Bucks County Farm Bureau

Volume 9, Issue 1

www.pfb.com

Winter 2024

President's Message

Hello to my fellow Farm Bureau members of Bucks County:

I would like to welcome everyone to 2024! This week, our governor announced his budget proposals with agriculture receiving high mention in his proposal. Some of the things he has proposed is \$5 million to reform the dairy pricing issue that causes ups and downs to milk prices that affect dairy farmers along with some other issues that he would like to get passed in the budget. We at Farm Bureau will review his proposals and then we will work for the best of our Farm Bureau members in Pennsylvania.

Spring is right around the corner. Soon roads In Bucks County will see movement of our farm equipment. Farmers are just trying to do their job of producing food for their neighbors. So, please be patient when you see farm equipment on the road.

I would not be the leader of Bucks County Farm Bureau, if I did not ask you to get your neighbors to join Farm Bureau and become part of the most wonderful organization that cares about farming. Landowners knows it works to protect the environment and our lands.

Thank you and have a safe spring. Please remember that the on Sunday, May 5th, we will be having an Open House at Bruce Weikel's farm in Perkasie. Please bring the family out and your neighbors to enjoy a day on the farm!

Regards,

Mart A Shut

Mark A. Scheetz

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
Dolly Rutherford, Secretary/Treasurer	267-566-2123	orruth91@yahoo.com
Shawn Coleman	215-589-5345	colemansm1186@gmail.com
Kate Goldenberg	215-262-8077	safehavenequine@verizon.net
Tom Haldeman	215-795-0627	susanhaldeman 3530@comcast.net
Jeffrey Heacock	215-453-1195	jdjeth@verizon.net
Kenneth Herstine	215-795-2385	ksherstine@verizon.net
Jessica Moyer	267-221-9128	oreosspot@yahoo.com
Joshua Rice	215-738-6927	overlookhillfarm@hotmail.com
Joel Roney	610-847-5702	traugersmarket@aol.com
Michael Stitzinger	215-348-1914	michael@omegariverfarmservices.com
Bruce Weikel	215-257-1962	bruceweikel@gmail.com
Glenn Wismer	215-766-0675	wisglen1@verizon.net
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—2024 Book: "Polly and the Birth Day" \$11.00

Purchase a book for your children or grandchildren. They make great gifts. Buy one to read in a local elementary school!

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

Jerry Harris/Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals Memorial Grant

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.

Jerry Harris/Paul Hockman Young Ag Professional Memorial Grant Recipient



Young Farmer Joe Dise: Farming To Do Good

Farmer Joe Dise, 24, has a philosophical take on agriculture. "Farming is the closest career to being altruistic," he says. "It's not for the money. It's to keep the world going."

At the same time, Joe has his feet planted firmly on the ground. Farming's personal satisfactions are about getting things done: "I like the ability to directly attribute success or failure to your own actions and the fact that it is providing essential goods."

He chose farming because he wanted "to do something that helps people, manage the land, and work in the community."

Joe came to agriculture through his family, which bequeathed him a farming heritage "on both sides." He grew up next to his uncle Dean Overholt's farm on Irish Meetinghouse Road in Bedminster Township. "I started by helping my uncle David Dise and joined 4-H beef club

when I was about 13, then moved on to working full-time for Deer Run [beef cattle] Farm in the summers of high school." Joe worked part-time for Dean while attending Penn State main campus. He graduated with a B.S. in Agribusiness Management, and now works full-time with Dean. "It's basically the two of us, day to day," with part-time help from other family members.

The farm (preserved by Bucks County in 1996), recently reverted to the name "Spiral Ash Farm," as Joe's grandfather Joseph Overholt called it. Joe and Dean grow corn, wheat, and soybeans, and alfalfa, timothy, and orchard grass hay, on its 25 tillable acres and on 525 rented acres "within an hour by tractor." They also do custom work for clients such as cutting a crop or operating special-purpose equipment.

Joe is a 2023 recipient of Bucks County Farm Bureau's Jerry Harris & Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals Grant. He will use the funds to "invest in the farm's hay enterprise." High-quality hay for the equestrian market is stored in the 1850s bank barn. Replacing the barn doors and improving equipment will help to mechanize haying and eliminate the production-crimping factor of seasonal labor that is perennially in short supply.

Despite the demands of being a full-time farmer Joe is also committed to spreading altruism beyond his farm. He leads a project for Deep Run East Mennonite Church, now in its 4th year, called "Crops for Hunger," part of a worldwide "Growing Hope Globally" initiative. Revenues from crops grown on the church's 42 tillable acres are used to ameliorate food insecurity.

Spiral Ash Farm is situated within a venerable agricultural area pre-dating the Civil War, a community where, Joe says, trust, relationships and reputations matter. There is competition among farmers, but it "has an unofficial code of ethics around land use." Ultimately good land use benefits the whole community. The more productive acreage, "the better for all of us."

For Joe Dise, it's not farming unless it's farming done right.

Article by Susan Charkes, Herald

Bruce Weikel Open House-Sunday May 5, 2024

1:00-4:00 p.m. (rain or shine) @ 718 Callowhill Rd. Perkasie PA 18944

Please come out and see the amazing farm animals, sheep shearing demonstration, & children's activities. This will truly be a fun and educational experience for young & old.



Jerry Harris/Paul Hockman Young Ag Professional Memorial Grant Recipient



Young Farmer Aaron Worthington: The Future of a Historic Farm

Aaron Worthington, 24, is the seventh generation to farm his family's 132-acre dairy property in Plumstead Township. A 2021 graduate of Delaware Valley University (B.S. in dairy science), he is a 2023 awardee of Bucks County Farm Bureau's Jerry Harris & Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals grant. He'll be using the grant to improve the farm's calf housing.

One might think that after seven generations there wouldn't be much left to improve on a dairy farm. But Aaron is embracing new methods to keep the farm a thriving business into the future.

Curly Hill Farm, on the eponymous Worthington Road, dates to 1861—the year incised on the fieldstone springhouse. A sycamore tree mentioned in the old sheepskin deed anchors the front yard. In 2001, Aaron's grandparents Kenneth and Patricia Worthington preserved the farm with Bucks County. His parents, Steve and Annette Worthington took over the farm a few years ago. When Aaron and his wife Kait were married in April 2023, their wedding photos included the springhouse and sycamore: connecting family and land, past and future.

There are about 100 dairy cows on the farm, half of which are milked. The milk is sold to the Land O'Lakes cooperative. Aaron and his father, both full-time farmers, do most of the work in the barn and fields.

Growing up, Aaron recalls, "I enjoyed riding tractors and working with cows. I always took the calves to Newtown Grange Fair to show."

On the farm, Aaron learned everything about dairying that his father had learned from *his* father. At Del Val, though, "I would never have thought there was so much to learn about cows, especially about feeding and nutrition."

The Worthingtons grow most of their feed (hay and silage), primarily on the farm and also on local rented fields. Aaron brought home from college a "big change" in the feeding regime. To replace traditional component feeding (where each forage, grain and supplement is fed separately), he introduced TMR (total mixed ration), which combines all components. The aim is to optimize the rate at which the cow digests her food, improving its nutritive value, which increases milk production and quality.

Aaron will use the grant to replace stone floors in the calf stalls with concrete. "The concrete will keep the calves cleaner, so they'll be healthier."

That project is one piece of a bigger plan, for which the Worthingtons are working with funding agencies, to build a new barn and a manure storage facility. "It would be a pretty big impact on us, giving us room to expand, and healthier cows because they'll be able to spend time outside their stalls." Healthier cows should produce more, and better, milk. "Having a higher quality milk would be important because we would be getting paid more and therefore we would be more profitable."

For small dairy farmers, increasing profitability is key to long-term sustainability, enabling the farmer to reinvest in equipment and structures while still supporting the family.

Rooted in tradition, animated by new ideas, Aaron Worthington is securing the future for a historic farm.

Article by: Susan Charkes, Herald

Plumsteadville Grange/4-H Scholarships

Members are reminded that Plumsteadville Grange is providing two yearly scholarships of \$500.00 (Ellen Elaine Crooke Memorial Scholarship) for Bucks County 4-H members and Plumsteadville Grange members' children. One for agriculture based studies, and one for any study or choice will be offered.

Students can reapply for study year 2 if they have maintained a grade point average of 2.5, but they will also compete with new students applying for year 1. Agriculture related students may apply in year 2 for a study of their choice. Students should apply to Plumsteadville Grange on a standard application form. Forms are available at Bucks County Extension office at 576 Penns Park Rd, Newtown, 267-483-2020. Application forms should be accompanied by a transcript of grades from school, an essay, and two letters of recommendation.

Address applications to: Meg Lomax, 6246 Stump Rd, Pipersville PA 18947. The deadline for scholarship application entries in May 1, 2024.

Contact Meg Lomax with queries at 215-766-9801 or meglomax@verizon.net The Plumsteadville Grange Executive Committee will be involved in the selection of students for the scholarships.

DVU A-DAY 2024

Save the Date for April 25, 27, & 28 Stay tuned for more information!



Kids Activities: Pig races, farm animal education, interactive demonstrations from the tropics of animals to blacksmithing, inflatable obstacles courses.

Food Trucks, Vendors, Tractor Parade

Legendary Milkshakes from PA Dairymen's Association Milkshakes (yes, the same milkshakes from the PA Farm Show)!

The 2024 Ag Literacy Week will take place March 18-22, 2024

Find a local K-2 classroom. Donate \$10.00 for a book then read it to a class. Complete an interactive project with the students.

Anywhere Farm

Anywhere Farm

Written by Phyllis Root, and Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation's 2024 Ag Literacy Week book, *Anywhere Farm* allows children to explore the different options one can plant a farm. From a box or bucket to a pan, almost anything can be turned into a home for green, growing things. Windows, balconies, and front steps all make wonderful spots to start. After all, anywhere can be a farm, all it takes is one small seed and someone to plant it.

Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week focuses on connecting volunteers from the agricultural community to local classrooms to share the story of agriculture.

Volunteers throughout the state will read a book with an accurate and engaging theme about agriculture with a focus on kindergarten through second grade classrooms. It is an opportunity for Pennsylvania agriculturalists (farmers, industry representatives, FFA teachers and students, and others supportive of agriculture) to be the face of agriculture in kindergarten-2nd grade classrooms across the commonwealth.

Readers who participate in Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week will have the opportunity to talk about farming and agriculture through the book they read as well as share their own story about farming, agriculture programs they are involved with or their connections to agriculture. After the book is read volunteers can engage further with students, if they choose, with an activity developed by the foundation that re-enforces the concepts they learned from the book. The book is then donated to the classroom teacher along with educational activities and resources to use throughout the school year.

Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week focuses on connecting volunteers from the agricultural community to local classrooms to share the story of agriculture. Readers who participate in Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week will have the opportunity to talk about farming and agriculture through the book they read as well as sharing their own story about farming, agriculture programs they are involved with or their connections to agriculture.

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation invites all members of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry to join with us to celebrate Ag Literacy Week in Pennsylvania. By becoming a reader, you can help us share the story of agriculture and teach students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

For more information/registration go to Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation alw@pfb.com pfbfriends.com 717-761-2740 June 23-27 Ag Institute 1.0 State College PA

June 26-28	Ag Institute 2.0	State College PA
------------	------------------	------------------

Ag Institute is for teachers who want to learn, hands-on, how to incorporate ag in their classrooms.

State Legislative Update From State and Local Government Affairs Specialist Lily Guthrie

Budget

The 23-24 budget is now complete, albeit 165 days late. On Wednesday, December 13th the Governor signed the remaining budget bills bringing an end to a frustrating budget cycle. The fiscal code included things such as increased funding for public safety and criminal justice reforms. The education code included funding for the School Facility Grant Program, Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program and school based mental health resources for students, among many other things. Notably, funding for Penn Vet, the states only veterinary school, did not pass. It was brought up for a vote in the House twice and failed to meet the two-thirds majority each time. Those who voted no say it was because the school has failed to condemn antisemitism. University president, Liz Magill, resigned amid the controversy. The legislature and university leadership are in negotiations, it is our hope they come to a swift resolution. The Governor is set to deliver his 2024 budget address in February.

PA Senate

Supporting Pennsylvania's Dairy Farmers

On Monday, Nov. 27 Senators Elder Vogel and Judy Schwank introduced a cosponsor memo for legislation that will, according to the memo, allow the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board to collect and distribute the over-order premium collected on Class I fluid milk in Pennsylvania and allow for flexibility for the board regarding the future of the premium and address some of the ancillary items that have been seen historically with the over-order premium. We look forward to the legislation being introduced and seeing the final language.

Hunting for Crop Damage Solutions: Legislative Package

On Friday, Dec. 8 Senators Elder Vogel and Greg Rothman introduced the Hunting for Crop Damage Solutions legislative package. The memo states "Agriculture is one of Pennsylvania's largest and most important industries. The products grown and raised by farmers feed our communities and provide valuable exports to other states and countries. A recent hearing shed light on increasing crop damage by wildlife and the negative impact that damage has on Pennsylvania farmers. Fortunately, Pennsylvania farmers and hunters can both be part of the solution.

Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board Over-Order Premium Hearing

On December 6th the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) held a hearing on the over-order premium (OOP) which will stay at \$1 per hundredweight through June. John Painter II, Chair of PFB's Dairy and Farm Policy Committee, offered testimony on behalf of Farm Bureau. Mr. Painter agreed with the Petitioner's recommendation that the Board maintain the over-order premium at \$1.00 per hundredweight for the next six months, along with the fuel adjuster premium.

In accordance with PFB policy he also stated that OOP reform should be focused on 3 primary goals: (1) uniform distribution among all Pennsylvania dairy farmers; (2) the amount charged to Pennsylvania consumers is not substantially more than what is distributed back to Pennsylvania dairy farmers; and (3) the distribution system must not provide incentives by which payment of the premium can be avoided by moving milk across state lines.

Federal Legislative Update From Federal Affairs Specialist Bailey Fisher

DAIRY

On December 13, the U.S. House passed H.R.1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act with a bipartisan vote of 330-99. A majority of the PA House delegation voted yea on the bill. On December 14th, Senator Roger Marshall (R-KS) requested to do a unanimous consent (UC) vote to move the bill to the floor. The UC failed due to Senate Ag Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow's (D-MI) objection. We have been told the Senate has the votes for the bill to pass. Unfortunately, our goal of getting H.R.1147 to the President's desk before the new year did not happen. However, the bill still can be moved in 2024 and Farm Bureau will be pressing hard for that to happen.

FARM BILL

On November 16th, President Biden signed H.R.6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, which was a continuing resolution (C.R.) for the fiscal year 2024 appropriations and a one-year extension for the farm bill. Ag appropriations was extended to January 19th, 2024, and farm bill will now expire on September 30, 2024.

AG LABOR

During AFBF's resolutions week, the state Farm Bureaus discussed at length our organization's policy on agricultural labor with a heavy focus on the adverse effect wage rate (AEWR). Additional topics included a year-round visa, caps, and e-verify. Farm Bureau recognizes that this is a severe issue, which is why it is a priority for both PFB and AFBF. Following the meetings in December, AFBF sent a letter to House and Senate leadership urging both chambers to freeze the AEWR and rescind Department of Labor (DOL's) March 2023 rule that would change how the AEWR is calculated.

LIVESTOCK

In 2018, California's (CA) voters passed a law called Proposition 12 that requires veal, pork, and egg raised in confined areas to have a certain space minimum. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of CA (5-4), when AFBF and National Pork sued CA claiming a violation of the Interstate Commerce Clause. As of January 1, 2024, prop 12 has been implemented. California's proposition 12 has set a dangerous precedent for animal agriculture. Our producers know what is best for their animals, so Farm Bureau opposes any laws or regulations which mandate specific farming practices in livestock production.

Animal welfare was a goal of prop 12. However, California's Department of Food and Agriculture recognized that the mortality rates of breeding sows will increase with prop 12 so the state is creating a severe animal welfare issue, rather than trying to make a better life for these animals.

Additionally, the market has already taken a hit. Pork purchased in California from June to August this year was down 23%. We already are seeing consumers go to other proteins, such as chicken, because with the record-high inflation we are experiencing, people cannot afford prop 12 pork.

Farm Bureau is working with Congress Members to find a federal preemption to prop 12 that both sides of the aisle can get behind. We simply cannot have a patchwork of regulations for producers to try and follow across the nation.

TECHNOLOGY

On December 18th, AFBF along with other agriculture organizations sent a letter expressing support for S.1669/H.R.3413, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. Car manufacturers say motors in electric vehicles generate electromagnetic interference that cause static in AM station signals. Instead of investing in workarounds that would solve the interference problem, they have chosen to eliminate the band, noting the other audio options that are available to consumers. Currently, the following Members have cosponsored the legislation: Senator Casey, Representatives Kelly, Wild, Meuser, Scanlon, Fitzpatrick, Evans, Boyle, Houlahan, and Smucker.

Regulatory Affairs Update From Regulatory Affairs Specialist Grant Gulibon

Pennsylvania Sees New HPAI Detections; Producers Urged to Continue Robust Biosecurity Improvements

Pennsylvania had remained HPAI-free until late December, when HPAI was detected in a game bird flock in Northumberland County. Detections have also taken place in wild geese in Snyder County. These recent incidents, along with numerous detections of HPAI in western, midwestern, and southern states, underscore the importance of continued dedication to robust biosecurity on Pennsylvania farms, vigilance by bird owners of all types to prevent further harm to the Commonwealth's \$7.1 billion poultry industry, and continued funding of Pennsylvania's animal health and diagnostic system.

Farm Bureau continues to urge all producers and bird owners to remain vigilant in scrupulously updating their biosecurity plans, and members will continue outreach to their neighbors to stress the importance of protecting Pennsylvania's multi-billion-dollar poultry industry.

Farm Bureau to Continue Leadership of DEP Agricultural Advisory Board

Farm Bureau Regulatory Affairs Specialist Grant Gulibon will continue to serve as chairman of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Agricultural Advisory Board in 2024 after being re-elected at the board's December 2023 meeting. During the past year, the board was heavily engaged with both DEP and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in finalizing the Commonwealth's PAG-12 general permit (covering concentrated animal feeding operations), and in working with DEP on updates to the state's manure management manual.

Farm Bureau is also actively seeking members who may be interested in filling open positions on the board for 2024 and beyond. Those interested in potentially serving in those capacities should contact Gulibon at grgulibon@pfb.com or at 717-731-7547.

Farm Bureau Participates in Initial DEP Agricultural Permitting Roundtable

Farm Bureau was pleased to participate in the first of what is expected to be regular quarterly meetings of an agricultural permitting reform roundtable convened by DEP, along with other industry representatives and staff from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). The group's initial discussion focused on moving DEP's permitting system into the "modern era" by utilizing updated technology, improving internal processes, and taking fuller advantage of available data, beginning with the Department's permits under Chapters 102 (erosion & sediment control) and Chapter 105 (dam and waterway encroachments). Farm Bureau is encouraged by the Department's recognition of the issues that exist with the Commonwealth's permitting system, which continues to be far too costly and time-consuming for the state's productive sector to navigate without the assistance of technical professionals to design plans and complete applications. At the same time, Farm Bureau believes that reforms are needed not only to the process of obtaining permits, but also to the content of the underlying regulations themselves, which cause much of the confusion and delay that often result in getting permits approved. This will be a focus of the DEP Agricultural Advisory Board under Farm Bureau's leadership in 2024, as well as for future meetings of the newly established roundtable.

DEP Dog Law Advisory Board Meets, Reviews Newly Enacted Changes to PA Dog Law

The PDA Dog Law Advisory Board, on which Farm Bureau is represented, met on Dec. 14 to review recently enacted changes to the state's Dog Law resulting from the passage of the Dog Law Modernization Act (Act 18 of 2023), sponsored by Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Elder Vogel (R-Beaver). In the words of Sec. Russell Redding, the changes will "allow the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to do the things it is required to do by statute."

Act 18, which has been called "the most comprehensive animal welfare bill in Pennsylvania in the past 25 years," takes effect on Jan. 21, 2024 and includes the following provisions:

- The law "closes the gap" between when a dog is transferred to a new owner and when it must be licensed, allowing dog owners to apply for a dog license at the time of transfer rather than waiting. This is expected to greatly increase dog licensing numbers by providing education about dog licensing at the time of purchase or adoption.
- The law allows for dog owners in all counties to purchase dog licenses online, which is also expected to greatly improve licensing compliance statewide by adding convenience.
- Sellers and adopters of dogs will be required to provide new owners with a copy of the dog license application along with a brochure regarding dog licensing and the benefits it provides.
- The law addresses issues of insolvency with the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, allowing the Department to hire additional wardens for understaffed regions, and helping ensure that there is sufficient staff to oversee kennels and dangerous dog follow-up.
- The law requires dogs quarantined after attacks on humans to be muzzled, leashed, and under physical restraint by a reasonable person, makes it easier for law enforcement to make a dangerous dog determination, and simplifies the filing and prosecution of dangerous dog charges.
- The law puts financial responsibility on the dog owner in situations in which a dog is to be seized and held pending an appeal, keeping communities safer from dangerous dogs.
- The law requires kennels to obtain the appropriate type and class of license for their operation.
- The law provides stiffer penalties for those found operating illegal kennels, and increased penalties for all dog law violators.
- The law provides for isolation requirements after a dog is imported as a proactive step in disease control and prevention, providing increased protection from disease for dogs, and preventing consumers from bringing sick dogs into their homes.
- The law allows the Department to revoke a kennel's license or refuse a kennel license application from individuals convicted of animal cruelty.

- The law requires kennels to include their federal, state, or local license number to in any advertisement offering dogs for sale. This will allow the department to quickly determine whether a kennel is operating illegally and allow potential customers to look up the kennel's inspection history to make informed decisions.
- The law requires those selling dogs directly to the public to post the dog's identifying information, the location of the breeder, state or federal license number, documentation of all vaccinations, and any known bite history.

State Conservation Commission Provides ACAP Update

The State Conservation Commission (SCC) provided an update on the progress of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) on its Dec. 12 conference call. To date, 66 districts have signed delegation agreements with roughly \$151 million in funds committed, and over \$40.1 million has been obligated to contracts with farm owners.

At the same time, the Penn State Center for Agriculture Conservation Assistance is up and running, with Jennifer Fetter named as executive director. In addition, an engineering firm has been awarded a contract to work at the Center alongside the NRCS engineer to provide job approval authority to conservation district technicians and other professionals. The Center also recently hired several educator positions to assist districts and partner agencies in carrying out ACAP. The Center developed a financial tracking tool for the program, while best management practice (BMP) information must be entered in to Practice Keeper, DEP's tool for tracking BMPs. A statewide administrative training session took place on November 16 in State College, followed by four regional training sessions in December.

By The Associated Press Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow in a ceremony Friday morning at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania. Per tradition, that means he's predicting an early spring.

The annual <u>Groundhog Day</u> celebration in Punxsutawney, about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, originated from a German legend about a furry rodent. The gathering annually attracts thousands.

Before Friday's announcement, Punxsutawney Groundhog Club President Tom Dunkel told the crowd that a cane that he held gave him the power to speak Groundhog-ese.

Dunkel said that Phil would tell him which of two scrolls to use to make his weather prediction.

At Dunkel's direction, the crowd helped fire up the groundhog with repeated chants of "Phil!" before a club member pulled the groundhog from a stump on the stage and held it aloft.

Dunkel and other club members leaned over the stump before announcing that they had a decision.

Vice President Dan McGinley read the decision, written in verse, from the chosen scroll and announced, "Glad tidings on this Groundhog Day and early spring is on the way."The last time Phil predicted an early spring was 2020. The 2021, 2022 and 2023 forecasts called for six more weeks of winter.



ADVERTISING CORNER

Are You Turning **65 This Year** and Going on Medicare? Farm Bureau's experienced Choosing your

Medicare plan can be overwhelming. and trained staff are ready to help. At no cost to you, we can: It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

 Answer your questions Explain and compare options Work within your budgetHelp with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated. To check availability in your county call 800.522.237.



GROWMARK FS, LLC

ESMOND B. CROOKE, CCA

LOCATION MANAGER

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.**

GROWMARK FS, LLC 60 Lehigh Ave. 4500 **Bloomsbury NJ 08804** FAX 908-479-1411

CELL 267-446-3013 **OFFICE 908-479-**

www.growmarkfs.com

Email: ecrooke@growmarkfs.com



Membership	Advocacy	Newsroom	Events	Benefits	Be Involved	Resources
	insylvania m Bureau Services	PFB	wants to provide	It Our Pla individual and sma surance n-members in all re	all group	
			0	ntact Us	In	dividual & F

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

Senior Plans

Growing Your Expectations



Protect your next with the Ag Insight Center

We feed your need for insights and information with access to the Ag Insight Center, providing and information to help drive your future usiness success.

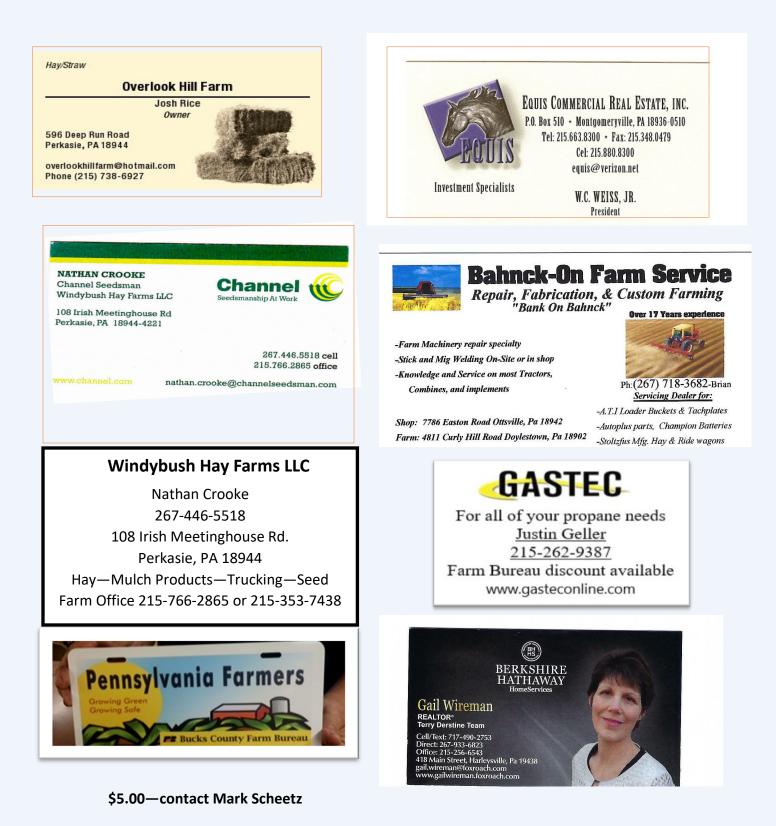








ADVERTISING CORNER-continued



NATIONWIDE PET INSURANCE

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Members-Get a quote with your member discount at benefits.petinsurance.com/pfb-npr or call 877-738-7874 and mention group code N788.



James Bodnar 4 Terry Dr. Suite 19 Newtown 18940 215-968-0116

Ryan Crookham 164 Lincoln Hwy. Suite 205 Fairless Hills 19030 215-788-3100

William Dirugeris 4201 Neshaminy Blvd. Suite 111 Bensalem 19020 215-752-4401

Robert Flounders 2307 Bristol Pike Bensalem 19020 215-638-1525

Kevin Halpin 308 N. Main St. Suite 600 Chalfont 18914 215-997-1834

John Holroyd 1516 W. Street Rd. Warminster 18974 215-672-3400

Brooke Leidtke* Brooke Leidtke brooke@cornerstone.insure 215-721-2000

NATIONWIDE BUCKS COUNTY AGENCIES

Patrick Kenney 607F Louis Dr. Warminster 18974 215-444-9350

Paul Kowalewski 2809 Bristol Pike Bensalem 19020 215-639-8788

Aaron Landis* 570 S. West End Blvd. Quakertown 18951 215-536-5111

Jeffrey Landis* 1456 Ferry Rd. Suite 701 Doylestown 18901 215-345-4665

Thomas Orrino 970 Second Street Pike Richboro 18954 215-710-0660

Stanley Prajzner 401 Lakeside Dr. Southampton 18966 215-364-9440

Christian Refice 8330 Easton Rd. Building B1 Ottsville 18942 610-847-8476

*Farm Certified

Jordan Rosen 8919 New Falls Rd. Suite 9 Levittown 19054 215-547-1221

Michael Savio 1 Market Place New Hope 18938 215-862-2025

Michael Sheehan 204 Poplar Rd. Chalfont 18914 215-997-9304

Steven Tamburri 1241 W. Broad St. Quakertown 18951 215-536-3090

Donald Ward 1870 Veterans Highway Levittown 19056 215-757-7979

Paul Wehner 528 S. Oxford Valley Rd. Fairless Hills 19030 215-945-6670

Jan Winheld 272 N. York Rd. Warminster 18974 215-443-9020

