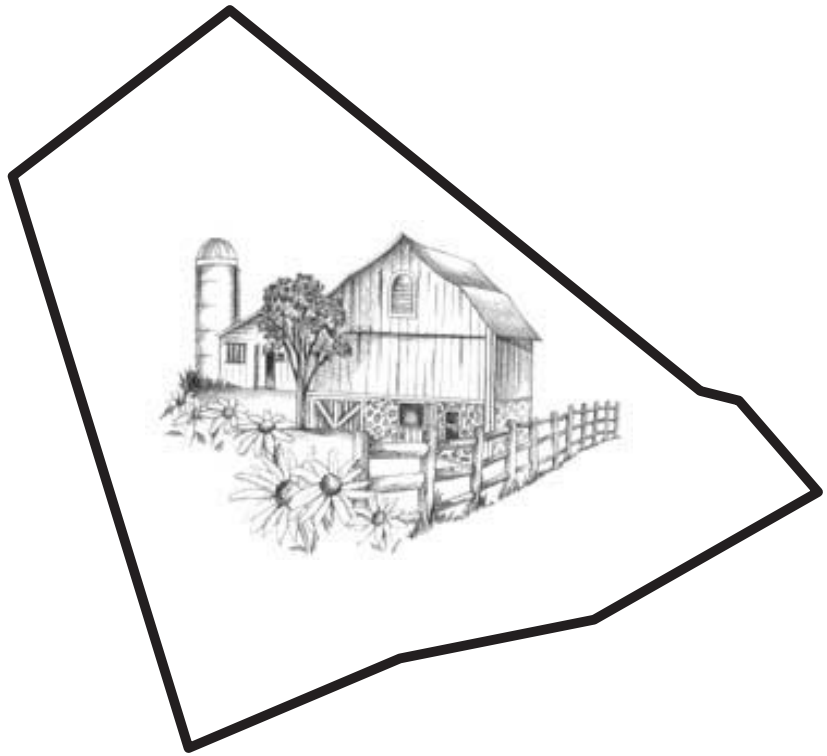


Lebanon County Farm Bureau

David Zimmerman-Editor

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Lebanon County Farm Bureau

Summer 2023

Newsletter

In This Issue:

- ~ Annual County Member Picnic
- ~ Policy Development
- ~ County Legislative Farm Tour

Dates To Remember:

- ~ Legislative Tour and Discussion August 30, 2023
- ~ County Annual Member Picnic September 9, 2023
- ~ PFB Annual Meeting November 12-15, 2023

Lebanon County Farm Bureau Board:

President: David Zimmerman
717-639-9215
dsz5020@gmail.com

Vice-President: Tim Crouse
717-454-9956
timcrouse46@yahoo.com

Second Vice-President: Curtis Martin
717-507-0589
clmartin59@gmail.com

Secretary: Laura Weidler
717-348-4617
famw2010@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tim Crouse

Directors:

Dale Heagy- 717-865-0703
Bill Bennetch - 717-949-2448
Cliff Berger- 717-933-5352
Nelson Heagy- 717-867-4611
Dale Himmelberger- 717-867-2725
Clyde Meyer- 717-821-7100
Steve Wenger- 717-949-3215
Jeffrey Werner- 717-865-5727
Curtis Martin- 717-507-0589

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

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- The LVEDC has assisted local farmers and ag producers obtain over \$22 million in loans. Please call or email for more information.

Contact Eve Beamesderfer at ebeamesderfer@lvedc.org

**Rates change quarterly*

16 Lebanon Valley Parkway, Lebanon, PA 17042

717.274.3180

www.lvedc.org



LEBANON COUNTY FARM BUREAU PICNIC

DATE: Saturday September 9, 2023 TIME: 11:00am

LOCATION: Cowrageous Picnic Grove

ADDRESS: 535 Rexmont Rd, Lebanon PA 17042

RSVP: By August 5th to Tracy Heagy at 717-865-0703

or Email: dtheagy6@gmail.com

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!

Summer Legislative Tour Planned

Every year, as our elected officials recess for the summer, we like to take advantage of the opportunity and host a legislative tour to interact and discuss agricultural issues.

When: Wednesday, August 30, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

**Where: Wen Crest Farms 549 Schaeffer Rd.
Lebanon, PA 17042**

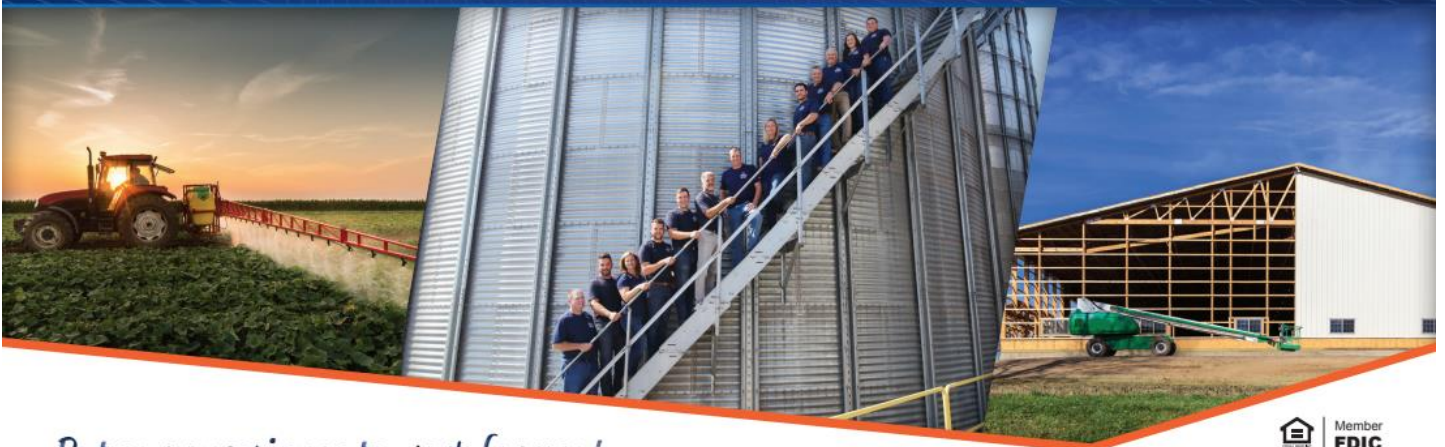
All Lebanon County Farm Bureau members with legislative questions or concerns are invited to participate in a tour of the Wenger's newly built cattle finishing barn. Upon conclusion of the tour, the group will meet for a discussion of current issues of focus. We will also hear from Bert Nye of Nye Consulting Services on current permitting hurdles for agricultural projects. At noon there will be a light lunch provided by LCFB and industry partners. Current elected officials have been invited. A special thank you to the Wenger Family for opening their farm to us for this event!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED. Please contact Jeff Werner at werneracres@gmail.com or by calling 717-865-5727.

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 Tim Crouse at 717-454-9956. 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.

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Farm Bureau Testifies Before PA House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee On How Pennsylvania Farmers are Improving the Chesapeake Bay

Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman testified at a June 26 Pennsylvania House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee hearing on the ongoing efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Mr. Hoffman's comments focused on three key areas:

- The work that Farm Bureau members are and have been doing to install conservation practices in Pennsylvania's portion of the Bay watershed (and in the rest of the Commonwealth). Farm Bureau also touted the launch of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and the positive additional effect it will have on these ongoing efforts. Farm Bureau advocacy was critical to the enactment of both ACAP and Pennsylvania's new "Fertilizer Law"—two elements found to be lacking in previous Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay responses.
- The positive difference Pennsylvania farmers were already making for local water quality—and by extension, the Chesapeake Bay—according to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) data. Well in excess of 90 percent of the operations evaluated by DEP in 2021-22 met the best management practice (BMP) implementation requirements of manure management plan (MMP) BMP implementation and maintenance, as well as the BMP implementation requirements of an agricultural erosion and sedimentation (Ag. E&S) control plan. The summary also indicated strong levels of administratively complete plans at the time of inspection (for operations required to have and implement such plans). Farm Bureau also fully supports ongoing efforts to ensure that Pennsylvania farmers' past and current BMP installations are properly credited and reported, including the work of the EPA-USDA task force created earlier this year to document un- and under-counted agricultural BMPs in the Bay watershed, as well as work by Penn State University and others to properly credit farmers for such practices.
- Our vision for the future of the Chesapeake Bay restoration: In conclusion, Farm Bureau argued that the past strategy of setting arbitrary deadlines and attempting to achieve environmental compliance and innovation through legal and bureaucratic intimidation has not worked, and there appears to be a recognition among at least some Bay stakeholders that something needs to change in order to avoid similar negative outcomes in the future. In our view, that change would include recognizing what is achievable with current levels of financial, technical, and human resources and in turn, being realistic with the public and policymakers about what can be achieved, all while continuing to advocate for the additional resources that will allow for faster progress.



Farm Bureau Opposes “Environmental Justice” Legislation

Farm Bureau Opposes “Environmental Justice” Legislation Farm Bureau expressed its opposition to Pennsylvania House Bill 652, which would establish additional conditions for permitting projects in so-called “environmental justice” communities around the Commonwealth. In a letter to the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, Farm Bureau noted that the implementation of HB 652 would add another layer to an already saturated permitting framework (one which both Gov. Josh Shapiro and DEP Secretary Rich Negrin have repeatedly, and correctly, characterized as too complex and taking too much time to navigate). Farm Bureau also pointed out that an intensive process already exists to govern environmental decisions regarding the agriculture industry in Pennsylvania. Given the bill’s definitions pertaining to the areas of the Commonwealth that would be targeted, as well as multiple statements from the current leadership of DEP about its intention to seek out “environmental justice” communities in the Commonwealth’s rural areas, the fact that agriculture is not specifically exempted from its provisions raises numerous concerns for Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau urges members of the General Assembly to take the above factors into account and vote “no” on HB 652.

Lebanon County Farm Bureau Serves Up Milkshakes At Lebanon Area Fair

As has become tradition, the Lebanon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors took their turn at the Lebanon Area Fair milkshake stand for the 2023 fair. Around 10 volunteers served at the stand on Saturday July 22nd from 11AM-2PM. A great time was had by all!



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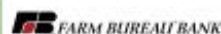
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PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

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.



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