



Juniata County

*Farm
Bureau*

NEWS

Congratulations!

**Juniata County
Farm Bureau
Directors**

Region 1

President –
Benjamin Zook
717-363-1316

Ethan Shoop
717-734-0129

Mark Partner
717-436-8929

Region 2

Ray Geissinger, VP
717-348-6373

Charlie Diem
717-979-9223

Jordan Bassler
570-980-3906

Region 3

Matt Matter - VP
717-444-9928

Cheyenne Hepner
717-543-7273

Ken Beatty
717-360-8228

Secretary/Treasurer
(Non-voting)
Jackie Matter
717-444-9928

Newsletter Editor
(Non-voting)
Linda Geissinger
717-348-6374

Hoffman elected as PFB President



Juniata County farmer Chris Hoffman has been elected as The ninth President of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau by voting delegates at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the State’s largest farm organization. Hoffman served as the vice president for the past eight years.

“As an organization we are called to be the leader in agriculture and I am excited about what the future has in store for all of us,” President elect Hoffman said. “I know that we need to be united, we need to work hard to identify the problems, and we need to communicate. We need to come together as a unified voice to make this Farm Bureau do the impossible.”

Hoffman has been heavily involved with Farm Bureau over the past 28 years, serving on PFB’s State Board of Directors for 11 years and as a member of the board’s Executive Committee.

“I look forward to being a part of all of us working together to drive us into the future that people want to be a part of this organization. I want to be the organization that people look to when they have questions and one that farmers need every day. I am humbled, I am honored, and I look forward to working with each member and the committees. Thank you for this opportunity and I will do everything that I can to move this organization forward.”

Nagle Elected as PFB Vice President



Cambria County beef and crop farmer Tommy Nagle was elected as the Vice President of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) by the state board of directors on Wednesday after the position was vacated by Chris Hoffman, who is now serving as PFB President.

“I’m looking forward to working very closely with PFB President Hoffman and his visions for Farm Bureau as far as uniting members and expanding our membership base,” Nagle said. “I’m also looking forward to looking for some different avenues to inform our consumers.”



Juniata County Farm Bureau

Meet Your Juniata County Committee Chairs

Newsletter Editor	Linda Geissinger	348-6374
Information Director	Linda Geissinger	348-6374
Member Relations Director	Ray Geissinger	348-6373
Membership & Services, Chair	Ray Geissinger	348-6373
YAP, Chair	Cheyenne Hepner	543-7273
Women's Leadership, Chair	Jackie Matter	444-9928
FARM-tastic Books	Jackie Matter	444-9928
Safety Coordinator	Ray Geissinger	535-5886
Fund Raising Coordinator	Ray Geissinger	348-6373
Ag in the Classroom/Ag Lab		
Ag Promotion Committee, Chair	Dave Graybill	436-6957
Environmental Coordinator	Jackie Matter	444-9928
Government Relations Director	Jordan Bassler	570-980-3906
Policy Development Chair	Mat Matter	444-9928
Local Govern. Relations Chair	Mark Partner	436-8929
Meet the Candidates Comm Chair	Matt Matter	444-9928
Environmental Coordinator	Jackie Matter	444-9928
Animal Care Coordinator		

Legislative Committees:

Rep. Perry Stambaugh, Chair	Dave Graybill	436-6957
Sen. Judy Ward, Chair	Matt Matter	444-9928
Rep. John Joyce, Chair	Dave Graybill	436-6957
Rep. Dave Rowe, Chair		

Help and Resources Available:

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or use the online chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat 24/7 for free and confidential support and to be connected with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support via text.
- **PA 211** is a United Way statewide partner which offers trained resource navigators who can tell farmers what services may be available in their area to help with a variety of health and human service needs, from utility or food assistance to mental health support. Visit www.pa211.org, dial 211 from any landline or cell phone, or text your zip code to **898-211**.
- **Avera Health Farm and Rural Stress Hotline:** Call 800-691-4336 to be connect with a skilled, compassionate mental health professional.
- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment locators, SAMHSA's National Helpline, a Disaster Distress Helpline and other important information.

Find additional resources, learn tips for starting important conversations about mental health, and register for free rural resilience training by visiting farmstateofmind.org.

Tax Tips by Karen.....

One of the advantages of someone running their own business is hiring family members, which can provide a deduction for compensation paid. When including family members in business operations, certain tax treatment and employment tax rules apply.

Both spouses carrying on a trade or business. If spouses carry on a business together and share in the profits and losses, they may be partners whether or not they have a formal partnership agreement. There are different filing requirements for a sole proprietor vs. a joint venture as a partnership. The spouses can elect not to treat the joint venture as a partnership by making a qualified joint venture election.

Qualified joint venture. Spouses may elect treatment as a qualified joint venture instead of a partnership. A qualified joint venture conducts a trade or business where:

- The only members are a married couple who file a joint return,
- Both spouses materially participate in the trade or business, and
- Both spouses elect not to be treated as a partnership.

Only businesses owned and operated by spouses as co-owners and not in the name of a state law entity, such as a limited partnership or limited liability company, are eligible for the qualified joint venture election.

Employment taxes. If the business has employees, either of the spouses as sole proprietors may report and pay the employment taxes. The spouse, as an employer, must have an EIN for their sole proprietorship. If the business filed or paid employment taxes for part of the year under the partnership's EIN, the spouse may be considered the employee's "successor employer" for purposes of figuring whether wages reached the Social Security and federal unemployment wage base limits.

The wages for the services of an individual who works for their spouse, or parent employed by a child, are subject to income tax withholding and Social Security and Medicare taxes, but not the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Additionally, there are special rules for children employed by parents. Children under the age of 18 are not subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes on their wages if the business is a sole proprietorship or a partnership in which each partner(s) is a parent of the child. Additionally, the payments for wages to a child under age 21 are not subject to FUTA.

Juniata County Farm Bureau

Hello.....from our President



Hello members and happy new year. Hopefully you all were able to spend some enjoyable time with your families over the holidays. As many of you are wrapping up your winter projects in the shop, be safe. And we will be looking forward to the first time we can be in the field to start spring field work. The few days we had here lately made it seem like it's just around the corner. And till next time be safe and God bless.



For paying your membership dues.

If you have not paid your membership yet, please do so as soon as you can

Ben Zook

For 2023, the Juniata County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has listed the following as the Top 5 policies they see affecting Juniata County agriculture and also two research topics they feel more research is needed for better understanding:

1. We recommend broadband be considered a public utility regulated by the Public Utility Commission in order to expedite placement of fiber optic cable on poles belonging to other utilities.
2. We recommend Pennsylvania farmers be exempt from the IFTA and UCR regulations if they travel interstate less than 5,000 miles per year from the Pennsylvania borders.
3. We recommend that there be no further expansion of Sunday hunting beyond crow, coyote, fox, as well as woodchuck, in cultivated fields with express written permission of the landowner.
4. We recommend eliminating state funding for solar projects producing electricity for the grid unless placed on existing structures.
5. We support scientific research to document the continuous improvement and beneficial impact of agricultural efforts designed to increase climate resilience, improve water quality and soil health, sequester more carbon in the soil and prevent soil erosion and federal climate change policy that reflects regional variations.

Research Topics

1. **The shortage of skilled laborers** and their willingness to work. Jobs, especially those requiring operation of heavy machinery, are staffed by unqualified people while those who are qualified for these positions are not filling them. Research how to staff these specialized jobs with qualified people.
2. **Enforcement of the Right to Repair law**, including closing the loophole in the current law, so that farmers have the ability to repair their own equipment. Research how to close the loophole in the law and appropriate means of enforcement.



Juniata County Farm Bureau

YAP CORNER



Young Ag Professionals encourage participation in activities sponsored by the Young Ag Professionals Committee, including the PA Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in November. Young Ag Professionals are individuals or couples between the ages of 18 and 35 who...

Promote an understanding of Farm Bureau, its purposes, operations and role in solving problems faced by the agricultural community. Provide for, and encourage, the direct participation of young ag professionals in Farm Bureau through county and state events. Are futurists, dedicated to improving agriculture for the next generation. Provide opportunities to meet others of their age group with similar needs and concerns. Recognize outstanding achievements through programs and awards. Surface and develop young ag professionals for leadership at the state and county level. Promote legislative efforts of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Enhance relationships with the FFA, 4-H, and college students and colleges through Farm Bureau activities.

Harvest for All items can be submitted anytime throughout the year. PFB's YAP Committee hosts a year-long challenge to all PA Farm Bureau members. The program, in partnership with Feeding America, titled Harvest for All, supports three types of donations to your local food banks: food, time and money. As Pennsylvania's "first harvesters," it is our duty to donate what we can, when we can in an effort to create a hunger-free America.

District YAP social event- March 4, 2023 at 7pm- Lewistown Moose Bowling Alley

For more information contact Cheyenne Hepner at 717-543-7273

Upcoming Events

Be watching for information in our next newsletter regarding the **kid's safety contests**. There will be a coloring page contest for kids ages 4-6, a 3D contest for kids ages 7-12 and a video contest for youth ages 13-18.

Ag Literacy is March 13-17, 2023. This year's book is *The Day The Farmers Quit*. Written by Autumn Pequignot. If you wish to read to a classroom, contact Chris Hoffman (717-496-7895) to read at East Juniata Elementary School or Dave Graybill (717-363-0706) to read at Juniata Elementary School.

Farm Bureau Day 2023 Wednesday March 15th 2023. The event has been booked with the Strock Farm in Mechanicsburg.

Rural Road safety events will take place the week of April 16-22, 2023

Juniata County Farm Bureau **Annual Dinner and Meeting**, September 15, 2023, 6:30 PM, Walker Grange, Mexico

Meet our Board Members.....

My name is Jordan Bassler and I represent the central part of the county for the Juniata County Farm Bureau. I grew up outside of East Salem on my father and mother's broiler chicken farm where I helped as often as time allowed. I currently live in Mifflintown with my wife and three daughters.

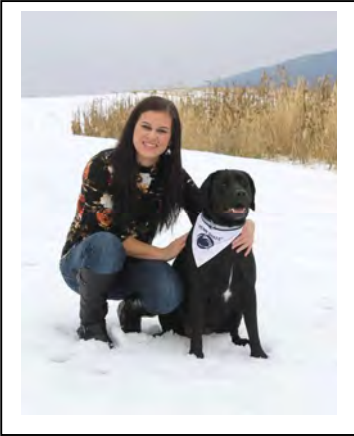
I have continued my career in agriculture after moving on from the farm and held several jobs in agriculture ranging from farm consultant to sales agronomist and finally my current role with Seed Consultants Inc. as Corn Product Lead and Field Agronomist.

I am a member of Farm Bureau to be part of an organization of like-minded people with a common goal....to protect and promote our way of life as farmers and providers of food for not only our great country but the entire world. Farm Bureau provides critical representation for farmers at the state and federal legislative level that otherwise would be overlooked.



Juniata County Farm Bureau

A message from our Region's Board member..... Megan Keller



Growing up I was involved in the local 4-H and FFA organizations which sparked my interest in agriculture. I am the co-owner and operator of T & H Boer Goats. I attended the Pennsylvania State University majoring in Agricultural Extension and Education. I worked for CVFF for a few years as a breed lead. I am a former agricultural instructor and was the 2018 National Ms. United States Agriculture.

I currently serve as the District 10 YAP representative and reside in Lewistown, PA.

As your newly elected District 10 State Board Representative I look forward to serving you as members and being your voice. I am looking forward to the new opportunities. I will strive to better our organization and strengthen networks such as with our legislators to help our voice be heard and recognized when it comes to policy development.

Juniata County Farm Bureau presented a Beef Ag Awareness Crate to each elementary school and Juniata Christian School in 2022.

Targeted for K- 2nd grade classrooms, students explored how important of a role beef cattle play in Pennsylvania's agriculture industry. Students explored the differences between beef and dairy cattle and how farmers care for their cattle.

Each box included the following:

- Ag accurate book
- Standards based lesson plan including:
 - whole group mini lessons
 - access to printable worksheets
 - experiment supplies if applicable
 - recipe to share



National Pig Day



Farmers Care is a program that recognizes the commitment of farm families to raising healthy food for our communities. At the same time, it shows the way farmers volunteer to help those in need. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports this program by collecting food, and monetary donations, for Ronald McDonald House Charities, or other local charities in your district. Juniata County Farm Bureau will be donating \$300. to the Hershey Ronald McDonald House on March 19.

Did you know? Pennsylvania cows produce 841 million pounds of milk annually. Milk contains 13 essential vitamins and minerals so be sure to get your 3 servings of dairy daily.

--Juniata County Dairy Promotion

Juniata County Farm Bureau

Budget October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

<u>INCOME</u>		PROPOSED	ACTUAL	REMAINDER
		BUDGET		
	Previous Year Carryover	\$2,000.00		
	Dues	\$5,200.00	\$8,974.00	\$(3,774.00)
Meetings	County Annual	725.00	728.00	(103.00)
	State Annual	905.00	1,741.36	(836.36)
Other	Bonus Bucks	300.00		300.00
	YAP			
	Misc. (Rural Road Safety, etc)	500.00	1,391.00	(891.00)
	Newsletter Co-Op	450.00	450.00	
	State Legislative Conference	40.00		40.00
TOTAL		10,021.00	13,284.36	5,264.36
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
Contracted	Newsletter (Printing/Editor)	2,000.00	1,547.46	452.54
Services	Postage	300.00	7.38	292.62
	Secretary	240.00	420.00	(180.00)
Meetings	County Annual	625.00	680.50	(55.50)
	State Annual	1,400.00	1,873.45	(473.45)
	Farm Bureau Day	125.00		125.00
	Legislative	700.00	49.14	650.86
	Spring Meeting	100.00		100.00
	Meetings, Other	50.00		50.00
	YAP/Farmers Care	325.00	625.00	(300.00)
	Women's Committee	550.00	45.00	505.00
	Membership Kickoff	75.00		75.00
	Local Affairs	50.00		50.00
	Environmental (Aug & April)	50.00		50.00
Supplies	Labels	30.00		30.00
	Membership Materials & Handling	675.00	512.75	162.25
	Special Events (Ribbons, Rural Road Safety, YAP)	1,500.00	500.00	1,000.00
Other	PA Friends of Ag	150.00	1,020.00	(870.00)
	Insurance	625.00	866.00	(241.00)
	Misc (Sponsorships, President letters)	200.00	4,200.00	(4,000.00)
	Safe Deposit Box	20.00	20.00	
	Lions Den	100.00		100.00
	Fair	100.00		100.00
	Misc Office	30.00	27.75	2.25
TOTAL		\$10,020.00	\$12,394.43	\$(2,374.43)

Beginning Balance 10/01/21: \$ 5,216.91.

Total Income: \$13,284.36

Total Expenses: \$12,394.43

9/30/2022: \$ 6,106.84

Juniata County Farm Bureau

Local Services and Discounts



25% Discount

Any weeknight stay, Monday – Wednesday
Any site, any cabin, no exclusions

1515 East River Rd. Mifflintown PA 717-436-8334



Cen-Pen-Co,

\$0.75 off per gallon on 5 gallons or more; \$1.00 off per gallon on 35 gallons or more of Cen-Pen-Co fuel additives. Does not apply to pints and quarts.
Ben Zook, 717-363-1316

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**.

Protect your next

Whether you're focused on business success, family security or community prosperity, Nationwide® can help you constantly evolve to ensure a bright future.

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NATIONWIDE CERTIFIED AGENT FOR JUNIATA COUNTY

Rebecca Kerstetter 717-527-2636
rkerstetter@sholleyagency.comrkerstetter

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PFB Members Can Save on Farm, Household Items from MKSalesDirect.com

Shopping for tools, household and garden items or even a new computer? As a Pennsylvania Farm Bureau member, you have access to special savings from MKSalesDirect.com, an online retailer based in Juniata County. **Your PFB membership will save you 15 percent off your order at the store or from MKSalesDirect.com and free shipping on orders of \$99 or more.** Orders can be shipped to your home or they can be picked up at the company's brick-and-mortar store, Mifflintown Hardware.

According to owner Klaus Sperlich, what sets MKSalesDirect.com apart from other retailers is a huge selection combined with the customer service of a neighborhood business. "We are a local business," he said. "We are down to earth. We value our customers. You're not just a number."

To take advantage of your Farm Bureau member benefit, use the discount code PFB15 at checkout.





NEWSLETTER

Juniata County Farm Bureau
9193 William Penn Hwy, Mifflintown, PA 17059

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