

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau Directors

David DeLeon, President.....	570-853-3520	Joseph Plonski.....	570-765-2901
Jim Barbour, 1st V. President.....	607-435-0830	John Bencoter.....	570-833-4250
Donna Williams, 2nd V. President.....	570-942-6348	William F. Curley.....	570-991-1936
Michelene Klim, Secretary.....	570-289-4756	Joseph Decker.....	570-756-2657
Emma Hinkley, Women's Leadership.....	570-289-4943	Thomas Helmacy.....	570-833-2138
		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

July 2023

Featured SCFB Members: *The Fearnley Family*

Little Meadows, PA is home to one of the newer SCFB members, the Jeremiah Fearnley family and Fearn-Mdws Apiary. Jeremiah and Nicole Fearnley, both raised on dairy farms and children of Farm Bureau members, have two daughters, Hannah, 14 and Emma, 11. Jeremiah is a Susquehanna County native and the son of Robert and Dawn Fearnley. Nicole grew up in Bedford County an active member of FFA and a state officer. Their dairy farm backgrounds brought them together at Penn State where they both majored in Animal Science and were members of the Dairy Science Club and dairy judging team. Putting their dairy farm backgrounds and animal science educations to good use Jeremiah works full-time with Premier Select Sires and Nicole with Virbac Animal Health.

After a short time in Horseheads, NY the Fearnley family moved to Little Meadows in 2005. The first bees arrived in 2008 when Jeremiah was interested in improving pollination of apple trees on the family property. A little reading about beekeeping and how bees organize their colonies stoked Jeremiah's interest in beekeeping. He embraced the challenge of putting interest into action and Fearn-Mdws Apiary was born. Currently, Jeremiah and Nicole target 12 hives each containing a workforce of roughly 60,000 bees but the size of the apiary fluctuates between 6 and 12 hives with winter colony losses due to weather and parasitic varroa mites and the constant challenge of predators like raccoons and bears.



Fearn-Mdws produces two different varieties of honey a lighter spring produced honey mainly coming from basswood, locust and various spring flowers and a darker fall honey from goldenrod, aster and Japanese knotweed.

Fifteen years in, Jeremiah continues to learn new things about his bees. Seeing the bees out working flowers, catching swarms and starting new nucleus hives are among Jeremiah's favorite things about beekeeping. Jeremiah is always eager to share the things he has learned over the past 15 years and has helped a handful of others get established in beekeeping.

While beekeeping is their primary focus, the Fearnleys also maintains a few goats and pigs as 4-H projects for Hannah and Emma who are active members of the Born to Show 4-H club. Both of the girls are also classroom reading volunteers for Pa Farm Bureau's Ag Literacy Week.

You can find Fearn-Mdws honey at Mountainside Fruit Market in Choconut, PA. If you are interested in learning more about beekeeping or if you have a swarm of bees you would like to see relocated you can reach Jeremiah at 570-396-1002.

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

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

Government Relations

We are at the end of another session of PA Legislature. With summer recess here, we have contacted our local representatives and senators.

Susquehanna County is planning meetings and would like to invite you, a member of Susquehanna County Farm Bureau, to have input into the agenda on what will be discussed. Remember, you have a voice. Let us know how you feel about current issues and problems you see.

Congressman Dan Meuser's office put together an excellent program among a diverse group of folks. With all Susquehanna County under his jurisdiction, he wanted to listen and respond to our questions and comments. From our perspective we were able to discuss the Chesapeake Bay issues and what the future holds for the Ag community. He is fully on board with whole milk in schools and has his name on that Bill. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 570-396-4752, or Email at shayfarm@nep.net.

Ag Promotion

We are in full-swing with summer events and activities where we have lots of opportunities to talk to people about our farms and families. The weather certainly is a frequent topic of conversation which is an easy way to tell our farm's story. We will be at Ag Progress Days, the Harford Fair, doing Ag Crates for elementary classrooms and our TASK Conference in Gettysburg, February 9-10. We can all do our part in making a difference by sharing our experience with others.

Together we can!

Together we will!

Jim Barbour

Ag Promotion State Chair

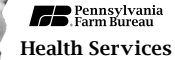
Wildlife and Fisheries Committee

PA Farm Bureau has a number of very active committees which have various schedules, each with a different focus. On some occasions our group has been addressed as the Wildlife Damage Committee. Over the last few years that has been a prime focus. David Varner, who is the Media and Marketing Specialist with PFB and Andy Bater from our State Board have taken a leadership role with our group. In addition to monthly zoom meetings, we were able to get together with about a dozen or so farmers to discuss what has worked and what has not in reducing wildlife damage to crops. For our area, our get-together was in Newton near Clarks Summit. That area has a number of specialty crop farmers whose acreage is the most costly when lost. We've made improvements in the use of DMAP and AG Tags (RED Tags) as well as various depredation permits. We had a fruitful meeting about 5 or 6 years ago in Wyoming county which brought a large group of farmers together.

In summation of the progress of the last 5-6 years, we were not surprised, yet still disappointed to hear that despite many using these permits, whenever they could locate hunters, the bottom line was that damage now is worse than ever. One of our priorities is to get a handle on amounts of damage in the state in dollars. Unfortunately, everything up to now has been unofficial. Some information was shared at the Farm Show this past January but we need better statistics. We continue to look at the USDA, Penn State Extension, etc. to assess in real dollars so the legislature and the populace realizes what is happening to farmers' crops.

In addition, it's important to note that Pennsylvania is number one in the country in insurance costs to automobiles due to wildlife (primarily deer) damage. In the end we all pay for that. We hope to put together some critical policies to bring to the delegate floor in Hershey in November which will hopefully lead to important legislation along with possible improvement in Game Commission rules and regulations. We hope this helps alleviate this huge problem which gets worse each and every season.

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?

 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Health Services

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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PA Farm Bureau Membership

We all know how important membership is to our association. "Life-blood of the organization," "strength in numbers," etc. By now most of us realize the year begins for new members the first of July as that starts our membership campaign. For new members it is a fantastic time to sign since their membership continues through not only the remaining 6 months of the year but the following entire year as well.

Our Directors are always looking for new farm bureau members and have plenty of information to share as to why anyone who eats should be a member. Any member can sign another and an online connection to sign is always an option.

Lately our State Board has looked at incentives for early signings. Last year a compact tractor was the grand prize. This year the following will be offered: any new member who signs up in July or August will be entered into a drawing for \$1000. All new members and renewals received by September 30th (renewal notices usually first go out in early September) will be entered into drawings for the following: cash prizes of \$2000, \$1000, \$500 and two gift cards of \$500 each. Also, each brochure and dues notice allows a member to sign up for automatic renewals. Anyone doing that by Sept 30 also and will be entered into a drawing for \$1000. Here in Susquehanna County we are most proud to be one of 5 counties in the state to reach membership goal this past year. We congratulate everyone for their hard work in making this possible. We encourage all members to renew early and new members to join us.

2023 Susquehanna County Farm Bureau Legislative Tour

The Susquehanna Co. Farm Bureau is proud to announce their upcoming educational “State Legislative Tour,” which will take place on 8/4/23, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. The event’s meeting place is at 345 Beech Grove Road---Laceyville, PA. 18623. This organized educational tour will take place in Auburn Twp. and will feature the following topics:

- 1) A Guided Tour and Presentation of a Concreted Barnyard, a Manure Storage, and Concreted Heavy Use Area Protection.
- 2) A Guided Tour and a Presentation by a Chesapeake Energy Representative, on an actual, producing, Natural Gas Pad Site.
- 3) A Guided Tour and a Presentation by a Williams Company Representative on their Rattlesnake Hill Facility.
- 4) A Guided Tour and Presentation of a “PA Bluestone Saw Shop Facility” which will feature the “Big Blocks of Bluestone being sawed into workable-sized Bluestone Slabs.” At the same location, there will be a Presentation on the Production and Management of their 200 head Beef Farm.
- 5) A Guided Tour and Presentation of a “Family Owned and Operated “Wooden Stone Pallet Manufacturing Shop.”

A small meal and water will be furnished by the SCFB at the tour. If there are any questions on the purposed Tour or to make tour reservations---Please call John Benscoter at 570-833-4250 or email johnrbenscoter@yahoo.com.

Please Save This Date: 8/4/23

Important Dates and Information:

The Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab is now committed and scheduled to be in each elementary school in Susquehanna County in the 2023-2024 school year for a week per visit. And a big thank you goes out to our County Commissioners for funding the largest portion of this expenditure. This type of education is so important in every elementary school in PA. The great news is that at the moment over 130 schools have registered for this excellent program run by the PA Friends of Ag Foundation. However the bad news (hopefully temporary) is that there is a big shortage in teachers for the program. It is a great opportunity for retired teachers or anyone with a teaching degree to be a part of this program. Anyone out there with interest, we encourage you to contact the Foundation at 717-761-2740, email FriendsOfAg@pfb.com or Charlene Espenshade at cmespenshade@pfb.com.

Reminder, the Harford Fair is August 14 through Saturday the 19th. SCFB will have our usual booth near the Grandstand. We need volunteers to do 3 hour shifts in the booth in order to keep it going full time. Anyone with interest please contact Bill or Aileen Shay at 570-396-6168 or 570-396-4752. Also shayfarm@nep.net.

IMPORTANT CHANGE OF DATE**

Our SCFB County picnic which is an excellent opportunity to meet other members, enjoy great food, including barbecue chicken, corn on the cob, ice cream from the Lenox and New Milford Dairy Bars and dishes brought in by so many great cooks and bakers among membership. Also, this is a good opportunity to discuss policies so anyone wanting to bring one or more to the picnic is encouraged to do so. All members are invited. Location as always is the Belchers Pavilion in South Gibson. And anyone needing direction please give me a call or text at 607-768-9893.

If you’ve put August 31 in your planner, please note there’s been a change. It will now be a day earlier on **AUGUST 30, which is a Wednesday at 5 pm.

And of course, in planning ahead, our Annual SCFB Dinner meeting is on October 6th at the Montrose Bible Conference. Details will be forthcoming.