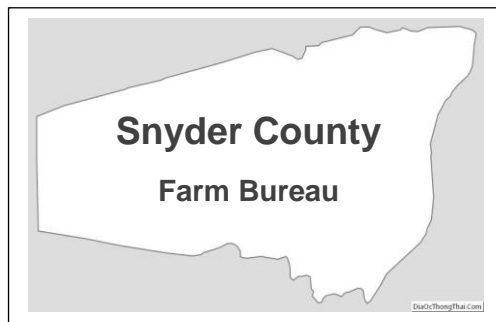


SNYDER COUNTY FARM BUREAU

FALL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED DECEMBER 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Snyder County Farm Bureau Members,



Winter is here! As we enter winter and get ready for spring, there are several great things that your county farm bureau has done, along with some exciting new projects that your county board has been working on.

First of all, our county women's committee has restarted and is hitting the ground running! The committee has kicked things off with reading of Barn in the Winter to preschool students at the Children's Discovery Center in Selinsgrove. The event was great and the students even got to build their own gingerbread barns! Great stuff!

Next, our county board has voted to approve our first ever county scholarship program! This will allow college students and soon to be graduating high school students in Snyder County who are looking for an agricultural degree to apply for a scholarship provided by Snyder County Farm Bureau. There is some brief paperwork

involved, but the chosen student (which will be discussed by our county board) will receive \$500 towards their tuition! See inside this newsletter for more information on the program.

Also, I want to thank Clair Esbenshade for his many years of service as he terms out as our state board member in District 7. His years of advocating for Pennsylvania agriculture are legendary and we look forward to working with him in different ways in the future. Also, we are excited to have Jason Wolfe from Union County as our new state chair and look forward to working with him!

Last but not least, Farm Bureau Day will be coming up soon! Keep an eye on your state newsletter for more information on it. It's worth coming out for the day to learn about what is going on legislatively for agriculture, how to be an effective Farm Bureau advocate during our legislative conference, and how your proposed Farm Bureau policies are shaping governmental policy.

Thanks for being a member and for your continued support

of Pennsylvania and Snyder County Farm Bureau!
Sincerely,
Ethan Howard
Snyder County Farm Bureau
President

2023-24 Snyder County Board

President - Ethan Howard

1st VP - Jay Hoover

2nd VP - Ryan Smith

Secretary - Esther Martin

Treasurer - Esther Martin

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Sam Doak

Courtney Ewing

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Scholarship Award

Snyder Co Farm Bureau is offering a \$500 scholarship. It is open to any member of a FB family who is attending college or a program of higher learning, preferably with an interest in agriculture. Please contact Esther Martin for a form, write a 500-word essay answering one of the following questions:

1. How would you educate the public of the importance of Agriculture?

2. How has agriculture influenced your life and how do you see your role in agriculture in the future?
3. How would you increase farm income and keep kids on the farm?

Return all applications to Esther Martin by July 1, 2024 at irwest231@yahoo.com.

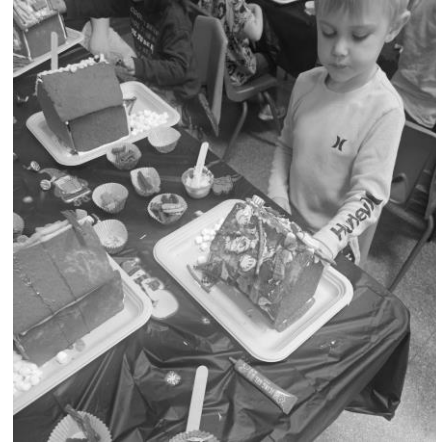
Women's Leadership

Women's Leadership Committee got up and running in an amazing way thanks to the leadership of Julie Doak and her team. On December 12 Julie, Abbi Ewing, and Lizzy Cover led a group of a dozen preschool age kids in reading Barn in the Winter by Chambræe Griffith (illustrations by Taia Morley) at the Children's Discovery Center in Selinsgrove. The book was a real hit! It showed the lifespan of a barn as it endured multiple seasons and changes in weather (something farmers can certainly relate to!). Afterwards, the children were led in an activity of putting together their very own gingerbread barns! Smiles all around.



Plans are being made to speak with the West Snyder Rotary in Beaver Springs in January. In February they will host an ice cream social with Manor @ Penn Village residents, and in April or May they will host a local cooking event at the MACC in Beaver Springs. If you would like to be

part of this exciting group, please contact Julie at 570-765-3570 or email at redview1@verizon.net.



PFB Alerts

Be the first to know about major developments in Pennsylvania agriculture, state and federal policy, and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts. Simply text **"PFBALERTS"** to **833.554.0849**. See PA Farm Bureau website for more info.



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Snyder Co. Annual Meeting

Thank you to all who came out to our annual meeting on October 8 at the Middlecreek Valley Antique Association. There were about 70 members present. After a delicious meal, we heard from various speakers.



The following policies were approved at the meeting and were presented at the State Annual meeting:

* We support State and Federal legislation that counters human trafficking that is infecting our neighborhoods, towns, counties, state and nation.

* We recommend that lawmakers take into account agricultural equipment (height, weight, width, etc.) when building or repairing or replacing roads and bridges.

* We recommend that when a county or state or township is declared a disaster area, all farmers should be allowed to apply to The Farm Service for a low-interest loan without first applying to another banking institution.

* We recommend supporting the Bipartisan Ban Stock Trading for Government Officials.

* We recommend the Voter ID law be enforced and proof of verification for mail-in ballots.

* We recommend that any product that is USDA certified can be sold anywhere in the US.

* We recommend that any member that is 80 years old or older and has been a member for 20 years or more be given the option of having their membership discounted to half price.

32 Pennsylvania Delegates Take Part in National 4-H Congress

Pennsylvania 4-H made an impact at the National 4-H Congress, held in Atlanta, Georgia, sending 32 4-H youth members and seven adults. This five-day event hosted more than 800 youth and adults representing 4-H programs across the country.

National 4-H Congress is aimed at immersing high school 4-H members in leadership, civic engagement, global awareness, and inclusion. Participants engaged in educational workshops, heard from distinguished speakers, and networked with peers from across the country. Delegates also contributed to service-learning projects in Atlanta.

"I am so grateful for this amazing opportunity to attend National 4-H Congress and visit Atlanta," said Chrisalyn Mitchell, a 4-H'er from York County. "I feel honored that I was selected to attend this event, engage in many exciting opportunities, and meet so many wonderful people."

Helping to coordinate the Pennsylvania 4-H'ers presence at the event was Karley Mishler, 4-H youth development educator with Penn State Extension. Karen Hack, assistant 4-H program leader, and Alaina Leasure, a Penn State student who works part time in the state 4-H office, also worked to organize and register the delegation.

Continued on next page

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



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**.



"National 4-H Congress is a unique experience from other national 4-H events as it not only helps state 4-H members become better leaders, but it inspires them to expand their knowledge of what 4-H looks like," Mishler said. "They are able to connect with other 4-H'ers across the country to learn more about how different state 4-H programs work."

Mitchell said that she made more friends than she expected, both from Pennsylvania and other states. "I loved hearing about other members' projects, hobbies and home states," she said.

The conference offered hands-on workshops such as "Habits of Highly Successful Teens," "Speed Meeting," "Team Building" and "Be the Change."

"By participating in a number of workshops, I learned more about leadership, problem-solving, working together in groups, and how to

improve my community," Mitchell said.

Something that sets this event apart from others is the opportunity to participate in community service, Mishler noted. "Having more than 800 4-H'ers work together to help the community of Atlanta is incredibly impactful not only to the community members, but also the 4-H'ers who work side-by-side with peers they may not know to help others."

Mitchell explained that one of the most important things she learned came from rodeo star Amberley Snyder. "Paralyzed from the waist down after a truck accident, she spoke to the 4-H'ers about never giving up no matter the circumstances," she said. "You can do anything you put your mind to. After hearing from Amberley Snyder, I was encouraged to do things that I had always dreamed of doing but hesitated because I thought it would be too hard or even impossible."

Administered in Pennsylvania by Penn State Extension, 4-H is a nonformal educational youth-development program of the United States Department of Agriculture that helps young people develop knowledge and skills to become capable, caring, and contributing citizens. To find your local program, visit the Pennsylvania 4-H website.

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