

Winter
2024



BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS WORTHY

Linda Halstead
Editor

By Mary Snow, Writer

The best part about Butler County Farm Bureau is the foundation! The fall annual meeting of fellowship and food opened with a blessing and praised the attributes of "Director Emeritus", Jim Boldy. As we enjoyed beef tips and



**Jim Boldy – Director
Emeritus after 44+
Years of Dedicated
Service to Butler
County Farm Bureau**

stuffed chicken we socialized with all amazing agricultural advocates. For more than 44 years Jim has blessed the Butler County Farm Bureau with his kind heart, dedication and listening ear. His fine example has been an influence for the generations taking over the ranks and filling the places that Jim served for so long. We have truly been blessed by his stellar example of diplomacy and dedication. His head, heart, and hands have given so much, and we are very grateful that the health he still has is used to continue to serve on a few committees.

Jim and many other members of the farm bureau are the force behind Butler County leading our district in new members. Their campaign: reminding and educating the community that agriculture affects all businesses. With this campaign came the "buy local yellow pages". This old school telephone book "lets your fingers do the walking" as you explore the many companies owned by Butler County Farm Bureau members. These individuals support local companies, local farmers and need support from local people. Butler County Farm bureau is getting the word out and the numbers show it! Phone numbers.

We continue to show support for the safety of the community by providing equipment and training for grain bin rescue. We also support the agricultural education of the community by applauding the example of Anegla Eyth and the Summit elementary. This schools' model of using Agriculture as a core topic to teach and empower students has inspired the bureau to seek putting Ag Lab in all Butler County schools and provide funding to take teachers into the Educators Institute.

The meeting ends with prizes and praise. We leave with local potatoes, raffle baskets and hats. Smiles on everyone's faces. The annual meeting was such an enjoyable way to be involved and make a difference in our community. Many generations are coming together. Families fellowshiping together. Politicians agree to come together to make a difference. Most important, humans, showing up with babies, kids, moms, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles caring for our agricultural future. We love Butler County Farm Bureau.

OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO MR JIM BOLDY, WE WOULDN'T BE WHO WE ARE WITHOUT YOU!

SAVE THE DATE

**SPRING MEETING
PLANTING FOR THE
FUTURE
APRIL 20, 2024
BUTLER FARM SHOW**

**SUMMER PICNIC
JULY 14, 2024**

**FALL MEETING
October 3, 2024**

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

By Mary Snow and Linda Halstead

Planning is underway

The women's leadership committee is excited to prepare for the Spring Farm Bureau meeting. The theme this year is "Planting for the Future". We want to give you the tools to get ready for the experience.

It is our hope the whole community will come together for an evening of family, fun, food fellowship and Agriculture Education ending with a lively square dance.

FELLOWSHIP TENT

We know how much we all enjoy the opportunity to sit and catch up with fellow members during our Spring and Fall Meeting. So, we are arranging for an area where you can do just that.

VENDOR COMPETITION

We are excited to announce there will be a competition among the vendors. The Vendor/Organization, best able to demonstrate how agriculture affects our future will be our winner.

MEMBER BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

The most amazing parts of being a farm bureau member is knowing you were a part of something so much bigger. As Butler County farm bureau members, we know that we come together for all the townships inside of Butler County. We would like to highlight as many of the local businesses and individual farmers, who are members of the farm bureau community. As a local business, we would love to see your vendor spot highlighting the business that you run and what it does to participate in our local economy. **Oh and did we mention this is FREE to members.**

MEMBER FOOD TRUCK VENDORS

If you know anyone who has a food truck or local business let them know we are interested in seeing them participate. Not a member yet, no problem you can become a member.

VENDOR COMPETITION

We are excited to announce there will be a competition among the vendors. The Vendor/Organization, best able to demonstrate how agriculture affects our future will be our winner.

There are to be food trucks and petting zoos and all kinds of hands-on activities and ways for local community to realize how important farm bureau is to this local area. Being a part of Butler County farm Bureau means being a part of an amazing community. We are advocates for the farmer and the local business person as they work to make their mark and plant their roots in Butler County, Pennsylvania.



FARM BUREAU BUSINESS OWNERS DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

We have designed a community event to promote and support our Member Businesses. Take a moment today to mark your calendars and submit the application below, **April 20, 2024, Butler Farm Show Grounds, 4pm – 8pm**. Promote your business, sell your product or services. This event will be open to the public, we will be promoting it heavily. Please make the commitment today to join us!

Vendors – Food Trucks – Education – Fun

Oh, and be sure and stay to enjoy the evening of Square Dancing and Fellowship from 8pm to 11pm.

Vendor Registration

Name:

Business Name:

Contact Number:

Do you have a Farm Bureau Sign?

Yes No, I Need One

Do you need Electricity?

Yes No

Type of Vendor: _____

(Crafts, Market, Business, Dealer, Other, etc)

Food Truck Registration

Name:

Business Name:

Contact Number:

Do you have a Farm Bureau Sign?

Yes No, I Need One

Do you need Electricity?

Yes No

Type of Food: _____

*We need at least 2 trucks to stay from 8-11 pm for the Square Dance,

Please let us know if you are able to stay*

Butler Co. Young Ag Professionals

Hello, I am Brittany Speer, serving as the chair of Butler County Young Ag Professionals (YAP), and I am pleased to provide an overview of the highlights from 2023 as well as our plans for 2024. As a quick reminder, YAP is a program within Farm Bureau for individuals aged 18-35. Our local YAP chapter actively collaborates with the state-level YAP. For additional details about the state YAP organization, please visit <https://pfb.com/be-involved/young-ag-professionals/>. If you are interested in participating in the planning and collaboration group of the Butler County Young Ag Professionals, I encourage you to reach out to me, Brittany Speer, at 724-504-8327, or contact any committee member listed below. Your engagement is vital to the success of our agriculture community, and we welcome your involvement in shaping the future of YAP in Butler County. Stay informed with all updates of YAP by visiting the Butler Co. Farm Bureau Facebook Page. You can also reach out directly to any of the following committee members: Zach and Brittany Speer (co-chairs), Cody Cataldi, Robert Chestnut, Josh Claypool, Justin Claypool, Nick & Mariah Cranmer, Adam Davis, Alan and Katie Davis, Adam Fleeger, Cody Jones, Sydney Merten, Micheal Neff, Taylor and Stephanie Rickert, Sarah Rodgers, James Thiele, William Thiele, Jessie Dressler and Jed Wilbert.



★ District 15 Bowling Event - March 26, 2023

- We had wonderful attendance at this event and plan to organize a Butler County YAP and Friends Bowling Event in March 2024.

★ YAP District 15 Family Event - April 29th, 2023

- ★ ■ We learned a lot about dairy cows, milk, and the processing of dairy products at Canon Creamy in Mercer County. Then the group went to *Brew 32* - for group dinner and talked about the importance of diversity in their ag production and the growth of ag tourism.

★ Fall Farmers' Market at Butler Hospital

- ★ ■ We helped with this wonderful event asking our members of the Farm Bureau to consider coming out to the Butler Hospital to provide LOCAL fresh products. I want to thank all the members who participated in these events. **Members included: J L Kennedy Meats, Miller's Quality Meats, and Butler Co. Dairy Promotion.** They are planning for 2024 (5 dates) which includes local produce and meats as well as local products.

- ★ ■ If you are interested in participating in these events at Butler Hospital contact: Brittany Speer at butlercountyfr@gmail.com

★ Meat Raffle to fill your freezer with local meat and support local businesses!

- ★ ■ Recap of 2023 Meat Raffle: Winners were the following: day: Val N. (Butler, PA) and evening: Dave S. (Butler, PA). This year, the meat raffle benefited both the YAP and agricultural education. Each winner got half of the hog along with 3 other prizes. The hog was purchased at the Butler Farm Show 4-H/FFA Auction as a 4-H project from Mason Dupe.

- ★ **A BIG THANK YOU to our prize sponsors: two \$25 cash donations from Har-Lo Farms Inc., a \$25 Gift Card from Cypher Farm Market, a \$25 Gift Card from Freedom Farms, and two - \$25 Butler Co. Tourism Gift Certificates.** If you are interested in being a prize sponsor for the 2024 Meat Raffle please contact: James Thiele @ thielejames93@gmail.com



Members enjoy BBQ at Back Home BBQ & Brew Co. in Evan City!



Planning of the 2024 Western PA Regional Mini-Conference - 3rd Annual in the time frame of January / Feb. 2023

We are considering doing a tour of Marburger Dairy, lunch, and an afternoon filled with key speakers about topics affecting our Farm Bureau members.

2024 Young Ag Professionals Leadership Conference "C Now" Feb. 16 - 18, 2024 in Harrisburg, PA

State YAP Conference Registration is now open for the 2024 YAP Leadership Conference! The conference will be held in Harrisburg, PA at the Harrisburg Hilton on February 16-18th.

Contact Zach Speer (724-856-5346) if you wish to attend/carpool together. The event will start with an opening reception on Friday at 7:30 PM. There will be tours on Saturday morning, as well as the state Discussion Meet contest. An agenda with detailed session topics for Saturday and Sunday will be available soon.

You must register and pay online in advance to complete your registration. You also must make, and pay for, your hotel reservations separately with the hotel. This information is provided on the registration form.

Conference registration funding is available through County Farm Bureaus, please contact your County Farm Bureau Board to learn more.

Parking is discounted to \$10/day when you verify your ticket at the hotel front desk. There is plenty of space to park in the hotel parking garage, but carpooling is still encouraged. Trucks that sit high off the ground may not be able to fit in the parking garage. Street parking is also available.

The registration deadline is January 19th. You can register at: www.pfb.com/yapcon24

National YF&R Conference will take place in Omaha, Nebraska - March 8 - 11, 2024 Four Butler County members are excited to attend this conference and bring back new knowledge and skills to Butler County. This trip is possible through your support of previous Meat Raffles, Cheese Fundraisers, and 50/50 fundraisers - THE ENTIRE YAP committee and members thank you for your support! and many more events in 2024 - so come out and join the fun!

MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU WORKING HARD - JOIN US

Building Membership



Evelyn Minter
2023 Membership Award

YAP Discussion Meet Participant 2023



Brittany Speer, BCFB YAP Chair

District 15 Woman's Leadership Rep.



Linda Halstead

2024 – New Members to date 106 – Members needed to make goal 46. Who do you know that should be a member.

Why **Farmers** Should Become Members

Farm Bureau members are **leading together**.

When farmers notice a problem, they want to fix it. Sometimes, the problems are too big for one farmer to fix. The members of Farm Bureau are working together to make real change to advance agriculture in Pennsylvania. Whether it's easing regulations on high tunnels, changing a law to allow wider equipment on the roads, or making it easier to expand agritourism, we're leading the way forward together. When one member has an idea, thousands of members make it a reality. Join us by becoming a member of Farm Bureau today and take advantage of benefits such as:

The united voice of Pennsylvania's largest general farm organization advocating for you.

The opportunity to shape the future of Pennsylvania agriculture through Farm Bureau's grassroots advocacy and policy development. Your membership gives you a voice in shaping Farm Bureau's advocacy.

A chance to network with farmers across the nation and build relationships with elected officials at every level of government.

Access to important information to help you manage and improve your operation.

Your share of \$2.5 million in annual savings available through dozens of member benefits as well as local discounts.

Opportunities to educate consumers about agriculture through initiatives like Ag Literacy Week, the Mobile Ag Lab program, and more than 160 county outreach events.

Why **Everyone** Should Become Members

You don't have to be a farmer to be a Farm Bureau member.

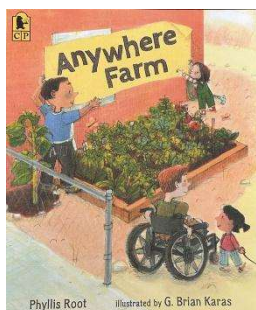
Farm Bureau members care about the stories behind their food and drink and are dedicated to supporting the farmers who make it all happen. Their membership supports our efforts to preserve the state's agricultural heritage and ensure that family farms can continue to produce local food, grow their communities and promote responsible stewardship of the land and natural resources. At the same time—through *Positively Pennsylvania* magazine—our non-farming members get the inside scoop on farm-to-table cuisine, craft beverages and farm-fresh food right from the people with the most intimate knowledge of Pennsylvania food culture: our state's farmers.

That's in addition to the wide range of benefits that come with Farm Bureau membership—from a major discount on amusement park tickets to savings on vehicles, utilities, prescription drugs, hotels, car rentals, household supplies and more many more everyday purchases.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's mission is simple: Growing Communities. Many Voices. United Vision. We believe that's a cause that everyone—not just farmers—can get behind. Farm Bureau members play an important role in our efforts that extend far beyond agriculture, from our annual charitable campaign to benefit Ronald McDonald House charities to our advocacy to get farm-fresh products into food banks and for rural communities to have access to quality health care, infrastructure and internet access.

How Can you Help, you ask?

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



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. 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.

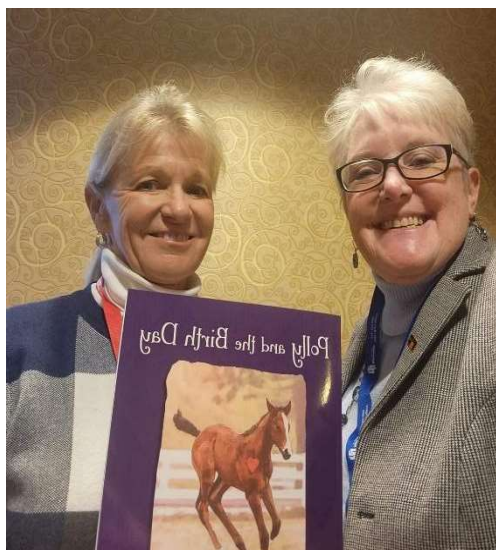
Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation invites all members of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry to join with us to celebrate Ag Literacy Week in Pennsylvania. By becoming a reader, you can help us share the story of agriculture and teach students about the importance of agriculture in their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

READERS NEEDED

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-reinforces the concepts they learned from the book. Please contact Amy Metrick – 724-602-9962

What is the Farm-tastic Book Program?

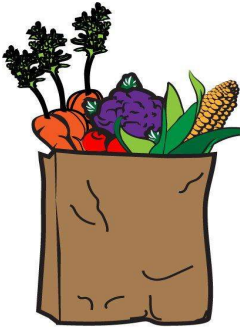
The Farm-tastic Book Program was started by the PA State Women's Leadership Committee in 2012 to promote agricultural literacy in the public libraries and elementary school libraries within Pennsylvania. The State Women's Leadership Committee is encouraging the counties to be involved again this year in the Farm-tastic Book Program. Our Farm-tastic Book Program generates excitement among students of all ages by offering them the opportunity to learn about agriculture through the pages of books. The State Women's Leadership Committee encourages you to get involved in sharing the agricultural story this year in your county through the Farm-tastic Book Program. Contact Evelyn Minter 724-679-8169



2024 – *Polly and the Birth Day*

by D.H. Anderson and illustrations by Steven Lester

Waterdam Farm is a quiet and peaceful place in western PA. where horses, cats, and a dog roam and play. One crisp February morning, a new horse arrives, making the animals very curious. Polly is a retired racehorse and something about her is rather peculiar. She is round and moves very slowly. The farm animals quickly welcomed her. Then news spreads throughout the barn that Polly will soon be a new mom! In the spring, she gives birth to a tiny filly, welcome to the world Lady Thistle! Based on a true story, this book opens a series about the adventures of a baby horse. The book includes "Did You Know" facts pages. The contributing boarded equine veterinarian and an award-winning Illustrator add to the solid information-based story which is described as "an intriguing look at life on a horse farm from the perspective of the farm family as well as the horses and other farm animals. DH Anderson is available for school readings and other events as donated time toward encouraging interest in reading for young students as well as writing and illustrating.



Farmers Care

A Million Dollars and Growing

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!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU RAISE MONEY FOR THIS VERY DESERVING CHARITY, PLEASE CONTACT LARRY VOLL – 412-906-4495

Agricultural Literacy Needs Your Help!

Schools in Butler County and the surrounding area are beginning to understand the importance of educating our youth about agriculture and environmental health. Many amazing programs are being created and teachers are using agriculture to teach their regular curriculum. The Butler County Farm Bureau is planning to create an Agricultural Literacy Database to help our local educators. If an educator is looking for guest speakers or supplemental information to help solidify an agricultural concept, they can find contact information for those willing to help. For example, maybe a class is learning about embryology by hatching chicken or duck eggs, and you could help answer questions that arise during the process. Maybe an after-school "Little Sprouts" garden club needs some help with which vegetables to plant together for a better harvest. The sky's the limit, especially if you use a drone to help farming and share this with an entire elementary school! Please consider signing up for this worthwhile cause. If we all work together, amazing opportunities can be created! Thank you in advance for considering this valuable and rewarding project.

Please send your name, email address, cell phone number, and agricultural topics you would be willing to share to: Bcfb.secretary@gmail.com



PFB keeps members informed through our print and digital communications. But sometimes, there's news you need to know right away. That's why we've developed PFB text message alerts to send important updates right to your phone.

No one likes spam and that's why we'll make sure to limit the number of texts you receive from us. You can expect to receive up to approximately five texts per month about major developments such as limited time opportunities and/or grants, major news that affects agriculture, changes in laws or regulations that affect your operation, significant updates on our advocacy efforts and opportunities to engage with Farm Bureau.

As the program develops, you may have opportunities to sign up for additional text alerts about topics you're interested in. PFB may text you to let you know about opportunities to sign up for additional texts about certain subjects but will never sign you up without your permission.

Sign up via text:

Text "PFBALERTS" to 833.554.0849.

By texting to this number, you agree to receive promotional messages sent via an auto dialer, and this agreement isn't a condition of any purchase. You also agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#). Msg&data rates may apply. Up to 5 msg/mo. To unsubscribe, text STOP to 833-554-0849.

BUY LOCAL

Support Local Businesses

2024 Will be Available Soon!



**2023 Buy Local Flyer
PDF File**

Membership Benefits | Together We Can

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit www.pfb.com/services or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million** in **annual savings**.



To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

Member Benefits are subject to change without notice. Membership Dues Are Non-Refundable.

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Membership number required



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www.johndeere.com/farmbureau
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Publications

PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

A total \$6 portion of annual member dues covers subscriptions to these publications, \$3 for Positively Pennsylvania and \$3 for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Grassroots Advocate (formerly Country Focus). Members receive 4 issues of each publication per year on a quarterly basis. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



PFB Member Service



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www.pfb.com/healthservices

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www.farmbureaubank.com



717.232.5000

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*Select discounts may apply.

To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit Nationwide.com/pfb.

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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
510 S. 31st Street P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717.761.2740
www.pfb.com

BUTLER COUNTY FARM BUREAU WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP BASKET RAFFLE

Basket Raffle Winners:

Men's Basket: Katelyn Goddard, Kittanning, PA

Ladies Basket: Jean Duncan, Saxonburg, PA

Children's Basket: Jesse Snyder, Slippery Rock, PA

Raffle ticket Sale Funds raised for Agriculture education:

Total = \$ 4,665.00

Annual Fall Meeting Winners

\$100 Gas Card

Winner: Dale Cupec, Slippery rock, PA

Free paid 2024 Free Butler County Farm Bureau Membership:

Winner: Brady Stewart, Renfrew, PA

2023 BASKET GIFT CARDS OR CERTIFICATES

THANK YOU **THANK YOU!**

The Butler County Farm Bureau Board of Director and the Women's Committee would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the overwhelming support we received for the Basket giveaway. The proceeds help Support the "Agriculture Education,

We would like to thank our contributor of Gift cards and various items and all who helped make this event a success.

DONORS

Micheal Raisley Insurance	Butler Tire For Less
Tuner Tractor, Inc.	Thoma Meat Market
Heasley's Nursery	Altmeyer's Western Wear
Slater's Meats & More	#1 Cochran Ken Greene
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BUTLER COUNTY NATIONWIDE INSURANCE FARM CERTIFIED AGENTS

Richard W. Kotch Jr

201 S. Duffy Road, Butler, PA 16001

Daniel Edward Conville Agency

- 522 N. Main St. Chicora, PA 16025
- 464 S. Washington Street, Eau Claire, PA 16030
- 237 E. Main Street, Evans City, PA 16033

Molter & Associates, Inc.


1074 Pittsburgh St, Valencia, PA 16059

Raisley Insurance, Inc.

1120 N. Main St. Ext, Butler, PA 16001

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



 Pennsylvania
Farm Bureau
Health Services

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

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

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To check availability in your county call **800.522.2375**.



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