# **Bucks County** • Farm Bureau

Volume 7, Issue 2

www.pfb.com

Spring 2023

# **President's Message**

Hello to all Bucks County Farm Bureau members, new and old:

Thank you for being part of Bucks County Farm Bureau which is an extension of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. I would first like to wish you all a safe and prosperous spring and summer. Please be safe out there. Much like the seasons change, Farm Bureau is still working to make agriculture prosperous with the fewest regulations possible.

Farm Bureau is still working to get whole milk back into the schools for our children. Whole milk provides children with nutrition.

There are many other legislative activities Farm Bureaus are involved in at the state and federal level. With the state budget coming up for debate, we are asking our legislators to continue funding our state universities and the University of Penn medical veterinary school to fill the need of large animal vets which are lacking in so many areas in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau are keeping a watchful eye on the proposed new farm bill that could be passed this year. A little known fact about the farm bill is that only about 13% of the farm bill is actually used to provide funding and crop insurance for farming. Most of the bill goes for food stamps and the SNAP program to help feed people in need.

I would like to thank everyone again for being Farm Bureau members. I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting in September.

Sincerely,

Mart A Shut

President Bucks County Farm Bureau

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

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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—2023 Book: "From Seed to Plant" \$10.00

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

### Jerry Harris/Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals Grant-2023

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.

### **2023 SAFETY CONTESTS**

Theme: No Seat, No Ride Deadline June 1, 2023 www.pfb.com/safetycontests

# **BRUCE WEIKEL OPEN HOUSE A SUCCESS!**

We had a record turnout. It was a beautiful spring day! Children had fun with games, petting the farm animals, and drinking chocolate milk. A fun time was had by all. Here are some memories for the day.













# **Bruce Weikel Open House (continued)**



Page 3, photo 5 (l-r) Cassidy (Ken & Sandy Herstine's granddaughter) Hannah & Sarah (Glenn & Glenda Wismer's granddaughters)

# Notice from the Bucks County Conservation District

Looking to apply conservation best management practices on your farm?

Have concerns regarding manure management, animal concentration areas, streambank erosion and/or soil erosion?

#### Consider applying for the brand-new Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) while funds last!

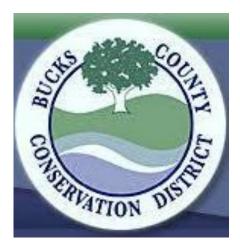
 The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) will provide a true statewide cost-share program to help implement practices that keep healthy soils and nutrients on their land and out of waterways. The Bucks County Conservation District will reimburse up to 90% of the project implementation costs!

• Eligible projects must be included in an Ag E&S Plan/Conservation Plan and/or Manure Management Plan/Nutrient Management Plan and shall control nitrogen, phosphorus, and/or sediment on the farm.

• The District recommends requesting assistance from the BCCD or a private consultant as the application requires preliminary design and cost estimates.

Please visit <u>https://bucksccd.org/home/funding-resources-for-agricultural-</u>

conservation/ and https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\_Land\_Water/StateConservationCommission/ACAP /Pages/default.aspx or contact Ryan Herstine at 215-345-7577x115 or email rherstine@bucksccd.org for more information.



# AG PROGRESS DAYS

Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition is to be held August 8-10, 2023. Show hours: Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The show is held annually for three days in August at The Pennsylvania State University's -Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center.

# FARMERS CARE DAY



Farmers Care is a program that recognizes the commitment of farm families to raising healthy food for our communities. At the same time, it shows the way farmers volunteer to help those in need. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports this program by collecting food, and monetary donations, for Ronald McDonald House Charities, or other local charities in your district. Each year, the Women's Leadership Committee invites all counties to consider participating in the Farmers Care Program. Each county/district marks a time (between January 1st and April 20th) when farmers give back to the less fortunate in their communities. However your county sees fit to participate is up to you, but we ask that you please notify PFB of all donations so we can keep track of the difference you're making in our state! For more information contact 717.761.2740, member relations division.

Bucks County Farm Bureau donated \$2,000.00

# **SAVE THE DATE**

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

**PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER** 

# **MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR**

# August 16-20, 2023

# **Check out the new PA Friends of Agriculture Immersion Lab**

# (Bucks County Farm Bureau)



Increasing the agricultural literacy of teachers and students by helping them communicate the source and value of agriculture in our everyday lives.



The PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation Educator's Ag Institute ...

Ecucator 3 Ag instance: Provides a unique learning experience for PreK through 12th grade educators pre-service teachers and community educators. This program fully submerges educators into agriculture for a week-long experience. Participation in classroom sessions and trips to local family frams provides educators with ideas and curriculum to teach their students about agriculture.







To learn more about the program scan the QR code or visit our website at: www.pfbfriends.com/aginstitute

#### Reasons to Attend:

Acceive hands-on agricultural lessons to integrate into existing curriculum and lessons. Create a network of agricultural resources for your classroom. Harn Act 48 hours. Gain ideas, lesson plans and support materials.

Build a network of educators.

NEW this year:

Track 1.0 (Teachers new to the Ag Institute) June 25 - 29, 2023 Track 2.0 (Teachers who have attended before) June 28 - 30, 2023

#### Farm Bureau Attends Governor's Budget Address, Luncheon; Joins CCAP Ag Advisory Committee

Farm Bureau Regulatory Affairs Specialist Grant Gulibon represented PFB at the Governor's Budget Address (and subsequent luncheon) on March 7. He has also joined the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2023 and participated in its first meeting on March 10, which included a briefing from PDA Secretary Russell Redding on HPAI, ACAP, dairy processing, solar siting issues, and farmland preservation. The CCAP policy resolutions process will be taking place in late May/early June of this year, and PFB will provide input on its priorities as it takes place.

#### PDA Governor's Invasive Species Council Meets

The Governor's Invasive Species Council, on which Farm Bureau is represented, met on March 16 at PDA. Discussion items included a presentation on "inclusive language" for naming and talking about invasive species; an overview of the results of the first Pennsylvania Invasive Species Impacts Survey and activities related to the PRISM pilot program in northwestern Pennsylvania; and next steps regarding expanding PRISM around the state. PDA program staff have been invited to present on PRISM at the upcoming Farm Bureau NER Committee meeting.

#### EPA Ag Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Proposed for Reversion to 2015 Rule; PDA Pesticide Advisory Board Meets

On Feb. 16, EPA announced that it is proposing to return to 2015 requirements for application exclusion zones, or AEZ, for applying pesticides. The Worker Protection Standard (WPS) regulations "are designed to protect ag workers from exposure to pesticides." EPA is calling for returning to several 2015 provisions as well as maintaining some aspects of the 2020 rule. There is a 60-day public comment period currently open at regulations.gov, ending May 12.

In 2020, the Trump Administration published a rule that reduced the size of AEZ on agricultural employers' property from 100 feet to 25 feet for some ground-based spray applications. Prior to the effective date of the 2020 AEZ rule, petitions were filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit challenging the 2020 rule. The federal court in New York issued a temporary restraining order against the rule that never took effect. As a result, the AEZ provisions in the 2015 rule remain in effect.

Farm Bureau submitted extensive comments on the 2015 requirements and will do so again on this proposal. Those interested in commenting should contact Grant Gulibon, Farm Bureau Regulatory Affairs Specialist, at grgulibon@pfb.com.

The PDA Pesticide Advisory Board (PAB) held its initial 2023 meeting on March 9. Discussion topics included an overview of potential rodenticide labeling changes and updates from PDA on its regulatory, registration, enforcement, and other activities.

#### ENERGY

#### House Passed Lower Energy Costs Act

On March 30th, the House passed H.R.1, the *Lower Energy Costs Act* with a bipartisan vote of 225-204. The bill would address high energy costs by increasing the production of American energy and reducing regulatory burdens through comprehensive permitting reform. Farm Bureau supports H.R. 1.

#### DAIRY

#### Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act

Representatives "GT" Thompson (R-PA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA) introduced <u>H.R.1147</u>, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. The bill would allow whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, and fat-free flavored and unflavored milk in school cafeterias. Current PA co-sponsors are Representatives Cartwright, Meuser, Perry, Smucker, Joyce, Reschenthaler, and Kelly.

# Ask your U.S. House Member to co-sponsor the bi-partisan Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023 by completing <u>PFB's Action Alert</u>.

#### DAIRY PRIDE Act

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Representative John Joyce (R-PA) introduced <u>S.549/H.R.1462</u>, the *Defending Against Imitations and Replacements of Yogurt, Milk, and Cheese to Promote Regular Intake of Dairy Everyday Act or the DAIRY PRIDE Act*. The bill would prohibit the sale of any food that uses the market name of a dairy product (such as milk, yogurt, or cream cheese) unless the food (1) is the milk of a hooved animal, (2) is derived from such milk, or (3) contains such milk as a primary ingredient. Current PA co-sponsors are Representatives Cartwright, Meuser, and Thompson.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act is especially important after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a draft milk guidance on February 22, 2023, that would allow for nut- or plant-based dairy beverages to be labeled as milk. PFB will be submitting comments to FDA on the guidance.

#### Ask your U.S. House Member and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the bipartisan DAIRY PRIDE Act of 2023.

#### **Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act**

Representatives Nick Langworthy (R-NY) and Joe Morelle (D-NY) introduced the <u>Dairy Pricing Opportunity</u> <u>Act</u>. The bill would initiate a Federal Order Hearing within 180 days in addition to giving USDA the needed authority to cost survey dairy product manufacturers. It is hoped for this bill to be included in the 2023 Farm Bill. The current PA co-sponsor is Representative Meuser. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) plans to introduce companion legislation in the near future.

#### Ask your U.S. House Member to co-sponsor the bipartisan Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act of 2023.

#### **APPROPRIATIONS & BUDGET**

#### PDA and PFB's FY24 Appropriations Request

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, the Biden Administration released its \$6.9 trillion dollar Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) and PFB led an appropriations request for FY24 asking for the following language to be included in the report: *"The Committee is deeply concerned by the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. The Committee encourages the Secretary of Agriculture to direct the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Veterinary Services to provide increased training, public outreach, and educational materials to areas threatened by highly pathogenic avian influenza." The request was sent to PA's U.S. House and Senate members. We have had positive feedback and many members of our delegation submitted the request to the Appropriations Committee.* 

#### **AFBF's FY24 Agriculture Appropriations Statement**

On March 29<sup>th</sup>, AFBF submitted its statement for the record to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture regarding funding priorities for Fiscal Year 2024.

#### TRADE

#### U.S. and Canada Dairy Dispute in the USMCA

The U.S. has established a second U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) dispute panel with Canada over their application of tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for dairy products. The issue remains that Canada is not following the decision of the December 2021 USMCA dispute settlement panel, where the U.S. won. The panel ruled that Canada violated the terms of the USMCA by restricting access to its market for U.S. dairy products with inconsistent TRQ measurements. Farm Bureau supports using the enforcement measures in USMCA to reach the negotiated access to Canadian markets for U.S. dairy products. To read AFBF President Duvall's statement on the matter, click <u>here</u>.

#### Update on Mexican Biotech Corn

In late 2020, Mexico published a presidential decree on genetically modified (GMO) corn stating that it would ban GMO corn from the country's diet and end the use of glyphosate by January 31, 2024. Consequently, U.S. corn exports were dramatically impacted. To put it into perspective, the U.S. exported 13.8 million tons of yellow corn and 1.6 million tons of white corn to Mexico in 2022. This is the largest foreign market for U.S. corn. In February 2023, another decree was published allowing for the import of yellow corn, produced with biotechnology. However, certain U.S. corn (white corn) produced with biotechnology, is still not being imported. On March 6th, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced consultations with Mexico under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) concerning this issue. If there is no resolution, the U.S. can call for a dispute panel to decide the issues.

#### SUSTAINABILITY / CLIMATE

#### Protect Farmers from the SEC Act

On February 14th, Senators John Boozman (R-AR) and Mike Braun (R-IN) along with Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK) re-introduced the *Protect Farmers from the SEC Act* in both chambers. This was prompted by the SEC's proposed "<u>Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures</u>" rule, which is expected to be finalized in April. AFBF has compliancy, privacy, small business, and liability concerns in addition to an overreach of Congress. The *Protect Farmers from the SEC Act* would prohibit the SEC from requiring farms to report Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions.

# Ask your U.S. House Member and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act of 2023 by completing <u>AFBF's Action Alert.</u>

#### 2023 State Legislative Priorities

Below are the state legislative priorities for 2023. As always, we will address any relevant issue that arises throughout the session according to PFB policy.

Broadband

Dairy

MS4/Stormwater

Solar

Transportation

Wildlife & Crop Damage

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**Bucks County Farm Bureau is** collecting soda & soup can tabs for charities (Farmer Care Day). Please help us out. You can give them to a Board member, drop off at a Board Meeting, or bring them to any Farm **Bureau event.** 

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oup Business Plans





PFB Vision Plan

There are many agricultural careers, so I encourage you to go to Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Ag Promotion Committee website to view all the different careers in agriculture. www.agandfoodcareersinpa

Mark Scheetz, BCFB President

#### **Growing Your Expectations**



#### Protect your next with the Ag Insight Center

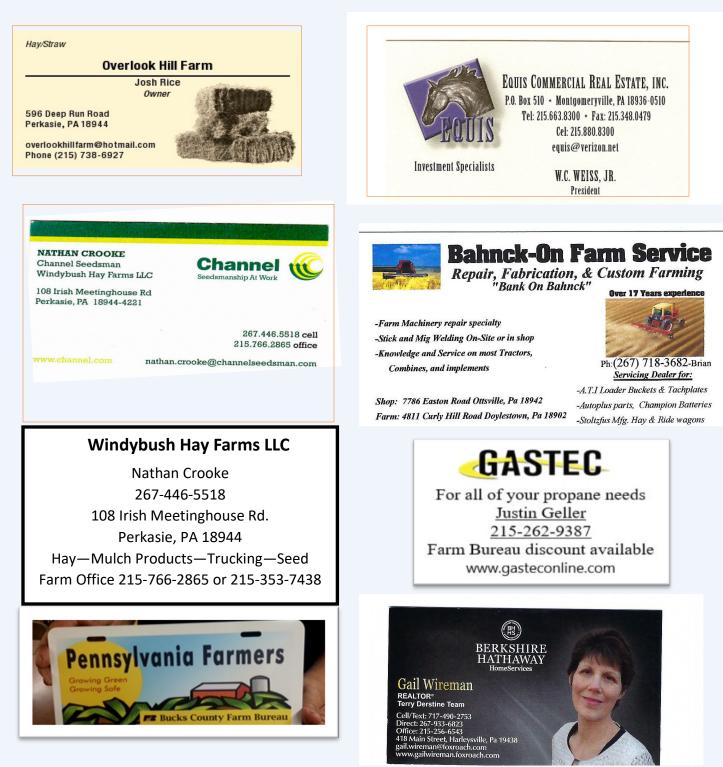
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A <sup>3</sup>3 portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Former members receive 11 issues of the Country Facus newspaper and "friend of Form Bureau" members receive 4 issues of the quarterly Positively Pennsylvania magazine Applicants selecting "farmer", "part-time farmer" or "agribusiness" on the membership application are classified as "farmer members. Should no box be checked and a farm name not be listed, member will be classified as "friend of farmer" Please contact your county Farm Bureau with questions regarding membership classification.

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