

Mercer County Farm Bureau

Newsletter of the Mercer County Farm Bureau

December 2020

A quarterly publication

DATES TO REMEMBER

MCFB Board Meeting

County Board meets
at 7:30 p.m. the first
Monday of the
month
Currently meeting
via Zoom

AFBF Annual Convention

Virtual Event
Participate from
home
Jan. 10 - 13
Register ahead
of time



Merry Christmas to all the members

from

The board of the Mercer County Farm Bureau



Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Dues for 2021 membership in Mercer County Farm Bureau are \$75, which includes your membership in Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation.

Be sure to pay dues before Dec. 31 to receive an increase in your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. A \$1,000 AD&D policy is part of your first year as a member. Each year that a member's dues are renewed before Dec. 31, the insurance value increases by \$100 to a maximum of \$3,300. Maintain your membership and pay your dues now. If you have not renewed your membership by Dec. 31, the insurance will revert back to the \$1,000 limit.

This year's membership goal is 302 members. As of Dec. 17, MCFB had 243 members enrolled. You can help MCFB meet this membership goal. Invite a neighbor or friend to join Mercer County Farm Bureau. If you need brochures or want someone to join you when you visit a member prospect, contact membership chair, Larry Moose, at 724-533-4376, or email him at lmooseacres@gmail.com. Let's make goal by the end of the year.

Dues can be paid online at <https://www.pfb.com>.

**Please support the companies
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Membership chair

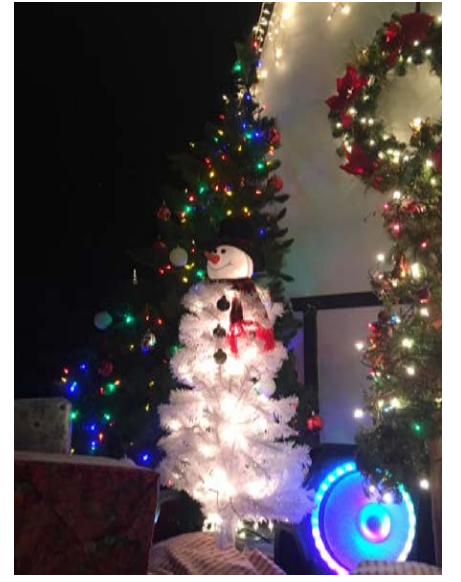
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REGIONAL ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR
AL WEBER
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Reverse Parade Draws Thousands

Mercer County Farm Bureau participated in the Reverse Tractor and Tinsel Parade at the Stoneboro Fairgrounds. The event Dec. 5 that was to take place between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m. started early because of the traffic building up on Rt. 62 outside the gates. The last car pulled through the route at 11:45 p.m. People were excited to be able to celebrate the season in a safe way. Visitors donated over 2.5 tons of food items for Lakeview Area Helping Hands.

The event was organized by the Mercer County Ag Development Council and was chaired by Nancy McDowell Moore.



Mercer County Farm Bureau creates a display for reverse Christmas parade.

Some of PFB Legislative Accomplishments

The two-year legislative session has come to a close. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has several pieces of legislation of concern to farmers and rural Pennsylvanians that became law during this session.

Two rural broadband bills became law. The first, Senate Bill 835 will create a \$5 million loan program within the Commonwealth Financing Authority to fund broadband infrastructure projects in underserved rural communities. The law also establishes a designated fund within state government to fund these projects including the ability for federal dollars to be used in that effort. This is the first time that PA has designated money for rural broadband projects. Two requirements of the legislation are: companies must provide 25% of the funds for the project and the project must be for underserved areas of the state.

The second piece of legislation passed was House Bill 2048 that will allow rural cooperatives to run broadband infrastructure on their existing electrical easements without having to renegotiate those lease agreements. This only applies to cases where the rural electric is running fiber optic cable or other lines between existing utility poles.

These two pieces of legislation taken together are the most significant rural broadband legislation taken in a decade.

Also, during this session, the 2019 PA Farm Bill was passed. The budgets have provided for the necessary program critical to agriculture. A new tax credit was established to assist new and beginning farmers.

Vehicle code changes were established to allow for wider farm equipment on the highways.

PFB and MCFB will continue to work diligently to insure that the interests of Pennsylvania agriculture is brought to the attention of Congress and the General Assembly.

Congratulations, Sandy Craft

Sandy Craft has been named chairman of the state's Women's Leadership Committee. In that capacity she holds a seat on the PFB board of directors. Mercer County Farm Bureau is proud to have one of its members serve PFB in this leadership role. We wish her well during these challenging times.

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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State Representative Mark Longietti

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mlongiet@pahouse.net

State Representative Timothy Bonner

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State Representative Parke Wentling

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



HELP WANTED

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



Let's Get Creative

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.

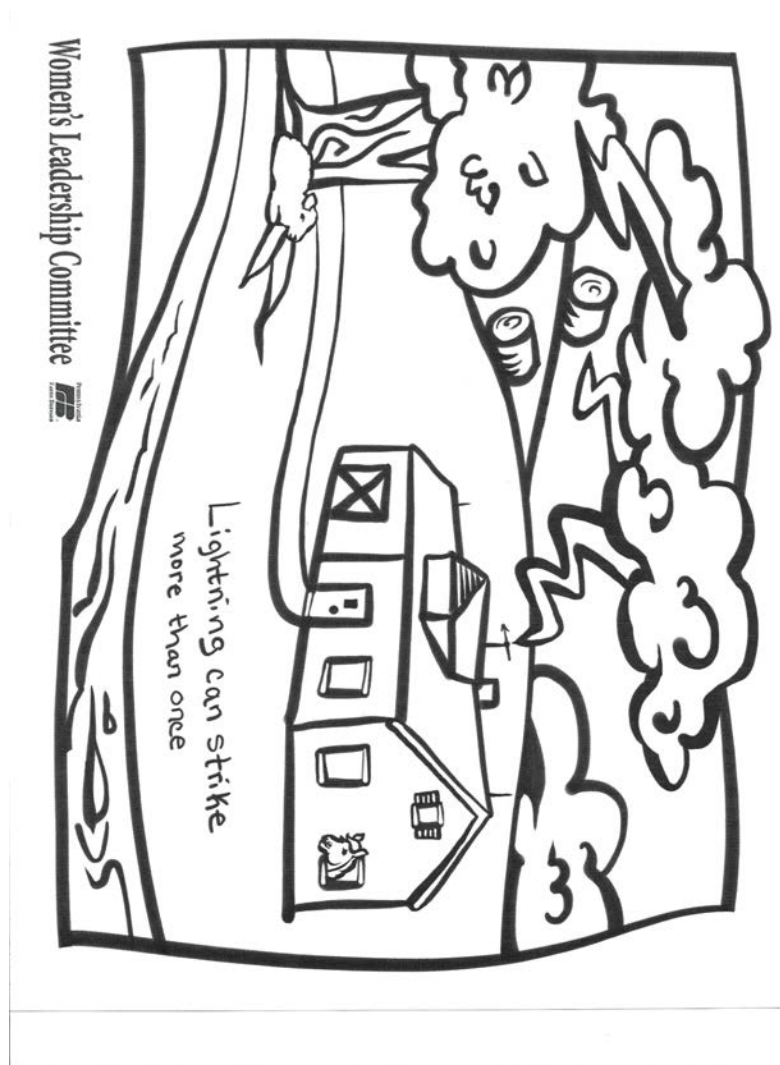
Also, teachers, please look into these events for your students.

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.

Here is a sample of the coloring page to use for practice. (It is smaller than the official entry.)



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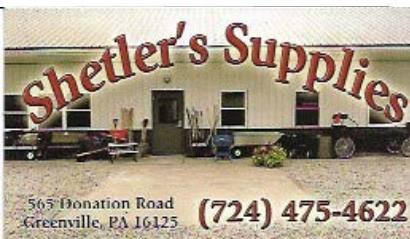
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Mercer County Farm Bureau
Robert Craft, president
27 Cassidy Drive
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stamp

This is a season like no other. Stay safe.
Enjoy time with family.
Remember the 'Reason for the Season.'

Merry Christmas