



Visit these local businesses for a Special Farm Bureau Discount!!!!

You will need to check each business individually to see how much the discount is and what it MAY or MAY NOT apply to. You will need to present a current membership card to receive the discount. We appreciate all the businesses that participate in this discount promotion, and recommend you take advantage of their willingness to make this happen. We hope to add more in the near future.

1. Barnhart's Lawn, Garden & Bicycle - Hancock, MD 301-678-6438
2. Gordon's Memorials - Don & Kathy McClure McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5952
3. Wrenched and Ready, Performance and Auto Repair - Jeremy Wible McConnellsburg, PA 717-325-0096
4. Peck's Auto Repair and Towing - Gary Peck McConnellsburg, PA 717-446-9691
5. Everett Marble and Granite Works - McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5999
6. Carquest Auto Parts, Thomas Automotive - McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-7213
7. Thomas All Things Automotive - McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-4224
8. Knobsville Florist - McConnellsburg, PA 717-987-3191
9. McLaughlin's Drug Store, Retail Pharmacy - McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-3724
10. Sam's Flooring Inc., Bill and Jess Sensinderfer - Saint Thomas, PA 717-369-4351
11. Richard Price Farm Equipment 717-987-3395
12. Buchanan Trail Sporters, McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5996

McQuait Represents County At Dairy Pageant

Ashlynn McQuait, 2023 Fulton County Dairy princess, represented the county at the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant in September. As part of the pageant, Ashlynn was judged on a speech and a skit she presented to the judges. She was also tested on her knowledge about dairy.

There were approximately 30 dairy princesses from around the state, who participated in the pageant. Alexis Butler of Schuylkill County was selected to serve as the state dairy princess. Meanwhile, Emily Wright of Crawford County and Mackenzie Thomas from Lebanon County were chosen as first and second alternates, respectively.

Congratulations to the state dairy princess court and to Ashlynn for their ongoing work and support of the dairy industry!



Ashlynn is the daughter of Fulton County Farm Bureau member and Women's Leadership Committee member Amanda Shives.

The *AGRARIAN CONNECTOR*

A publication of the FULTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

December 2023

Fulton County, PA



- Cultivating New Ideas ... "District 9 Elects New State Board Director"

The 73rd Annual Farm Bureau state meeting has come and gone but has opened up new challenges and opportunities for this county president. On the evening of Monday, November 13, delegates from Franklin, Fulton, Adams and Cumberland counties formed a Caucus and elected me as the new state director to represent District 9 on the PFB board. I am not only humbled, but eager to accept this new position.

The function of the state board is to control and govern the business of the PFB and its Member Services. The board reports to the delegate body of the PFB at the annual state meeting. Directors represent all members of the state Farm Bureau. In District 9, it will be my responsibility to attend county meetings, provide support, and be your voice directly on the state board.

It is the board's responsibility to determine the goals, objectives and administrative policies of the PFB and Member Services within the framework of the articles, bylaws and policies established by the membership. The board also protects and controls the corporate assets and maintains the solvency of the PFB through fiscally sound policies.

It is certainly my honor to represent thousands of members in District 9, and it is my goal to keep the PFB moving forward in all aspects of the organization.

My personal thanks goes out to all our great membership for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Together we can!

Submitted by: President Kevin Mountz

Local Women Attend ICE Conference

Amanda Beth Shives, Fulton County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee member, and daughter, Ashlynn McQuait, 2023 Fulton County Dairy Promotion princess, traveled to Boalsburg on September 16 to attend the state **Women's Leadership Inspire, Celebrate, Educate (ICE) Summit**.

The leadership summit is a new opportunity for women within the Farm Bureau. It is the hope of event organizers to offer this event on an annual basis.

Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman opened the event with a welcoming speech. Keynote message speaker was Margee Wolff, vice president of leadership, education and engagement at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Wolff focused on inspiring others, celebrating the ag industry and educating on various topics within agriculture. Wolff's quote she began and concluded with was, "The closer to the edge—the better the view."

Workshops, round table questions and discussions and networking with women from various parts of the state were all part of the day.

Amanda said, "I felt this was an empowering day filled with women in agriculture. There were multiple take aways from this experience I can apply not only to my role in agriculture but also in other aspects of life. Being able to share the experience with my oldest daughter, who will be part of the next generation of women in agriculture meant a lot as a mother and a member of a generational farming family."

Submitted by: Amanda Shives

Locals Represent Farm Bureau At State Meeting

Nine Fulton County residents traveled to Hershey last week to take part in the 73rd annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) where farmers and friends of agriculture gathered to discuss what policies will take precedence for the organization in 2024.

A total of 153 policies and modifications to existing policies were on tap for the event that got under way November 12-15 at Hershey Lodge. Policies ranged from areas concerning education and solar/alternative energy to health and safety and hunting and fishing laws.

Among those policies was a series of amendments to an existing policy under disease control and prevention proposed by Fulton County Farm Bureau member Alonna Bradshaw of Warfordsburg.

Bradshaw proposed that health insurers be required to provide insurance coverage for "testing" as well as diagnosis and treatment of not only Lyme and other tick-borne diseases but also "co-infections" when prescribed by a physician, "even when not FDA approved." The policy change further proposed to add "Lyme Disease education" to the list of areas that should receive state funding in order to accelerate research on vaccines, treatment and eradication.

The amendments were unanimously approved without debate or discussion during the first and second reading of the policies. They will now appear in the PFB policy book for 2024.

Bradshaw, served as a voting delegate for the county, and was on the floor for her policy in the event questions arose during the delegates reading of the policies. Joining Bradshaw in Hershey as delegates were Lonnie Palmer, Debra Palmer, Kevin Mountz, Logan Fraker, Olivia Buchheit, Jim Buchheit and Chanin Rotz-Mountz.

Bradshaw was initially diagnosed with Lyme Disease in May 2019 and received treatment. However, she became very ill last year and was in turn diagnosed with a co-infection known as Babesiosis. She is currently undergoing treatment for the co-infection.

Looking back at her first trip to the state meeting and her policy revisions she said, "The policies addressed at the meeting were important to me because the Lyme community needs a voice. So many suffer from this horrible disease in silence, many times being misdiagnosed. It's time we bring attention to how this affects us not only physically but also financially as we have no support from our insurance companies during treatment."

"This is a disease just like any other and should be recognized by all insurances as such," she concluded.

The topic of Sunday hunting remained a hot topic for many on hand as did other hunting-driven policies and those on taxes, land use and motor vehicle code.

On the heels of the first reading of policies last Monday evening, three voting delegates from Fulton County gathered with

representatives from Franklin, Cumberland and Adams counties, which comprise PFB District 9. The group held a caucus to determine who from a pool of candidates would serve as the state board director representing District 9.

Kevin Mountz, Fulton County Farm Bureau president, was selected as the district's newest state board member and will replace Ricky Leese of Needmore. Mountz told the delegates and PFB officials on hand he appreciated the group's vote of confidence and vowed to keep the Farm Bureau moving forward. His term of office is set for two years.

Leese received a plaque to commemorate his six-years of service as a state board director. He noted he was tickled to have been part of a great organization like PFB and that the fellowship and friendships had been delightful.

The county was also publicly recognized during the state meeting on several occasions by PFB Chief Administrative Officer Todd Bailey for its efforts in 2023. From record attendance at their fall annual dinner, membership accomplishments at the county fair and innovative fundraising through a pie in the face contest, Fulton County was applauded by Bailey for helping keep PFB moving forward.

Russell Redding, secretary for the Department of Agriculture, served as keynote speaker for Tuesday's annual banquet that saw over 550 individuals in attendance, including many lawmakers from across the state. Redding referred to the time as between Veterans Day and Thanksgiving as a special time to give thanks to the two percent of the population who served in the military and the other two percent who feed the nation three times a day.

Redding went on to share his thanks on many subjects from ag advocates like PFB, ag workers overseeing the harvesting and running of mills, colleges such as Penn State University and Delaware Valley, key youth organizations like FFA and 4-H, farmland preservation and the PA Farm Bill and the legislators who support it.

"Nothing is more important than a simple thank you," Redding said.

Those receiving special awards to round out the banquet included Ryan and Andrea Brown of Cumberland County with the 2023 Young Ag Professionals Achievement Award; Ernie Mattiuz of Elk County with the 2023 Distinguished Service Ag Award; and former PFB President Rick Ebert received the Barn Raiser Award as well as two standing ovations for his dedication to the organization.



Scholarship Created Here For Deserving Senior

After several months of research and discussion, the Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors unveiled a "Growing Together" Scholarship as part of their November meeting for a deserving senior from Fulton County. All 2024 seniors are encouraged to apply, whether they be enrolled in a public-school setting, charter school or in a homeschool program.

Among the eligibility requirements outlined in the scholarship are being a legal resident of Fulton County and having a parent/guardian or grandparent, who is a current member of the Fulton County Farm Bureau. The applicant must also be enrolled as a part or full-time student for the coming fall semester at a community college, university or trade school.

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for 2024. However, in the event local businesses or residents would like to donate toward the annual scholarship fund, there is a possibility that monies beyond the original \$1,000 allotment could be awarded.

All applications must be received no later than April 1. A committee will be selected to review the applications, and the Board of Directors will select a recipient from the pool of applicants at their April monthly meeting. A special ceremony will be held to recognize and congratulate the lucky senior.

For more information, to make a donation toward the scholarship fund or to receive a copy of the Growing Together Scholarship, please contact Chanin Rotz-Mountz at 717-552-0071 or c_rotz@hotmail.com.

Women's Leadership Calendar Of Events

The Fulton County Women's Leadership Committee has a full line up of events planned for the coming year! If you're a female Farm Bureau member and are interested in attending or learning more, please contact Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 or via email at c_rotz@hotmail.com. Attendees are always welcome to bring a friend.

- Thursday, December 14, at 6 p.m. at the Buchanan State Forest headquarters north of McConnellsburg- Christmas party. All ladies are encouraged to wear an ugly sweater, bring a snack to share and a gift from the heart to exchange. Please no store-bought gifts! Bring something you baked, stitched, grew or created with love! There will be games as well. Following the party, the ladies will be making special deliveries containing Christmas treats to several organizations, including the Pennsylvania State Police and the local firestation.

- Thursday, February 8, at 6 p.m. at the Buchanan State Forest headquarters north of McConnellsburg- Paint Night. Tentatively the cost to participate has been set at \$10 and will help cover supplies. More details to follow.

NOW Offering Repairs & Service

on your tractors and equipment

Including:

- Clutch
- Engine
- Transmission
- Hydraulics
- Electrical
- AC Systems
- & more



Reasonable Rates!

Make an appointment today!

Pick Up and Delivery Available

(814) 652-2809



Scan to see our full inventory

www.leadersfarmequipment.com

127 Equipment Road
Everett, Pa

Find us on Facebook!



Blessing Boxes Distributed To Two Farming Families Here

The new Women's Leadership Committee conducted its first community service project here in the county, raising money for the purchase and distribution of Thanksgiving blessing boxes to two local, farming families. Two families, totaling six adults and four children from the Hustontown and Harrisonville areas, were the recipients of everything one would need for a delicious Thanksgiving meals-turkey, potatoes, stuffing cubes, various vegetables, rolls, pie, sparkling juice. Each family also received a handmade table centerpiece and the children were the recipients of gift bags containing a children's craft or activity.

Some of the items for the boxes were donated by members of the Women's Leadership Committee, while the remaining items were purchased using monies raised through the pie in the face contest at the county fair and a special raffle basket at the annual fall dinner. Those fundraisers netted a total of \$488. With the remaining funds, the Committee is tentatively planning to have a spring picnic for the general membership.

If you'd like to learn more about the Women's Leadership Committee and upcoming classes and projects, please contact Chanin Rotz-Mountz at 717-522-0071 or c_rotz@hotmail.com.