



**Fayette County
Farm Bureau**

Newsletter

Our Mission: To Promote
and Support Agriculture

Growing Communities

Many Voices

United Vision



Spring/Summer Issue 2022

Greetings Fellow Fayette Farm Bureau Members,

As many of us worked through the accolades of winter, fighting against frozen ground and water while managing animals and birthing through the harshest parts of the season, I am again invigorated by spring. Periods of warmth before the next storm arrives recharges the soul for the coming growing season.



I look forward to working the land with my family while simultaneously working together, as a united group, with our Fayette Farm Bureau family to continue positive growth in local Agriculture developing new ways to support local farmers and the industry we love.

We must all work together to grow and support this organization. One that has done so much to help farmers over the years, remembering: "We are strong because we are united in our voices and actions."

I look forward to working and talking with you in the future.

Darrell Becker

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Fayette Farm Bureau Spring Meeting

Sunday, June 12, 2022 – 12:00–2:00 pm

Washington Run Park and Pavilion, 515 Independence St Exit, Perryopolis, PA 15473

Enjoy Great Fellowship and food while learning about Farm Bureau activities and directions.

This year's catered meal:

Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Macaroni and Cheese, Coleslaw, Sheet Cake, and Drinks.

RSVP Darrell by call or text (724) 984-2882 by June 5

Fayette Farm Bureau Board of Directors

2021-22 Fayette Farm Bureau Board Members

For questions or information about Farm Bureau activities, offerings, or directions contact a board members.

Darrell Becker, President – M (724) 984-2882; H (724) 785-9434; beckerdl1950@gmail.com

Joe Kosanko, Vice President – M (724) 986-2179, H (724) 326-4516, joeakosanko2179@gmail.com

Linda Cottom, Secretary/Treasurer – M (724) 529-7626; lrcottom@hotmail.com

Joe Ambrose, Government Relations Chair – M (724) 323-4948; jambrose@fccaa.org

Dawn Dutchko, Women's Comm Chair – M (814) 688-0715, H (724) 326-4516; lpnlusappys@yahoo.com

Angela Snyder, YAP Chair – M (724) 963-8334; amb6334@gmail.com

Todd Miner – M (724) 812-6115, ctsupervisortwm@gmail.com

Paul Haines – W (724) 329- 3400, M (724) 366-0612, hainesfarming@gmail.com

Lorraine Clawson – M (724) 912-1533, redrangefarm@yahoo.com

Lance Medich, PA Farm Bureau Reg 5 Organizational Director – M (412) 897-6991, lamedich@pfb.com

Agri-stress Helpline – available 24/7 for those in need (833) 897-2474

PA State News

Mark Critz, PA Dept of Ag Western Regional Director says:

"Agriculture Feeds Pennsylvania; the PA Farm Bill Feeds Your Bottom Line."

Pennsylvania Agriculture feeds \$132.5 billion into our economy annually and supports more than 593,000 jobs statewide. Since 2019, Pennsylvania has invested more than \$50 million to support and sustain the industry's growth through the [PA Farm Bill](#) the first and only one of its kind in the nation. Governor Wolf's proposed 2022-23 budget invests an additional \$13.6 million in PA Farm Bill loans, programs and initiatives, recognizing Agriculture a key economic driver and funding the [Ag Business Development Center](#) for farm transition planning, marketing, and diversification.

Check out the new online map of [PA Farm Bill Grants](#) to see how PA Farm Bill investments are feeding Agriculture's future in Southwest PA. Follow the department on Facebook or Twitter or Sign up for our weekly [PDA Roundup Newsletter](#) for funding and other support to grow your agricultural business' bottom line.

Highlights and Happenings

Fayette FB Board/Membership Meetings

1st Wednesday Monthly (unless rescheduled)

Held at the Fayette Fair Office, Upper Floor, 7 pm. All members and prospective members are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to invite prospective members to the June Picnic or monthly meetings.

Fall/Winter Meetings Held:

November 3, December 1, January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5.

Upcoming meetings:

June – Sunday, June 12 – Annual Spring/Summer Picnic Meeting – in place of monthly regular meeting (RM) – at Washington Park. See front page for details.

July – Wednesday, July 6 – RM

August – Cancelled because of Fair Week; Board may decide to have a booth at the Fair; details will be shared at a later date.

September – Wednesday, September 7 – RM

October – Wednesday, October 5 – RM

November – Wednesday, November 2 – RM

Farm Bureau Cookbooks For Sale

Cookbook is a collection of recipes from Pennsylvania Young Ag Professionals. The book is a 1st Version printed in 2021.

Cost: \$10.00

Contact any Farm Bureau Board Member to purchase and obtain a copy. Books will be on-hand at the June FB Picnic.



2021 Ag Round Table – April 8, 2022

The 5th Fayette County Agricultural Round Table, a coordination of the Fayette County Commissioners; in conjunction with the Fayette County Farm Bureau, was held April 8. The Ag Round Table was formed to address agricultural current topics to help farmers and agri-businesses succeed. Topics of recent discussion have been:

- Grant writing assistance for farmers
- SW PA portable meat processing facility available for farms
- Butcher school
- Farm succession planning

If you would like to be part of future roundtable discussions, contact Darrell Becker about upcoming meetings.



Twine & Net/Silage Wrap Sale

With supply chain uncertainties and constant unforeseen price increases, this years' Fayette County Farm Bureau sale, in its second year, helped members realize significant price savings over retail. The county FB will work to continue to provide this valuable service to members.

Highlights and Happenings continued



Fayette County YAP Group (Young Ag Professionals) Holds 1st Gathering

After officially organizing as a group within the Fayette County Farm Bureau last fall, the Fayette FB YAP held its 1st official gathering at the Orr Farms *Harmony Acres* April 23. Hosts Jeff and Jen Orr provided a tour of the farm, the milk bottling facility and the store.

Attendees pictured from L to R: Cody Gillock, Courtney Leighty, Angela and Henry Snyder, Emily Kurilla, Shaun

Hilverding, Kayla Spina, Lance Medich (ROD Region 5 PA Farm Bureau) and, Jeff, Jennifer, Beckett, and Rozlynn Orr.

The focus of YAP is to bring young farm members (ages 18–35) together for events where members can get-to-know others their age while gaining exposure and education in different areas of Agriculture. The YAP committee plans to provide more opportunities like this in the future and may partner with other counties. If you are a county member of YAP age and would like to host an event or have suggestions for the YAP committee, please contact YAP Chair, Angela Snyder.

Ag Land Preservation Farms Identified

The counties *Ag Land Preservation Board* has worked, over a span of more than a decade to preserve 24 farms in Fayette.

To publicly identify preserved farms, the board worked with the *Fayette Chamber of Commerce* to



develop, produce, and supply signage to all preserved farms. An unveiling of the first sign was held at the Quebec Run farm of Dan and Cindy Komarinski on April 28. The family shared information about their operation along with the benefits realized through farm preservation, a PA Department of Ag offering. Pictured L to R: County Commissioner Scott Dunn, Commissioner Vince Vicities Chief of Staff Mary Over, State Representative Valerie Gaydos, PA Farm Bureau ROD Lance Medich, Chairman of the State Ag Preservation Board Doug Wolfgang, Ag Land Pres Board Members Justin Koffman, Ed Rinkhoff, Colby Brooks, Joe Kosanko, Darrell Becker, and Ben Eicher, Farm Owner Dan Komarinski, Ag Pres Land Farm Bureau Member Frank Mutnansky, Komarinski Family Member Kristen Brooks, Ag Land Pres Board Member Todd Miner, Farm Owner Cindy Komarinski, Commissioner Dave Lohr, and State Representative Matthew Dowling.

Highlights and Happenings continued



Annual Legislative Tour at State Capital Unites Five County Farm Bureaus with Nine State Legislatures

March 30th was the date of the Annual Legislative Tour in Harrisburg where, this year, Farm Bureau members from Fayette, Greene, Washington, Somerset, and Westmoreland counties together met with seven state legislatures and two state senators. The group spoke with the law makers about important issues affecting agriculture and directions they would like to see the state take to help farmers succeed. Our local county legislatures in attendance included Senator Pat Stefano as well as State Representatives Bud Cook, Ryan Warner, Matt Dowling, and Nate Regotti representing Pam Snyder.

FB MEMBER ON & OFF ROAD FUEL DISCOUNT

Ryan Oil, PO Box 121, Oliver, PA is offering a .10/gallon discount on fuel in our delivery area to members; delivered or picked up at office. Credit Card payment incurs a 3% additional charge. Call (724) 439-8668 to order.

Fayette FB Shirt Sales

Farm Bureau **T-shirts** for sale to members and the public for \$12.00. Youth, Adult, Big & Tall sizes available. Call or text 724-984-2882 to order.

Farm Bureau **Button-down shirts** for sale to members with embroidered first name for \$34.00. Shirts can be ordered online individually at <https://ecgraphixdesign.com/fayettefarmbureau/shop/home> or call or text the number above.

NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Business Booklet & Buy Local Directory

Our county is working to publish our first member *Business Directory* and quick reference *Buy Local Guide*. Members can receive one free business card size space in the book and one free line in the directory. Members will only be included if they confirm interest.

Email a camera-ready business card to beckerdl1950@gmail.com or send a card by mail to the address on the front. Larger Ad spaces are available; contact for prices.

Member Spotlights

Reskovac Farms



Started solely by a young owner/operator Mike Reskovac in 2005, **Reskovac Farms** in Uniontown, concentrates on crop production; primarily corn and soybeans. In 2012, when Mike wed Sheilah Hoover, it evolved into a family-run operation. Over the years, both the farming business and the family has grown. With two young boys, Cole 6 and Caleb

4, along with 950 acres of corn and beans; sunflower fields that offer pick-your-own flowers and a venue for some amazing pictures; and, sales of sweet corn, pumpkin, straw, and corn stalks, the family is busy making Agriculture SHINE!

Find more information about the farm on Facebook at: Reskovac Farms.



Steve Stanish



Raised on a farm in North Union Township, Steve Stanish has been involved in Agriculture his entire life. His big interest for those 60 years has been poultry. Steve is the President of the Uniontown Poultry Association; he raises exhibition poultry and turkeys and shows them at poultry shows and fairs over many states; he serves as a poultry judge; and, along with other

poultry association members, he gives small-flock seminars for people who want to raise poultry in urban areas where allowed by local ordinances. Steve is a retired West Penn Power Linesman. In retirement, he continues to advocate for the poultry industry. Steve would like to see more local towns and townships allow residents the opportunity to raise poultry in clean and safe environments. As a new Farm Bureau member, Steve noted, "I have seen many changes in Agriculture in our area over the years and see the need for representation for farmers, both large and small, that the Farm Bureau provides." Steve's life has been spent advocating for Agriculture and we are happy to have his support and membership.

In and Around the Farm

We Producers are certainly concerned with all things “Agriculture” from preparation and growing through marketing to earn a living at our craft. All working to utilize sound economical practices while limiting expenses to boost our bottom line so that we can realize a comfortable living for our toil. Many note that producing a high-quality product is the easy part; it’s the marketing that proves difficult. The PA Department of Agriculture recently published the following article about a USDA study that says PA Producers are second in the nation at succeeding in marketing directly to the consumer. The downside to direct marketing – because there is always a downside – is time away from raising and growing.

Agriculture Secretary Announces PA Named National Leader In Direct-To-Consumer Sales - 05/13/2022

Harrisburg, PA – Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding was joined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and Penn State Extension at Strites' Orchard in Dauphin County to highlight new data recognizing Pennsylvania as a national leader in direct-to-consumer sales.

According to a survey recently released from USDA-NASS in late April, Pennsylvania farms are reported to produce and sell food locally through direct marketing. Direct-to-consumer marketing and sales strengthens local food systems and generated \$600 million in revenue in 2020. Pennsylvania ranks second in the nation, only behind California, in direct-to-consumer sales.

People have become intimately more aware of where their food comes from," said Redding. "Direct-to-consumer sales foster a connection both to food and the farmers who grow it, creating meaningful relationships and experiences that will advance Pennsylvania agriculture for generations to come."

Many on-farm markets and farmers market vendors are members of the [PA Preferred](#)® program or carry PA Preferred products. PA Preferred is the statewide branding program for agricultural products grown, produced, and processed in Pennsylvania. When purchasing items with the PA Preferred checkmark, consumers are supporting locally grown and processed Pennsylvania agricultural products and directly supporting Pennsylvania farmers. The PA Preferred program includes 745 members across of the commonwealth.

To find an on-farm market or farmers market near you, visit Penn State Extension's Farmers Market Finder at extension.psu.edu/farm-market-finder. For more information about PA Preferred, including how to become a member, visit agriculture.pa.gov.

Keep Up the Faith – Do What You Love – Make it Work

Fayette Farm Bureau Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 12	Annual Spring/Summer Picnic Meeting Noon – 2 pm	Washington Run Park Perryopolis
July 28–August 6	Fayette County Fair	Pechin Road Dunbar
September 9	Fayette FB Legislative Farm Tour 11 am – 2 pm	Christian Klay Winery Chalk Hill
September 18	Farm-to-Table Dinner Time TBD	10 Valley Farms Connellsville

This newsletter is available in color in digital form by email and the PA Farm Bureau Website.

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