



## - Cultivating New Ideas ...

### “PFB To Replace Mobile Ag Lab”

One of the educational tools we have available to our county is the Mobile Agriculture Education and Science Lab. The lab is a 40-foot mobile classroom that travels across the state bringing an interactive experience directly to students in grades K-8. The Mobile Ag Lab is equipped with over 30 STEM-based science experiments and lessons, a certified teacher, and all the supplies needed for hands-on learning. Each science experiment is designed to emphasize a different aspect of agriculture, including commodities, the environment, biotechnology, food and fiber. Each lesson focuses on increasing student knowledge on the importance of agriculture and its impact on their daily lives.

PFB plans to retire one of the current labs and purchase a new one. The labs have been used by over 2 million students over the last 12 years. As you can imagine, these are very costly to replace. Even though a major portion is funded by grant monies, we still need to raise about \$70,000 to complete the purchase.

If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile educational tool, please contact me at 717-377-0297 or by email at [fulton\\_county\\_farm\\_bureau@yahoo.com](mailto:fulton_county_farm_bureau@yahoo.com). Thank you so much for your support!

*Submitted by: President Kevin Mountz*

## Farm Bureau Calendar of Events

**March 11 at 7 p.m.** - monthly Board of Directors meeting at DCNR building.

**March 14 at 6 p.m.** - WLC homemade bread and sourdough class with Abigail from Real As Butter Bakery and fresh butter demonstration by Evelyn Stephens at DCNR building. Get recipes, instruction and sour dough starter and butter to take home! Cost is tentatively set at \$15.

**April 8 at 7 p.m.** - monthly Board of Directors meeting at DCNR building.

**April 14 at 1 p.m.** - WLC spring membership picnic at 2800 Cito Road, Big Cove Tannery.

**May 13 at 7 p.m.** - monthly Board of Directors meeting at DCNR building.

\*DCNR building is located at 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg. For more information on or to register for WLC classes or programs, call Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071.

## Read And Win!



It pays to read the Fulton County Farm Bureau Agrarian Connector newsletter! Starting with this edition, we will randomly pick a member of our county farm bureau and hide their membership number somewhere inside the publication. Each member is given a one-time number that never changes. It is printed on your current membership card. If you read our newsletter and find your number, you have 30 days to contact me to receive a check for \$25. It's that simple, and it's just another way to benefit from being a Farm Bureau member. So happy reading and good luck! You may report your good fortune by calling me directly at 717-377-0297.

*Submitted by: Kevin Mountz*



## Donations Collected For Ronald McDonald House

A "Farmers Care" event organized by the Fulton County Farm Bureau to benefit the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Hershey got under way here in January. Through this annual event, the Farm Bureau accepted cash and gift card donations as well as pantry, household and office-related items through February 28.

Topping RMH's list of highly sought-after items were cash and gift cards to the following establishments: Sam's Club, Amazon, Staples and Walmart. Other wish list items included pantry and household items and office supplies.

There were a total of 17 drop off locations within the county designated for cash/gift card donations. In addition, Pineloft Landscape and Garden Center in Hustontown and McConnellsburg Motor and Implement also accepted any pantry, household and office donations from the RMH wish list as well as monetary donations. Items were also dropped off at the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church by making advance arrangements with the Farmers Care Project organizer Lonnie Palmer.

Donation jars were also located in McConnellsburg at MacDonald's Pharmacy, McLaughlin's Pharmacy, Buchanan Trail Sporters, Mamma's Pizza, McConnellsburg True Value, Car Quest and Wild Annie's.

Donations jars for cash, checks and gift cards were also at K's Place and Knobsville Florist in Knobsville and Keller's Country Store and Ridgeline Hardware located in Hustontown as well as Harr's Store and Eader's Butcher Shop in Big Cove Tannery. Cathy's restaurant in Crystal Spring was also accepting monetary and gift card donations.

Last year, the county Farm Bureau collected over \$6,100 in cash donations as well as supplies. This year's delivery to RMH Hershey was slated for March 5.



## Sponsorships Sought For Immersion Lab

In accordance with their mission of educating and advocating for agriculture, the Fulton County Farm Bureau is planning on securing the services of the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation immersion lab and staff for this year's county fair set for July 28 through August 3.

The "Farms to Families" mobile trailer is an educational experience for both children and those just young at heart. With lots of trivia, games and hands-on learning, the lab teaches visitors about Pennsylvania farming, soil conservation and health, food production and how to create a balanced meal utilizing foods grown right here in the commonwealth.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the lab is the virtual tractor ride that is enjoyed by both kids and adults alike. Donning a pair of virtual reality goggles, folks can enjoy firsthand driving a combine through a soybean field. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the cart operator!

Pennsylvania farms currently featured in the immersion lab include aquaponics with BrightFarms; Painterland Farms, an organic, regenerative dairy farm; Lazy Hog Farm; and mushrooms through Buono Farms.

The lab will be onsite at the fair and open eight hours daily Monday through Friday, in conjunction with arrangements and coordination through the Fulton County Fair Board.

"Attendance at the fair is 2,100 nightly. The Fulton County Farm Bureau (FCFB) has the potential to educate a sizeable number of children and adults through this event," said FCFB

Promotion Chair Chanin Mountz. "We would like to thank the fair board, especially Kirby Bishop, for their guidance in helping us plan and allowing us space on the fairgrounds to bring this educational opportunity to local residents."

In conjunction with bringing the lab to the fair, the FCFB is soliciting sponsorships from area businesses, residents, farms and organizations to help offset expenses. Event sponsorships are only \$100.

Having just kicked off its' sponsorship campaign this month, FCFB has verbal commitments thus far for sponsorships from Green Prepper Solar based out of Wells Tannery; the Fulton County Medical Center; Englert Farms in Knobsville; Pineloft Landscape and Garden Center of Hustontown; and Dana Signs and Robert Snyder Insurance Agency, both of McConnellsburg.

Signage will be placed outside the lab to thank sponsors for their generosity and commitment to agriculture, in addition to social media advertising and an article in the FCFB quarterly newsletter, "The Agrarian Connector" and future publication in the "News."

Those interested in becoming a sponsor for the 2024 fair, should contact Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 or via email at chaninmountz0071@gmail.com to obtain the necessary paperwork.

"This is yet another exciting year and project for the Fulton County Farm Bureau," concluded Mountz. "We're so grateful to have the support of the community to keep with our mission of education and advocacy!"

a belated Easter egg hunt for the kids. When you register, please let us know how many will be attending and if that includes any children so we can plan accordingly. Registration is due by Friday, April 5, to Chanin Mountz by calling/texting 717-552-0071 or via email at chaninmountz0071@gmail.com.

### WLC Delivers Christmas Cheer

The Women's Leadership Committee spread a little Christmas cheer over the holidays creating and filling treat boxes for local emergency responders and officials. From cookies and homemade popcorn to hot beverage pouches and crackers, each box and cookie tray was filled with love as a way of thanking those in the community for their dedication. Organizations receiving special treats included the emergency room staff at the Fulton County Medical Center, Pennsylvania State Police in McConnellsburg and the Husontown, McConnellsburg and Needmore Volunteer Fire companies.

## State Board Director Report

One month into the new year, the business of the PA Farm Bureau has taken center stage. On January 30, I attended a new board member orientation organized by CAO Todd Bailey at our new office in Camp Hill. There are 16 state board members who represent all the county farm bureaus. Of those 16 districts, six members are new. My district includes Adams, Cumberland, Franklin and Fulton counties. Training included our state by-laws, PFB structure and organization, member relations, employment practices, employee engagement, Friends of Agriculture Foundation, governance and fiduciary responsibilities, financial reports, and government affairs and communications division.

The following two days our first state board directors' meeting of 2024 took place. Here are just a few highlights of that meeting:

\*We reviewed the treasurer's report for the period ending December 31, 2023. You can rest assured that your state farm bureau is financially stable, and your membership funds are managed with sound fiscal practices.

\*The member relations report revealed we are about 300 new members ahead of last year statewide. However, we are currently behind in renewals. That is just a reminder that we all need to do our part and keep our membership renewals current.

\*We reviewed the 2024 priority issues that were submitted by county farm bureaus and received a report regarding the AFBF annual meeting.

\*I am pleased to inform you the PFB received the Pinnacle award for 2023. This award recognizes excellence in implementation of outstanding member programs and membership achievements.

\*Bryan Burhans, executive director of the PA Game Commission, met with us and discussed current wildlife issues across the Commonwealth. The meeting was very positive, and he remains open to hearing our statewide issues and needs in this area.

\*One outstanding note to mention is that the Farmer's Care event spearheaded by Women's Leadership in 2023 raised about \$90,000 nationwide. Of that total, PA contributed over \$44,000 and Fulton County represented over \$6,000 of that amount! That is absolutely amazing! Our thanks goes out to all that worked hard to make this happen and to everyone that contributed to this worthy cause.

I am very honored to represent you on the state board in District 9. If you ever have the need to discuss PFB issues or if I can help you in any way, please feel free to contact me. Together we can!

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District 9 state board member  
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## Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

Has your child or grandchild, who is a senior in high school, submitted their "Growing Together" Scholarship application yet? The deadline for submission is April 1.

All 2024 seniors are encouraged to apply, whether they be enrolled in a public school setting, Christian school, charter school or in a homeschool program. Eligibility requirements include applicants 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 this year. A committee will be selected to review the applications. The Board of Directors will in turn select a recipient from the pool of applicants at their monthly meeting in April. A special ceremony will be held to recognize and congratulate the lucky senior.

To receive a copy of the Growing Together Scholarship, please contact Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 or chaninmountz0071@gmail.com.