

Mercer County Farm Bureau

Newsletter of the Mercer County Farm Bureau

A quarterly publication

May 2021

Your Attendance is Requested

DATES TO REMEMBER

MCFB Board Meeting

County Board meets
at 7:30 p.m. the first
Monday of the
month at the Pig
Barn, Munnell Run
Farm

May 20 Farm Bureau Day

3 p.m. North Park,
Allegheny County

June 5 MCFB Dinner

6:30 p.m.
East End Fire Hall
Mercer

The spring dinner is at 6:30 p.m. June 5 at the East End Fire Hall in Mercer. All members are encouraged to attend. It has been too long since we have gathered to break bread and enjoy fellowship with each other.

The board of directors would like you to attend this meeting. Important bylaw revisions will be presented at the meeting and your attendance is necessary to approve the proposed revisions. If you have questions, please contact one of the board members. They are listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Reservations are \$10 per person. Please make reservations with Sandy Craft at craft5@windstream.net or call her at 814-715-4244 or submit the form from the back of this newsletter to Sandy Craft, 27 Cassidy Drive, Mercer, PA 16137.

Twine Sale Complete.

A special thank you to **Larry Moose** for heading up the first twine and wrap sale by Mercer County Farm Bureau within the county. Also, thank you to **Eric Watson** of Watsons' Inc. for hosting the event.

For a first-time event, Larry is pleased with the results. There was much concern with the limited supply of plastics this year. The county board is looking forward to an even better sale next year.

A Lawrence County FB member is extending a offer from his business to Mercer County Farm Bureau members.

Neal's Harness Shop

Custom made leather goods. Boots...Red Wing, Muck, Worx,
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Now through June 30, 2021!

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Mon-Fri. 8 am-5 pm; closed Sunday

Mercer FB

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listed in our business directory.**

Rural Road Safety and Agriculture Awareness
Event, a Success

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716-499-2381
craft5@windstream.net
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724-992-8718; 814-786-9752
paxtonllp@gmail.com
Vice president

ANDREW SPENCER
724-962-2620
aspencer7810@gmail.com
Vice president

LANA MOZES
724-588-9480; 724-456-3538
l_mozes@hotmail.com
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724-699-3609
Sam@easthillfarm.farm
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BRITVICH
724-948-2973
jeanice@ferrisfarm.net

WILLIAM CANNON
724-962-7250; 724-699-3775
easthill@easthillfarm.farm

MARK CANON
724-734-9611
markcanon@gmail.com

CAROL HORNE
724-588-6152
clhorne5@gmail.com
Women's Leadership

LARRY MOOSE
724-533-4376
lmooseacres@gmail.com
Membership chair

STATE BOARD MEMBER
ROBERT CRAFT
716-499-2381
craft5@windstream.net

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR
AL WEBER
412-897-6991
aweber@pfb.com

A loud shout out to Brittany Speer and Doug Dick of Butler County Farm Bureau. In about three weeks these two dynamos pulled together a team of volunteers to create an afternoon of fun and education for the public. The event included learning stations with a huge table-top farm; animals for petting; displays of tractor hazards and much more.

Brittany, co-chair of the District 15 Young Ag Professionals and Doug the owner of Superior Ambulance and Training facility made their vision a reality.

According to Doug, the final count was 150 adults and 80 kids spent part of a Sunday afternoon learning about western Pennsylvania agriculture and how to be safer when they encounter farm equipment.

A special thank you to the Cheryl Peebles, head of the trauma unit of Allegheny Health Network – Grove City for providing bicycle helmets to the winners of the drawing for kids who completed the scavenger hunt.

Keep your eyes and ears open for a similar event in 2022.

SUPERIOR AMBULANCE & LOCAL FARM BUREAUS PRESENTS
RURAL ROAD SAFETY & AGRICULTURE AWARENESS
FAMILY EVENT
APRIL 1 - 4 pm
A Success!!!
SUPERIOR AMBULANCE TRAINING
921 E Main St Ext, Grove City, PA 15227
10 LEARNING STATIONS
1/64 SCALE FARM DISPLAY
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MEET FARM ANIMALS
DAIRY PROMOTION
LOCAL FARM BUREAUS
CART - COUNTY ANIMAL RESCUE TEAM
RURAL ROAD VIDEO



Sam Huff, MCFB, and James Thiele, BCFB, help out at the Rural Road Safety Event.

Women's Leadership Committee



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Farmers Care Program - Annually members of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau collect donations, physical and monetary for the Ronald McDonald Houses across the state. This year was difficult. Not only were county farm bureaus not meeting but the Ronald McDonald House regulations would not allow inside visits as in the past. Regardless, PFB members came through. Mercer County contributed \$810.

Donations to Pittsburgh	\$4,100
Danville	17,936
Hershey	13,122

Safety Contests – Reminder, deadline for the annual safety contests for kids of all ages is June 1. Download the official information about all the contests from www.pfb.com/safetycontests.



Farm-tastic Book for 2021 – The book “What’s in the Garden?” will be available for purchase at the spring dinner. Get one to share with your grandchildren or with an area teacher. This book is appropriate for kindergarten through fourth grade. (Sandy also will bring a few copies of the former Farm-tastic Book, “The Tree Farmer.”)

Contact information for our national and state legislators:

U.S. Senator Bob Casey
United States Federal Building
17 South Park Row, Suite B-150
Erie, PA 16501
Phone: 814-874-5080

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey
United States Federal Building
17 South Park Row, Suite B-120
Erie, PA 16150
Phone: 814-453-3010

Congressman Mike Kelly
33 Chestnut Avenue
Sharon, PA 16146
Phone: (724) 342-7170
www.Kelly.house.gov

State Senator Michele Brooks
100 Hadley Road
Suite 9
Greenville, PA 16125
(724) 588-8911
mbrooks@pasen.gov

State Representative Mark Longietti
2213 Shenango Valley Freeway,
Unit 2-E
Hermitage, PA 16148
Phone: 724-981-4655
mlongiet@pahouse.net

State Representative Timothy Bonner
234 West Pine St.
Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-4911
tbonner@pahousegop.com

State Representative Parke Wentling
395 High St.
P.O. Box 17
Conneaut Lake, PA 16316
Phone: 814-382-7200
pwentling@pahousegop.com

Tax Plans Would Threaten Family Farms

Farm Bureau is opposing plans in Congress that would tax unrealized capital gains at death and eliminate the stepped-up basis on those capital gains, warning the move could force many family farms out of business.

Enacting those changes would result in a significant tax burden for agriculture, putting at risk the ability of family farms to remain financially sustainable as they continue to the next generation.

“Taxing capital gains when a loved one passes away would have a devastating impact on farm and ranch families, even more so if the stepped-up basis tool is taken out of the toolbox,” American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said. “Stepped-up basis encourages families to grow their businesses and pass them on to another generation, and elimination could force those families to sell their farms just to pay the taxes.”

Stepped-up basis enables farms to reduce the burden of capital gains taxes by resetting the value of an asset when it is transferred between generations. It’s especially important in agriculture because assets, such as land, are often held for decades and passed on from generation to generation.

Currently, the capital gains taxes on the stepped-up value of an inherited asset are deferred until that asset is sold. So if capital gains are taxed at death and the stepped-up basis is removed, the next generation inheriting the farm could be forced to pay taxes on the increase in value over generations.

“The value of many farms is tied up in land and equipment,” Duvall said. “Cash flow on most farms is much too small to pay large capital gains taxes. These taxes would cause further consolidation in agriculture with small farms more likely to be forced out of business by the tax liability.”

In Pennsylvania, the average cropland value has increased 168 percent since 1997, resulting in an estimated capital gains tax of \$890 per acre. In that scenario, the capital gains tax would be close to 10 times the average cash rental rate.

Make your voice heard!

Members of Congress need to hear from the farmers they represent how taxing capital gains at death and eliminating the stepped-up basis would be devastating to the future of Pennsylvania’s family farms.

Make your voice heard by responding to PFB’s Action Alert at www.pfb.com/ActNow.

Sign Up for PFB Text Message Alerts

Be the first to know about major developments in Pennsylvania agriculture, state and federal policy, and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts.

PFB keeps members informed through our print and digital communications. But sometimes, there’s news you need to know right away. That’s why we’ve developed PFB text message alerts to send important updates right to your phone.

Signing up is easy. Simply text **“PFBALERTS”** to **833.554.0849** or sign up online at www.pfb.com/text-alerts.

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Joseph A Bourke
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Farm Certified Agency

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Fax: 724-791-2197

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Fax: 724-432-3778

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Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

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Jeanice Ferris
VP of Operations
jeanice@ferrisfarm.net

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Carol Ann Gregg

724-458-6108, office
724-372-9792, cell
cagregg2003@yahoo.com

Freelance writer with a focus
on agriculture and business

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Todd R. Shearer - President
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Mercer County Farm Bureau
Robert Craft, president
27 Cassidy Drive
Mercer, PA 16137

stamp

RESERVATIONS for the June 5 Spring Dinner \$10 PER PERSON

Reservations are due June 1, 2021

The dinner is at 6:30 p.m. June 5. at East End Fire Department Social Hall, 104 Wilson Ave., Mercer, PA 16137

Mail reservations to Sandy Craft, 27 Cassidy Drive, Mercer, PA 16137. You can also RSVP to Sandy at 814-715-4244 or craft5@windstream.net . She also accepts text messages.

Number of people attending _____@ \$10 total _____

Make checks payable to Mercer County Farm Bureau

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____