



Somerset County Newsletter

Newsletter of Somerset County Farm Bureau



Volume 3, Issue 2

September 2023

Hello Somerset County Farm Bureau Member

One of the earliest lessons I learned from my parents was to see value in the things around me. Whether it be the value of a hard day's work on the farm, the value of contributing to the community or the value of friends and family. When we appreciate what we value most, we gain a better understanding of who we are. At Farm Bureau, I have found countless ways to put my values into action as we work to ensure a bright future for agriculture while also giving back to our communities.

Farm Bureau's member families see value in service, innovation and hard work to provide a safe and sustainable source of food, fiber and renewable fuel for families both at home and across the globe. We also work to ensure decisions by our elected leaders and others ensure a bright future for agriculture. And we serve our communities in a multitude of ways that range from alleviating hunger to sponsoring local sports teams. Our shared values help showcase who we are and demonstrate how we are better together—not just in Farm Bureau and agriculture but across our communities.

So, how do we help others see that value? Countless organizations are currently at a standstill, struggling to grow membership, often because they cannot articulate how their values translate to stronger communities and improved lives. We can't take our values for granted when they are an important part of growing our membership. Highlighting our values isn't about showing off all the good we are doing but rather explaining the "why" that drives us.

Farm Bureau is well known and respected for our advocacy work to advance smart policies at every level—from county boards to Congress. But that's not all we do. We are helping our members become better leaders – sometimes elected leaders – and more effective liaisons with a public that has little understanding of agriculture and lot of questions. The heartbeat of Farm Bureau is our grassroots members who are committed to identifying how we can best serve and strengthen our communities. They also look out for one another, which is sometimes as simple as helping out on the farm if another member is ill and as intense as jumping into action when natural disasters or severe weather strike with vengeance. Talking about our commitment to strengthening communities and improving lives will naturally draw-in new members.

Farm Bureau truly is a family. I say that a lot because I have personally experienced the love and support of this family in good times, and in hard times. We come together, supporting and celebrating one another and working together to strengthen our farms and rural communities. Talking about the good work we're doing is a simple recipe for attracting new members. The more members we welcome to the family, the more impact we'll be able to have as a force for good.

I would like to Justin Broadwater for his time on the board and his leadership as county president. Good luck to you and your family and safe travel on your adventure.

As always, I thank you for being a Farm Bureau member and encourage others that you know to be Farm Bureau members. Remember, we are here to help. I look forward to seeing you at our **Annual Meeting** on Tuesday, October 3 at the Sipesville Fire Hall.

Sincerely yours,
Megan Hostetler
President, Somerset County Farm Bureau

**Somerset County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**

President

- Megan Hostetler 814-442-3171

Vice President

- Denise Leydig 814-442-0977

Secretary

- James T. Yoder 814-289-9495

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- Paige Spory 814-270-5162

- Andrea Stoltzfus 814-243-0593

- Mike Yachere 814-289-9409

- Joel Workman 814-521-2167

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-Denny Hutchison 814-322-8662

Newsletter Editor

- Megan Hostetler 814-442-3171

District 11 Board Member

- Larry Cogan 814-483-0627

Regional Organization Director

- Joseph Diamond 814-934-0330

If you are interested in getting involved with any of our county or state Farm Bureau programs or if you have a project, program or issue that farm bureau should be involved in please give any of the board members a call. We look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for being a farm bureau member.

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Somerset County Farm Bureau
238 Emert Road
Somerset, PA 15501

**Thanks for being
a Farm Bureau
Member. Please
encourage your friends
and neighbors to join.**

**All Somerset County Farm
Bureau Members are invited to
attend:**

The New and Improved Somerset
County Farm Bureau Annual
Dinner and Business Meeting

Tuesday, October 3 at the
Sipesville Fire Hall at 7:00 pm

We will be having:
Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes,
Stuffing, Green Beans, Creamed
Lettuce, Ice Cream, Coffee and
Lemonade

Those in attendance will hear
Committee Reports, Policy
Resolution Discussion and
Participate in Elections for the
County Board of Directors.

The cost is \$14 per person.

**Please make your reservations
by September 23
by calling
James Yoder at 814-289-9495.**

If anyone would be interested in
the open board positions, please
let us know so your name can be
added to the ballot. Please call
Megan Hostetler at 814-442-3171
by
September 23.



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Prop 12:

AFBF Seeking Questions from State Farm Bureaus on Prop 12: In 2018, California’s (CA) voters passed a law called Proposition 12 that requires veal, pork, and egg raised in confined areas to have a certain space minimum. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of CA (5-4), when AFBF and National Pork sued CA claiming a violation of the Interstate Commerce Clause. It should be noted that AFBF and National Pork gained the support of the U.S. Solicitor General, the highest ranking official of the Department of Justice. Since the Supreme Court’s decision, CA’s Department of Agriculture (CDFA) has gotten flooded with questions concerning producer compliancy with Prop 12. CDFA has not been able to answer many of the questions from producers thus far. **As more information becomes available it is important that AFBF staff receive input from states as to what questions need to be answered. Therefore, please send Prop 12 questions to Bailey Thumm**

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 **800.522.237**.

Nationwide is on Your Side

Nationwide Insurance began in 1925 as the Farm Bureau Mutual Automobile Insurance Company with the goal of providing quality auto insurance at low rates for Farm Bureau members in Ohio. Nine state Farm Bureaus promote Nationwide and provide discounts to members. Other than Ohio, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has had the longest relationship with Nationwide than the other eight state Farm Bureaus.

The **Nationwide appointed agencies** in Somerset County are:

Hollern-Koontz Agency
1421 Graham Ave
Windber, PA 15963

The Knepper Agency Inc.
221 West Patriot St.
Somerset, PA 15501

Insurance Office Inc.
311 Main St.
Meyersdale, PA 15552

Sechler Insurance Group LLC
371 West Main St
Somerset, PA 15501

Independent Insurance Associates
531 North Center Ave
Suite 104
Somerset, PA 15501

Acrisure LLC
723 South St
Berlin, PA 15530



Nationwide®
is on your side

Somerset County 8th Grade Agriculture Career Day at Pennwood Farms. Thanks to the Stoltzfus Family for hosting, the presenters and those who donate their time and funds to make the event successful.





On Saturday May 6th Families were invited to the Berlin Community Grove for a Farm Safety Day!

Families were able to:

- Discuss road laws with a State Trooper
- Learned how to correctly store pesticides and household cleaning products.
- They heard from a Doctor on ways to avoid accidents
- And from EMT's on how to respond to accidents.
- Mechanics talked about ways to be careful around heavy equipment and skid steers.

Participants witnessed a mock disaster. The importance of lawn mower safety was stressed as our "victim" learned the hard way.

Participants saw him wait for help, receive medical care and watch as the Medstar Helicopter landed to help our "victim" get to the hospital quickly.

Lunch and a Swag Bag were provided for the participants. There were about 100 in attendance. Thank you to ALL our special sponsors and those who participated!!



The Somerset County, Farm Bureau held its Annual summer Legislative Farm on Friday, August 4 at the Cogan farm. The farm is owned and operated by the Larry and Nila Cogan. Some of those that were in attendance were two general township supervisors, all three county commissioners, PA representative Carl Metzgar, Pennsylvania, PA Senator Pat Stefano, a representative from Congressman Guy Reschenthalsler office and a number of staffers from local state and national agencies. The county Farm Bureau took a little different approach with Legislative Event this year The theme for the day was "James T's Ham Loaf" as we told the story from conception to consumption.

Everyone enjoyed spending sometime with the pigs, and then we went to our garage to talk about legislative issues. Then we enjoyed a lunch of food from Somerset County; baked potatoes (freshly dug) and cole slaw (new cabbage) all donated by Kermit and Gretchen Stahl at White Oak Farm. Apple crisp made by Annie Yoder from apples picked by James T., Annie and Bailey, topped off with Galikers Ice Cream. And of course Ham Loaf.



Waters of the United States:

Major Win in Sackett v. EPA: On May 25th, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of the Sacketts in Sackett v. EPA. This was a major win for farmers and ranchers across the nation as the ruling provided much needed clarity to the definition of the “Waters of the United States”. Below are a few highlights from the decision.

- *Significant nexus test:* **Justices ruled 9-0 to eliminate the significant nexus test.**
- *WOTUS Definition:* The Clean Water Act’s (CWA) use of “waters” encompasses only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water forming geographical features that are described in ordinary parlance as streams, oceans, rivers, and lakes.
- *Wetlands:* **By a 5-4 vote, the Court adopted a more stringent test for what qualifies as an “adjacent wetland” subject to the CWA jurisdiction.** Writing for the majority, Justice Alito concluded that the CWA applies to wetlands that are “as a practical matter indistinguishable from waters of the United States” because they have a “continuous surface connection” with a larger body of water.
- *Implications on 2023 WOTUS rule:* The Sackett case addresses the pre-2015 WOTUS definition, not the 2023 rule. However, the Supreme Court took the opportunity to thoroughly dissect it in Section IV. **As a result, the 2023 rule technically is in effect, but functionally EPA and the Corps cannot enforce it.** The Agencies are supposed to amend the 2023 WOTUS rule to abide by the Court’s decision, but they are somewhat reluctant. **However, the newly amended rule should be out by September 1st,**

Policy Resolutions

Policy development is the most important activity of the county Farm Bureau. It is an organized and on-going program of gathering ideas and opinions from the members. The Policy Development Committee met on August 28 in preparation for the County Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, October 3 at the Sipesville Fire Hall.** The following proposed issue was presented:

State Resolution:

1. We recommend that Penndot be held accountable for damages to private property caused by lack of up-keep and maintenance of highway rights-of-way that were take through eminent domain or purchased.
2. We recommend vehicles other than trucks be eligible for registration for a farm license plate or door sticker
3. We recommend that farm stickered vehicles under 17,000 lbs with inspection be allowed to driven after dark
4. We recommend increasing the speed limit on farm vehicles with a SMV sign from 25 mph to 35 mph
5. We recommend exempting xylazine used in veterinary medicine from any efforts to criminalize illicit possession of xylazine.
6. We recommend that xylazine not be listed as a Schedule III controlled substance.
7. We recommend that the PA reinstate group health insurance

If you have questions about the policy development process, have an additional resolution or issue of concern for the county farm bureau or a question on any of the proposed resolutions please give Shawn Saylor, Somerset County Farm Bureau Policy Development Chairman a call at 814-483-0550



Somerset County Farm Bureau
238 Emert Road
Somerset, PA 15501

Check us out on Facebook at
SomersetCoFarmBureau and
keep up to date on our
activities and programs

Upcoming Events:

- October 3
County Annual Meeting
Sipesville Fire Hall
Time Change
- November 5
November 12-15
PFB Annual Meeting

Your county farm bureau is only as strong as the members that are involved. We look forward to you being involved. See you at the county annual meeting on Tuesday, October 3 at Sipesville Fire Hall.