

Volume 6, Issue 2 www.pfb.com Spring 2022

## **President's Message**

Hello to All My Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

Spring has sprung! We have moved from a cold and gray winter to a spring filled with color and warmth. I welcome all members to Bucks County Farm Bureau. As we move into summer, I would like to ask all drivers to be patient while encountering farm equipment moving across our county roads. A little patience may save some peoples' lives. Farmers that move their equipment across the road are doing their best to get from one place to the other without delaying people on the road. Please be patient and courteous. Thank you!

Just like we're getting busy in the fields, Farm Bureau is busy keeping everything moving. We have had some success in getting whole milk back into our schools. It passed the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania and now moves into the Senate. We are asking our senators to allow whole milk to be put back into the schools to help our dairy farmers and help the nutrition of our youth. There is a wonderful article regarding Ag Tourism in the grassroots advocate from PFB about some of the inspections and rules that the Department of Agriculture are going to be implementing in 2023. Farm Bureau is aware of this and we are working with the Department of Ag to find out what exactly the guidelines are going to be and if there were will be any exceptions for Ag Tourism. Please look for updates with Farm Bureau for further information.

We have set the date for the County Annual Meeting for September 24th. You will enjoy a good meal and entertainment. I would like to see as many of my fellow Farm Bureau members come out for an evening of socializing with other Farm Bureau members.

Thank you and have a safe summer!

Sincerely,

President

**Bucks County Farm Bureau** 

Mart & Shut

## **BUCKS COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mark Scheetz, President	215-723-4904	fivemfarm@verizon.net
Don Buckman, Vice President	267-718-0313	donbuckman81@yahoo.com
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Ken & Sandy Herstine, Membership Chairs	215-795-2385	ksherstine@verizon.net
Glenda Wismer, Women's Committee	215-766-0675	pamperedchefglenda@gmail.com
Dolly Rutherford, Newsletter Editor	267-566-2123	orruth91@yahoo.com

The Bucks County Farm Bureau meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 7:30 p.m. Plumsteadville Grange, #1738, Route 611, Plumsteadville

## FARM-tastic Book Program—2022 Book: "Barn at Night" \$10.00

Past books are also available. Contact Glenda Wismer 215-766-0675 or pamperedchefglenda@gmail.com

#### **Jerry Harris Young Ag Professionals Grant-2022**

Applicants must be between ages 20-30, a Bucks County resident, and be actively involved in production agriculture. Applicant and/or family must be members in good standing of the Bucks County Farm Bureau and be committed to a career in production agriculture. Applicants may receive up to two grants of \$2500.00, but not in succeeding years. Preference will be given to first time applicants. Applicants must be present to receive their grant at the Bucks County Annual Meeting in September. This grant is non-renewable. Please contact Mark Scheetz at 215-723-4904 or fivemfarm@verizon.net or Don Buckman at 267-718-0313 or donbuckman81@yahoo.com to request an application.

There are many agricultural careers, so I encourage you to go to a website put together by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Ag Promotion Committee and view all the different careers that are in agriculture.

www.agandfoodcareersinpa.com Thank you. Mark A Scheetz, President

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR

"DRINK MILK" SIGNS ON YOUR LAWN THIS SUMMER!

## **BRUCE WEIKEL OPEN HOUSE MAY 1, 2022**















## **BABIES ON THE FARM IN 2022**



**Mark Scheetz Babies** 



**Mark Scheetz Babies** 



**Bruce Weikel Babies** 



**Bruce Weikel Babies** 



**Bruce Weikel Babies** 



**Bruce Weikel Babies** 



Greenhouse Babies—Joel Roney, Trauger's Market

## BABIES ON THE FARM ...continued





Kate Goldenberg, Safehaven Farm, baby thoroughbred foals



Bob & Dolly Rutherford, baby thoroughbred filly





**Mark Scheetz Babies** 

Plant Babies Joel Roney, Trauger's Market

## **SAVE THE DATE**

## **Bucks County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Pennridge Community Center-September 24, 2022**

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To learn more about the program visit our website www.pfbfriends.com/aginstitute

## PENN STATE EXTENSION OPEN HOUSE

The Penn State Bucks County Extension has a new place to call home. On April 13, the Bucks County Commissioners joined extension leaders and the Penn State Nittany Lion in cutting the ribbon on its new headquarters at the Middletown Grange Fairgrounds in Wrightstown Township.



Mark Scheetz, BCFB President, attended the Open House. The county's thriving 4-H program and Master Gardeners will now be based out of the Grange Fairgrounds on Penns Park Road after relocating from Almshouse Road in Doylestown. The new location will serve as a hub for extension activities and provide direct access to the lower end of the county where extension leaders hope to increase participation levels in its 4-H and Master Gardener programs.

The ribbon cutting highlighted a public open house that included information booths, freshly-scooped ice cream from the Creamery at Penn State, children's activities, door prizes, a floral arrangement demonstration, composting assistance, animal 4-H presentations and a gardening book exchange.

Excerpts for this article taken from <a href="mailto:jeernee@buckslocalnews.com">jeernee@buckslocalnews.com</a>

Published by the Government Affairs and Communications Division

#### PFB Reacts Favorably to Governor's Budget Proposal

CAMP HILL – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) is pleased that Gov. Tom Wolf's 2022-2023 budget proposal prioritizes key areas for agriculture. It presents an overall positive plan for delivering the tools Pennsylvania farmers need to continue to grow the state's economy and continue producing food for their communities, state and beyond.

The plan proposes an increase in funding for many key agriculture programs, including to Penn State University's agricultural research and Cooperative Extension services, as well as increases for University of Pennsylvania veterinary school. The plan also calls for increasing funding for the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS), which assists with getting excess food from Pennsylvania farms and food processors into the charitable food system. The proposal maintains or increases funding for most programs, with a proposed increase of \$12 million – or 7% – over last year.

"We are pleased that the governor's budget proposal recognizes the importance of supporting Pennsylvania's number one industry by maintaining or increasing funding for several key agriculture programs," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "We believe this plan highlights the importance of agriculture to the state's economy and continued growth. It will serve as a good starting point as we advocate for programs and services that help our farm families innovate and grow their small businesses. We look forward to working with the General Assembly in the coming year to find further opportunities to invest in farmers' success."

While not reflected in Gov Wolf's budget address Tuesday, the Governor has previously stated his intention to allocate federal dollars given to Pennsylvania as part of the American Rescue Plan, on new conservation initiatives, including the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). This program would give a yearly allocation to county Conservation Districts to help farmers with projects that focus on water quality.

"Farmers in the state have been leaders in improving water quality, and we know that protecting the environment and natural resources is vital to the success and future of our farms and communities, but many of the investments needed are too costly for farms to afford on our own," said Ebert. "Funding programs like ACAP is critical so that farmers can work with our conservation partners to grow our conservation efforts."

#### **PFB Supports Re-election of PSU Ag Trustees**

CAMP HILL – The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) Board of Directors announced its decision to support the re-election of Abe Harpster and Valerie Detwiler as Ag Trustees to the Penn State University Board of Trustees following a January meeting.

The PFB Board of Directors met with both candidates and unanimously agreed to support their re-election to the board during the May 5th election, which will be held in State College, with the location to be announced. The PFB encourages County Farm Bureaus to participate in the election.

M. Abe Harpster is a managing partner and owner of Evergreen Farms, Inc., in Spruce Creek. Evergreen Farms, Inc. is one of the largest dairy farm operations of its type in the Northeast, as Harpster and his two brothers milk over 3,200 cows on their 7,000 acre farm.

Harpster is a 1994 PSU graduate with a degree in agricultural business management and is entering his ninth year as a trustee. Harpster has served on the Board Executive Committee for eight years and is a member of the university's Presidential Recruitment and Selection Committee in 2021. Harpster has held membership offices in many Ag Associations on the local, state and national levels and has been a member of the Agricultural Education Foundation and served on the PA Governor's Dairy Advisory Board. He regularly volunteers as a guest lecturer in the College of Agricultural Sciences, the Smeal College of Business and at

numerous industry conferences.

In addition, Harpster also holds many student classes at the farm, hires Penn State graduates and offers summer internships for students looking for business experience.

Today, Harpster is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, the Holstein Association, Land O' Lakes and has served on the Boards of the Beef Council, the FFA Foundation, the Agway Foundation, the Beef Quality Assurance Commission, the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board and the Pennsylvania 21st Century Environmental Commission. He is a member of the Penn State Alumni Association and the Nittany Lion Club.

If re-elected, Harpster said he will strive to make a Penn State degree more valuable and more affordable to the residents of Pennsylvania. Harpster vows to protect and uphold the land grant mission of Penn State and is looking to lead in making the decisions that guide PSU to achieve better financial positions. He also hopes to make Penn State a better place to work, a school of choice for students and he wants the university to be ranked higher academically among its peers.

Harpster and his wife, Trish, have three children who are being raised on the family farm.

Valerie Detwiler currently serves as Senior Vice President and Senior Commercial Banker for Reliance Bank. Detwiler has been involved with agricultural lending since 2004, when she began working for the USDA Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Program. Detwiler served as a Farm Loan Officer until 2010, when she began employment with CBT Bank and later transitioned to Reliance Bank in January of 2018.

Detwiler and her husband own and operate Forsheys Ag & Industrial, a New Holland machinery dealership, located in Martinsburg, as well as a beef and crop operation located in New Enterprise.

She graduated in 2006 with high distinction from PSU with a B.S. in accounting and a minor in legal environments of business. Detwiler currently serves on the Blair County Chamber of Commerce Farm City Committee, the Loan Committee of the Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission and the Pennsylvania Banking Association's Agriculture and Rural Issues Advisory Committee. Detwiler is a Pennsylvania Farm Bureau member and she and her husband are lifetime members of the PSU Alumni Association. Detwiler is currently completing her second three-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees.

If elected, Detwiler said that she plans to help the university support its Land Grant Mission and hopes to advocate for the citizens of the commonwealth and continue to bring a diversified voice and perspective to the board.

Detwiler grew up on a dairy farm in Martinsburg with her parents, Gerald and Linda Smith. She currently resides on part of the family farm with their daughter, Carly, and son, Gabriel.

#### **USDA Introduces Micro Farm Policy for Farmers Who Sell Locally**

The USDA is rolling out a new Micro Farm policy designed specifically for agriculture producers with small farms who sell locally.

The new policy, which will be available beginning with the 2022 crop year, will simplify record keeping and cover post-production costs like washing and packaging commodities and value-added products. The Micro Farm policy is available to producers who have a farm operation that earns an average allowable revenue of \$100,000 or less, or for carryover insureds, an average allowable revenue of \$125,000 or less.

The Micro Farm policy builds on other RMA efforts to better serve specialty and organic crop growers, which includes Whole-Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) that provides coverage for producers with larger operations that may not be eligible for the Micro Farm policy.

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation approved the Micro Farm policy in September.

Pennsylvania Game Commissioners recently approved several significant changes to the Agricultural Deer Control Program, commonly known as Red Tag, that will help farmers better manage deer populations on their lands.

The program is designed to give farmers an extra option to handle deer damage in the early spring and fall, outside of the traditional big game hunting calendar. Hunters will be able to obtain up to four Red Tag permits per-property, making it consistent with the allocation to the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

The summer period during which Red Tag hunting is closed (currently May 16 – June 30) would be expanded to April 16 – July 31. Permits will be valid from August 1 through September 15 and then Feb. 1 through April 15. Hunters would not be able to use Red Tag from May 16 to June 30, but would cumulatively have more potential days afield to use their permits. Permits would be issued for the license year that begins July 1 and runs through June 30.

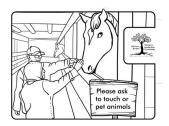
It will become hunters' responsibility to report their successful harvest, not the landowner.

The program would also be open to all hunters, including those living out of state. Lastly, landowners would no longer need to enroll in the Game Commission's Hunter Access program before using the Red Tag program. These changes fulfill many Pennsylvania Farm Bureau policies in regards to the Red Tag program.

We will monitor the program to see how these changes are implemented and will advocate for other possible adjustments as needed. All of the changes to Red Tag will go into effect November 2022. In related news, the Game Commission also increased Doe Tag allocations for the 2022-2023 hunting season to 948,000 an increase of 23,000 tags from the previous hunting season.

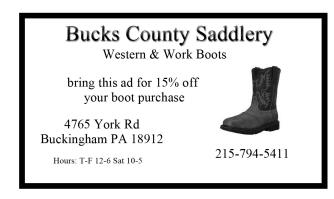
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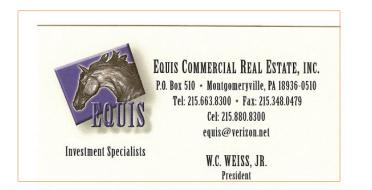


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