



Bucks County Farm Bureau

Volume 5, Issue 3

www.pfb.com

November 2021

President's Message

Hello to All My Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

I would like to start by wishing everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! May the season bless you with happiness and joy. When we think of the holidays, we think of time with our family. I attended, as well as my fellow farm bureau members, the state annual meeting in Hershey this past month. It was good to see old friends again and visit with them like they are family. 137 resolutions that came from the other county farm bureaus were heard. Many were good resolutions that came forth and were discussed on the delegate floor much like a discussion at the Thanksgiving table over filling and mashed potatoes. The resolutions were discussed and points were made and many other resolutions are now policies for our state. Some of these resolutions will go forth to the American Farm Bureau annual meeting in Atlanta in January. Hopefully these can be discussed peacefully and voted on to become policies. This is what farm bureau is all about, ideas coming from the grassroots county farm bureaus and becoming policies. It's always a pleasure to be part of that and I always invite all of our farm bureau members to attend the state annual meeting and be on hand to witness and be part of a great process of setting policies to guide farm bureau forward.

I would not be able to write this president's message for the year 2021 without congratulating our own Dr. Jim Diamond for receiving the outstanding service to agriculture award at our annual meeting in Hershey. This is a big honor and I am pleased to know that a great man like Dr. Diamond received it. It is well deserved. Thank you to everyone for attending our county annual meeting. Please remember to attend next year.

Thank you again. Happy Holidays and be safe.

Sincerely,

President
Bucks County Farm Bureau

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**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

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Mobile Ag on the Go Teacher: Conduct promotions & Administrative meetings with schools prior to "Ag on the Go" visits. Conduct instruction of "Ag on the Go" program according to established lesson plans & procedures. **Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab Teacher:** Conduct instruction of mobile Ag Ed Science Lab program according to established lesson plans & procedures.

Please mail letters of introduction & resumes to:

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Personnel

PO Box 8736, Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736 or as an **email** attachment

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**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Shawn Coleman

I grew up on a small gentleman's farm in Chalfont where we had draft horses, sheep, donkeys, and chickens. My brothers and I started in 4-H showing sheep. As we got older, we also started showing pigs and horses. I grew up milking cows for Walter Detweiler as well as helped him make hay and other crops.

I graduated from DVU in 2016 with an Ag Business degree. While at DVU I was a part of the NAMA club which is the National Agriculture Marketing Association where we came up with new product designs every year and presented them in front of a panel of judges, mostly in Missouri. I also worked for the Gen Ag Department working the fields at Del Val and helped produce crops that fed the livestock on campus.

Around six years ago, Walter came to my brother and me and offered us to rent 60 acres of his ground as well as the equipment to get started. From that point on my brother, Andrew, and I are farming 450 acres and own all of our equipment. We needed to automate the production of small bales so we bought a Bale Baron and that's when our business really took off.

Since graduating college, I had worked for Superior Turf for four years as a truck driver, mechanic, and a farm hand. I left Superior for a different experience at Franc Environmental as a construction foreman installing septic systems. I worked there for just over a year meanwhile working at my own farm after hours. This June, I made the jump and quit my job and started farming full time. I've never been happier to wake up for work and Coleman Hay Farms has big plans to grow our business.

By Shawn Coleman

Kate Goldenberg

For nearly five decades, Kate Goldenberg has quietly set to work not only breeding and training her own horses, but rescuing and rehabilitating former racehorses as well. The name of her farm is Safe Haven Equine located in Bedminster PA.

In 2021 Safe Haven Equine's Thoroughbred Rescue achieved 501©(3) status. Donations to Safe Haven Equine's Thoroughbred Rescue component are tax deductible. But even without this status, the farm has always been a hotbed of both special horses and wonderful volunteers. There are also more than horses on her farm such as baby squirrels and old dogs.

Many of Kate's rescue horses end up at Work to Ride, a 501©(3) nonprofit organization that aids "disadvantage urban youth through construction activities centered on horsemanship". The program takes place at Chamounix Stables near Philadelphia. Participants must commit to at least a year in the program, learn various equine sports. Polo is the most popular.

Kate also stands a thoroughbred stallion "Show Tune" on her farm. His offspring have done quite well on the race track.

Kate is a board member of Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association.

Bucks County Farm Bureau Member Receives Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award



HERSHEY, Pa. – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) has presented Bucks County Farm Bureau member Dr. Jim Diamond with the 2021 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award during the farm organization’s 71st Annual Meeting in Hershey. The award is presented to an individual whose dedicated work and service has significantly contributed to the advancement of Pennsylvania agriculture.

“I was just elated, I was at a loss for words,” said Dr. Diamond, when told he had won. “I like the title of that award because it’s my contribution to agriculture – not just in Pennsylvania—but the whole world.”

Diamond, who was born and raised on his family’s beef farm in Fayette County, spent nearly 60 years teaching agriculture in Pennsylvania and around the world. Over his accomplished career, he was a vocational agriculture instructor at Upper Bucks County Area Vocational Technical School, an assistant professor of agricultural education at Penn State University, an international agricultural and extension education consultant for the United Nations, a Peace Corps volunteer, and from 1999 until 2008, he served as the Dean of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Delaware Valley University.

“Dr. Diamond has a true passion for teaching agriculture to students here in Pennsylvania, and to people around the world,” said PFB President Rick Ebert. “He is extremely knowledgeable and has a lifetime of experiences traveling the globe and preparing generations of farmers for their own careers in agriculture. With the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award, we recognize the vast contributions Dr. Diamond has made on behalf of Pennsylvania farmers and the agricultural community.” Throughout his teaching career, Jim was also a sheep farmer, and has held board positions with multiple agricultural associations, including Bucks County Farm Bureau.

In the early 1970s, Dr. Diamond spent two years with Peace Corps teaching farmers in Chad, Africa new and innovative farming techniques, including introducing a pit silage technique, which became an international program across African countries south of the Saharan Desert. “My mission was to make sure they were successful,” he said. Through his work with the United Nations, he spent seven years traveling abroad, teaching and discussing farm management strategies in China, Cuba, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, and other African countries. “I have worked and traveled in 59 different nations on five continents,” he said. “I have put on programs for different people: Granges, churches, Farm Bureau annual meetings, sharing what I experienced overseas.” Dr. Diamond has published multiple instructional booklets and materials, numerous journal articles, and seven “prose poetry” books documenting his travels and experiences.

I hope and pray that somewhere along the way I’ve been able to help people help themselves. That will benefit humankind, not just now, but in the future as well,” he said.

PFB ANNUAL MEETING-HERSHEY PA-NOVEMBER 15-17, 2021



l-r (Delegates Bucks County) Glenn Wismer, Ryan Herstine, Mark Scheetz

Hundreds of farmers across the state attended Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 71st Annual Meeting at the Hershey Lodge from November 15-17 to set policy for the statewide organization on issues affecting farm and rural families.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2021 JERRY HARRIS MEMORIAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Ryan Herstine & Molly Scheetz

Wawa Gift Card Winners-Congratulations!

Buckingham Animal Hospital-Buckingham

George Geiger-West Rockhill

George Giorno-Warrington

Joshua Heacock-Bedminster

Robert Sigety-Bedminster

State Senate Passes Bills to Ease Transportation Restrictions on Farmers

The state Senate has passed two bills supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that would broaden farmers' use of farm-registered vehicles and driver's licenses.

Senate Bill 725 clarifies the types of licenses that farmers are required to have when operating trucks or truck combinations with a gross vehicle weight more than 26,000 pounds, and SB 736 will allow farmers to use farm-registered vehicles for the home delivery of products they produce on their farms. Senators passed both bills unanimously, 49-0.

SB 725, introduced by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, clarifies Act 170, which the General Assembly unanimously passed in 2014. That legislation says that farmers do not need a commercial driver's license (CDL) to operate a farm vehicle, or combination, with a GVW of 26,000 pounds or greater. Recent action by State Police has left confusion as to whether farmers need a Class A license instead of the more-common Class C license. SB 725 clarifies that farmers are permitted to operate vehicles with a GVW over 26,000 pounds with a Class C driver's license.

SB 736, introduced by Sen. Wayne Langerholc, streamlines the home delivery of milk and other agricultural products with a farm-registered vehicle. Currently, the state's vehicle code stipulates farmers can use farm-registered vehicles only for the transportation of products to and from a place of business. Farmers would need to obtain a commercial vehicle registration for home deliveries, and the vehicle code prevents commercial vehicles from being registered as farm vehicles. SB 736 will ensure that farmers are able to use farm-registered vehicles to deliver products to both businesses and private homes.

[SB 725 has also passed out of the House transportation committee unanimously. Both bills await further House consideration.](#)

PMMB Maintains Over-Order Premium

The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board has issued a pricing order maintaining the Class I over-order premium price for milk at \$1 per hundredweight. The order, which started on Oct. 1, also continues the formula for determining the fuel adjuster add-on.

During a hearing before the PMMB in September, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) representatives Dave Graybill and Wayne Brubaker testified in support of maintaining the premium at its current level for the next six months, citing continued high feed costs, relatively flat milk prices, and discontinuation of COVID-related payments as key reasons for the continuation. The over-order premium and the fuel adjuster add-on mandated by PMMB are paid on Class I milk that is produced, processed and sold entirely within Pennsylvania.

PMMB's pricing order will remain in effect through March 31, 2022.

USDA Suspends Transport of Swine from Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands Over Swine Flu Concern

The USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the issue of a Federal Order that will suspend the interstate transport of all live swine, swine products and byproducts from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to the mainland United States in order to protect against the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF). ASF has not been detected in Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands but has been confirmed in the Dominican Republic.

APHIS also announced their intent to establish a World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)-recognized foreign animal disease protection zone around Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, which would give APHIS the ability to prohibit movement of live swine out of the zone, conduct surveillance to detect the disease, and conduct public education campaigns relating to biosecurity on farms, and similar actions.

Japanese Barberry Added to Noxious Weed List

The Department of Agriculture Controlled Plant and Noxious Weed Committee has added three species to the Noxious Weed List as Class B noxious weeds.

The committee added Japanese barberry, Japanese stiltgrass and garlic mustard to the Noxious Weed List, which became effective in October.

Japanese barberry is the most notable addition, as it's a popular nursery and landscaping plant. Both sterile and nonsterile varieties will be banned until the Department of Agriculture develops a process for merchants to apply for permission to sell sterile varieties.

Noxious weeds, which are identified as plants determined to be injurious to public health, crops, livestock, agricultural land or other property, cannot be sold, transported, planted or otherwise propagated in Pennsylvania.

AFBF Statement on Confusion Surrounding a Proposed Methane Tax

American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President for Public Affairs Sam Kieffer commented on confusion surrounding a proposed methane tax:

"To clear up any confusion, I want to make clear that the current language of the reconciliation bill does not impose a methane tax on agriculture.

"Over the summer, American Farm Bureau economists conducted an analysis, at the request of Congressional committee staff, to determine the potential impact if agriculture were to be included in legislation imposing such a tax. We did so based on the formula set forth in legislative proposals that impose a methane tax on the oil and gas sectors. We believe this analysis was informative and helpful in demonstrating that such a tax would have been devastating to agriculture.

"While we oppose any tax on methane, Farm Bureau is grateful to lawmakers for recognizing the thin margins in agriculture and that such a tax would undoubtedly put family farms out of business. We are especially grateful to the Senate for passing an amendment that specifically exempts agriculture."

State Farm Bureaus Seek Funding for Conservation Efforts in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Six state farm bureaus in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, signed on to a letter sent to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, asking the USDA to establish a Chesapeake Bay Resilient Farms Initiative (CRFI), similar to the Mississippi River Basin Initiative, to provide funding for conservation efforts on farms in the watershed. The funding would be used to help reach the 2025 Total Maximum Daily Load deadline to reduce nitrogen in the Bay.

The joint letter asks for the department to direct funding through already existing NRCS programs such as Conservation Technical Assistance, Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and to implement those programs more effectively on the ground.

The letter points out that farmers in the Bay watershed have been leaders in implementing conservation practices over the last 30 years and have reduced nutrient and sediment pollutant loads by half, while human and livestock populations have grown and crop yields have increased.

This effort comes as Pennsylvania and other Bay states face a heavy lift in meeting the federally mandated goals for reducing nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesap Bay by 2025. While Pennsylvania has developed a detailed plan for expanding conservation practices in agriculture and other sectors to meet those goals, there is a shortfall in available funding to see the plan through.

DEP Announces New Energy Efficiency Rebate Program for Farmers

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has a new rebate program for farmers to help with the cost of energy efficiency projects. The Agriculture Energy Efficiency Rebate Program is offering rebates to defray the costs of installing LED lighting or variable frequency drives on the farm, which can save energy while saving money on utility bills.

Applications will be accepted from Sept. 20, 2021 through March 31, 2022 on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. The available rebates will pay for 50% of the equipment costs, up to \$2,000. Total funding to any one applicant will not exceed \$5,000.

DEP has up to \$10,000 available for this program through State Energy Program funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

For complete program guidelines and application instructions, visit the [DEP agriculture and farming energy webpage](#).

USDA Announces \$700 Million In Relief to Small Producers and Processors, Farmers' Markets Impacted by COVID-19

The USDA announced another \$700 million in new grant programs to help small producers who have not yet received federal assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program – the Pandemic Response and Safety (PRS) Grant will provide assistance to small businesses in certain commodity areas, including small scale specialty crop producers and processors, shellfish, aquaculture and other select producers, meat and other processors, distributors, and farmers' markets.

For the PRS grants, eligibility details can be found in the Pandemic Response and Safety Grant Program forecast, located here: [USDA-AMS-TM-PRS-G-21-0011](#). Eligible entities should visit the PRS grant portal at [usda-prs.grantsolutions.gov](#) for complete information on the program, including how to obtain a free-of-charge DUNS Number from Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) *before* applying for this program.

Updated information regarding the PRS programs will be available on the Agricultural Marketing Service website: [www.ams.usda.gov](#).

Registration Open for Ag Literacy Week

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation is looking for volunteer readers to help connect students with agriculture and where their food comes from.

Plan now to join us for the 6th Annual Pennsylvania Ag Literacy Week March 14-12, 2022. Volunteers will read this year's book, "My Family's Soybean Farm," to classrooms across the state. Volunteer readers are asked to make a \$10 donation for a book to be read and given to the classroom.

To get involved:

1. Contact your local school to request to read to a kindergarten through second-grade classroom.
2. Collect classroom information (school, teacher name, teacher email, grade, number of students).
3. **Register online by Dec. 31, 2021.**

Registration is now open. Learn more and register at [www.pfb.com/agliterateary](#).

Questions?

Email the foundation at alw@pfb.com.

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Agriculture

All Pennsylvanians age 12 and older are now eligible to make appointments to receive the coronavirus vaccine and agriculture leaders are encouraging farmers and farmworkers to sign up to protect themselves, their communities, and Pennsylvania agriculture sector.

If you have not received your shots yet, you can learn more about the vaccine, including where to find appointments by visiting Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's vaccine website: www.pfb.com/vaccine.

One of the vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech, recently received full approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The other two, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson, have been approved for Emergency Use Authorization, which allows medical products that have not yet received full FDA approval to be used in response to a public health emergency after rigorous testing to ensure safety and effectiveness.

The choice to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is voluntary and not a mandate. But health care and public health officials have stressed that getting vaccinated is an important step in protecting yourself and your family. Additionally, widespread vaccination is essential to stopping the spread of the virus, preventing further deaths and hospitalizations, especially as the new, more-contagious Delta variant of the virus becomes prominent in the U.S.

REAP Tax Credits Available for Conservation

Pennsylvania has opened its Resource Enhancement and Protection program for 2021-2022. The program offers state tax credits to help farmers implement conservation practices that improve soil and water quality.

There is \$13 million in REAP credits available this year, which will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

REAP tax credits are available to agricultural producers who implement best management practices or purchase equipment that reduces nutrient and sediment runoff. Farmers may receive up to \$250,000 in any seven-year period, and spouses filing jointly can use REAP tax credits.

Examples of funded projects include no-till planting and precision ag equipment, waste storage facilities, conservation plans, nutrient management plans, barnyard runoff controls, cover crops, and riparian stream buffers.

Farmers may receive REAP tax credits of 50 to 75 percent of the project's eligible out-of-pocket costs. Farmers whose operation is in a watershed with an EPA-mandated total maximum daily load, such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, can receive REAP tax credits of up to 90 percent of out-of-pocket costs for some projects.

Tax credits can be used in conjunction with other funding sources such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program or Conservation Excellence Grants.

To learn more and apply, visit www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/REAP/Pages/default.aspx.

AFBF Convention Registration Now Open

Registration for the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention is open.

The event, which will be held in-person Jan. 7-12, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia, is the 103rd consecutive AFBF Convention. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in education workshops to advance leadership skills, expand business acumen and gain insight into the **trends and realities affecting food production. Workshop topics will include the 2023 farm bill**, market outlooks, climate policy, ag education resources, effective advocacy and mental health. Portions of the event will also be available virtually.

The convention will also feature presentations to showcase innovation in agriculture as well as a trade show where attendees can network, shop products and idea-share with other Farm Bureau members.

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Growing Your Expectations

Bucks County Farm Bureau is collecting soda & soup can tabs for charities (Farmers Care Day). You can give them to a Board member or drop off at a Board meeting or bring them to any Farm Bureau event. Thank you!

ADVERTISING CORNER-continued

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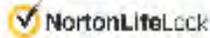
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