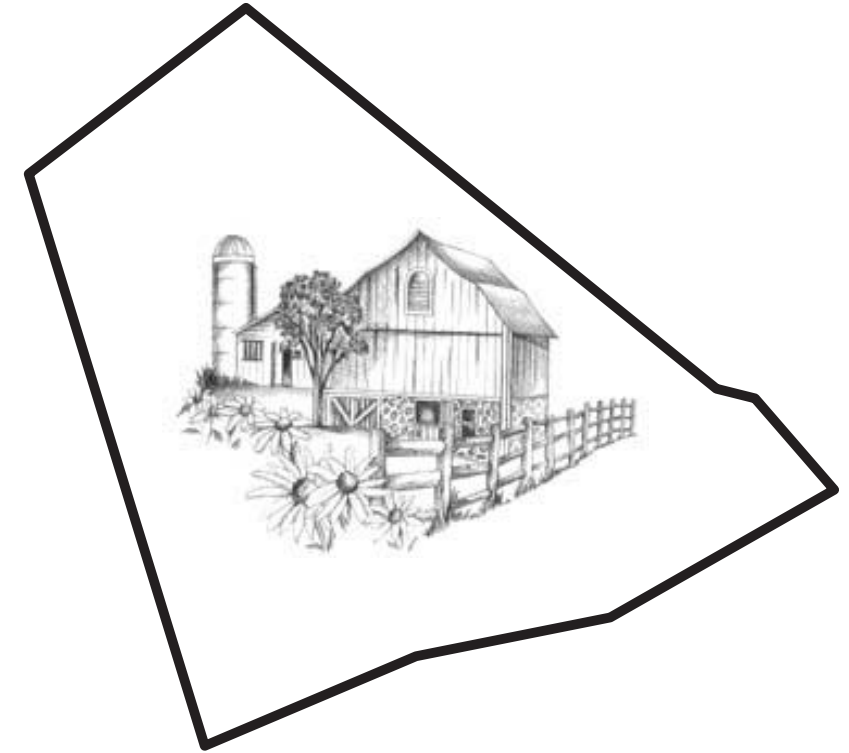


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Lebanon County Farm Bureau
David Zimmerman-Editor
717-639-9215
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Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?

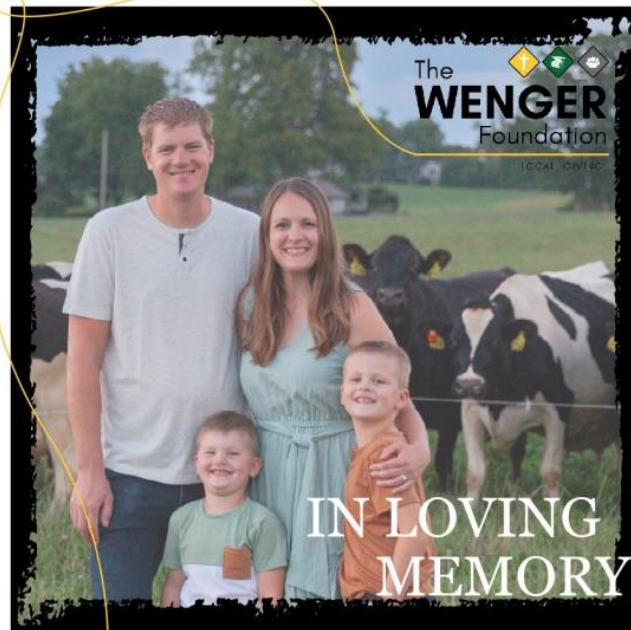


Choosing your Medicare plan can be overwhelming. It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

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**.



Support the Kendall Family

On Saturday, April 27th, Bryan Kendall tragically passed away in a farming accident. He leaves behind his beautiful wife and two boys. His life was a reflection of God's grace as he selflessly served those around him at home, his church, and in his community. He was an incredibly hard worker who loved every aspect of farm life.

Please Join The Wenger Foundation In Raising Money for Bryan's Family.

The Foundation will be contributing a \$10,000 match to the Kendall family. If you would like to give, please follow the instructions below.

- Checks can be made to "The Wenger Foundation"

How To Give: • Mailed to: Wengers Attn: Rose PO Box 409 Myerstown, PA 17067

- Please designate "Kendall Family Fund" on the check or envelope

Lebanon County Farm Bureau Newsletter

In This Issue:

- ~ County Members Visit State Capitol
- ~ Rural Road Safety
- ~ Policy Development

Dates To Remember:

- ~ Lebanon Area Fair July 20-27, 2024
- ~ County Annual Member Picnic August 24, 2024
- ~ PFB Annual Meeting November 17-19, 2024

Lebanon County Farm Bureau Board:

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igpoppiti@pfb.com

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717-348-4617
famw2010@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Crouse

Directors:

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Bill Bennetch - 717-949-2448
Cliff Berger- 717-933-5352
Nelson Heagy- 717-867-4611
Jim Hoffman- 717-867-4211
Clyde Meyer- 717-821-7100
Steve Wenger- 717-949-3215
Jeffrey Werner- 717-865-5727



July 1st marks the beginning of our new member campaign. Please talk to your friends and neighbors about becoming a Farm Bureau member!

PFB Preferred Nationwide Agents

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Lebanon, PA 17046
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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit www.pfb.com/services or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million** in **annual savings**.

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

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For a complete list of discounts offered by +375 locally-owned businesses in nearly 50 counties visit pfb.com/localdiscounts. Local discounts not offered in all counties.

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www.myfreepharmacy/Pennsylvania

Publications

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 \$6 portion of annual member dues covers subscriptions to these publications, \$3 for *Positively Pennsylvania* and \$3 for *Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Grassroots Advocate* (formerly *Country Focus*). Members receive 4 issues of each publication per year on a quarterly basis. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
510 S. 31st Street P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717.761.2740
www.pfb.com

Rural Road Safety Reminders Across County

Each spring, Farm Bureau likes to remind motorists about potential hazards on rural roads and the return of agricultural activity as planting and harvest seasons ramp up for the year. As you drive around the county, you might notice some of our banners in prominent places reminding motorists to “Be Alert! Farmers At Work!” Lebanon County Farm Bureau wishes all of our members a safe 2024 farming season. A special thank you to member Robert Smith who oversees this project!



Lebanon County Farm Bureau Visits State Capitol

On March 26th, Lebanon County Farm Bureau members visited the Pennsylvania State Capitol as part of the State Legislative Conference. Farm Bureau members from across the state met with their elected officials to discuss ag priorities including the 2024 budget, environmental regulation, crop damage concerns and dairy. Lebanon county members met with Representatives Russ Diamond, John Schlegel, and Tom Jones as well as Senator Chris Gebhard. Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and Governor Josh Shapiro spoke during the luncheon about strengthening ag markets in Pennsylvania and ensuring a bright future for ag in the state. Quality discussions were enjoyed and relationships strengthened. Farm Bureau membership is value in action!



Why Are You A Farm Bureau Member?

I've noticed at times, a tendency to be cynical, especially as I approached and surpassed 40. It can be easy to look at the negative or see the glass half empty, and forget blessings that are often right in front of us daily. When it comes to subscriptions and memberships, there were several I haven't renewed over the last years. Perhaps maybe me being cynical, or just not having enough time to see the value and benefit from the membership. Although it had crossed my mind at one point not to renew my Farm Bureau membership, the tax benefit we received from Clean and Green quickly reminded me of the impact PA Farm Bureau has had on our farm and family. It can be easy to enjoy the benefits of programs implemented and fought for by Farm Bureau, yet quickly forget the cost of time and effort it took by the organization and its members to achieve them. There are many examples like this, some of which go unrecognized or downplayed, but the fact is every farm has benefited from PA Farm Bureau whether you are a member or not. It only takes a few minutes of watching the news and hearing about another green, but not so clean, new deal to make me realize Pa Farm Bureau is as critical today as ever before. Perhaps the biggest benefits are the relationships that are built with other farmers and those in ag that create a membership body that has strength in numbers. So, the next time you hear cows are ending the world, fill your glass full with whole milk, and be thankful for an organization that is fighting for you, your family, and the future of your farm. God Bless!



Joel Krall, Furnace Hill Holsteins Lebanon, PA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
LEBANON COUNTY FARM BUREAU PICNIC
DATE: Saturday August 24, 2024 TIME: 11:00am
LOCATION: Cowrageous Picnic Grove
ADDRESS: 535 Rexmont Rd, Lebanon PA 17042

There will be a free catered lunch for members and their families courtesy of local agribusinesses. Picnic tables will be available for seating under an outside pavilion, but members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as well. There are bathrooms with sinks for hand washing available at the pavilion. There will be a brief member meeting and activities will be provided for children.

During the brief member meeting, we will be voting on new terms for 6 board members. If any voting member is interested in being nominated for a 2-year term or has questions about what the position entails, they are encouraged to contact board President, David Zimmerman, @ 717.639.9215. In addition to being a board member, there are many opportunities to get involved on committees. These include committees to visit legislators, plan events, educate consumers, and much more. See any board member for more on how you can make your organization yours!

Prop 12 Legislative Fix Needed in Farm Bill

Farm Bureau is supportive of House Ag Chairman "GT" Thompson's proposed solution to Proposition 12 (Prop 12) in farm bill. Section 12007 of H.R.8467 clarifies that states and local governments cannot impose standards of production, as a condition for sale or consumption, on livestock produced outside of their borders. This protects a producer's right to participate in a national market without having to adhere to a patchwork of costly compliance requirements. It also protects the rights of states and local governments to impose production standards as they see fit, but only for livestock raised within their own borders. PFB has explicit policy supporting Section 12007, and appreciate the Chairman's efforts to find a commonsense solution that we hope everyone can get on board with when it comes time for a vote on the House floor. PFB would also like to thank the 51 county Farm Bureaus who signed onto the recent stakeholder letter which was sent to House Ag on May 21. Additionally, the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Association of Swine Veterinarians sent letters supporting Section 12007.

Let Your Voice Be Heard During Policy Development

One of the many things that make Farm Bureau a great organization is that it is completely driven by the grassroots. Everything the Farm Bureau organization supports and opposes is determined by the farmer members. This is all done through a process known as policy development. It all starts with an issue. That issue is addressed with a policy and if passed at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau annual meeting, this policy becomes an official stance of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The organization's members and directors of government affairs can then discuss these policies with our elected officials and encourage them to create solutions for these problems. Are you running into issues on your farm that are a detriment to your ability to successfully and effectively farm? We want to know about it! Contact Board Vice President and Policy Development Chair Jeff Werner at 717-507-5727. Let's create solutions to the problems we are facing and make agriculture a stronger industry for ourselves and future generations. Policy ideas must be submitted by September 9th to be considered at the Lebanon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

From The President's Desk

It is hard to believe we have already reached the month of June and 2024 is nearly half over. This spring was certainly an interesting one, but the general consensus is that the crops have been planted and we are well on our way to another successful year on the farm. Many years ago, I learned the old adage "if ya ain't complaining, ya ain't farming!" It is easy to focus on what we are walking through currently and not think about where we have been or what the future looks like. A year ago at this time, we were in the middle of a brutal drought where many of us did not get a decent measureable rain for about 7 weeks. The grass was crunchy, the first cut hay yield was lower than usual, and the young corn looked rather bleak in the field. However, this year God has faithfully provided with wonderful rain and "knee high by the fourth of July" looks like a pretty sure thing.

Farming is never easy and in the midst of the trials, it is easy to become discouraged. Thankfully, we can look back and see that what comes up goes down and then goes back up again. Live cattle are selling at record prices while our country faces the lowest beef herd numbers in 70 years. Grain prices are low which fuels the storm with lower costs in feed. Even though beef prices have risen, it has not had a dramatic effect on consumer purchasing. Regardless of what we hear on the news, consumers are choosing high quality, American grown beef. What's particularly interesting is the surge in consumers purchasing local beef and other farm products directly from the farm.

Almost daily we hear about some ridiculous idea to regulate agriculture that makes us scratch our heads. Regulating cow farts, turning vegan, banning a means of production. It is all about telling a story. Consumers are buying directly from the farm because they enjoy developing a relationship with the men and women who grow their food. It instills confidence in them. They realize that the farm is not a concept or a factory. It is home to a family, a way of life, and a passion that extends generations. The fact is, we love what we do and we try very hard to take great care of our livestock and to be as efficient as we can so that consumers can confidently enjoy the safest food supply in the world affordably. How are you telling your story?

If you aren't telling your story, someone else will and it won't be the real one. That's why I am thankful for Farm Bureau. Not only does being a Farm Bureau member provide a strong united front, but it gives us the ability to tell our story. I have been blessed with the opportunity to meet with my elected officials and talk through some difficult issues. I am also encouraged when they come to us and ask questions like "What are your thoughts on this?" or "How do you think we can do a better job in this area?" We can't all take time off of our farms and head to Harrisburg and Washington when there is work to be done at home. Farm Bureau bridges that gap by telling our story for us and developing those relationships with our elected officials so that we are given a seat at the discussion table.

I ask lots of questions and I love when others do too. A person who asks questions is generally hungry for knowledge and teachable. Consumers want to learn more about why we use pesticides and herbicides, feed our cattle corn, and spread that stinky stuff on the fields. Don't be defensive! This is a great opportunity to share your story and give them a glimpse into your heart and the love you have for what you do. Whether it's at the county fair, sitting in the doctor's office, or by the refrigerated cases in the grocery store, be ready to share passionately and respectfully how and why you do what you do. Make a new friend. Maybe you can tell them about Jesus too! Farm on Lebanon County!

Your President,
David Zimmerman

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