



# Bucks County Farm Bureau

Volume 6, Issue 3

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

Summer 2022

## President's Message

Hello to All My Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

I hope you are all doing well. This summer has been very hot and dry with many areas receiving little or no rain. It has been tough on your crops. Earlier in the Spring we experienced wet and damp conditions. Hopefully this fall will be much better.

On another note, Ethan Howard, ROD, has accepted a position with Penn State Extension as Client Relationship Manager at Mount Pleasant Mills. We wish him the best of luck on his new endeavor and will miss him. Tom Austin is our new Regional Organization Director. Welcome Tom! You will be able to meet him at the Annual Meeting.

If you haven't done so, please renew your 2023 Farm Bureau membership. If you renew by October 1st, you will be eligible to be entered into a Wawa gift card drawing. Please feel free to bring your renewal to our Annual Meeting on September 24th. We hope to see all of you there to join in fellowship and a good meal. More details will follow.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

President  
Bucks County Farm Bureau

## BUCKS COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Scheetz, President	215-723-4904	fivemfarm@verizon.net
Don Buckman, Vice President	267-718-0313	donbuckman81@yahoo.com
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Dolly Rutherford, Newsletter Editor	267-566-2123	orruth91@yahoo.com

**The Bucks County Farm Bureau meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.  
Plumsteadville Grange, #1738, Route 611, Plumsteadville**

### **FARM-tastic Book Program—2022 Book: "Barn at Night" \$10.00**

Past books are also available. Contact Glenda Wismer 215-766-0675 or pamperedchefglenda@gmail.com

### **Jerry Harris & Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals Grant-2022**

Applicants must be between ages 20-30, a Bucks County resident, and be actively involved in production agriculture. Applicant and/or family must be members in good standing of the Bucks County Farm Bureau and be committed to a career in production agriculture. Applicants may receive up to two grants of \$2500.00, but not in succeeding years. Preference will be given to first time applicants. Applicants must be present to receive their grant at the Bucks County Annual Meeting in September. This grant is non-renewable. Please contact Mark Scheetz at 215-723-4904 or fivemfarm@verizon.net or Don Buckman at 267-718-0313 or donbuckman81@yahoo.com to request an application.

**There are many agricultural careers, so I encourage you to go to a website put together by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Ag Promotion Committee and view all the different careers that are in agriculture.  
[www.agandfoodcareersinpa.com](http://www.agandfoodcareersinpa.com) Thank you. Mark A Scheetz, President**



**Please remember to put your  
milk signs  
out this summer!**

# FAREWELL TO ETHAN HOWARD

## ROD PFB REGION 1



Ethan has accepted a position at Penn State Extension as Client Relationship Manager, Mount Pleasant Mills.

For the past six years, Ethan served as Regional Organization Director for Bucks, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton/Monroe Counties.

Ethan has been dedicated to increasing membership in these counties and working tirelessly with the Farm Bureaus. We have developed a good relationship with Ethan and will miss him.

Ethan will be a great asset to Penn State Extension as Client Relationship Manager. With this new position, Ethan will be close to family and is looking forward to working on his family farm.

We wish you the best of luck!

# WELCOME TOM AUSTIN AS NEW ROD PBF

## REGION 1



Bucks County Farm Bureau would like to welcome our new Regional Director, Tom Austin. We look forward to working with you. Members will meet Tom at our Annual Meeting in September.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Bucks County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting  
Pennridge Community Center-September 24, 2022**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP EARLY (BY October 1, 2022)  
TO BE ENTERED INTO A WAWA GIFT CARD DRAWING!  
YOU CAN BRING YOUR RENEWAL TO BCFB ANNUAL MEETING.**

### YOUNG AG PROFESSIONALS ANNUAL CONTESTS

Our Annual Contests are now open for members under the age of 35. This year, we will be offering a \$100.00 cash reward to anyone who just applies for the Social Media award, the Achievement Award, or our Excellence in Ag award. We will once again be hosting our Discussion Meet and Collegiate Discussion Meet contest at Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November. For more information, please visit us at [www.pfb.com/yap-competitions](http://www.pfb.com/yap-competitions). There you will find the 2023 Discussion Meet questions.

Drew Ross, Young Ag Professionals State Committee Chair

### Time to Nominate Candidates for PFB Awards

County Farm Bureaus are beginning the process of considering candidates to nominate for two Pennsylvania Farm Bureau honors: Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award and Distinguished Local Affairs Leader Award. The recipients of each will be recognized as part of PFB Annual Meeting in November.

The Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award recognizes an individual whose dedicated work and service has significantly contributed to the advancement of Pennsylvania agriculture. The Distinguished Local Affairs Leader Award recognizes an individual whose local affairs efforts and activities have helped solve problems and improve rural living for county Farm Bureau members.

Only county Farm Bureau boards can nominate candidates for the awards but other PFB members can suggest candidates to their county boards for consideration. **The nominating period ends Sept. 1.** You can complete the form electronically by going to [www.pfb.com/LALNomination](http://www.pfb.com/LALNomination). To complete the form manually, please contact Dolly Rutherford at [orruth91@yahoo.com](mailto:orruth91@yahoo.com) for a copy.

### Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member Sign Shop

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**Bucks County Farm Bureau is looking for someone to fill the position of Young Ag Representative and Government Affairs position to represent Bucks County. Contact Don Buckman if interested [donbuckman81@yahoo.com](mailto:donbuckman81@yahoo.com)**

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL-MAY 22, 2022



Bucks County Farm Bureau held their annual Ice Cream Social on May 22nd. We had a nice turnout. A fun time was had by all. This is a great opportunity to socialize with other Farm Bureau members.

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## FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE GOLF CLASSIC-JUNE 13

HERSHEY – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) celebrated the 30th year of its annual Richard Prether Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Golf Classic on Monday, June 13 at the Hershey Country Club West Course. The 2022 tournament raised funds for programs to help the public better understand the story behind our food, fuel and fiber.

This year's event, held Monday, June 13, brought in \$46,923 for the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation. In its history, the tournament has raised more than \$1 million for the foundation. This year, 94 golfers participated to support the foundation, a charitable organization affiliated with PFB.

The foundation works to increase the public's understanding of agriculture and the critical role it plays in our daily lives. This is done through programs such as six Mobile Agriculture Education Science Labs and Ag on the Go, which bring hands-on agriculture science lessons directly to schools; Ag Literacy Week, which sends farmers into classrooms across the state to teach students about agriculture; and Educator's Ag Institute, a weeklong summer program that helps teachers incorporate lessons about agriculture into their curriculum.

"We all eat, and that's why Pennsylvania farmers believe it's so critical that the public has an accurate understanding of agriculture and the role it plays in our daily lives," said PFB President Rick Ebert, who also serves as the foundation's chairman. "The more than \$1 million raised throughout the history this tournament has helped the foundation accomplish that through its important mission: 'Planting seeds. Cultivating knowledge. Harvesting an understanding of agriculture.' Thank you to all the sponsors and golfers who support the foundation's mission."

**Bucks County Farm Bureau made a donation of \$5000.00 to PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation.**

# MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR

**AUGUST 17-21, 2022**

**BCFB is a Diamond Level Sponsor of 4-H with a donation of \$1000.00**

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Published by the Government Affairs and Communications Division

## **Preparations Underway for Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days Expo**

UNIVERSITY PARK – Organizers have begun preparations for Penn State's 2022 Ag Progress Days exposition, which will be held Aug. 9-11 in Centre County.

Sponsored by the College of Agricultural Sciences, the expo is held at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, located 9 miles southwest of State College on state Route 45. Admission and parking are free.

Jesse Darlington, Ag Progress Days manager, said the event is designed to appeal to farm operators, home gardeners, conservationists, youth and families, woodland owners, horse enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the science behind agricultural production and natural resource management.

Ag Progress Days typically features more than 500 commercial and educational exhibitors. Commercial exhibits will showcase the latest ag-related goods and services, and field demonstrations will feature the newest models of farm machinery in action.

Interactive educational displays and workshops will highlight the latest science-based practices, and visitors can take guided tours to see some of the research underway at the surrounding, 2,100-acre Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center.

Darlington noted that the College of Agricultural Sciences Exhibits Building and Theater will provide a hub for expert information and presentations on animal health, including avian influenza, vector-borne diseases such as Lyme disease, and climate-smart agriculture.

Faculty and Penn State Extension educators also will be on hand throughout the grounds to answer questions and provide information on crop, dairy, livestock and equine production; conservation practices; integrated pest management; woodlot management; farm safety; foods and nutrition; home gardening; 4-H youth programs; and other topics.

Other planned activities and attractions include food demonstrations, a sunflower maze, horse exhibitions and clinics, wildlife displays, children's activities, exhibits of antique farm and home implements in the Pasto Agricultural Museum, and a wide variety of food booths.

**Ag Progress Days hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 9; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Aug. 10; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 11.**

## **Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Applauds Agriculture's Inclusion in 2022-23 State Budget**

CAMP HILL – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is pleased that the 2022-23 state budget will institute a program for conservation funding on farms, with \$220 million in funding to create the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) to the clean streams fund, aimed at reducing nutrient and sediment runoff, which comes as a huge victory for farmers as PFB's biggest legislative ask of the year.

While information regarding how the funds will be administered to county conservation districts is not yet available, a burden will be lifted off a lot of farmers that can now implement their best land management practices on their properties to keep the environmental impacts to a minimum.

As a whole, conservation districts will receive an increase of \$6.8 million, with \$5 million coming from the Department of Environmental Protection and the other \$1.8 million coming through the Department of Agriculture.

The 2022-23 state budget also notably includes \$32 million to help combat avian influenza, with \$25 million of the funding coming in the form of indemnity payments to the impacted farmers. An additional \$6 million is available to increase laboratory surveillance activities while another \$1 million was allocated for additional staffing for the Department of Agriculture.

An increase of funds to the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission was also a part of the 2022-23 budget, which is a win for Pennsylvania farmers. When the original budget proposal was rolled out the program was essentially going to be cut, but the final iteration of the budget saw the commission reinstated with an increase in funding.

Agricultural research and extension were given an increase of five percent, which is just shy of \$3 million worth of funding for the 2022-23 year.

The budget also reinstates a \$5 million general fund appropriation for the Farm Show, reducing the reliance on Race Horse Development Fund dollars. The budget increases funding for the State Food Purchase Program by \$2 million as well, to provide emergency food assistance and purchase surplus agricultural products.

Overall, the Department of Agriculture will see just shy of a 30 percent increase this year in funding.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert shared the following thoughts on the 2022-23 state budget:

“I’m really happy with the passage of the state budget this year with agriculture being the number one industry. We had our priorities of the extension service and the diagnostics lab supported. It really shows legislative support for the ag industry.

In addition, the added funding for conservation will help us reach our 2025 water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay. We have a lot more funding resources to go back to the conservation districts to work toward that goal so farmers can implement practices to reach those goals.”

### **Web Corner**

By Holly Cohick [hlcohick@pfb.com](mailto:hlcohick@pfb.com)

Are you involved with any of PFB’s committees? We have a page for Ag Promotion Committee, Women’s Leadership Committee, and Young Ag Professionals. Meet the teams and see what they are about at <https://pfb.com/be-involved>.

### **PFB Hosts Dairy Pricing Discussion Meetings**

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) held its most recent dairy pricing discussion meetings on Monday, July 10th in Ebensburg at Hoss’s, and Friday, July 15th at Brubaker farms in Mount Joy. The discussions have been ongoing across the state this past year.

The main part of the discussions revolved around PFB policy regarding the over order premium, allowing members the opportunity to learn about milk pricing to influence county policy as policy development gets underway.

Attendees heard from multiple speakers, including PFB State Board Director David Graybill, PFB State Dairy Committee Director of Region 3 Ron Wenger, Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board Executive Secretary Carol Hardbarger, American Farm Bureau Federation Economist Danny Munch and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Executive Deputy Secretary Greg Hostetter.

PFB is encouraging members to attend county policy development meetings and the state annual meeting to have their voices heard in impacting policy.

## **New Federal Tax Year Begins for Heavy Highway Vehicles**

Owners of registered vehicles with a registered gross weight of 55,000 pounds or more **registered farm vehicles**, are required to file each year a federal Heavy Highway Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT) return ([Form 2290](#)) with the IRS, even if no tax is due. The HVUT's tax year begins on July 1 each year. If a federal heavy use vehicle tax return has not been filed, PennDOT will likely reject renewal applications for farm plates. Agricultural vehicles operated 7,500 miles or less during the tax year are exempt from payment of tax, as well as other vehicles operated 5,000 miles or less.

Many farmers will be able to complete their HVUT return by simply declaring that the truck will qualify for the agricultural exemption. Pages 7-8 of the *Instructions to Form 2290*, which are included in the above link, outline how to claim the exemption. Form 2290 must be filed by the last day of the month following the month of first use. So, farmers that use their heavy vehicle on the roadway in July, need to file Form 2290 by August 31 of the following month.

## **Region 5 Hosts Women's Leadership Committee Conference at Valley View Farm in Greene County**

WAYNESBURG – Region 5 hosted its annual Women's Leadership Committee Conference at Valley View Farm on Wednesday, July 13th, in Waynesburg.

More than 115 women attended the event at Corbly and Christy Orndorff's Greene County farm. Participants heard from multiple guest speakers in the agricultural field in the region that included Duann Thistlethwaite of Thistlethwaite Vineyards, Lena and Paul Gailing of Lippencott Alpacas and Corbly and Christi Orndorff of Valley View Farm.

The speakers each took time to reflect on the history of their farms and businesses while also focusing on the innovative ways that their practices have evolved over the years and will continue to grow.

The event's keynote speaker was Denise Leigh, who spoke about her experiences as a high school business teacher in Washington County. Leigh grew up on a dairy farm.

Leigh also spoke about her time as the Washington County Fair Queen in 1989 and the PA State Fair Queen in 1990. Leigh became a published author in 2020, releasing her book, "Born a Country Queen," which she dedicated to the women who she had the opportunity to mentor and learn from.

Leigh started an online business in 2019 where she designs and writes curriculum for business education teachers all over the world. She is currently a state finalist for the 2022 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year through the PA State Department of Education.

The conference also featured interactions with one of the Gailing's alpacas, as well as an information session with Corbly Orndorff about their champion-pedigree Belgian horses that have been on the family farm for multiple generations. Visitors were able to interact with the animals during the morning session while learning about Huacaya alpacas and Belgian horses.

Attendees also participated in basket raffles, a 50/50 and competed for door prizes. The event provided a breakfast and lunch, and more than 20 vendors were in attendance.



The event took more than two years to put together after COVID-19 wiped out the originally scheduled Women's Leadership Committee conference in 2020 set for Greene County.

### **AFBF: Cost of July 4th Cookout 17% Higher Than in 2021**

U.S. consumers will pay \$69.68 for their favorite Independence Day cookout foods, including cheeseburgers, pork chops, chicken breasts, homemade potato salad, strawberries and ice cream, based on a new American Farm Bureau Federation marketbasket survey.

The average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is \$69.68, which breaks down to less than \$7 per person. The overall cost for the cookout is up 17% or about \$10 from last year, a result of ongoing supply chain disruptions, inflation and the war in Ukraine.

The average cost of a July 4th cookout for 10 in the Northeast Region this year is \$67.13, or \$6.71 per person, up from \$61.75 in 2021.

Farmers are feeling the price-point pain too, like the people they grow food for, according to AFBF Chief Economist Roger Cryan.

"Despite higher food prices, the supply chain disruptions and inflation have made farm supplies more expensive; like consumers, farmers are price-takers not price-makers," Cryan said. He added, "Bottom line, in many cases the higher prices farmers are being paid aren't covering the increase in their farm expenses. The cost of fuel is up and fertilizer prices have tripled."

Cryan also pointed to the cascading effects of the war in Ukraine, as that country's contributions to global food security are cut off, Russian and Belarusian fertilizer exports are constrained, and some other countries pull back exports to protect their domestic supplies.

The marketbasket survey shows the largest year-to-year price increase was for ground beef.

Survey results showed the retail price for 2 pounds of ground beef at \$11.12, up 36% from last year. Meanwhile, the Agriculture Department's Producer Price Index indicates that compared to a year ago, farm-level cattle prices are up 17.5%, but wholesale beef prices are down 14%. This serves to highlight the differences between farm-level, wholesale and retail beef prices and how the events of the last few years have had significant impacts on the beef production and cattle pricing cycles, making them all hard to predict.

Several other foods in the survey, including chicken breasts, pork chops, homemade potato salad, fresh-squeezed lemonade, pork & beans, hamburger buns and cookies, also increased in price.

One bright spot for consumers is the average retail price for strawberries, which declined by 86 cents compared to a year ago. Sliced cheese and potato chips also dropped in price, 48 cents and 22 cents, respectively. Better weather conditions in some fruit-growing regions and greater retailer pricing flexibility for processed products are the likely drivers behind the modest price declines for these items.

The year-to-year direction of the marketbasket survey tracks with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food at home and general inflation across the economy. Both the index and the marketbasket show increases of more than 10% compared to year-ago levels.

Data for this year's survey was collected by 176 volunteer shoppers across the country and in Puerto Rico, including Farm Bureau members and others.

## Animal Agriculture Industry Breakfast to Take Place on August 10th at Ag Progress Days

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvania agriculture professionals, including dairy and beef producers, are invited to the 2022 Industry Breakfast on Mental Health in the Animal Ag Industry. The industry breakfast will be held on Wednesday, August 10 during the 2022 Ag Progress Days. The event will include a free breakfast and conversation about real-time issues facing Pennsylvania agriculture, including mental health and farm stress. The event is free but pre-registration is required at [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/industry-breakfast](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/industry-breakfast).

The Center for Dairy Excellence, Center for Beef Excellence, Center for Poultry & Livestock, PA Beef Producers Working Group, and Penn State Extension Dairy and Livestock teams are partnering to host the industry breakfast.

“Ag Progress Days is an ideal time to talk among friends and get solid, useful information about how stress hits us all in agriculture,” Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said. “While we’re together, talking about new technology, management methods and challenges that impact our farms’ bottom lines, we hope you’ll join us to talk about the real costs of stress and where to turn for someone who knows agriculture, knows what you’re facing and can truly help.”

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding will provide opening remarks, and Dr. Ginger Fenton from Penn State and Gina Pighetti, retired professor from the Tennessee State University, will share the findings of the 2022 Animal Ag Mental Health Survey.

View more details about the event:

**When:** Wednesday, August 10 from 7-9 a.m.

**Where:** Special Events Building at Ag Progress Days

2710 W. Pine Grove Road

Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

**Cost:** Free, but individuals must pre-register.

To register for the event, visit [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/industry-breakfast](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/industry-breakfast) or call 717-346-0849.

The breakfast is being offered as part of a Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture effort, funded by a USDA Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) Grant. The Center for Dairy Excellence, Center for Beef Excellence, Center for Poultry & Livestock, PA Beef Producers Working Group, and Penn State Extension Dairy and Livestock teams are partnering to host the industry breakfast.


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# ADVERTISING CORNER-continued

## 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.

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- Answer your questions
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
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Growing Your Expectations

**Bucks County Farm Bureau is collecting soda & soup can tabs for charities (Farmers Care Day). You can give them to a Board member or drop off at a Board meeting or bring them to any Farm Bureau event. Thank you!**



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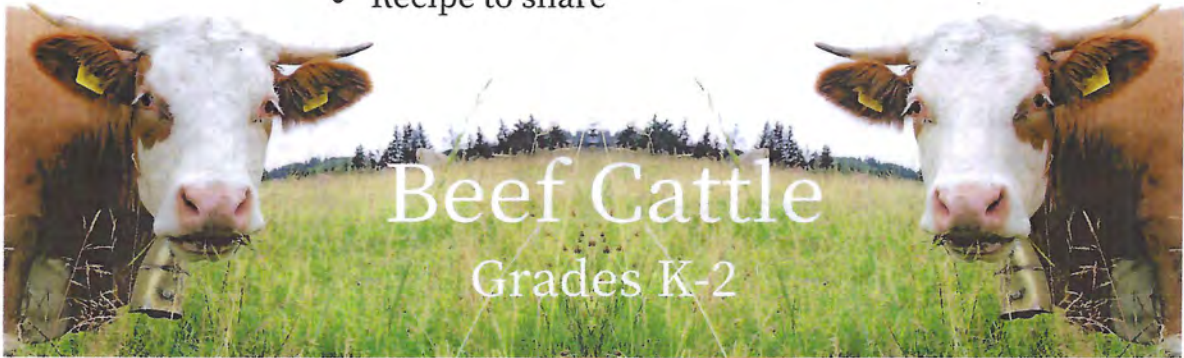
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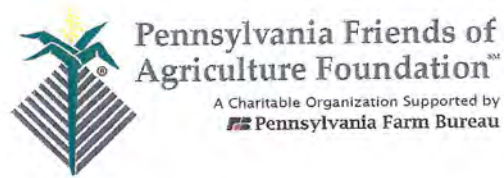
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# Agriculture Awareness Crates 2022-2023

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  - experiment supplies if applicable
- Recipe to share

**\$30.00/crate**





## How to Order:

Scan the QR code here or go to <https://pfb.com/be-involved/ag-promotion-committee/> to order.



## Cost:

Each box can be ordered for \$30. They will be delivered by the Ag Promotion Committee member located in your district.

## Delivery:

The delivery schedule for the boxes are as follows:

Beef: late September

Maple Syrup: December

Sheep: March

## Questions?

Contact the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation at [friendsofag@pfb.com](mailto:friendsofag@pfb.com) or 717-761-2740.





**Nationwide**

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