

## Susquehanna County Farm Bureau Directors

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## Susquehanna County Farm Bureau

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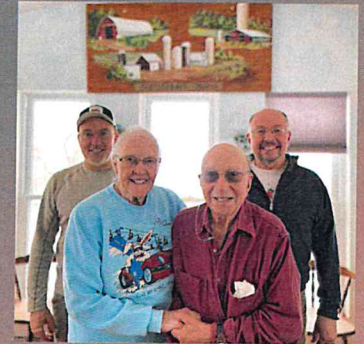
# SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

December 2022

## Featured SCFB Members: *The Castrogiovanni Family*

Castlemont Farm on Turnpike Road, just south of Montrose started on December 28, 1928. The original farm was purchased by John Castrogiovanni's parents and is currently a fourth generation farm. John's parents came through Ellis Island on May 12, 1912 and first settled in Scranton, where they became citizens and started working on their goal of owning land. In Sicily all the land was owned by the Baron, and it was impossible for average people to get ahead. Therefore, when Alberto and Josephine were able to purchase land, they were extremely proud. When they were growing up in Sicily there were no public schools, so all of their progress was due to hard work with the additional burden of not being able to read and write, and also speaking Italian as their first language.

The first tractor, a Farmall H with steel wheels, arrived on the farm when John was in high school, and improvements have been happening ever since. The size of the farm, length of the barns, and number of Holstein cows has increased over time. A passion has always been to improve the genetics of the cattle, and the Castrogiovannis have both black and red and white Holsteins.



From Left to Right: Mathew Castrogiovanni, Jean Castrogiovanni, John Castrogiovanni, and David Castrogiovanni

Working with different agricultural organizations has always been important. John joined the Farm Bureau in 1951, the year it was organized in Susquehanna County believing it would represent the best interest of farmers and agriculture. The family still believes in what the Farm Bureau does and how it works. John, Jean, and sons David and Mathew are all members. All of the family have been members of different agricultural organizations with John having been the longest running board member of DHIA, Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

Jean and John, who just turned 96, are still active on the farm and are proud of how the next two generations are working to improve and continue the farm.



## Local Discounts for Farm Bureau Members in Susquehanna County

SCFB Members - show your membership card at these participating businesses and ask about the Farm Bureau discount. [www.pfb.com/localdiscounts](http://www.pfb.com/localdiscounts)

**Andre & Son, Inc. - True Value** (Montrose) - 5% off any in-stock store items not already on clearance or promotional pricing

**Auto Plus** (Great Bend) 10% off

**Barhites Sales & Rentals** (Clifford) 10% off all rentals, 5% off all sale items in-stock/shop repairs, 5% off parts, 15% off labor

**Blue Stone Pizzeria** (Hallstead) 10% off all menu items

**Flynn's Hardware/Flymm's Stone Castle** 10% off animal feed, Lawton

**Gerard E. Shinn Construction** (Uniondale) 5% off any contracted work

**Glezen's Power Equipment Inc.** (Hallstead) 10% off parts

**J&J Springs** (New Milford) 10% off all water delivery to homes

**JDE Salon** (Montrose) 20% off all retail products

**Liberty Carpet, Inc.** (Hallstead) 10% off in-stock & special-order flooring, 5% off hardwood

**Little Leaf Natural Products** (Montrose) 10% off everything; must show membership card

**Maloney's Pub & Restaurant** (Hallstead) 10% off food on Sunday and Monday only

**Montrose Produce** (Montrose) 5% discount

**New Milford Hardware** (New Milford) Trade Discount - up to 10% off depending on item

**Nicholson Tire Service** 5% off tires and labor, Nicholson. Available to Susquehanna and Wyoming County Farm Bureaus

**Pump N Pantry** All stores except Troy - buy one get one free hotdogs (Kunzler's from Lancaster)

**Rhonda's Country Heart Décor** (Montrose) 10% off everything in store

**Rustic Roost Café** free drink with meal purchase, Kingsley. Available to Susquehanna and Lackawanna Farm Bureaus

**Scarfalloto Hometown Market** (Montrose) 5% off total order

**Speakeasy Saloon & Resort** (Union Dale) 10% off any dinner and room rental

**Stone's Trustworthy Hardware** (Great Bend) 10% regular priced items; some exclusions apply

**Strauss Chiropractic/Northeast Nutrition** (Kingsley) Initial consult, complete exam & x-rays for \$25 (normally \$175-250)

**Summit Workwear** (New Milford) 15% off boots and workwear

**Timberline Lawn and RV** (Montrose) 10% off in-stock or ordered parts; \$100 minimum purchase

**Wandering Trails Veterinary Care** 10% off services excluding medications, Towanda. Available to Susquehanna, Wayne, Bradford, and Wyoming Farm Bureaus

**William Shay Flagstone** 10% off 10 by 10 Patio Package, Thompson. Available to Susquehanna and Wayne/Pike Farm Bureaus

## PA Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 72nd Annual Meeting was held in Hershey on November 14-16. Susquehanna County Farm Bureau was fortunate to be well represented. State Board member representing District 1, Jim Barbour and his wife Kim; Government Affairs director William Shay and his wife Aileen; Women's Leadership Committee, District 1 representative Emma Hinkley; Donna Williams, Vice President of SCFB and SCFB President Dave DeLeon and his wife Mania. Both Aileen and Mania represented the county on the Women's Leadership Committee.

As in other years the days and nights were full of worthwhile activities. The motivational speaker was Gian Paul Gonzalez, whose inspirational talks have made him an international renowned speaker for NBA, NFL and many Fortune 500 companies. His phrase "All In" has challenged many to live life by being just that.

Another speaker who enlightened the crowd of over 500 was Neeli Bendapudi, who was recently named the first woman President of Penn State University. Dr. Bendapudi's remarks gave everyone an opportunity to see why she totally impressed the Trustees in selecting her to be the 19th President of PSU.

PFB's Health Fair is always well received. It gives everyone an opportunity to get their flu shots and meet with many folks representing health insurance opportunities from farm bureau as well as many other health and safety representatives.

A critical emphasis of the annual get together is the delegate session which looks at over 200 policies developed by the 54 farm bureau county organizations. These policies focused on state and national topics. Topics such as farmland ownership by foreign countries, nutrient management, meat processing, conservation programs, invasive species to name just a few.

For Susquehanna County Farm Bureau and agriculture in general it was a special affair. We were honored to have our own Donna Williams receive the Distinguished Woman in Agriculture Award. She was feted at the Woman's Luncheon and again at our Banquet festivities in the evening.

During her acceptance speech, Donna said, "At 87 years old, God has been very graceful and forgiving and loving to me. I'm a Sunday school teacher and I play the piano for church."



At our Sunday school we sing a song, if you're happy and you know it clap your hands. So, I got up here and I see the smiles on everybody's faces. You're with wonderful people. I've been part of Farm Bureau since the late 80s and I've made wonderful friends. So, I'm going to ask you all to join in that song but the very last one, shout "Farm Bureau!" She got everyone on their feet at the end, with a round of "If You're Happy and You Know it," Farm Bureau style.

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau was recognized for earning the Overall Achievement Award for county farm bureaus with 401 or more members. This award salutes a county farm bureau for outstanding performance in all six program areas evaluated by PA Farm Bureau. We also received the prestigious Premier County Award which is the highest honor bestowed upon a county farm bureau among all 54 county farm bureaus. It's always an honor to receive this acclaim and feeling of a job well done for our county Board of Directors, committee volunteers and all our farm bureau members in Susquehanna County.

And finally one more important note on state leadership. Chris Hoffman, from Juniata County, who has been Vice President of our organization for the last 8 years was elected President of PA Farm Bureau. Tommy Nagle, a beef and crop farmer from Cambria County and a member of the PFB State Board was elected by the Board to be Vice President in serving out the remaining year of Chris Hoffman's position. Best of luck to both of these gentlemen in leading our organization.



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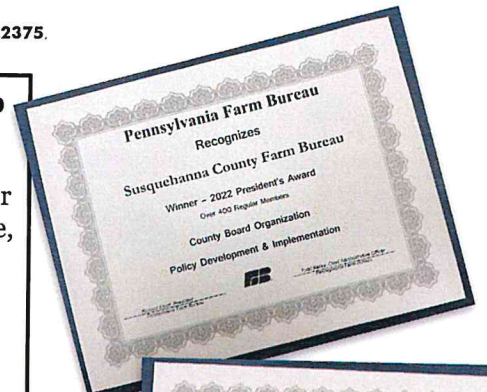
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## AG Literacy

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau will once again participate in Ag Literacy Week. The PA Friends of Ag Foundation sponsors this educational experience throughout PA. This school year the program is scheduled around mid March.

We are most fortunate to have the Dairy Promotion organization in the county spearheaded by Evie Goff and the Dairy Princess group organize this tremendous undertaking. Last year 74 classrooms and 1,472 children were visited, read to and participated in this program. It's always exciting to watch children's eyes open wide when a member of the Dairy Princess Court walks into a class of kindergarten to second grade students along with a volunteer from our farming community to read and talk about the year's special book.

This year the book is "The Day the Farmers Quit" written by Autumn Pequignot and illustrated by Kate Fallahee. It's the story of a boy who learns he can't live without the hard work of his farmer friends who've decided to go on vacation. The young boy decides to save his town and get the farmers to return.

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau along with Susquehanna Dairy Promotion purchase books which are then donated to each classroom after the readings and activities. Teachers are also left with resources they can continue to use all year.

The Farm-tastic Book Program was started by the PA State Women's Leadership Committee in 2012 to promote agricultural literacy in public libraries and elementary school libraries within Pennsylvania. For 2023 the chosen book is "From Seed to Plant" by Gail Gibbons. As we have in previous years, Susquehanna County Farm Bureau has purchased 50 of these books. We will donate them to all the elementary and public libraries in the county. Individuals may also purchase books by contacting our District 1 Women's Leadership representative, Emma Hinkley.

## Save these Dates:

*Save the dates for upcoming SCFB events*

### **Spring Meeting Brunch:**

April 29, 10am at Montrose Bible Conference

### **Legislative Farm Tour:**

August 4, Details to follow

### **SCFB Picnic:**

August 29, 5pm at Belchers Pavilion

### **Harford Fair:**

August 14-19

### **Fall Annual Dinner Meeting:**

October 6, 5:30pm Social and 6:30pm Dinner at Montrose Bible Conference

Special "AG Crates" have been delivered to local elementary schools across Susquehanna county featuring the book, *Grandpa Alan's Sugar Shack*, maple syrup samples, crafts, recipes, and trivia!

