

Mercer County Farm Bureau

Newsletter of the Mercer County Farm Bureau

March 2022

A quarterly publication

DATES TO REMEMBER

MCFB Board Meeting

County Board meets
at 8:00 p.m. the first
Monday of the
month at the Pig
Barn, Munnell Run
Farm

TWINE SALES DUE MARCH 15

To Larry Moose

YAP Special Event Bowling March 20

MCFB Spring Dinner

6:30 p.m.
April 7

Mercer County
Extension Office
\$15.00 Reservations
due to Sandy Craft
by **March 26**

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE DONATIONS

Are due to Sandy
Craft on April 7

MEET THE NEW REGION 5 ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR

After the retirement of longtime Region Organization Director, Al Weber, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has appointed Lance Medich to assume the responsibilities for this position. He officially took the reins on February 7, 2022. Lance was finding his previous job unfulfilling and began to remember how he enjoyed time spent on his three uncles' farm, Green Hill Dairy located in Herminie near Irwin, as a youngster. This led him to PFB. Lance was born in Duquesne and attended Case Western Reserve University where he earned a B.S. degree in Business. He has worked in the beverage industry both in sales and marketing. The Region Organization Director serves as a liaison between the PFB and the local boards. He will be looking for creative new ways to build and maintain the membership. Lance believes that the more members that we have, the more of a voice we will have. He will also be developing the Young Ag Professionals throughout the region as they are our future. He currently resides in Bethel Park with his wife, Andrea.



-Photo used from PFB website

2022 MERCER COUNTY PFB SPRING DINNER



The annual Mercer County Farm Bureau Spring Dinner will be held at the Mercer County Extension Office, north of Mercer, on April 7 and 6:30 pm. The cost is \$15.00 per person with reservations required by March 26. Submit reservations to Sandy Craft by text (814-715-4244) or email at smvcraft5@gmail.com (form is on page 8 if you wish to mail)

The speaker for the dinner will be Michael Stolitca. Mr. Stolitca has served as the PFB Chief Administrative Officer since 2021.

Before joining PFB, he was regional sales manager for Kubota and previously served as district sales manager for New Holland Agriculture.

Stolitca has a bachelor's degree in government and legal studies from Bowdoin College and a master's degree in agricultural economics from Penn State University. He grew up on a family farm in Westmoreland County. (info and photo from PFB website)

Studies have shown that cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder. ☺

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REGIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR

LANCE MEDICH

412-897-6991

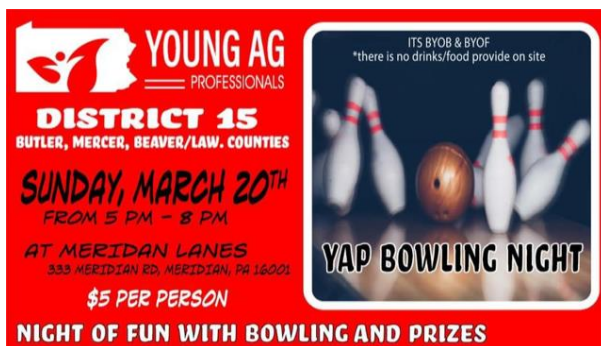
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**Ronald McDonald
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The Farm Bureau Women will once again be accepting donations for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Ronald McDonald House Charities exists to support families with sick children. They attempt to ease the burden that families feel during uncertain times as hospitals provide care for their child. Ronald McDonald Houses rely on donations such as gift cards, non-perishable microwave pantry items such as macaroni and cheese and paper products like paper towels and cleaning supplies. They also can use snack items, craft items, laundry supplies, games, and comfort items. For a complete list, you may visit the website below for specific items. Thank you for your support! Your donated items may be given to Sandy Craft at the Spring Dinner on April 7. If you are unable to attend the dinner, contact Sandy at 814-715-4244 to make arrangements.

<https://rmhpcgh-mgtn.org/ways-to-give/other-ways-to-give/our-wish-list/>



The Young Ag Professionals (YAP) invite you for a time of fellowship, fun, and activity. This is an opportunity for you to meet other young people involved in the agricultural industry. When you work so many extended hours it can be hard to meet new people. This is your chance. Bring your own drink/food if you wish. Contact Sam Huff for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS

Three free PFB memberships were awarded to Young Ag Professionals to promote PFB and encourage their participation in PFB. The recipients are Sarah Snyder of Fredonia, Kelly Clayton of Grove City, and Rebecca McCullough of Sharpsville. Welcome to PFB!

MERCER COUNTY FARM BUREAU AT BOARD AT WORK FOR YOU

Local legislatures are willing to hear how citizens feel about various issues in which they will be making decisions. When it comes to legislation that impacts agriculture, our elected officials need to receive input from farmers and others involved in agriculture to understand how their vote will affect the farming industry. To help legislatures to gain a deeper knowledge of agricultural issues and to avoid unintended consequences, six local representatives for Mercer Farm Bureau will be traveling to Harrisburg to meet with our elected officials. Bob and Sandy Craft, Sam Huff, Bill Canon, Larry Moose, and Donald Koontz will be attending the event in late March. The issues for action that are being discussed include:

- Funding for on-farm conservation measures
- State budget priorities
- Creation of a grain indemnity fund
- Whole milk in schools
- Relief from excessive storm water management fees
- Fairness for landowners with natural gas well

Last year, PFB was able to accomplish the creation of a broadband authority in PA, clarified the types of driver's license that farmers can use when operating trucks/ truck combinations over 26,000 pounds, protected farmers from agritourism lawsuits, and addressed issues in the tax code. Your membership keeps a voice for agriculture friendly laws alive.

IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP.

The world's a tough place to navigate for anyone these days – on top of the stressors agriculture's industries can bring. Mental health isn't something that any of us can afford to let fall by the wayside. There's help if you or someone you know is struggling.

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Visit https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Pages/Mental_Wellness.aspx

Ad from PA Department of Agriculture website

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
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Suite 9
Greenville, PA 16125
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mbrooks@pasen.gov

State Representative Mark Longietti
2213 Shenango Valley Freeway,
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mlongiet@pahouse.net

State Representative Timothy Bonner
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Grove City, PA 16127
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tbonner@pahousegop.com

State Representative Parke Wentling
395 High St.
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pwentling@pahousegop.com

The Mercer County Farm Bureau Business Directory

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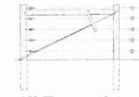
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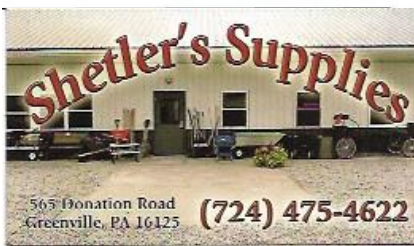
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RESERVATIONS for the April 7 Spring Dinner
\$15 per person_Reservations are due March 26, 2022

The dinner is at 6:30 p.m. on April 7, at the *Mercer County Extension Office, Route 19, 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 smvcraft5@gmail.com . She also accepts text messages.

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