



**CHESTER/DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 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.**

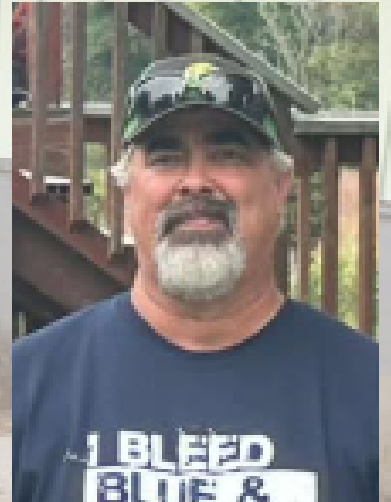
The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau newsletter is a quarterly publication, providing timely updates on agricultural developments across the counties. This publication will include news on local farming initiatives, key events, and Farm Bureau activities, offering valuable insights and resources to 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

To the members of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. The new year is off to a cold start, but warmer days will be here before we know it. Land preservation has been a big issue in our county. Although many acres of farmland have been preserved from development over the years in our county, not all of the funding sources allow agricultural uses on the land after it is preserved. It's a hard pill to swallow, seeing a farm saved from development knowing rows of corn, soybeans or wheat will not grow on those fields in the future.



After meeting with the County Commissioners earlier this year, they agreed with our concerns about land preservation funding. A letter has been sent by the Commissioners to Secretary Cindy Dunn, PA DCNR and Secretary Russell Redding, PA Department of Agriculture, which asks to explore ways to fund land preservation that allows agricultural use. Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau, multiple agriculture organizations and five Land Preservation Groups and Trusts cosigned on the letter, highlighting the importance of agriculture to our county. Chester County has formed a partnership with the Chester County Economic Development Council, forming a partnership to improve and expand AgConnect to promote our agricultural industry. AgConnect's goal is to expand markets, promote agriculture, connect producers with funding, and address labor issues. Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau was extended a seat on the advisory executive committee of AgConnect.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Bob and Ryan Rohrer of Rob-Roy Farm, named Farmer of the Year and Lisa McNamara our Duncan Allison Distinguished Service to Agriculture recipient.

Thank you for your dedication to our agricultural community.

*Howard Reyburn*

# CDCFB Committee Reports

## Women's Leadership Committee

The Women's Leadership Committee is currently working on dispersing this year's Farm-tastic book "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me" by Roxanne Troup to local libraries. We have also begun planning for the Farmer's Care 2025. This year, we'll be turning this into a friendly competition between FFA chapters to see which group can turn their allotted dollar amount into the most pounds of food. If you're interested in getting involved with the Women's Leadership Committee or any of the events mentioned above, please reach out.

Respectfully,

Anna Brown, CDCFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair  
reyburnan18@gmail.com

## Congratulations to Jane Pepple!

Jane Pepple was honored at the 2024 Chester County 4H Dairy & Goat Banquet with the President's Volunteer Service Award for completing more than 4,000 hours of service throughout her lifetime! Congratulations Jane, we are proud to have you and Bob as members.

## 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. Right now, we are forming our Legislative Committees for the next two years. If you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committees, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or [ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com)

# CDCFB Rural Road Safety

## Fire Extinguisher Insights: A Lesson Learned from a Close Call

A few evenings ago I was driving through the town of Jennersville when I came upon an abandoned car on fire in the middle of the south-bound lane. As the fire appeared to only have recently begun under the hood, I quickly pulled the fire extinguisher that I carry in my pickup truck and attempted to do what I could while calling 911. Fortunately a policeman arrived soon after and was able to help protect the scene until the EMS folks showed up. The fact that my trusty extinguisher fizzled out as quickly as all my high school romances bothered me for several days afterward.



I decided to research extinguishers in an attempt to ensure that I am better prepared for the next encounter I may find myself in. For most farms, it is wise to upgrade to a Class ABC extinguisher since that is the formula designed to handle fires with energized electrical equipment (designated by the letter C) as many of our ag-related buildings contain hefty electrical service and gadgetry that would make having the wrong formula a rather shocking experience. It is important to keep in mind that just because we mount an extinguisher on a truck or tractor, doesn't mean we are guaranteed to use it in a fire related only to that equipment. It is better to err on the safe side.

Furthermore, just like the country song by Joe Nichols, size matters. I stocked two of the 2-pound models in my pickup truck because they are handy to mount to the back rack and fit in the toolbox, but my disappointing experience mentioned earlier has led me to now pack two of the 5-pound models. A quick Google search of the [www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org) site further taught me that I need to inspect my extinguishers monthly to be sure each one is accessible in its designated place, and fully charged according to the gauge.

I have also found solace in writing the purchase date/installation date on each extinguisher as well. The NFPA recommends replacing disposable extinguishers every 12 years, and rechargeable ones every 6 years. Extinguishers are like an insurance policy: very necessary, but you hope to never need them.

-Darryl M. King

Manor Hill Farms, LLC



# **BRIDGING** *the* **FUTURE**

[Register Now!](#)



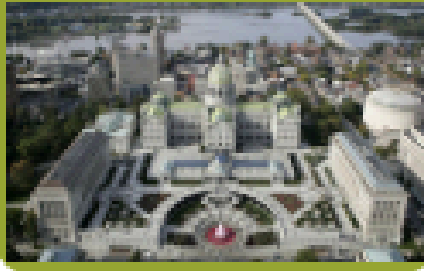
**February 21-23**  
**Harrisburg Hilton**

**LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE**

**Cost is \$100**  
**Register by Jan. 24**

**February 22 Tour Options include:**

Tour Option 1  
Pennsylvania  
State Capitol



OR

Tour Option 2  
Masonic Village  
and Farm Market



OR

Tour Option 3  
Hook & Flask  
Distillery



**Featuring Keynote Speaker: Meagan Johnson**

Meagan Johnson is a nationally recognized multi-generational expert and generational studies enthusiast. Since 1997, she has researched, written and spoken about the multiple generations. Her focus is on how to build a culture of multi-generational collaboration... not alienation. Meagan explores what drives a generation to succeed. Register today to hear Meagan and attend workshops that will improve your advocacy and leadership skills.



**Sponsored By:**  
**Young Ag Professionals and  
Promotion & Education Committee**

# Meet Our New Board Members

**Mindy Beam** was raised in Elverson, PA, on her family's diverse agricultural operation, which includes hogs, cattle, and crops. From a young age she actively participated in 4-H showcasing cattle, sheep, and hogs in Chester County. In 2021, Mindy graduated from Penn State with a degree in Animal Science and minors in AgBusiness and International Agriculture. Following graduation, she moved to Ohio to work as a Business Analyst and Administrator for United Producers Inc., a livestock brokerage company. While in Ohio, she engaged with the local farm bureau and worked on a hog farm during her free time. Recently, Mindy returned to her family's farm and now works as a Sales Representative for Animal Health Vision covering Eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland. Despite her professional commitments, she remains involved in her family's farm and dedicates time to serving her church community.

**David Lytle** is the third generation to operate the family farm that David's grandfather established in New London Township, Chester County. While David's farming activities began about 50 years ago in 4-H – where he started the purebred Hampshire flock he has today – the family has recently focused on their growing agritourism business, Lytle's Corn Maze, Pumpkin Patch, and Farm. The fourth generation Lytles are an integral part of the business offering creative direction and social media efforts. David and his family have recently renovated and established an Airbnb in their 18th century farmhouse. With his B.S. in Agriculture Business Management from the University of Delaware, David built a 40-year career in agriculture business. He retired in 2022 from a position at Arm & Hammer Animal Nutrition, where he managed a \$40MM business supporting agriculture from Florida to Michigan. David's board experiences include three terms on the National Hampshire Sheep Association where he served as vice president and president.

**Chris MacCauley** resides in Atglen, PA; he grew up on his family's sheep operation, MacCauley Suffolks. Growing up Chris was an active member in both 4H and FFA, exhibiting sheep, cattle and hogs, as well as exhibiting sheep on a national level. Chris attended Penn State majoring in Agribusiness Management with a minor in Animal sciences; while at PSU Chris was an active member of Block and Bridle as well as the Livestock Judging team. Chris continues to be involved with the United Suffolk Sheep Association and is a board member of the Chester County 4H Center Board of Directors. Chris and his wife Justene operate a small flock of Suffolk sheep and have recently started breeding Quarter Horses.

# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.nationwide.com/ATVsafety)



Scan code to get safety tips for your young riders.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle and Let's champion rider safety are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau, FB and the FB National logo are trademarks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used with permission under license by Nationwide. © 2024 Nationwide FBO-0221PA-2 (10/24)

**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau**

## Member Benefits

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit [www.pfb.com/services](https://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](https://www.pfbmembers.org).

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



### Home and Auto

[www.pfb.com/lead](https://www.pfb.com/lead) to download certificate. Must be a member for 30+ days; rebate not always available; some exclusions may apply.

**Ford**  
\$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/lead](https://www.pfb.com/lead) or [www.pfb.com/lead](https://www.pfb.com/lead) or [www.pfb.com/lead](https://www.pfb.com/lead)



Code: 1580181 PHL  
[www.staples.com](https://www.staples.com)  
Online purchase.



Code: PAFB  
855.763.8213  
[www.affinitycellular.com/](https://www.affinitycellular.com/)  
pafb

### Farm and Business



Account: 85.5488417  
[www.grainger.com/](https://www.grainger.com/)  
farmbureau



Renewals code: PAFB  
New member code: PAFB39  
[www.lancasterfarming.com](https://www.lancasterfarming.com)  
Renewals 10% off



1.800.8-SADDLE  
Membership number required  
10% off



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to download certificate



[www.pfb.com/catt](https://www.pfb.com/catt)  
to download certificate  
30-day waiting period



[www.johndeere.com/farm-bureau](https://www.johndeere.com/farm-bureau)  
Platinum Membership with John Deere Rewards Program  
30-day waiting period



855.626.4088  
[www.pfb.com/shipler-energy](https://www.pfb.com/shipler-energy)  
Membership number required

### PFB Member Service

**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Health Services**  
800.522.2375  
[www.pfb.com/healthservices](https://www.pfb.com/healthservices)

### Financial and Insurance

**FARM BUREAU BANK** [www.farmbureaubank.com](https://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](https://www.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/for-locals](https://www.pfb.com/for-locals). Local discounts not offered in all counties.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Deals Plus



### Health and Wellness



Code: Group 946  
[www.scriptsave.com](https://www.scriptsave.com)



800.974.7036  
[www.mypfbpharmacy.com](https://www.mypfbpharmacy.com)  
Pennsylvania

### 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.

A total \$400,000 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

**\$300,000 DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### 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](mailto:dmiloser@chesco.org)

### 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

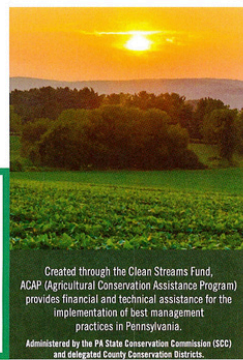
### SCAN QR CODE FOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES



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

### 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



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](https://www.pfb.com)

## 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS



The Chester / Delaware County Farm Bureau is proud to announce that our 2025 Scholarship Application is open. The **deadline is March 15, 2025** for all applications and documents. See application for complete details and instructions.

- The applicant must be a High School Senior whose parent(s) or guardian(s) reside in Chester County, Delaware County, or Philadelphia County.
- The applicant must plan to major in the field of agriculture, or an agriculture-related field, at a two-year or four-year college or university on a full-time basis.

Applications can be found on our website,  
[www.chesterdelawarecountyfarmbureau.org](http://www.chesterdelawarecountyfarmbureau.org)

## 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

## 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](http://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.



### Meet the CDCFB Business Manager!

Raquel Holcomb stepped into the role of Business Manager for CDCFB this past fall. A Chester County native, Raquel graduated from Oxford Area High School and studied Nutritional Sciences at Penn State.

Her connection to farming comes from summers spent at her grandparents hay and straw farm in Middletown, DE. Her parents, Ed and Kim Squires, have been members of CDCFB as friends of agriculture because of their family business, E.Squires Paving, doing work for farmers. One fall day in 2020, while working with her father, Raquel met Janet Robinson and a farm bureau seed was planted!

Raquel believes for many consumers, there is a disconnect between how food gets from the market to the plate and is hoping her work as Business Manager can assist farmers as they work to educate the public about agriculture. Raquel resides in Landenberg with her husband, Ben, their two children: Arthur (5), Violet (2), and mini labradoodle Pepper. Raquel can be reached at [cdcfbmanager@gmail.com](mailto:cdcfbmanager@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Event!



The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau  
YAP (Young Ag Professional) Committee  
invites you to:

Victory Brewing in Parkesburg  
3127 Lower Valley Road  
Parkesburg, PA 19365  
February 20th, 2025  
5:30pm-8:30pm

Featured Speakers:  
Stellar Advisory on Succession Planning  
Hostetter Grain on Grain Prices

*Appetizers will be served and a cash bar available  
Speaker starts at 6:45pm!*

RSVP by 2/9/25 to [CDCFBmanager@gmail.com](mailto:CDCFBmanager@gmail.com)

## All ages welcome!



## **CDCFB Board of Directors**

**Howard Reyburn, President**

**Andy Engle, 1st VP**

**Julie Brady, 2nd VP/Treas**

**Sam Davis, Sec.**

**Mindy Beam**

**Dennis Byrne**

**Deborah Ellis**

**Harold Hallman**

**Paul Harrop**

**Melissa Harrop**

**David Lytle**

**Chris MacCauley**

**Daniel Miller**

## **CDCFB Committee Chairs:**

**County Membership Chair - Harold Hallman**

**Women's Leadership - Anna Brown**

**PLDAC - Doug Fearn**

**Young Ag Professionals District 3 Rep and**

**County - Paul Harrop**

**Promotion & Education District 3 Rep and**

**County - Melissa Harrop**

**Ag Safety / Rural Road Safety - Darryl King**

**Government Relations Director - Julie Brady**

**Ag Lab / Ag in the Classroom - Deb Ellis**

**Visit Us at our website: <https://chesterdelawarecountyfarmbureau.org/>**

**Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau>**

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

**[www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com](http://www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com)**

**Please send items for the newsletter to: [MelHarrop4482@gmail.com](mailto:MelHarrop4482@gmail.com)**