

# Schuylkill/Carbon Farm Bureau

January 2025 Newsletter

## A Word From Our President:



Kent Heffner

Greetings from Farm Bureau!

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and happiness. As we look forward to a new year, we set goals for what we would like to accomplish. With a new President taking the Oval Office this month, we have the opportunity to influence policies to help guide agriculture through the challenges ahead.

Thanks to our grass roots organization, our many voices can be heard. Each one of you can participate. All you have to do is get involved in Farm Bureau.

The process is quite simple. If you have an idea for change, bring it to the attention of a board member. We then take the idea to the County Annual Meeting. If the idea is approved, it's on to the state level for a vote. A favorable vote in Hershey means it becomes a policy for Farm Bureau. We then take our policies to our elected officials to advocate for change. It's a simple process; all it takes is a member willing to make a difference.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you and have a great year!

Sincerely,

Kent Heffner

## Bob Perhacs Plans to Retire:



"Hi everyone,

I have decided after 17 years of being your Regional Organization Director that it was time to step down to be able to spend more time with my children and grandchildren and to do some traveling with my wife.

It has been an honor and a pleasure working with all of you over the years and I have truly enjoyed the journey.

I will be staying on in a part-time role training my successor when that person is found.

I hope to see you in the future at some of your county events."

We can't thank Bob enough for staying with us for all this extra time. And we hope that he can soon sit back and enjoy his retirement!

## Schuylkill/Carbon Board of Directors

Kent Heffner, President, 570-739-1153

Dennis Marbarger, Vice-President, 570-527-7240

Dan Troxell, Vice-President, 570-386-4336

Kate Hendricks, Secretary, 570-527-4872

Julie Ballay, 570-628-9746

Kevin Bond, 570-889-3197

Boots Hetherington, 570-889-3197

John Halabura, 570-739-2891

David Koch, 570-668-2543

Dennis Baver, 570-366-2713

Ben Everett, 610-295-2540

The Board of Directors will meet at 7 PM on the 4 Monday of January, February and March at the Ag Center—1102 Ag Center Drive (Gordan Nagle Trail), Pottsville, PA



Proud sponsor of :



"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." President Dwight D. Eisenhower



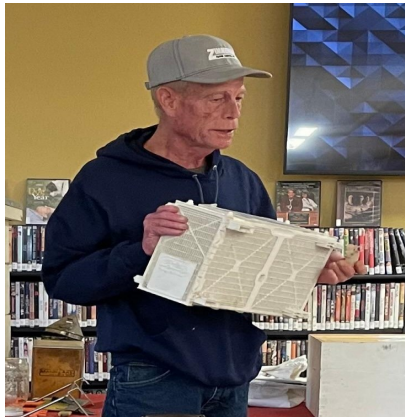
## 2024—The Year in Review!

The Women’s Committee of Schuylkill/Carbon Farm Bureau had a busy 2024 promoting agricultural education.



Kate Hendricks and Deb Marbarger met with Brayden Fasnacht at the T-102 Radio Station in Pottsville. Brayden interviewed Kate and Deb about what Farm Bureau does and how the Women’s Committee shares in educating students in our area about where their food comes from.

### It’s All About the Bees!



With a grant from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, a program about honey bees was able to be presented to the Orwigsburg Homeschool students and community at the Orwigsburg Library. Tim and Peggy Pritchard shared their story of the honey bees they keep on their farm. The students learned the importance of bees in

their lives, how bees pollinate crops so they can produce our food, and how they produce honey.

One student was able to try on a beekeeper suit to show how the beekeepers can avoid being stung.



SCFB Secretary, Kate Hendricks, poured samples of the honey for tasting. There were products made with honey to be samples and enjoyed. Each family was able to take a jar of honey home with them to enjoy.



### 2024 Coloring Contest Winner!

5 year old Connor Hummel won the County’s annual Farm Safety Coloring Contest. Connor was a student at the Doodlebug Pre-School in Orwigsburg.





### You Have a Story . . . Tell It!

Last February, the T.A.S.K. (“Together Advocacy Stimulates Knowledge”) Conference was held in Gettysburg, PA. The keynote speaker was Paul “The Harvard Cowboy” Moya.

Paul spoke on how we need to get our story of farming out to the public. It’s hard to imagine in this century that there are still people who think their food comes from the store!



Mr. Moya suggests that we can appreciate and relate to days and really bad days, but show the human side of our story. People always persevere. He showed us a Tik Tok video of “Emmanuel the Emu” from the Knuckle Bump Farm in South Florida disrupting video sessions that the owner was trying to do to explain her farm. The emu would knock over her camera, put it’s face into the lens or simply try to chew on it. Emmanuel the Emu has 679,000 followers on Tik Tok.

The emu might be an exception to promotion techniques, but he is very effective because he is NOT perfect.

The other speakers, Daryn Westergard , AFBF, of Utah, Tommy Nagle, Vice-President, PFB, and Chris Hoffman, President of PFB, all spoke of the power of our voices. We all need to bridge the gap between the farmer and consumer.

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The Pine Grove FFA Officers joined us at the annual meeting in the Fall. Each student talked about their experience with the FFA program.

(From left) Alexis Butler, President, Lacey Wolfe, Reporter, Paige Somers, Vice–President, Seth Brown, Parliamentarian, and Kaitlynn Warg, Historian.



Listening to these young people speak gives us hope for the future of agriculture.



Kara Brown (middle) received the Schuylkill/Carbon “The Heart of a Growing Sch./Carbon Agriculture Scholarship” in May at her FFA Banquet. Pictured from left to right is her sister Kelli, (also a previous SCFB scholarship winner ), parents Lori and Kyle Brown, and Dennis Marbarger , who presented the award to Kara.





# Member Benefits

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit [www.pfb.com/services](http://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](http://www.pfbmembers.org).

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

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## PFB Member Service



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## Financial and Insurance



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](http://Nationwide.com/pfb).

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## Health and Wellness



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## 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](http://pfb.com/localdiscounts).  
Local discounts not offered in all counties.

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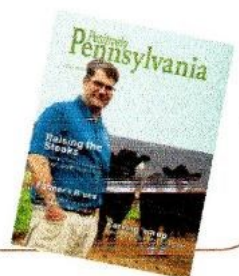


[pfb.enjoymydeals.com](http://pfb.enjoymydeals.com)

## 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.




Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
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Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736  
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[www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)



# 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**.

# Let's talk about ATV safety



## Having the safety talk with your kids isn't just important — it's essential.

In 2023, 19% of deaths in off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents were children under 16, with only 2% wearing helmets.<sup>1</sup> The **Let's Champion Rider Safety**<sup>®</sup> campaign, provides tips and resources for effective safety discussions and protection for young riders.



Learn more at  
[Nationwide.com/ATVsafety](https://www.nationwide.com/ATVsafety)



Scan code to get  
safety tips for your  
young riders.



<sup>1</sup> U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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### Schuylkill County Nationwide Agencies

Tobash Insurance Agencies LLC	9 Park Lane, Hegins, PA 17938	570-628-9660
Tobash Insurance Agencies LLC	1764 W. Market St, Pottsville, PA 17901	570-622-4389
Tobash Insurance Agencies LLC	3 S. Sillyman St., Cressona, PA 17929	570-385-4501
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