

# York County Newsletter



Quarterly Newsletter of York County Farm Bureau

Issue 44 April 2022

# From the President's Desk Dolores Krick, York County Farm Bureau President

Welcome to planting season 2023, as we get out our equipment, we are reminded how difficult it is to be a farmer. With sky high fertilizer prices, we again realize what a gamble it is to be in this line of work. We are thankful for all of you that are willing to continue in this crazy time.

Farm Bureau is continuing to advocate for all the farmers and to keep the government at bay. We want to continue to farm without outside interference. We are always looking for farmers to join us when we visit our politicians. We hope you will consider joining us. We need to work together; politicians need to talk to us to see what our concerns are and what we do on the farm. Many of our representatives are not familiar with what we do, only farmers can educate them. Be active in Farm Bureau!

Your farm bureau board members are always willing to talk, if you have a concern, please feel free to contact us.

Please be safe when you plant!

My Best to you as you continue to feed the world!

**Dolores** 

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## **York County Farm Bureau Scholarship**

York County Farm Bureau provides two scholarships each year which recognizes academic achievements as well as leadership skills of high school and college students. The scholarship is \$500 each.

The Applicant's parent must be a member of



York County Farm Bureau, and currently enrolled in college or trade school. The applicant must have achieved a GPA of 2.0 or better

All applicants must send in the application, 100 word essay, and two reference letters from individuals other than relatives no later than June 1, 2022.

Email Dolores Krick at sjkrick@gmail.com or for questions call directly at (717) 487-4556. Winners will be announced on July 1, 2022.

## **2nd Annual Ice Cream Social Coming!**

The 2nd annual Ice Cream Social is coming on Sunday, June 5 from 2-4 PM. In addition to the Perrydale ice cream truck, Shaw's Orchards will be providing fresh local strawberries! The pavilion this year at Lake Redman, is larger and closer to the parking lot as we use the Bass Pavilion!

RSVP to Deb at (717) 891-4963 or email <u>dmack-farms@aol.com</u>

Come out to socialize with other York County

Farm Bureau members and local representatives. This is a free event open to your entire family!



## **USDA Investment for US Fertilizer**

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced last week that it will support additional fertilizer production for American farmers to address rising costs and spur competition.

The USDA will make available \$250 million through a new grant program this summer that supports independent, innovative and sustainable American fertilizer production to supply American farmers. Additionally, to address growing competition concerns in the agricultural supply chain, USDA will launch a public inquiry seeking information regarding seeds and agricultural inputs, fertilizer, and retail markets.

Fertilizer prices continue to be on the rise and have more than doubled in the past year due to many factors, including the war in Ukraine, a limited supply of the relevant minerals and high energy costs, high global demand and agricultural commodity prices, reliance on fertilizer imports and lack of competition in the industry.

The United States is a major importer and is largely dependent on foreign fertilizer. The US is the second or third top importer for each of the three major components of fertilizer. The top producers of the major components of fertilizer include China, Russia, Canada and Morocco, with Belarus also providing a significant share of potash.

The USDA will use funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) set aside in September for market disruptions to develop a grant program that provides financing to bring new, independent domestic production capacity on-line – similar to the recently announced meat and poultry grants that are designed to promote competition and resilience in that sector.

The new program will support fertilizer production that is independent, made in America, innovative, sustainable and farmer focused. Details on the application process will be announced this summer, with the first awards expected before the end of 2022.

Source: PFB.com









## **Ag Night @ York Revolution!**

York Revolution's Baseball in York, PA is hosting an Agriculture Night on Thursday, August 18, 2022 against Lancaster Barnstormers! Tickets for members are only \$10 so mark your calendars to bring your family out to see vendors, local farm families, petting zoo, tractor showcase, and enjoy a baseball game! Farmer's Market opens at 5 PM, Gates open at 5:30 PM and game begins at 6:30 PM.

Follow the link to get your tickets now: <a href="https://yorkrevolution.com/groups-hospitality/Group-theme-nights">https://yorkrevolution.com/groups-hospitality/Group-theme-nights</a>

York Revolution is also looking for anyone interested in a Marketing table this night! Tell your organi-



zation story in person, collect leads, or provide marketing collateral to thousands of fans. You can have a table inside the concourse or be part of the Farmer's Market outside the stadium. Contact Brianna Klinger directly for more information at (717) 801-4495.

## MyFreePharmacy: A New PFB Benefit!

Tired of overpaying for your prescriptions? We are too, so we created a revolutionary way for you to get over 600 medicines for FREE, or others at a reduced price. Many local pharmacies are included in this program as well. PFB Members Exclusive Pricing of \$18/single or \$27/family. Our goal is to save you money and give you piece-of-mind.

Visit <u>www.myfreepharmacy.com</u> or call (800) 974-7036 for more information.

Source: PFB

## **DEP Energy Rebate Program Extended**

The PA DEP has a new rebate program for farmers to help with cost of energy efficiency projects. The Ag Energy Efficiency Rebate Program is offering rebates to defray the costs of installing LED lighting or variable frequency drives on the farm, which can save energy while saving money on utility bills.

Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2022 on a first come, first serve basis as long as funding is available. The available rebates will pay for 50% of the equipment costs, up to \$2,000.

For complete program guidelines and application instructions, visit the DEP agriculture and farming energy webpage:

dep.pa.gov/agricultureenergy

Source: dep.pa.gov

## York County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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## **PFB Text Alerts**

Be the first to know about major developments in PA Ag, state & federal policy, and PFB advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts!

Signup by texting PFBALERTS to 833-554-0849 or signup online at <a href="https://pfb.com/text-alerts/">https://pfb.com/text-alerts/</a>

## **T.A.S.K.** Conference Recap

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's State Agriculture Promotion Committee hosted its annual T.A.S.K. (Together Advocacy Stimulates Knowledge) Conference on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the Penn Stater Hotel, with some snow throughout the day! York County was represented by Board member Julie Schrum & and husband Mike, participating throughout the day.

The conference, which encourages advocacy and knowledge, was host to more than 100 attendees with Gian Paul Gonzalez serving as the keynote speaker. Gonzalez, a renowned speaker, famous for his "All In" rally cry message for the New York Giants' during their 2011 Super Bowl run. In his presentation he discussed how we listen with our eyes, not our ears. The famous "All In" isn't just a slogan but should be something we all live. We are definitely All In when things are going good, but are we All In when things get tough? Are you All In in your life and on your farm?

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation announced the results of its "Kiss A Pig 2.0" fundraiser, which eclipsed its fundraiser goal of \$25,000 with a total of \$25,132 raised for the foundation's outreach efforts. PFB president Rick Ebert and vice president Chris Hoffman competed against each other to see who could raise more money. Hoffman won the competition, so Ebert, a dairy farmer, had to dress up as a pig at the TASK Conference. With the foundation reaching its goal, Chris Hoffman, a pig farmer, will milk his first cow in celebration of reaching the benchmark.

The conference also featured multiple guest speakers, including Tina Goss, who serves as an Ag Lab teacher who presented a lesson on transforming corn into plastic. Other breakout speakers including Julia Recko, who lectured on how to write children's books, while Jennifer Albright and Heidi Florry spoke about podcasting. Final breakout sessions included Jessica Herr and Emma Musser who presented on using social media from a Gen Z perspective, while Raechel Sattazhan and Christopher Szkutak spoke on growing agriculture in the classroom.

The Ag Promo Committee develops programs for each County level to use in educating the public. There is a vacancy for York County on this committee.

If you are interested, please touch base with Board member Julie Schrum (717) 324-3410 for more information!



## **Generational Farm Provides Farm to Table**

Livingston Family Farms is a fifth-generation family farm that gained the prestigious honor of becoming one of Pennsylvania's Century Farms on April 1, 2022 – and that's no April fools. This farm has offered beef quarters and pork halves to the greater Dover community for over 25 years. The Livingston family had wanted, for many years, to be able to better serve their customers by offering individual cuts, especially after observing how local family dynamics were changing. This opportunity came in 2019 when an onsite kitchen became available on their farm. Their dream was coming true!

The Saturday before the country shut down in 2020, the family launched to the public their new venture during what quickly became a complex period of months for our country. While the world was in despair, the only thing that became certain was that there was an urgent need to step up and serve the community. They quickly devised different plans to accommodate the community's needs yet still ensure safety measures and efficiency in their business. Improvising as best as they could, they used blue drums and rope to devise a systematic drive-through service line for custom-Cars lined up an hour prior to opening. George sat in the corn barn and watched his His sons, daughter-in-laws and legacy shine. grandchildren all pitched in to orchestrate an efficient, fast paced drive-through to serve those who came in need.

The tough decision to have to ration meat bundles became apparent. The importance of local farmers became very obvious and important. Recipients were thankful and relieved to be able to not only buy meat at all (as it was in such short supply at the grocery), but also support a local

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## **Rural Road Safety Week**

April 18-23, 2022

## **PSU Trustee Election**

May 5, 2022

## **YCFB Scholarship Deadline**

June 1, 2022

## **York County Farm Bureau Ice Cream Social**

June 4, 2022

## **YCFB Annual Meeting**

August 7, 2022

## **Ag Night @ York Revolution**

August 18, 2022



small business and well known Dover family. As the world slowly returned to some sense of normalcy in 2021, the family moved sales back to their initial plan which consisted of operating out of what became known as the "meat house" and also accommodate the community with "pop-up meat sales".

The farm now accommodates both wholesale and retail customers. The family also comes together on Saturdays to assist wherever their mobile meat trailer is headed. Marketing and sales outreach has developed into a real and live nature, helping the customer understand that quality, healthy cuts of meat are a blessing to have access to at all times.

With as many hardships and challenges that have come out of the last two years, it is amazing that so many doors have opened not only to a new era of agriculture but also the ability for a community to come together. Educating customers has never been more important and buying direct from the farmer helps open this conversation. A local customer said it best: "you will be greeted by one or more family members in a kitchen environment. It is likely that you may be the only customer or one of two or three. They will discuss with you your needs, wants, preferences, size and cut choices. They may even offer cooking suggestions for different cuts of meats...once you overcome the scare of a new shopping experience you will return again and again because of the quality of the meats on your table."

The truth is, York County has been blessed with many generational farms that for decades have offered, and continue to provide, the farm to table experience. As agricultural enthusiasts, what a great time to be able to serve our communities in diversified ways from the southern border to the northern tip of the county. The possibilities are endless, but it's never been more important to help bridge the disconnect between the farm and the table. Here's to kicking off a great spring season!

Source: Kate Livingston

If you have a York County Farm Bureau farm you'd like to see highlighted, please email Julie at leogal34@msn.com

## Region 2 Lunch & Learn Recap

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 was the annual Lunch & Learn for all Region 2 members, which includes York County Farm Bureau members. This is held at the Harrisburg Sheraton. There were approximately 40 members present, of which four (Dolores, Deb, Barren, & Julie) were from the York County Board.

There are 54 County Farm Bureaus within Pennsylvania which is divided into 16 districts across the state. York County is part of District 8, with Luke Brubaker as our State Board Director. Those districts are then combined into Regions with a Regional Director who oversees the County Boards. District 7 & 8 combine to create Region 2 which consists of York, Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Northumberland, Snyder, Union & Montour Counties. Justin Clapper is our Regional Director who attends all events and provides guidance for each board.

This annual Luncheon is a chance for those County Boards & members to meet, network, and be educated on topics concerning the area. This year Nationwide was present to discuss Agritourism Liability, Table Rock Farms presented their new online marketplace for farmers to sell goods, the Women's Leadership Committee spoke on Ag Mental Health/Suicide Prevention, and PFB Directors of State & Federal Government Affairs had a session on how to Effectively Advocate the Issues of Farm Bureau. This helps prepare the Board as they head to the State Capital on March 30 for the Harrisburg Legislative Conference!

## **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.

## **Meat & Poultry Processing Expansion**

USDA Rural Development is making \$150 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding available through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). USDA is offering grants of up to \$25 million each to expand processing capacity through a variety of activities, including but not limited to construction, expansion of existing facilities, and acquisition of equipment.

USDA encourages applications that benefit smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, Tribes and tribal producers, socially disadvantaged producers, military veteran producers, and underserved communities.

For additional information, applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to visit the MPPEP website: www.rd.usda.gov/mppep. Questions may be submitted through the website or sent to MPPEP@usda.gov.

All application materials can be found at www.rd.usda.gov/mppep or at www.grants.gov. Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 11, 2022, through www.grants.gov.



## **Dave Brown Memorial Scholarship**

Dave Brown, of Brown's Orchard in Loganville, left us suddenly on March 1st 2018 at the age of 53. He loved music; participating in his HS marching band, concert and stage bands and playing trumpet in the marching band at IUP.

A memorial scholarship in his name awards \$1000 each to two York County students furthering their education in music or the performing arts. Deadline to apply in April 15, 2022.

Download the scholarship application from our website www.brownsorchard.com or stop in the mar-

ket for a copy.

## **Nominations for Grain Bin Tubes**

Rural fire fighters are often the first and only line of defense when someone becomes helplessly trapped in grain. Unfortunately, many fire departments lack the specialized rescue techniques and equipment necessary for a successful grain bin rescue.

Nationwide teams up with the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS), KC Supply<sup>1</sup> and others to award emergency first responders with grain rescue tubes and hands-on rescue training to help save lives. Winning entries will be

- One (1) grain rescue tube, valued between \$3,000 to \$5,000
- One (1) six-hour grain entrapment rescue training session, at winner's location, valued at up to \$5,000

The contest runs through April 30 at 11:59 p.m. CT. Only entries submitted during this time will be considered for the contest.

To enter, describe how your local fire department or emergency rescue team and community would benefit from grain entrapment training and a rescue tube, and how the tube and training could be shared with nearby departments. Please include: Your name, Occupation, Phone number, Mailing address, Email address, Name, address and phone number of the fire department or rescue team nomination.

In 2021, Citizens Volunteer Fire Co. of Fawn Grove, PA, York County, was awarded this grant!

Nominations are accepted from the general public as well as from fire fighters who wish to nominate their own fire department. Employees and agents of Nationwide are not eligible to submit nominations for the contest.

## Submit your entry during the contest:

- Fill out an online form
- Submit an email: gbswinfo@nationwide.com or
- Mail to: NECAS, Grain Bin Safety Week Contest, 8342 NICC Dr., Peosta, IA 52068

Limit one (1) entry per person, per email address and per household or department.

## **Avian Flu Cases on the Rise in the US**

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed multiple cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds in multiple states, including Delaware, New York, Maine, Michigan, Virginia, Iowa and Kentucky.

Avian influenza cases in Delaware and Kentucky were found in commercial poultry flocks, while cases in other states were found in non-commercial backyard flocks, according to the USDA. Officials have quarantined the affected premises and birds on the properties will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease, according to the USDA. Birds from affected flocks will not enter the food system.

No HPAI cases have been detected in Pennsylvania since the 1983-84 outbreak, although it has been identified in migrating wild birds and domestic poultry in 2022, including in the Atlantic Flyway, which includes Pennsylvania.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recent HPAI detections do not present an immediate public health concern, as no human cases of these avian influenza viruses has been detected in the United States. Proper handling and cooking of poultry and eggs to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit kills bacteria and viruses.

As part of avian influenza response plans, federal and state partners are working on additional testing in areas around affected flocks. The USDA also urges anyone involved with poultry production from the small backyard to the large commercial producer to review their biosecurity activities to assure the health of their birds.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, the USDA encourages bird owners to prevent contact between their birds and wild birds and asks the bird owners report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to state and federal officials, either through their state veterinarian or through APHIS' toll-free number, 1-866-536-7593. APHIS strongly suggests that owners bring birds indoors, when possible, to further prevent exposures.

Source: PFB

100% of grain entrapments are preventable

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thinkgrainbinsafety.com





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## **Publications**

PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

A \$3 portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Members can receive either 8 issues of the Country Focus newspaper or 4 issues of the quarterly Positively Pennsylvania magazine. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.

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## Nationwide is on your Side

These are the Nationwide agents serving York County who are Farm Certified Agents!

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Gunn Mowery LLC 1 E. Harrisburg St., Dillsburg, PA 17019 Greg Gunn (717) 432-9635 greg@gunnmowery.com

Keller-Brown Insurance Services 9 S. Main St., Shrewsbury, PA 17361 Joy Keller-Brown (717) 235-6891 joykb@keller-brown.com

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The Pabody Agency 64 N. Main St. Red Lion, PA 17356 Larry Blount (717) 339-0055 bloun1@pabodyagency.com