

Mercer County Farm Bureau

Newsletter of the Mercer County Farm Bureau

March 2021

A quarterly publication

Mercer County Farm Bureau Is Ready for What Comes Next

The Mercer County Farm Bureau board of directors has been meeting throughout the last year. The meetings have been by conference calls, online Zoom meetings and finally back to in-person meetings. The business of your organization has continued.

The board of directors is now meeting in the Pig Barn at Munnell Run Farm, Mercer.

Congratulations to Larry Moose, membership chairman, and county membership workers for achieving membership goal for 2020-2021 membership year.

Traditionally, members participate in Farm Bureau Day in February and the county has a spring dinner meeting in late March or early April. To keep members safe and to adhere to restriction of groups getting together, these events have been moved forward.

The **Regional Farm Bureau Day** will begin at 3 p.m. May 20 in the Lodge at North Park, Allegheny County. The location used in the past is no longer available. The event will be a barbeque with speakers covering topics important the agricultural community. Membership and other accomplishments will be celebrated.

→ Board President Bob Craft asks MCFB members to **save the date June 5** for the county spring meeting that will be held as a barbeque/ picnic. Details will be coming to you in May.

This meeting is especially important. Members will be voting on by-laws changes to have the county by-laws mess with the new state by-laws passed at the 2020 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Virtual Convention. A raise in state dues was approved by the delegates and the appropriate changes need to be included in the county by-laws.

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

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Mercer FB

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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 Picnic Meeting

MCFB DIRECTORS

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ORGANIZATION
DIRECTOR**

AL WEBER

412-897-6991

aweber@pfb.com

MCFB Legislative Committees Meet with Legislators Locally

County Governmental Relations Coordinator George Gregg organized meetings for area farm bureau legislative committees to meet with their respective legislators. The committees were graciously welcomed and heard from committee members about the issues of concern to farm bureau members.

Topics covered with the legislators included: 1. Funding for on-farm conservation measures; 2. State budget priorities; 3. Agritourism civil liability reform; 4. Expansion of high-speed broadband infrastructure in rural areas; 5. Relief from excessive stormwater management fees, and ease stream cleaning regulations; 6. State tax fairness and reform; and 7. Legislation to help the dairy industry.

Farm bureau members are always encouraged to contact their legislators with issues that are of concern to them. There is a directory with contact information for our representatives and senators in this newsletter.

PFB Hires New Executive

PFB has filled the position of Chief Administrative Officer. With Sam Kiefer taking a position with American Farm Bureau Federation, the state board of directors conducted a search for his replacement. President Rick Ebert recently announced that Michael L. Stolitca, Jr. will be the new CAO. He has an interesting background in agriculture. He will officially begin his position April 19. Be sure to watch for details in Country Focus.

Sign Up Now for FARMER Virtual Fundraiser

Want to hear from two influential speakers with a hand in shaping agriculture policy all while supporting agriculture-friendly candidates for the General Assembly?

Registration is now open for a virtual fundraiser hosted by FARMER, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's political action committee.

Attendees of the April 8 event will have a chance to hear from two longtime friends of Pennsylvania agriculture: Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson, who was recently selected as Republican leader of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, and Bryan Cutler, speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. and will take place via the video conferencing platform Zoom, which can be accessed via your computer or mobile device.

For a minimum donation of \$25, you can enjoy an exclusive evening with Congressman Thompson and Speaker Cutler as they chat about agriculture, our current political climate and effective advocacy.

Visit www.pfb.com/FARMER2021 to donate online and register.

HELP NEEDED

MCFB is looking for people who enjoy writing and communicating with farmers and consumers.

Our organization is searching for a newsletter editor and a media coordinator to share our story with members

and the public.

To learn more contact Carol Ann Gregg at: 724-372-9792 or

cagregg2003@yahoo.com

Farmers Care Program

in conjunction with

Mercer Co. Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee requests:

Ronald McDonald House Donations

The Mercer Co. Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee has traditionally collected needed items for the Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House such as toiletries, paper products, cereal, canned goods, etc. However, both this spring as well as last, getting that accomplished has been near impossible with the pandemic. Farmers Care is the Farm Bureau program that helps needy organizations like the Ronald McDonald House.

So in lieu of physical donations, the Women's Committee is asking our members to donate cash in kind or gift cards to the Ronald McDonald House now through April 10. Ronald McDonald House can use cash donations or gift cards in the procurement of items for families staying at the RMH while their child receives medical treatment at Children's Hospital.

You can donate one of 2 ways:

Mail a gift card or check made out to Ronald McDonald House to: Sandy Craft, 27 Cassidy Dr., Mercer, PA 16137.

All checks will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House on April 15, 2021, Farm Bureau's Farmers Care Day in western Pennsylvania.

Or: Donate online with a credit card at the following link:

[Mercer Co. Farm Bureau RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DONATION](#)

Thanks for your consideration in making our goal of \$1000.00 a reality!

Sandy Craft, Women's Leadership Chair

Mercer Co. Farm Bureau

Contact information for our national and state legislators:

U.S. Senator Bob Casey

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 16501
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

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Unit 2-E
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Phone: 724-981-4655
mlongiet@pahouse.net

State Representative Timothy Bonner

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Grove City, PA 16127
724-458-4911
tbonner@pahousegop.com

State Representative Parke Wentling

395 High St.
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Conneaut Lake, PA 16316
Phone: 814-382-7200
pwentling@pahousegop.com

Safety Contests

Please copy and share with teachers, parents and home schoolers in your neighborhood. Participates do not need to be members of Farm Bureau, but, they must be residents of Pennsylvania.

Lightening Can Strick More Than Once

The Theme for the 2021 PFB Safety Contests for Kids

It is time to put together entries for the PFB safety contests. This year may be just the year to have your kids and grandkids participate with so many of them studying at home.

Also, teachers, please look into these events for your students.

All entries must be received by the county women's leadership chair by June 1, 2021, with all the appropriate information.

Download the official information about all the contests from www.pfb.com/safetycontests . If you do not have internet access, please call Carol Ann Gregg at 724-372-9792 and she will send you copies of the information to participate.

Coloring page for ages 4 – 6. 3-D display for ages 7 – 9 and 10 – 12. Video for ages 13 – 15 and 16 – 18. A release form is required to accompany the videos submitted to PFB. One entry from each age group can be entered by each county farm bureau. All participants must be residents of Pennsylvania.

Game Commission Gives Preliminary Approval to Species Expansion for Sunday Hunting

The Pennsylvania Board of Game Commissioners gave preliminary approval to a slew of changes to the seasons and bag limits for the upcoming 2021-2022 hunting season at their virtual meeting on Jan. 23. Included in these changes are the expansion of species that would be allowed to be hunted on two of the authorized Sundays.

The board approved a measure that would expand the species allowed to be hunted on Sunday, Nov. 14 and Sunday, Nov. 21 to include most small game species, along with deer -archery and bear-firearms, which were allowed for the first time last season. The species to be added are squirrel, ruffed grouse, rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, woodchuck (groundhog), opossum, striped skunk, weasel, raccoon and porcupine. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau submitted comments opposing this change.

Also approved were a 14-day concurrent antlered and antlerless deer season, a move to allow hunters to apply for and carry extra antlerless tags, and an extension to the DMAP application deadline, all of which Farm Bureau supports.

The 'unlimited' antlerless tag provision would allow hunters to purchase extra antlerless licenses over the counter starting on the second Monday of Sept. Hunters would be allowed to have four unfilled tags at a time, and could purchase more as they fill their tags, as long as there are tags still available. The PGC hopes to get more allocated antlerless tags filled during the hunting season with this change. The first three rounds of application would remain unchanged.

The board also approved an extension of the deadline for landowners to apply to enroll their properties in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). The annual deadline would be extended from May 1 to June 1.

All of the above changes are preliminary and would need to be approved at the next board meeting in April. Comments can be submitted to the board ahead of the meeting by emailing pgccomments@pa.gov.

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Robert Craft, president
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stamp

SAVE THE DATE

Spring Dinner/ picnic Meeting

June 5

Time and Location TBA

