

MERCER COUNTY FARM BUREAU

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

August 2024



PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau State Legislative Update From State and Local Affairs Specialist Mitchell Kurek

Governor Shapiro signed the 2024 budget totaling \$7.6 billion. The Dept of Agriculture's budget grew nearly 10 percent to \$228 million. Including:

- \$10 million Agricultural Innovation grant program
- \$31 million tassist poultry farmers
- \$33 million Penn's School of Veterinary and Penn Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease
- \$58 million Penn State Ag Research and Extension
- \$50 million Clean Streams Fund
- \$35.75 million ACAP
- \$6 million Clean Water Procurement
- \$2 milion Stormwater grants
- \$250,000 Keystone Tree Restricted Account

HB 2414: BILL INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE: THE AMENDMENT INTRODUCES A NEW TAX CREDIT SYSTEM FOR BEGINNING FARMERS

APPLICATION: SPECIFIC FORMS FROM THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE [PDA] YOU WILL NEED PROOF OF BEGINNING FARMER STATUS AND AG EXPERIENCE.



CONSERVATION DISTRICT MERCER PA



LEGISLATION

Advocacy Needed!!!

The farm bill expires on September 30, 2024. It is crucial the House brings the farm bill to the floor for a vote. Urge your House and Senate Representative to take action! Urge them to bring the FARM BILL forward before Congress concludes!

Please complete AFBF's
Farm Bill Action Alert!



The Mercer County Farm Bureau Directory is coming very soon!



There has been discussion leading to the strong potential for an ag lab to be located in western PA two locations are being considered - why not Mercer County? Help support the location of the ag lab in our county!



The bi-partisan budget Gov Shapiro signed earlier fully funds a fifth year of Ag & Youth Grants through the PA Farm Bill. Since 2019 Ag & Youth Grants have invested \$1.5 million in 157 projects statewide.



The Fresh Schools Grant Program has passed in the House and is moving to the Senate. The program reimburses school food authorities when they purchase local food from local farmers for school meals!

Things You Need to Know!

Did you know a benefit you receive as a Farm Bureau Member is Disability Insurance? **If your dues are paid before December 31, money is added to your insurance total!**

The group accidental death and dismemberment policy covers each qualified member of the family. The value of the group policy increases **\$300 annually to a maximum of \$3,100** for consecutive renewals **before January 1st** of each year.

Board Meetings are the first Monday of every month 7:30 PM Munnell Run Farm "Pig Barn"
(September meeting is Tuesday)
Let's see you at the next one!

Find us on Facebook

**PLEASE SUPPORT S.1706, THE MAIN
STREET TAX CERTAINTY ACT
FARMERS AND RANCHERS NEED A TAX
CODE THAT PROVIDES CERTAINTY AND
RECOGNIZES THE FINANCIAL
CHALLENGES OF FARMING**

**PLEASE TELL YOU PA REPRESENTATIVE TO
SUPPORT HB2106, 2107, 2108
FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM CROP DAMAGE
ARE UNSUSTAINABLE FOR FARMERS AND
COMPROMISES FOOD SECURITY FOR
PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS. CROP
DAMAGE FROM WILDLIFE**

**PLEASE TELL YOU PA SENATOR TO
SUPPORT SB67
FINANCIAL LOSSES FROM CROP DAMAGE
ARE UNSUSTAINABLE FOR FARMERS AND
COMPROMISES FOOD SECURITY FOR
PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS.**

**TODAY THERE IS NO EASIER WAY TO ACT ON
LEGISLATION AND BILLS.**

NO MORE

1. **MAKING PHONE CALLS OR WRITING LETTERS.**
2. **TODAY PUSH A BUTTON AND PUSH THE ISSUE**

**YOUR VOICE IS CRITICAL TO FORMING LEGISLATION.
PA FARM BUREAU ACTION ALERTS WILL SEND YOU AN
EMAIL OR TEXT WITH BACKGROUND INFORMATION,
RECIPIENT'S ADDRESS AND A PRE-WRITTEN
MESSAGE.**

**ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS PUSH A BUTTON.
PLEASE HELP SECURE YOUR FARM'S FUTURE TODAY!
PUSH A BUTTON, PUSH THE ISSUE**



Mercer County Farm Bureau Legislative Tour

Mercer County was represented by our political leaders at the William Cannon Farm on August 9th for the Legislative Farm Tour. Bill Cannon showed a power point presentation about no-till farm practices. He discussed practices that reduced soil erosion and improved soil health. The practice of no-till lowers input costs and incorporates the use of cover crops to increase top soil.

In attendance were County Commissioners Ann Coleman and William Finley, State Representatives Tim Bonner and Parke Wentley, staff members from the Senate offices of Michele Brooks and Mike Kelly, Jay Russell – the County Conservation District, Hannah Durkin – National Resource Conservation, and William Thiele – PFB State Director. After the powerpoint presentation, time was allotted for a question/answer session and then lunch was served. Food production is a difficult industry and farmers welcome the support of our political leaders.

When you come to the Board meeting, don't forget pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House!



Your paragraph text

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Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



Pennsylvania
Farm Bureau

Health Services

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**.

Member Benefits

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**.



To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

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

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Must show membership card
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Farm and Business



Account# 855488417
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PFB Member Service



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www.pfb.com/healthservices

Financial and Insurance



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Nationwide® offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including farm*, auto*, home*, pet*, travel*, powersports, commercial and life insurance.

*Select discounts may apply.

To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit Nationwide.com/pfb.

Additional Benefits

Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!

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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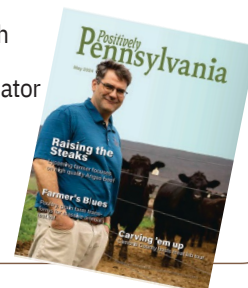


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Publication

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 Positively Pennsylvania. Members receive 5 issues of Positively Pennsylvania per year. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



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