

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau Directors

David DeLeon, President.....570-853-3520	John Bencoter.....570-833-4250
Jim Barbour, 1st V. President.....607-435-0830	Joseph Decker.....570-756-2657
Donna Williams, 2nd V. President.....570-942-6348	Karen Harmer.....570-289-4128
Micheline Klim, Secretary.....570-289-4756	Joseph Plonski.....570-765-2901
Emma Hinkley, Women's Leadership.....570-289-4943	Mike Russell Jr.....607-972-3842
	William Shay.....570-396-4752

Non-Director
Jessica Prusinowski, Treasurer.....908-310-0905

People Serving You

Nationwide Appointed Agencies

R. Leet Agency.....18 Como Rd. PO Box 300, Lakewood, PA	570-789-2666
.....321 Main St., Hallstead, PA.....	570-465-3296
Little & Nelson Ins.....66 Public Ave, Montrose, PA.....	570-278-1151
.....1344 Main St, Susquehanna, PA.....	570-853-3372
Manci Ins. Agency.....35 E Tioga St., Tunkhannock, PA	570-836-3372

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

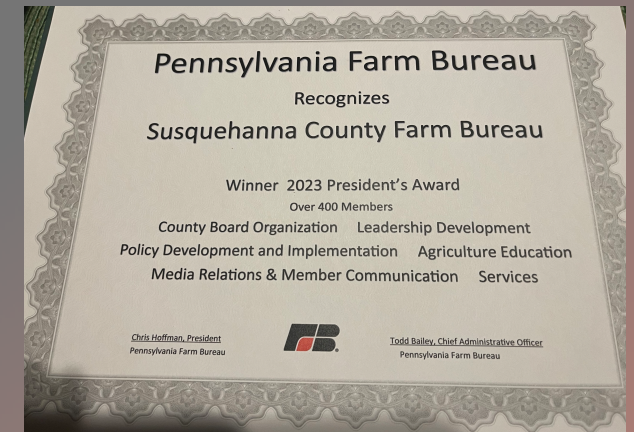
January 2024

PA Farm Bureau 73rd Annual Meeting

In mid November Hershey was once again the host for our Annual Meeting. As always, discussion on the delegate floor makes it the primary focus of this get together. SCFB was well represented by William Shay, Jim Barbour and Dave DeLeon as delegates and Aileen Shay, Kim Barbour and Mania DeLeon as alternate delegates. They not only encourage the adoption of policies coming from Susquehanna but also get behind policies from other counties that are important to agriculture and rural communities in general. In all, 86 policies were finally accepted. Please remember this is direct evidence of grassroots involvement by our organization as each and every policy begins on the county level.

At last year's convention Chris Hoffman was elected President of PFB. He needed to vacate his vice-president position to do so and the State Board chose Tommy Nagle to be the interim VP for the year. Tommy who raises beef cattle and crops in Cambria County was officially elected for a full term by the delegates as vice-president

Various awards are always presented to honor those deserving folks who have done so much for agriculture and community issues. In our own region, Bonnie Latourette from Wayne County was honored by PFB's Women's Leadership Committee as recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Woman in Agriculture Award.



Bonnie has always been very active in farm bureau affairs and is presently serving as Wayne/Pike County President. If you recall our own Donna Williams won this prestigious award last year.

The meeting also included social events like Trivia Night, and excellent educational sessions including mental health, federal funding, regulatory updates, wholesaling to schools and much more to make the experience worthwhile for everyone.

We were a little disappointed with our 2 year run of Premier County Award selection being broken. Columbia County took home that award this year with SCFB finishing second. There are various areas at the end of the year you need to be able to qualify for the county awards. Proudly we qualified in all six areas but obviously Columbia County scored higher and we congratulate them for doing so well. At the same time we know where we need to excel and are planning to be back in that position next year.

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

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

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

Russell Farms (Brackney) 5% discount

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

Conservation District Seedling Sale:

Pick-Up Location:

At Susquehanna County Conservation District office
89 Industrial Drive, Montrose PA. 18801
Saturday, April 20, 2024 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Orders MUST be picked up on April 20, 2024
No refunds on unclaimed orders.

Mail Order Deadline: March 3rd
Online Order Deadline: March 15th

Evergreen seedlings, evergreen transplants, deciduous seedlings, shrubs, berries & veggies, potted blueberries, semi-dwarf fruit trees, tree protection, pollinator wildflower seed mixes

Ag Promotion

Some of us are heading to Gettysburg February 9-10 for our annual TASK Conference. We are doing a battlefield tour from an agricultural perspective - the impact the war had on the crops, livestock, barns, homes, and families. Our keynote for the banquet Friday evening and Saturday morning is Paul Moya, known as the Harvard Cowboy. 2008-2009 National FFA President.

Secretary of Agriculture Russel Redding, AFBF P&E chair, and President Chris Hoffman will be speaking also.

We are continuing our Ag Crates in the schools and looking forward to Ag Literacy Week in March when we will partner again with the Dairy Princess program and be reading in classrooms.

- Jim Barbour



Save-the-dates 2024

Spring Environmental Legislative Tour: Mid to Late March with date still TBD
Watch for FaceBook and Newspaper alerts by mid February

Susquehanna Farm and Home Day, April 1st, 10am,
Elk Lake High School
Thirty-Fifth Year

Spring Information Meeting/Meet the Candidates Breakfast/Brunch
April 6th Montrose VFW on Rt 706, 10am

SCFB County Picnic, August 29th, Belchers Pavilion, 5pm

SCFB Fall Annual Dinner Meeting, October 4th, 5:30 Social
6:30 Dinner, Montrose Bible Conference

Other Important Events

Ag Literacy Week, All County Elementary Schools, March 18-22
Grades K-2, 2024 Book, "ANYWHERE FARM"

2024 State Legislative Conference, Tuesday, March 26 Harrisburg Hilton
and the State Capitol

TASK Conference, Feb 9-10th, Gettysburg

YAP Conference , Feb 16-18th, Harrisburg

Farm Bureau Day, March 5th, Region 8, Wyoming PA

PSU Board of Trustees Election for Ag Representation, May 2nd

Guest Speaker at Ag Conference:

On 1/11/24, John Benscoter of Auburn Township, was a guest Speaker at the "21st Annual Catskill Regional Agricultural Conference", held at the "SUNY Delhi Campus." Having to date, 145 Water Troughs, from many different Gravity-Flow Spring Developments in Northeast Pa. and the Southern Tier of N. Y. John presented and provided key design consideration's and management strategies with "Gravity-Flow Spring Developments Systems." John explained to a mixed group of 40 Farmers and Designers, how he uses his Water-witching ability, when laying out and designing a Spring Development System and the Science involved, with the Water-witching process. During his presentation, John stressed the point that the very best Project Design is only as good as the Project's Installation.

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**.

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Second Annual SCFB Scholarships

For the second year we are extremely proud to be able to offer two, \$1000 scholarships to senior students in our county schools. All seniors are encouraged to apply. Last year we were very fortunate to have surprising interest since this was our first opportunity to offer these scholarships.

We are interested in the student's entire school and community involvement along with each individual's plan for growth after graduation. Of course we continually look and hope to see a student's interest in agriculture and agriculture related fields and its impact on our communities and way of life.

Categories feature high school grades, work experience, extracurricular activities, community volunteerism, letter of recommendation and an essay with an agriculture focus, each unique on its own. We are definitely looking for a student who will continue his or her education post high school, whether it be a college, community college or technical school. We always like to see farm bureau membership in the student's extended family as well.

We will have a four member panel made up of 2 Board Directors and 2 SCFB members not on our Board to judge all of our applicants. Our deadline for receiving these applications is March 25th so that we can announce winners at our Spring Breakfast meeting in April.

Finally, as we did for our first student recipients, the scholarship will be paid after the student successfully completes his or her first semester of post high school work.

PFB Wildlife and Fisheries Committee

Having been a member of the Wildlife Committee for some time, this past year has finally seen important steps to curb farmers' crop damage due to wildlife issues. The main reason is that PA Farm Bureau has made this serious problem a main priority when dealing with legislators and the Game Commission.

In meetings we've had with farmers throughout the state, we discovered to no surprise, the last few years have seen more damage from wildlife (mostly deer) than ever before. The realization is quite clear that something needs to be done. Fortunately the committee has had excellent communication with not only the PA Game Commission but also legislators that are in charge of both Ag and Wildlife Senate and House committees. Andy Bater from Centre County is on the State Board and is our Chairman, while David Varner, Media and Marketing Specialist for PFB is our staff connection. With both of these gentlemen having a direct connection to state leadership we finally have a voice connected to ears listening to what's really happening out on the farms.

Our 7 member committee meets by Zoom every month. We now have a member of the PA Game Commission on the committee. We were recently notified that we'll have a booth at the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg on February 3-11. We had been on the waiting list since Fall. Those of you attending make sure to stop by.

Evidence of movement in this direction can be seen in a couple obvious areas. First by the number of policies we passed at the Annual Meeting in Hershey in November concerning wildlife - far more policies on this subject than any other.

The second is extremely important and that's the personal contact we've had with Senator Rothman who chairs the Senate Game and Fisheries Committee and his staff. Recently a number of bills were being prepared and have or are about to be placed in front of the entire PA Senate for approval. These came about from direct communication with our group along with critical personal testimony from our chairman about a month ago. Hopefully these bills allow farmers and hunters to work more easily together, increasing hunting access while relieving a big part of what many farmers have dealt with too long.

I'll keep membership informed as we move forward and please keep up on the Action Alerts when various wildlife and hunting legislation comes up for votes of approval.

- David DeLeon

Governmental Relations

Director Bill Shay

With 2023 coming to a close we need to plan for tomorrow. As we look back the question comes up: what should we change or try to achieve in the new year? This is the question that I have thought about. History is always 20/20; you can see all that happens and know the outcome. Looking to the future, we are not that lucky. As far as governmental relations at Susquehanna County Farm Bureau I feel we are making some necessary changes to the program. We will be meeting more with our legislators and working with them to inform them of our needs and wants. The PA Farm Bureau staff has stabilized, and we have three great people to help and assist us in our goals.

We met with Representative Fritz on December 28 for an hour to discuss our current policies. The information was well received. The policies we discussed were the prevailing wage law not being changed since the 1960s. We would like the law updated so the taxpayer money being used is being used for the best. The wildlife damaging crops is a big one. We would like a Farmer to be placed on the Game Commission Board. We discussed the House being out of session until March due to a leak in the roof. We asked why they could not meet in another building. We were told it was a leadership call and we will have to wait to see what leadership decides. The Democrats have the leadership role now with a one-person majority.

On the Federal level, House Bill 1147 to bring whole milk back to school lunches passed the House of Representatives and now is in the Senate Ag Committee. Unfortunately, Senator Stabenow who chairs the Committee does not favor this Bill so at this moment the Bill has not moved out of committee. Various states, particularly those seen as Dairy states are and will continue to let their views known on this topic so stay tuned as we enter 2024.

Thank you, William Shay

