

Our Mission: To Promote and Support Agriculture

Greetings Fellow Fayette Farm Bureau Members,



As the year comes to a close, I reflect on a year of successes while humbly remembering substantial losses of individual members. As life moves forward, the Farm Bureau continues to advocate for sustaining and growing our agricultural livelihood and supporting our local communities, farmers, and Agricultural business partners.

In spite of the pandemic limitations, 2021 saw successful gatherings through modern and creative avenues. For part of the year, Farm Bureau brought members together through virtual meetings. With the passage of time, and a "new" normal with masks and social distancing, live spring and fall meetings returned.

Although we kept some initiatives going, we found ways to continue to grow. In spring, we embarked on our first twine and net/silage wrap sale at rates well-below retail prices. The sale was a great benefit at a time when supply-chain shortages forced price increases that continue today. As a yearly school outreach, the county women's committee provided children's books to local schools. In addition, western PA counties women's committees collaborated on a day of education held in our county in the fall. Our county bureau ramped up fundraising efforts, holding two ticket fundraisers from the PA lottery drawing for a freezer and meat provided by two local member-butchers and are offering a cash drawing for Christmas. We are exploring interest in a county *Business Directory* and *Buy Local Guide* to further help meet our mission. This fall, our county held an extremely informative legislative update meeting at a local butcher shop. Attendees heard first-hand the limitations of owning and running a successful small business in the midst of today's challenging economy. A fall *Farm to Table Dinner* in September - our first offered solely by our county farm bureau – proved a great success. The food (herbs, produce, cheese, milk, meats, desserts, and wine) was all sourced from members.

And through this trying year (fiscal year July 1 - June 30), we kept our membership numbers over 300, and saw the start of a Young Ag Professionals (YAP) program in county.

As I look back on 2021 and forward to 2022, I see continued growth in membership, member benefits, and outreach to local communities and schools. I encourage any member interested in helping with any of the programs and initiatives listed here, and in the newsletter, to get involved. We are stronger in numbers.

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

Darrell Becker

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Members Featured in the Media

Ohio Farm and Dairy

Larry Daugherty, local farmer and veteran, was featured in the Farm and Dairy September 2, 2021 issue. Larry along with other farmers ask: "Where did everyone go?". When the 2020 pandemic hit, customers began to seek local farmers for produce and meat. Farmers responded by ramping up their production. Now customers are back to supermarket shopping leaving farmers with a surplus of inventory. Check out the full article at farmanddairy.com.



Herald Standard Newspaper

The Baker family, owners of *Maple Bottom Farm*, were recognized in the *Herald Standard* October 3, 2021 for receiving the 2021 *Trailblazer Award*. The award was given by the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau.

Know of a member featured in the media? Share their story so we can add it here.

Spring and Fall County Meetings

The Fayette Farm Bureau's Spring Annual Meeting was held as a picnic at the Brownfield Community Center. The group heard updates about county and state farm bureau as well as updates from local legislatures.

Keynote speaker Mark Critz, Department of Agriculture, presented remarks at the Fayette County Farm Bureau's Fall Annual Dinner held October 6th at the Perry Township Fire Hall.



Erin Hart, spokesperson for Farm to Table and Farmers Markets in Western Pennsylvania shared Information with members.

Annual Legislative Tour



The annual legislative tour was held at Haines Farming and Meat Processing in September. Senator Stefano; along with

Representatives Snyder, Cook, Warner, and Dowling and Commissioners Vicities and Dunn were all in attendance. After a tour of the facility, Paul Haines shared his history and journey to where he is today, along with the successes and challenges of his business.



Farm Bureau Farm to Table Dinner Held

Fayette Farm Bureau held a *Farm to Table Dinner* at Brownfield Community Center September 19. It was our first held solely by our organization. Fifty attendees enjoyed a great meal prepared by the Chef at Republic Food Enterprise. All dishes, desserts, and drinks served were procured from county Farm Bureau members including: Chapel Hill Wines, Footprint Farm, Fruit Hill Farms, Goodie Girls, Grimm's Farm, Haines Farming & Meat Processing, Harmony Acres, His and Hers Market Garden, Jackson Farm, Katie's Cookie Jar, Maple Bottom Farm, and Red Range Farm. We hope to continue this as an annual event.

In & Around the Farm



What is Regeneration? Submitted by Sue Harper

According to google, by definition.

Regenerative agriculture is a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems. It focuses on topsoil regeneration, increasing biodiversity, improving the water cycle, enhancing ecosystem services, supporting bio-sequestration, increasing resilience to climate change, and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil. (Wikipedia).

Typically soil regeneration happens all around us in the non-farmed outskirts of our rural properties. We see the results every year in our woods and fields as nature produces her own compostable dead plant matter and wild animals and birds minimally disturb and fertilize and plant every year.

Regenerative Agriculture is simply mimicking the natural model of soil enhancement by farmers by intentionally using animals, inputs or devices to generate the components needed in nature for a healthy living soil to flourish and regenerate. Healthy soil has a vibrant ecosystem all its own. Dirt can exist without any living attributes. Healthy Soil should have millions of flourishing living organisms existing within every square foot of it. Many of the smallest soil dwelling organisms facilitate nutrition uptake for plant root systems. Of course, earthworms and centipede and other insects aerate and fertilize the soil as they forage for their food and incorporate dead plant matter into the soil as well.

Using farm animals to mob graze in an intentional fashion accomplishes intensive pruning, mild surface disturbance, fertilization and reseeding. This is becoming valued as the superior resource for soil regeneration and health and there are fantastic advantages for the grasses and legume plants. When intensive grazing is followed by a period of rest and regrowth, soil organisms are fed, plants flourish and the cycle just repeats over and over in a holistically harmonious fashion.

Using inputs may include making and adding compost, applying raw compostable materials by mowing or feeding hay in poor soil areas, or over seeding to encourage a biodiversity above and below the surface.

Those of us who have implemented one or more of these Regenerative Ag methods are excited with how quickly depleted soils rebound. We are excited to think that farming can be more profitable financially and environmentally with less expensive and environmentally harmful inputs and by nurturing and using nature itself to create a more sustainable farming model. We are excited to see the general health and reproductive health in our animals thrive. We have fewer losses overall than ever before. We are excited that the quality and nutritional value of our farm products are superior as well.

It is my hope that Fayette County could become one of the leading areas in Pennsylvania to step into educating and "growing farmers" who understand and embrace regenerative Agriculture methods to bring our land, resources and talents into a more valued and viable era of quality food production. We need to encourage our younger generations to contribute to and benefit from our local food resources. It's such a wholesome and rewarding enterprise.

There is a need for farmer and land owner field days and in-person speakers, for adults and the young, who can share their experiences and knowledge. As learning how to keep our land healthy and growing is essential to our livelihoods.

~



Educational Outreach

Each year the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture publishes a children's book. Fayette County Farm Bureau purchases books and donates them to local elementary schools. Readers are needed to read this year's book, as well as share their own farming story. If interested, contact an elementary school near you.



FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Initiated by the Fayette County Commissioners in 1996

Supporting Agriculture - Fayette County's Leading Industry

Preserving Farmland in Perpetuity

Pennsylvania's Farmland Preservation Program was established in response to the sharp drop in our state's farm acreage from 9 million acres in 1980 to 8.1 million in 1990. Annually, approximately 80,000 acres of farmland is taken out of production in Pennsylvania. The program was approved in 1988 under an amendment to the Agricultural Area Security Law, (Act 43 of 1981), and the first easement was purchased in December of 1989. As of March 1, 2000, 1,225 farms were approved for easement purchase totaling 152,205 acres in Pennsylvania. Right now, November 2021, there are a total of 4,229 farms preserved with 457,537 acres preserved through the program. In Fayette County, there are 24 preserved farms totaling 2,784 acres preserved through the program.

In Fayette County, a nine-member board assists in preserving the natural resources of viable agricultural lands for the present generations and those yet to come. These soils and their stewards are a valuable wealth generator, a tourism enhancement, and perhaps more importantly - a vital environmental enhancement to air and water quality for all citizens. The program enables state and county governments to purchase easements (sometimes called development rights) from owners of quality farmland.

Preserving Farmland Makes Sense

It is a wise investment for Fayette's future food production and open space.

Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible to sell agricultural conservation easements the farmland must be in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA). ASA's are a tool for strengthening and protecting our quality farmland from the urbanization of our rural areas.

Key Features of the Program:

*A petition is submitted to the local governing body (township supervisors) by farmers to create an ASA. (Once established, these security areas are re-evaluated every seven years; however, new parcels of farmland may be added at any time.

*A minimum of 250 acres among all farmers is required.

*An ASA may include non-adjacent farmland parcels of at least 10 acres or able to produce \$2,000 annually from the sale of agricultural products.

Participants Receive Special Consideration Regarding:

*Local ordinances affecting farming activities and nuisance complaints.

*Review of farmland condemnation by state and local government.

*Review of state funded development projects.

Other Important Factors:

Quality Of Farmland

At least half the tract must be either harvested cropland, pasture or grazing land, and it must contain 50% of soils in SCS capability classes I-IV.

Stewardship

Applicants must demonstrate they have used conservation practices and best management practices for nutrient management and control soil erosion and sedimentation.

Likelihood Of Conversion

Easements offered for sale to counties are scored and ranked for possible acquisition on a variety of factors such as: land class and quality, proximity of farm to water and sewer lines, extent and type of non-farm development nearby, and amount and type of agricultural use in the vicinity.

If Interested in Preserving Your Farm, Follow This Checklist for Eligibility:

- ✓ Must provide an accurate survey of your farm.
- ✓ Must be in an Agricultural Security Area (ASA).
- ✓ All persons whose names appear on Deed must sign application.
- ✓ Update conservation plan (can't be more than 10 years old).
- ✓ Provide a current copy of the Deed.
- ✓ Prepare soil map & soil report in coordination with Conservation District & NRCS.
- ✓ Total acreage of farm and total acreage of farm for preservation must be specified.
- ✓ Mineral rights must be owned by you.
- ✓ If there is a mortgage on the farm your financial institution must be willing to subordinate.
- ✓ Provide Recorder of Deeds Book & Page number of the ASA recording.
- ✓ Must inform county board if the farm has been surfaced mined for coal.

County Commissioners:

Dave Lohr - Chairman; Vincent A. Vicites - 1st V. Chair; and, Scott Dunn - 2nd V. Chair

Farmland Preservation Board Members:

Darrell Becker - Chairman; Colby Brooks - V. Chair; Tim Mills - Secretary/Treasurer; Ed Rinkhoff, Todd Miner; Ben Eicher; Frank Mutnansky; Joseph Kosanko; and Rick Adabato

If Would Like Additional Information About Preserving Your Farm, Contact:

Art Capella Email: acappella@fayettepa.org * Phone: 724-430-1210 * Fax: 724-430-4029

61 East Main Street, Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, PA 15401

Fayette County Farm Bureau

2022 Twine, Net Wrap, Silage Bags, and Trench/Bunker Silage Cover Sales

The Fayette County Farm Bureau of Pennsylvania is offering advance sales of baler twine, net wrap, silage bags/wrap, and trench/bunker silage covers to members at a discounted rate (below retail sales) through a pre-order, pre-pay sale. **Membership must be current to order.**

To order, complete this form, by **February 10, 2022** and send your order by email (preferred method) to beckerdl1950@gmail.com; text a picture of your order to **(724) 984-2882**; or, send by US mail to: **Darrell Becker, 295 Krepps LN, East Millsboro, PA 15433**. You will be contacted with your order total after the deadline. Contact me for more information about price updates or those not yet listed.*

***Note to members: Because of today's global supply chain problems, the discount pricing listed is not guaranteed until the order is placed with the supplier. Prices and availability will need confirmed on the deadline listed.** At that time, you will then be contacted with the current prices to confirm your continued interest in ordering and provided a total to submit payment.

Twine: Common Bale Use Codes: Small Square = ss; Round = R; Large Square = LS

Type/Size/Other: 1st number = length; 2nd number = knot/tensile strength; UG = Ultra Grip;

PS = Premium Strength; HS = High Strength; WR = Wire Replacement; T = Treated; UnT = Untreated

SB is single ball (called big ball); DB is double ball* (*Double Balls most often used for older small square balers)

Twine Type	Use	Type/Size/Color – write number ordered on line to left	Price/bale	Total
Brazilian Sisal	R	____ 16000 T ____ 16000 UnT	\$ 48.00	
Brazilian Sisal	R	____ 20,000 Binder Twine T (6 balls in one pack)	\$ 62.00	
Brazilian Sisal	ss	Lengths: ____ 7200 T ____ 9000 T ____ 10,000 T	\$ 46.00	
Poly (Plastic)	R (most used size)	____ 20,000/110 SB Orange ____ 20,000/110 SB Blue ____ 20,000/110 DB Orange ____ 20,000/110 DB Blue	\$ 26.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 10,000/190 DB Green	\$ 49.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 9600/210 DB Orange HS ____ 9600/210 DB Blue HS	\$ 49.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 9600/170 DB Orange ____ 9600/170 DB Blue	\$ 41.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 9500/170 SB Orange ____ 9500/170 SB Blue	\$ 41.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 9000/130 SB Orange ____ 9000/130 DB Orange	\$ 31.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 8500/245 SB Orange ____ 8500/245 SB Blue	\$ 48.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 7200/190 SB Orange ____ 7200/190 SB Blue	\$ 35.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 7200/170 SB Orange ____ 7200/170 DB Orange	\$ 32.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss (3 tie)	____ 6500/240 SB WR Orange. ____ 6500/240 SB WR Blue	\$ 37.00	
Poly (Plastic)	ss	____ 6500/210 SB Orange ____ 6500/210 SB Blue	\$ 34.00	
Poly (Plastic)	LS	____ 4000/550 SB UG Tan – PS ____ 4000/550 SB UG Blue - PS	\$ 47.00	
Poly (Plastic)	LS	____ 4000/450 SB	\$ 39.00	
Poly (Plastic)	LS	____ 4000/350 SB	\$ 34.00	
Poly (Plastic)	LS	____ 3750/600 X-treme SB high density Maxxcord - Pink	\$ 49.00	
		Total for Twine		

Purchasers Information: Add name and address or make corrections to the label area on the back page.

Provide Best Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Net Wrap: All brands, below are produced by Cordex. Netexx has consistent strength and quality through the entire roll; Xtreme is a premium wrap with added strength through double knit added in the middle of the roll; Maxxnet is the highest level of premium wrap available with added strength across the entire roll. Other sizes not listed are available. Must call for prices. Most special sizes will require a full pallet order of 16 rolls.

Size	Netexx			Xtreme			Maxxnet		
	Price/Roll	# Rolls	Total	Price/Roll	# Rolls	Total	Price/Roll	# Rolls	Total
48 x 6200	\$ 138.00			n/a			n/a		
48 x 9840	\$ 208.00			\$ 217.00			\$ 221.00		
48 x 11800	\$ 245.00			\$ 255.00			n/a		
48 x 12500	n/a			n/a			\$ 273.00		
51 x 9840	\$ 220.00			\$ 231.00			\$ 235.00		
51 x 11800	\$ 259.00			\$ 272.00			n/a		
51 x 12500	n/a			n/a			\$ 290.00		
64 x 7000	\$ 196.00			\$ 211.00			\$ 215.00		
67 x 7000	\$ 204.00			\$ 221.00			\$ 224.00		
Totals									
Grand Total for Net Wrap								\$	

48 x 9840 Xtreme is heavy duty for fodder; 51 x 9840 Netexx is "Over the Edge;" 51 x 9840 Xtreme is heavy duty for wet hay; 64 x 7000 Xtreme and 67 x 7000 are heavy duty for wet hay.

Silage/Stretch Wrap:

Size	Brand	Description	rolls	Price/roll	Total
20"	Sunfilm	1 ply – white – plastic core – economical mono layer wrap		\$ 99.00	
20"	Sunfilm	1 ply – black - for dry hay- must order full pallet		\$ 98.00	
20"	Silacord	5 ply (1 mil) – white – plastic core – premium multi-layer		\$ 90.00	
30"	Sunfilm	1 ply – white - plastic		\$ 112.00	
30"	Sunfilm	1 ply – black – for dry hay		\$ 112.00	
30"	Silacord	5 ply (1 mil) – white – plastic core – premium multi-layer		\$ 108.00	
30"	Silacord	5 ply - Black		\$ 109.00	
30"	Sunfilm	Gold – 6 ply (1 mil/1500 meters long)		\$ 118.00	
30"	Sunfilm	Gold Max – 6 ply (1.5 mil/1000 meters long)		\$ 118.00	
Total for Silage/Stretch Wrap					

Purchase Total	
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Other Available Products – Must call for prices. Codes: SW = Standard Width; SL = Standard Length

Bunker Covers (Black and White): Available in 5 mil (economical; sacrifices durability) and 6 mil thicknesses. In SW of: 24', 32', 40', 50', 60' and 65' and SL of 100', 150', 200', 500', and 1150. Custom sizes and braided plastic covers also available.

Oxygen Barriers: Reduces feed spoilage and saves \$\$'s. In SW of 40', 50', 60', and 65' and SL of 200', 500', and 1150'.

Hytidouble (2in1): A combined bunker cover and oxygen barrier. In SW of 40', 50', and 60' and SL of 200', and 500'.

Silage and Grain Bags: In 6.5', 8', 9', 10', 11', 12', and 14' bags in varying lengths from 100' to 500'. Call for information.

Repair Tape: ___ 3" case of 16 or ___ 3" individual roll. **End Caps:** ___ 93" – 20/box or ___ 110" 20/box

Darrell Becker
295 Krepps Lane
East Millsboro, PA 15433

Name
Street Address
City, State. Zip



Fayette FB Shirt Sales

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

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>

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.

Congratulations to Al Weber on his Retirement

as western PA Farm Bureau Director

We will miss you!

Fayette County Farm Bureau
295 Krepps Lane
East Millsboro, PA 15433

