership of shares to a family farm trust.
- **REAP tax credit program-** Through the state Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, farmers and sponsors who incur costs in design, construction or implementation of farm best

management practices may receive between 50 and 75 percent of those costs in state income tax credits, up to a maximum total tax credit of \$250,000 per farm operation within a 7-year timeframe. Credits awarded to a person may be used to offset taxable income for 15 years.

- **Significant reduction in CAFO and water quality permit fees from fees originally proposed-** Because of efforts by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups, fees originally proposed by DEP for permitting of farms subject to regulation as CAFO and for state water quality permits of new manure storage facilities were substantially reduced. CAFO permit fees required every 5 years were reduced by \$2,500, administrative fees paid annually by CAFO's by \$1,000 and water quality permit fees for construction of new manure storage facilities by \$1,500 per permit from DEP's original proposal.

This just a small list of the many cost saving opportunities our organization has fought for on behalf and alongside of our membership. Having a strong membership base and a strong organization ensures we have a strong united voice to continue to fight for our agricultural industry and our farm families. Your continued support enables us to remain a strong guiding force in Harrisburg and D.C.

Bedford County Farm Bureau is working on getting local discounts for members. Here is a list of the discounts so far:

American Trailer Company
5080 Business 2020, Bedford
5% discount on sheds, garages
Animal structures, Cannot be
combined with 3% cash discount
50 mile free delivery

Barnes Garage Inc.
522 E. Penn St. Bedford
10% off parts

Claycomb Fence Systems, Inc
120 Ford Country Lane, Osterburg
10% off all in-stock Priefert Ranch
Equipment corral panels, squeeze
chutes, sweep systems, round pens

Esh's Storage Barns
5080 Business 2020, Bedford
5% discount on sheds, garages
Animal structures, Cannot be
combined with 3% cash discount
50 mile free delivery

Interchange Parts
4588 Business 220, Bedford
5% off everything
except oil products

Kaufman Metals, LLC
6146 Lincoln Hwy, Bedford
5% off Metal Roofing

Morral Farm Supply
54 E. 4th St. Everett
5% off anything

O'Reilly Auto Parts
9440 Lincoln Hwy, Bedford
Become an O'Reilly rewards
member and get 10% off any
item

Shawnee Vinyl
141 Vinyl Drive, Bedford
10% off Windows, Siding, Doors

Stoneham's Motorsports of Everett
5% off parts and accessories,
\$10 off hand powertools
\$100 off large equipment

Whispering Hollow Estates
1409 Dunkard Hollow Rd, Pleasantville
Wedding & Corporate Event Venue
5% off rental packages

To use the member discount program, you must present your membership card at the time of purchase. If your business would like to participate in our local discount program please contact Cristy Strayer at 814039-9021 or Jonathan May at 703-855-0397.



 **MSC**
BUSINESS SERVICES
Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

**Focused on Agricultural
and Small Businesses**

717.731.3517
www.msmbusiness.net



Bedford County Youth Livestock Expo

June 2 at 7:16 AM · 🌐

...

Open to youth who would normally show market lambs, market goats, market hogs, market steers or dairy beef at the Bedford County Fair.

Day 1: July 20 - Lambs and Goats (Weigh-ins 7-9 am, show starts at 10 am with lamb showmanship, followed by lamb type classes. Goats will follow lambs with showmanship first followed by type classes.)

Day 2: July 21 - Hogs (Weigh-ins 7-9 am, show starts at 10 am with hog showmanship followed by type classes.)

Day 3: July 22 - Steers and Dairy Beef (Steer weigh-ins 8-9 am, show starts at 12 PM with type and showmanship to follow. Dairy Beef weigh-ins 8-10 am, dairy beef will follow steer show with type and then showmanship classes.

Exhibitors must complete registration form by July 1, 2020.

Rules and entry information will be published soon!

Nationwide is on Your Side

Nationwide Insurance began in 1925 as the Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company with the goal of providing quality auto insurance at low rates for Farm Bureau members in Ohio. Nine state Farm Bureaus promote Nationwide and provide discounts to members. Other than Ohio, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has had the longest relationship with Nationwide than the other eight state Farm Bureaus.

The Nationwide and Allied Agents in Bedford County are:

Monét A. Bottenfield
Good & Associates Inc.

343 Bedford St
Claysburg, PA 16625-8231
(814)239-2205 monet@goodinsuranceagencies.com

Jonathan T May

Kyle Miller & Associates
41 South Market St, Ste 201
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(703)855-0397 mayj18@nationwide.com

Darin Meck

908 Spruce St
Roaring Spring, PA 16673-1535
(814)224-2166 meckd1@nationwide.com

Gary Shetter

127 W Main St,
Everett, PA 15537
(814) 652-2711 shetteg1@nationwide.com

Insurance Office Incorporated

410 East Central Way
Bedford, PA 15522
814-310-9588 wayne@ioiofficeinc.com

Reed, Wertz & Roadman

702 West Pitt St
Bedford, Pa 15522
814-623-1111



Is there a Pennsylvania liquid fuels tax exemption for farm use?

Yes. Farmers must pay the appropriate tax when they purchase gasoline or undyed diesel fuel. They then may petition the Pennsylvania Treasury, Board of Finance and Revenue (BF&R) yearly for a refund of any fuel taxes paid on fuel consumed in the production and harvesting of agricultural crops. The refund filing period is based on a fiscal year of July 1st through June 30th and must be received by September 30th.

Liquid Fuels and Fuels Tax Rates

The following rates are effective Jan. 1, 2020, and apply to tax periods through calendar year 2020. The tax rates will be indicated on future Motor Fuel Tax Reports issued by the department.

Motor Gasoline and Gasohol	\$0.576/gallon
Undyed Diesel and Kerosene	\$0.741/gallon

The following rates are effective July 1, 2019 and apply to tax periods through calendar year 2019.

Motor Gasoline and Gasohol	\$0.576/gallon
Undyed Diesel and Kerosene	\$0.741/gallon

Claim forms are mailed to all persons registered by June 15th of every year. To become registered for the BF&R Liquid Fuels refunds you will need to furnish your name, address, the name of the county in which the farm is located, your telephone number and type of farming you do. When listing your name, please print your full name, including any initials.

How to contact the Pennsylvania Treasury, Board of Finance and Revenue:

- Send an email to BFR@ptreasury.gov
- Call them at (717) 787-2974
- Write a letter to the following address:
Liquid Fuels, Riverfront Office Center
1101 South Front Street, Suite 400
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2539

If you are an active farmer and have not participated in this refund program, please contact Shane Barkman at (717) 908-0778 to learn more information on how MSC Business Services can complete your PA Liquid Fuels tax return and other accounting services that we offer.



Bedford County Farm Bureau
1557 Salemville Road, New Enterprise, Pa 16664-8613
Address Service Requested

**Bedford County Farm Bureau
Milk Giveaway
Saturday, June 20
Bedford County Fairgrounds**

Upcoming Events:
June 20
June 25
July 20-22
July 28
August 14
August 21

Milk Giveaway
Regional Policy Development Training
Bedford County Youth Livestock Expo
Summer Legislative Update
Summer Legislative Farm Tour
2nd Annual Farmers and Agribusiness Appreciation
Picnic