



CHESTER/DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, your go-to source for updates, insights, and opportunities in our agricultural community.

A grassroots organization that helps to lead Pennsylvania agriculture in our community and our legislation.

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau newsletter is a quarterly publication, providing timely updates on agricultural developments across the counties. This publication will include news on local farming initiatives, key events, and Farm Bureau activities, offering valuable insights and resources to our community of agricultural professionals. Stay informed on important happenings and events that support the growth and sustainability of farming in the region.

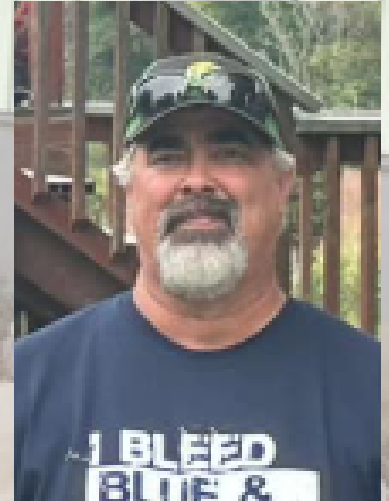


**SUPPORTING
AGRICULTURE
ACROSS
CHESTER/DELAWARE
COUNTY**

President's Letter

Spring is here, fields are green, grass is growing and planting season is about to get under way. Recent rains have somewhat relieved our drought condition and hopefully timely rains will come throughout the growing season.

National Ag week was celebrated last month, and I accepted a proclamation from our county commissioners recognizing our county's farmers dedication to providing food and supporting the economy. During Ag Literacy week, many of our members took time to visit elementary schools and read to students. This is a great opportunity to expose young kids in our community to agriculture and its impact on their lives. Many thanks to those who took time to read to students.



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's annual legislative day in Harrisburg recently took place. Chester Delaware county's 10 representatives met in Representative Lawrence's office with several local representatives including Representative Sappey, Representative Friel, Representative Krueger, and Representative Howard. Land preservation and C2P2, wildlife management, over order milk premiums and transportation were among the issues discussed. Governor Shapiro spoke at lunch addressing his commitment to Pennsylvania agriculture in the coming year.

We hope to see you at our Summer Picnic on June 29th at Hibernia Park.

Howard Reyburn

CDCFB Committee Reports

Women's Leadership Committee

The Women's Leadership Committee were able to send eight different organizations in the County \$250.00 each, for Farmer's Care 2025. A friendly competition between FFA chapters, allowed the students to turn their allotted dollar amount into the most pounds of food. We are excited to announce the Summer Picnic will be held June 29th at Hibernia Park. Please be sure to come out and network with other County farm bureau members.

Lastly, be sure to check out the Farm Safety Contest in this newsletter. Kids of members, ages 4-18 have different, age-appropriate opportunities to show us what farm safety looks like to them.

Respectfully,

Anna Brown, CDCFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair

reyburnan18@gmail.com

P&E Committee

In the state, the P&E and YAP committees will be planning another joint conference after the success of the Bridging the Future conference held in February. Look for more information and dates coming soon!

YAP Committee

Check out the Eastern state YAP picnic at Paulus Farm on August 10th, starting at 11 a.m. Fun for the whole family, there will be food, networking and games. For more information and how to RSVP, contact Paul Harrop at paulfharrop@gmail.com

Government Relations

One of the most important things that the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau does is advocate for legislation that protects and aids farmers and the agriculture industry within our counties. With a successful legislative day in Harrisburg over, there is still plenty to do. If you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committees, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com

CDCFB Committee Reports

2025 Lyme Disease Fact Sheet

·Lyme and other tick-borne diseases remain a growing problem for PA residents.

CDC statistics have ranked Pennsylvania as the number 1 or 2 state for cases of Lyme disease for the past six years.

More than 16,000 new cases were reported to the CDC in 2023.

·The actual number of cases is more than 10 times that number according to the CDC.

·There are more than 20 additional tick-borne diseases found in PA that are sometimes as serious or more serious than Lyme disease.

·Some, like Powassan Fever, are fatal in 10-25% of people who contract this disease. There is no treatment. Fifty percent of those who survive suffer from life-altering permanent neurological damage.

·New tick-borne diseases are discovered every year.

·The patients who have multiple infections suffer the most. They are difficult to diagnose and treat.

·We do not have enough knowledgeable doctors in PA to handle the patient load.

·There are fewer than 20 physicians in PA that we know of to suggest to patients. They all have special expertise and years of experience diagnosing and treating patients with tick-borne diseases.

·Despite the public's attention being drawn to other serious illnesses, the actual number of new Lyme cases increases every year.

·Declining interest in learning about Lyme disease puts more people at risk, and prevents people from getting effective treatment.

·Declining support for public health at all levels of government will reduce Lyme education and reduce the accuracy of Lyme disease statistics.

·Research funding is based on the number of people reported to be affected.

·Government support for vital research has been reduced.

·Legislation that would require health insurers to pay for Lyme disease treatment would help thousands of PA residents who are currently denied coverage.

Doug Fearn

Chairman, Pennsylvania Lyme Disease Awareness Committee
Of the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau

Rural Road Safety

While driving on a rural road, you may encounter farm equipment. This equipment comes in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Farm equipment is designed to be used primarily in a field and is not designed to travel at typical highway speeds. Most farm equipment is designed to travel at speeds of 15-25 miles per hour.

Just as motorists are entitled to operate their vehicles on public roadways, farmers are legally allowed to operate farm equipment on these same roadways. Caution and courtesy will help ensure the safety of motorists, passengers, and operators of slow-moving farm equipment.

If you're driving 55 mph and come upon a tractor that's moving 15 miles per hour, it only takes five seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and the tractor.

Recognize the Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem



When you see the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, you should immediately slow down. SMV emblems must be visible at least 500 feet away from the vehicle, but because it may be difficult for you to judge the speed at which you are closing in on a vehicle, you should slow down immediately. Think of the slow moving vehicle emblem as a warning to adjust your speed.

Be Patient

A farmer understands that your trip is being delayed, so he or she will pull off the road at the first available safe location to allow you to pass.

Even if you have to slow down to 20 mph and follow a tractor for two miles, it takes only six minutes of your time, which is approximately equivalent to waiting for two stoplights.

Yield to Wide Vehicles

Some farm equipment may be wider than the lane of travel. If you approach a piece of wide farm equipment traveling in the opposite direction and you cannot pass safely, stop. Then pull off the road or safely turn around or back-up to a location that will allow the equipment to pass you.

Don't Assume that the Farmer Knows You're There

Most operators of farm equipment will regularly check to see if there is traffic behind them. However, the farmer must spend most of the time looking ahead to keep the equipment safely on the road, and to watch for oncoming traffic. Also, most farm equipment is very loud, and the farmer will probably not be able to hear your vehicle. Therefore, do not assume that the farmer knows where your vehicle is located. Before you attempt to pass, use your car's horn to signal to the farmer that you are there.

Pass with Caution

If a farmer has pulled off the road to allow you to pass, or if the farmer cannot pull off the road and you feel you must pass, do so with caution.

- Be watchful of vehicles behind you that may also try to pass.
- If you must enter the oncoming lane of traffic, do not pass unless you can see clearly ahead of both you and the vehicle you will pass.
- If there are any curves or hills ahead that may block your view or the view of oncoming vehicles, do not pass.
- Do not pass if you are in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevated structure or tunnel.
- Do not assume that a farm vehicle that pulls to the right side of the road is going to turn right or is letting you pass. Due to the size of some farm implements, the farmer must execute wide lefthand turns. If you are unsure, check the operator's hand signals and check the left side of the road for gates, driveways or any place a farm vehicle might turn.

Pennsylvania
PFB
Farm Bureau

By being aware of farm equipment during your travels on rural roads, you can help make the trip safe for both you and Pennsylvania's farmers.

For more information, call 717.761.2740 or email: GovCom@pfb.com

Do You Recognize these Symbols?

Less than 30% of drivers know what these symbols mean.* But it's a matter of life and death for drivers of automobiles, farm equipment and animal-drawn vehicles on rural roads.

This is a daytime view of the slow moving vehicle emblem. It is to be displayed on animal-drawn vehicles and on other vehicles designed to travel at speeds of 25 mph or less. It is not simply a reflector- it is a warning to slow down.



Occasionally you may encounter slow moving vehicles traveling at night. The SMV emblem's red border is designed for nighttime visibility. Your car's headlights will reflect off the red border of the SMV emblem, and appear to you to be a glowing red triangle floating in the darkness. It is extremely important to slow down immediately because reduced lighting will make it difficult to judge how rapidly you are closing in on a slow moving vehicle, or what the dimensions of the slow moving vehicle may be.

*According to findings of Penn State researcher Philip M. Garvey, author of "Motorist Comprehension of the Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem."

It is illegal for any resident of Pennsylvania to display the slow moving vehicle emblem on permanent, stationary objects such as mail box posts, driveway entrances and fences.

Tips for Farmers

Farmers play a key role in rural road safety too. Here are some tips to alleviate hazards when taking wide equipment onto the road:

- ▲ Pennsylvania law requires you to place a slow moving vehicle reflector on any machine that travels the road slower than 25 mph. Always point the triangle up, keep the SMV emblem clean to maximize reflectivity, and replace the emblem when it fades, normally every 2-3 years.
- ▲ Mark the edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors. Consider installing retrofit lighting on older machinery to increase visibility.
- ▲ Turn on your lights, but turn off rear spotlights when going onto the road. From a distance they can be mistaken for headlights.
- ▲ Avoid the highway during rush hours and bad weather. Ensure that you have adequate lighting when driving before sunrise or after sunset.
- ▲ Use pilot cars if you are going a considerable distance. Hang an orange flag out the window of the pilot vehicle.
- ▲ Consider installing mirrors on equipment to enable you to be aware of motorists around you.
- ▲ Follow all transportation laws. To learn more go to PFB's transportation page at:

www.pfb.com/transportation

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st Street • Box 8736, Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717.761.2740 • www.pfb.com/ruralroadsafety



It's a matter of life and death



We are looking for contestants ages 4-18 years to participate in Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Safety Contests! This year's theme is "From the Barn to the Field, Safety First!" To participate, students would submit a finished coloring page, poster, or video according to their age groups requirements. Video submissions will be sent directly to PFB using the directions found at the link below. Coloring pages and posters should be submitted to Chester/ Delaware County Farm Bureau by May 1st. Winners chosen by CDCFB will be submitted to PFB to be judged against other submissions from across the state.

For full contest information and requirements, please visit the link below:
<https://pfb.com/be-involved/womens-leadership-committee/safety-contests/>

Age Categories:

4-6 years old - Coloring Page, Due to CDCFB by May 1
7-12 years old - Poster, Due to CDCFB by May 1

13-18 years old - Video, Due to PFB by May 1

To submit a finished coloring page or poster, please contact Anna Brown at
reyburnan18@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR A

SUMMER PICNIC

SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH
1:00 PM - 4:00PM

Hibernia Park
720 Cedar Knoll Rd
Coatesville, PA 19320
Pavillion #1



PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE

**A MEAT, ROLLS, DRINKS AND PAPER PRODUCTS
WILL BE PROVIDED**

Directions to Pavillion #1 : In wooded area off Old Dam Road. Enter park at main entrance at 720 Cedar Knoll Rd. Turn left at the first intersection on Park Rd. near the park office. Turn left onto Old Dam Rd. Pavilion 1 is the second pavilion on your right down the hill. There are directional signs in the park and the pavilions are numbered.

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:

- Answer your questions
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
- Help with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.

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

Let's talk about

ATV safety



Having the safety talk with your kids isn't just important—it's essential.

In 2023, 19% of deaths in off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents were children under 16, with only 2% wearing helmets.¹ The **Let's Champion Rider Safety®** campaign, provides tips and resources for effective safety discussions and protection for young riders.



Learn more at
Nationwide.com/ATVsafety



Scan code to get
safety tips for your
young riders.



¹ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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Member Benefits

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 Member Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.
Member benefits are subject to change without notice. Membership Dues Are Non-Refundable.



Home and Auto

www.pfb.com/lead
to download certificate.
Must be a member for 30+ days.
 rebate not always available,
 some exclusions may apply.



\$500.00 off exclusive
Ford trucks



Code: 11361045
National Fleet Discount



Must show membership card.
Exceptions may apply.



Code: PFB-7555-024
855.692.8330
www.pfb.com/en/energy/digital-pfb-7555



Code: 1580181 PHL
www.staplesbusiness.com
Online purchases



Code: PAFB
855.763.8213
www.affinitycellular.com/pfb/

Farm and Business



Account: 855488417
www.grainger.com/farmbureau



Renewals code: PAFB
New member code: PAFB39
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Renewals 10% off



1.800.8-SADDLE
to download certificate
10% off



www.pfb.com/caseih
to download certificate
30-day waiting period



www.pfb.com/cat
to download certificate
30-day waiting period



www.johndeere.com/farmbureau
Farm Membership with John
Deere Rewards Program
30-day waiting period



855.626.4088
www.pfb.com/shipler-energy
Membership number required

PFB Member Service

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Health Services
800.522.2375
www.pfb.com/healthservices

Financial and Insurance

FARM BUREAU BANK www.farmbureaubank.com

Nationwide® offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including farm*, auto*, home*, pet*, travel*, powersports, commercial and life insurance.
*Select discounts may apply.

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

Additional Benefits

Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!
For a complete list of discounts offered by +375 locally-owned businesses in nearly 50 counties visit pfb.com/le-localdiscounts.
Local discounts not offered in all counties.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Dealz Plus



pfb.com/deals

Health and Wellness



Code: Group 946
www.scriptsave.com



800.974.7036
www.mypfbpharmacy.com
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member

Publication

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.

At least \$400 of annual member dues covers subscriptions to *Positively Pennsylvania*. Members receive 3 issues of *Positively Pennsylvania* per year. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



FUNDING AVAILABLE

GOAL

This program aims to assist landowners with addressing resource concerns by funding the implementation of conservation practices on their land.

CONTACT

Contact Dan Miloser at the Chester County Conservation District for more information and to apply at

(610)-455-1380 or
dmiloser@chesco.org

SCAN QR CODE FOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES



-OR- navigate to <https://tinyurl.com/acapguide>

Potential Project Ideas

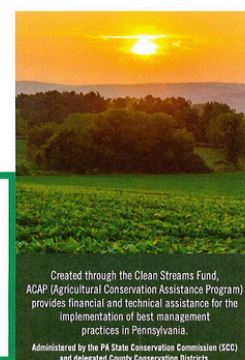
- Stream fencing and buffers
- Cattle crossings protecting stream beds and stream banks
- Watering systems in pastures with reinforced gravel pad
- Manure storage structures
- Mortality composting facilities
- Grassed waterways

\$300,000 DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a cooperative effort between the State Conservation Commission, Delaware County Conservation District, and Chester County Conservation District.

Delaware County Conservation District
(610)-892-9484
Chester County Conservation District
(610)-455-1360



Created through the Clean Streams Fund, ACAP (Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program) provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices in Pennsylvania.
Administered by the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC) and designated County Conservation Districts.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717-761-2740
www.pfb.com

Stay in the Know with PFB Alerts

Be the first to know about major developments in Pennsylvania agriculture, state and federal policy, and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts. PFB members are 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.

Signing up is easy. Simply 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.

How to sign up for PFB Action Alerts

To sign up by email: Visit www.pfb.com/ActNow. Enter your email address and ZIP code under "Sign Up for Alerts" and click the arrow. Enter your information and click "Save." Make sure to keep the box checked next to "Keep me subscribed to email alerts." Start receiving and responding to important Action Alerts from PFB, via email!

To sign up by text message:

Text "PFB" to 50457. You will receive a text message thanking you for signing up. Just click on the link highlighted in blue to complete the registration. The link will send you to a registration page. Fill out the information and click SAVE.

Nationwide Insurance Agents

Garcia-Taylor Insurance Agency

3615 Lincoln Hwy, Thorndale, PA 19372

Chester County

Phone: (610) 384-2884

Simpers Insurance

224 East Street Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Chester County

Phone: (610) 444-2610

Joseph Definis Inc

3221 Edgmont Ave, Brookhaven, PA 19015

Delaware County

Phone: (610) 874-7900



Julie Brady participates on successful Ag Forum Panel

Representative Chrissy Houlahan held an agricultural forum at the Kennett Library Auditorium on April 4th. Our 2nd VP, Julie Brady, was invited to be a part of the panel of ag experts during the forum, along with several others, including representatives from Penn Vet, the mushroom industry, and Representative Christina Sappey.

The discussion centered on federal, state and local agriculture issues, such as the phorid fly, tariffs, and farmland preservation

PFB Legislative Conference 2025



At far left, Representative John Lawrence stands with members of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau: Raquel Holcomb, Melissa DiCranian, Gary Westlake, Anna Brown, Howard Reyburn, Mel Harrop, Paul Harrop, Doug Fern and Julie Brady. Missing from the photo is member Don Cairns.

Hundreds of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members traveled to Harrisburg to discuss Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's (PFB) priorities for 2025 with state lawmakers as part of PFB's annual State Legislative Conference on April 8th, and Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau members, were among them.

Representative John Lawrence once again graciously offered his conference room to allow Representatives from all over the County the opportunity to meet with and hear about those issues. Representatives Friel, Sappey and Kruger came to chat, as well as Brandi Miller, staff for Representative Jennifer O'Mara. Great conversation was held about topics including energy, dairy, the Farm Bill, the state budget and environmental issues, as well as farmland preservation.

CDCFB Board of Directors

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CDCFB Committee Chairs:

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Women's Leadership - Anna Brown

PLDAC - Doug Fearn

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County - Paul Harrop

Promotion & Education District 3 Rep and

County - Melissa Harrop

Ag Safety / Rural Road Safety - Darryl King

Government Relations Director - Julie Brady

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**To keep up to date with the happenings in Chester and
Delaware County Farm Bureau, visit our new website:**

www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com

Please send items for the newsletter to: MelHarrop4482@gmail.com