



Bedford County Newsletter



Quarterly Newsletter of Bedford County Farm Bureau

Volume 7, Issue 3

August 2021

Dear Bedford County Farm Bureau Members,

At the time of our first census in 1790, 95% of Americans lived in rural communities, and most families had to grow their own food. Today, less than 20% of Americans live in rural communities and only 1% are farmers and ranchers. At the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in 2014, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack spoke about freedom. He noted that because 1% of the population chooses to farm, the other 99% are free to pursue their passion.

Farmers don't like to brag. We value a hard day's work, doing right by our neighbors, caring for our families, and growing the food we all depend on. We all want to leave our land better than we found it, and we had hoped our actions would speak for themselves. For a long time, we didn't talk much about our achievements. But we learned that if we don't tell our story, someone else will, and they might not get it right. We know that farmers and ranchers have a great story to tell, and we should all be proud to share it.

Consumers want to know more about where their food comes from. Deep down, I think there is a bit of the farmer spirit in each of us: it's in our nature to want to grow something with our own hands and be able to put it on the dinner table. The pandemic seems to have inspired many first-time gardeners. We all feel a deep connection to our food: Our meals are more than nourishment, as we gather around the table as friends, family and neighbors to share our joys and our sorrows.

This heightened interest in the source of food brings an incredible opportunity to tell our story. We have almost limitless options and outlets to share our farm stories today. Most of us carry around everything we need in our pocket – a smartphone. Sharing a photo of a calf being fed, a crop being harvested or a new technology being used and sharing it on social media can bring those in your social circle a little closer to the farm. And if you are interested in opening your farm for agritourism, there are some tremendous success stories serving as examples. We have a great story to tell, and a great opportunity thanks to a curious public. There has never been a better time to engage. So be proud of your profession and get out and tell your story. If you need help telling your story, reach out to Farm Bureau and we will help.

Your County Farm Bureau is working to tell agriculture's story by being involved in events and programs around the county. However, we need more help. If you are willing to volunteer give me or any board member a call.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming event. We will be having our **Policy Development Meeting on August 17 at Beverly's Touch of Class**, 112 East Pitt St., Bedford. Our **3rd Annual Bedford County Farmers and Agribusiness Appreciation Picnic** is at a new location this year. It will be at **Shawnee State Park, Pavilion #2 on August 20**. We will be presenting the Bob Detwiler Memorial Scholarship to the winner at the picnic. Another location change will be our **Annual Meeting on October 12th**, it will be at **Homewood at Spring House Estates**. Again, I look forward to seeing at our County Farm Bureau events. Thanks for your continued support of Farm Bureau and for being a member of Bedford County's Largest Agricultural Organization.

Sincerely yours,
Kenny Stanton
President, Bedford County Farm Bureau

Bedford County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors

President

- Kenny Stanton, 814-285-1086

Vice President

- Curt Sweinhart 814-766-3705

- James Zembower 2nd VP 814-356-3561

Secretary

- Kayla Sphon 814-494-6336

Treasurer

- Dean Claycomb 814-623-0874

Directors

- Monét Bottenfield 814-494-5819

- Paul Crooks 814-977-6268

- Noah Datillo 814-979-2468

- Ally Fisher 814-977-4285

Membership Chairman

-Noah Datillo and Ally Fisher

Newsletter Editor

- Help needed

District 11 Board Member

- Larry Cogan 814-483-0627

Regional Organization Director

- Joseph Diamond 814-934-0330

MSC Account Supervisor

- Shane Barkman CPA. 717-908-0778

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.

Bedford County Farm Bureau Newsletter is published by Bedford County Farm Bureau four times per year.

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Volume 7, Issue 3

Bedford County Farm Bureau

585 Menchtown Road

Everett, PA 15537

**Thanks for being
a farm bureau
member**

Check us out on Facebook and
Instagram



3rd Annual Bedford County
Farmers and Agribusiness
Appreciation Picnic

Shawnee State Park, Pavilion #2
By main parking lot/boat launch

Friday, August 20, 2021
Meal served 6:30 pm

RSVP by August 13 to:
Secretary Kayla Sphon –
814-494-6336
Monét Bottenfield – 814-494-5819
or email
bedcofarmbureau@gmail.com

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 20.

Applications Open for Dairying for Tomorrow Awards

Applications will be accepted through Aug. 16, for American Dairy Association North East's 2021 Dairying for Tomorrow awards. The awards recognize farmers' passion for dairy and those who use exemplary practices in three categories: animal care, community outreach and environmental stewardship. A new online application form, complete with award criteria and details, is available on AmericanDairy.com. The overall winner in each category will receive a donation of \$1,000 and each honorable mention winner will receive a donation of \$500 in their name to provide dairy products to a regional food bank, or to a local school to support the storage and delivery of dairy to students.

Nominate an 'Advocate' for PAL Award

Know someone passionate about agricultural literacy and outreach? The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation is seeking the best ag advocates to apply for the Partnership in Agricultural Literacy Award.

The award program, established by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization, celebrates the best in agricultural literacy efforts by recognizing individuals, organizations, programs and events that embody the advancement and innovation in agricultural literacy.

The winner will be recognized at the foundation breakfast during the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The winner's application will then be submitted to the national contest.

For more information and a copy of the application and guidelines, contact Charlene Shupp Espenshade at cmespenshade@pfb.com or 717.724.9499.

Mental Health Resources Available

Research has found that many farmers are experiencing new stress and mental health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the farm economy and other pressures.

If you or someone you know is struggling or has concerns about their mental health, please **know that you are not alone and there is help available.**

There are unique factors that affect stress in the farming community as well as unique warning signs that someone is struggling. Those include:

- Change in routines or social activities
- Decline in the care of domestic animals
- Increase in illness or other chronic conditions
- Increase in farm accidents
- Decline in appearance of the farm
- Decreased interest in activities or events
- Signs of stress in children including struggles with school



Help and Resources Available:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or use the online chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat 24/7 for free and confidential support and to be connected with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support via text.
- **PA 211** is a United Way statewide partner which offers trained resource navigators who can tell farmers what services may be available in their area to help with a variety of health and human service needs, from utility or food assistance to mental health support. Visit www.pa211.org, dial 211 from any landline or cell phone, or text your zip code to 898-211.
- **Avera Health Farm and Rural Stress Hotline:** Call 800-691-4336 to be connect with a skilled, compassionate mental health professional.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment locators, SAMHSA's National Helpline, a Disaster Distress Helpline and other important information.

Find additional resources, learn tips for starting important conversations about mental health, and register for free rural resilience training by visiting farmstateofmind.org.

Cover Crop Rules for Prevented Planting Updated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now allow agricultural producers with crop insurance to hay, graze or chop cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage at any time and still receive 100 percent of the prevented planting payment.

Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after Nov. 1, or the prevented planting payment would be reduced by 65 percent.

The change gives producers greater flexibility for the 2021 crop year and into the future.

USDA's Risk Management Agency will not consider a cover crop planted following a prevented planting claim to be a second crop. But RMA will continue to consider a cover crop harvested for grain or seed to be a second crop, and that crop would therefore remain subject to a reduction in the prevented planting indemnity.

Tax Provisions on Crop Insurance, MAVs Included in Budget Package

Two tax provisions that will benefit Pennsylvania farmers—one offering flexibility related to state taxes on crop insurance payments and another clarifying when multipurpose agricultural vehicles are exempt from state sales tax—have been adopted as part of the 2021-2022 state budget package.

The measures, both of which Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocated in support of, had been introduced as stand-alone bills but were rolled into the tax code bill that accompanies the budget.

The provision on crop insurance allows farmers to defer crop insurance payments from state income taxes for one year, bringing state tax policy on crop insurance in line with federal rules. PFB believes the move gives farmers greater flexibility in paying taxes on crop insurance payments at the times when they need it the most. Because crop insurance payments are triggered at times of severe weather and significant crop loss, farmers receive such payments when the year did not go as planned. Greater flexibility for state income taxes will help farmers manage income and expenses in difficult years.

The other measure clarifies when purchases of MAVs for agricultural purposes are exempt from state sales taxes. Farmers receive a sales tax exemption when purchasing MAVs to be used primarily for farming. However, the state Department of Revenue has a narrow definition of what is considered a farming activity. Many farm chores—maintaining and repairing pasture fencing, for example—fall outside of the department's definition.

PFB has heard from an increasing number of members who have faced state tax audits after claiming the exemption for MAVs used on the farm and had to pay state sales tax because their use of the equipment did not meet the department's criteria for farming. The measure expands the scope of activities considered "farming" to include the wide range of ways MAVs can be used on a farm to support the farmer and their business.



Sign Up for PFB Text Message Alerts for a Chance to Win \$50 Gift Card

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. By signing up for PFB text message alerts before July 15, you'll be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card*.

*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. Message and Data rates may apply. Up to 5 msg/mo. To unsubscribe, text STOP to 833-554-0849. *Contest rules: No purchase necessary to enter or win. Must be age 18 or older to win. Employees or office-holders of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, PFB Member Services Corp., or the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation are not eligible to win. Winner will be selected 7/15/2021 via random number generator from the list of phone numbers registered for PFB text alerts. Winner will be contacted via text message sent to the number provided for text alerts.*

Agritourism Civil Liability Reform Signed Into Law

Pennsylvania farm families will have more opportunity to diversify their businesses and connect with their communities around food and agriculture thanks to a new law that addresses a significant legal barrier to offering agritourism activities.

Gov. Tom Wolf recently signed legislation to enact commonsense legal protections for agritourism—one of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's

top legislative priorities for close to a decade—following its passage by the General Assembly.

PFB worked closely with state Rep. Barb Gleim to introduce the legislation, House Bill 101. The state House passed the measure in February with a bipartisan, 142-60 vote. And the bill gained widespread support in the Senate, which passed the bill 48-2 last month.

The law's adoption is a major victory for Pennsylvania agriculture and PFB's grassroots advocacy. Farmers have sought for years to secure civil liability limits for agritourism to help family farms remain viable through a changing farm economy and connect with their communities around family fun and local food. PFB led the effort to put momentum behind the measure, making it a priority of the organization's grassroots advocacy campaign and holding a news conference last fall to build support.

"This commonsense legal reform will help Pennsylvania's family farms preserve their futures so they can continue to grow their rural communities and enhance our state's agricultural heritage," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "Farmers prioritize safety; but farms are natural environments and it's impossible to eliminate every hazard. This reform will enable Pennsylvania farm families to safely invite the public to experience agriculture without having to risk their farms' futures or pay cost-prohibitive insurance premiums."

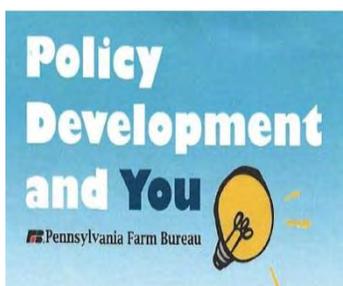
The law offers commonsense legal protection to farms that invite the public onto their property for agritourism activities, such as corn mazes, pick-your-own produce, hayrides, and similar attractions. Specifically, farms that offer agritourism activities will now have reasonable protection from lawsuits that arise from circumstances beyond their control and in which no party is at fault as long as they warn visitors of the inherent risks of being on a farm, such as uneven ground, weather, and unpredictable animals.

At the same time, farmers will still need to take reasonable steps to ensure guest safety. The law does not give farms a free pass from ensuring guest safety and farms can still be held accountable if they fail to fix or warn patrons of obvious and dangerous safety risks. The measure is modeled off similar laws already on the books in at least 20 other states, including New York and Ohio.

The threat of frivolous lawsuits has been a significant barrier for agritourism operations. In addition to putting their farms at risk by inviting the public onto their property, farmers who engage in agritourism have difficulty finding insurance coverage or have to pay high premiums due to the legal risks involved. The new law limiting civil liability seeks to address this challenge.

"PFB thanks the General Assembly for taking this important step to strengthen Pennsylvania agriculture and thanks Gov. Wolf for quickly signing this reform into law," Ebert said. "We are especially grateful to Rep. Barb Gleim, who introduced and championed this legislation, as well as the Republican and Democratic chairs of the House and Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees who prioritized and helped build bipartisan support for this issue."

PFB will have signage for agritourism operators that's compliant with the new law available for purchase in our building at Ag Progress Days.



Policy Development Time

Do you have an issue or concern? Bedford County Farm Bureau wants your input. We are at the beginning of the policy development session and are looking for your input. We will be holding a policy development meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 7:00 pm at the **Beverly's Touch of Class**, 112 East Pitt St., Bedford. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend and join in the process. If you have something you would like to have presented and cannot attend, please contact Curt Sweinhart 814-766-3705 or any of the other board members prior to the meeting. Remember, all county, state and national policies start at the local level. Let us know how we can help!!

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



Choosing your Medicare plan can be overwhelming. It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

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

- Answer your questions
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
- Help with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.

To check availability in your county call **800.522.237**.



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member Deals Plus is an exclusive benefit for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members. Using the nation's largest private discount network, you'll find savings on everyday necessities like food, clothing, car care plus more. In fact, you'll save enough to offset the entire cost of your membership ... and beyond!



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



Focused on Agricultural and Small Businesses

717.731.3517
www.mscbusiness.net



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

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 any county board member.

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 appointed agencies** 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

208 Hope Road
Buffalo Mills, PA 15534
(703)855-0397 jmay@kmainsurancegroup.com

Darin Meck
908 Spruce St
Roaring Spring, PA 16673-1535
(814)224-2166

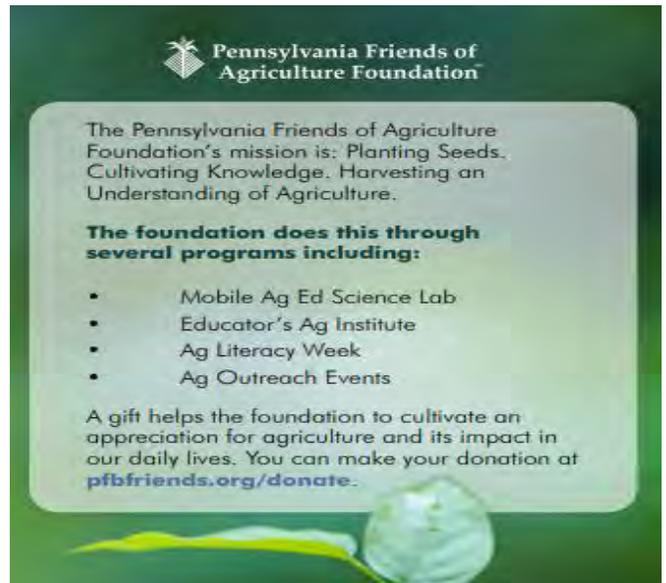
Gary Shetter
127 W Main St,
Everett, PA 15537
(814) 652-2711 shetterinsuranceagency@gmail.com

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



Nationwide®
is on your side



See Farm Bureau's Value in Action at Ag Progress Days

Visit Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's building during Ag Progress Days this summer to learn how we are working for you, your family and the future of agriculture. At our building, you can learn about how your organization delivers value in action through legislative initiatives, money-saving benefits, valuable services, and more. Ag Progress Days will be held Aug. 10 through 12 at Rock Springs on Route 45, nine miles southwest of State College. PFB's building will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 10, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 11 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 12. PFB's building is located at East Fifth and Main streets.

PFB staff and volunteer leaders will be on hand to demonstrate the organization's value to members. Visitors will be able to learn about the latest legislative and policy achievements from our Government Affairs and Communications Division, learn how PFB-affiliated companies PFB Health Services and MSC Business Services can serve your needs, and engage members of PFB's state Young Ag Professionals and Women's Leadership Committee. The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation will be providing fun, educational programming. And, visitors will have a chance to meet with representatives from our partners at Nationwide, M&T Bank, and First Citizens Bank.

Signage to help agritourism operators comply with a new law limiting civil liability will be available for purchase in PFB's building.



Bedford County Farm Bureau
585 Menchtown Road
Everett, PA 15537

Address Service Requested

Farmers and Agribusiness
Appreciation Picnic
**Shawnee State Park,
Pavilion #2**
Friday, August 20, 2021

Upcoming Events:
August 10-12
August 13
August 17
August 20
September 6
October 12
November 15-17

Ag Progress Day
Legislative Farm Tour
Policy Development Meeting
Farmers and Agribusiness Appreciation Picnic
Labor Day
County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
PFB Annual Meeting