

## Issue 55

April 2025

### A Note from the County President

Sometimes good things take time.

Such is the case with York County's effort to quantify the amount of agricultural pollutants flowing into the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. In 2019, the County was told by PA DEP that their models indicated we were the 2nd largest polluter of the Bay, with the not-so-vague implication that more regulations were coming. The County Commissioners at the time took the bold action of working with the US Geological Service to fund and install stream monitors on our major tributaries to determine whether there was any truth in the DEP allegations.

After 5 years of monitoring, the results are in. Turns out we are doing quite well, with sediment nearly 10 times lower than expected, and nitrogen and phosphorus well below the assumed levels.

Our stream monitors are the first in the nation providing real time cumulative tracking, and they are providing good news for farmers. I hope that environmental advocates and regulators see it as good news as well. These positive results cannot and should not be dismissed by those who might be disappointed to learn that farmers aren't the problem they have been made out to be. Maybe they can use the real time results to improve those models.

This project is a great example of local government doing the right thing at the right time. The next time you see one of our County Commissioners, thank them for taking a chance on farmers.

*Barron Shaw*

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### Manure Pit Training

York County Farm Bureau is partnering with Wellsville Fire Company and Nationwide to bring you Manure Pit Training on Sunday, May 25! During this four-hour session, the training uses a one of a kind manure pit rescue simulator that allows firefighters to work through various scenarios in different roles. Trainers will show participants how to safely enter a manure pit to perform rescue operations in low-oxygen situations. This training is offered through Nationwide and the National Education for Agricultural Safety, and is open to first responders, farmers and ranchers. Training will be held at Wellsville Fire Company, 95 Community St, Wellsville, PA. Buffet Breakfast begins at 8 AM with class promptly starting at 9 AM. RSVP to Julie at (717) 324-3410 via text or call or scan QR code below or complete online form! Reach out to Julie as well if your company would like to sponsor this event to help defer the cost paid for by York County Farm Bureau.

*Are you prepared for an on Farm Emergency?*

### Manure Pit Safety & Rescue Training Program by NECAS



Sponsored by:  
York County  
Farm Bureau  
Nationwide

FREE to York County Farms  
& First Responders

Sunday, May 25, 2025 • Wellsville Fire Company

8am to 9am - Check-In & Breakfast Buffet  
9am - Training Starts

95 Community St, Wellsville, PA 17365

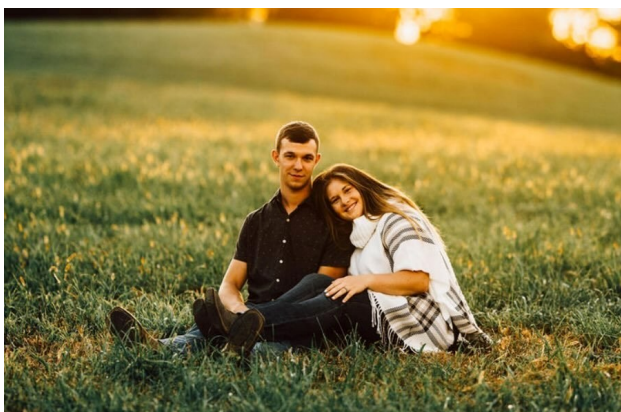
Register by May 11, 2025  
To Register or Questions:  
<https://bit.ly/ManurePitTraining>  
717-324-3410

Additional Information  
& Registration



## Welcome District 8 Women's Leadership Chair Mackenzie McElroy!

Every District in Farm Bureau has a Chair for Women's Leadership and District 8 has sat empty for quite a few years. We are happy to announce that Mackenzie McElroy from Lebanon County has offered to fill this seat and with approval from all 4 County President's in District 8, she is official! Mackenzie has worked for Bambergers, Inc. since January 2020. She was the Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess and has her own podcast on Spotify called She Means BusinessMackenzie and her husband Ben are headed to Vanuarta on a Mission Trip in May! Thank you Mackenzie for stepping up and filling our void!



## Welcome Cody Stoner as our new ROD!

Kenny Sechrist has been our ROD since 2023 but retired on April 1, 2025. Congratulations Kenny on your retirement and enjoy your free time!

We would like to welcome Cody Stoner as our new ROD for Region 2! Cody lives in Mount Pleasant Mills, Snyder County. Cody was a herd manager on a Beef Farm in Centre County and most recently worked for Cargill Protein for the past 6 years. You may have met Cody as he has been out visiting farms in York County, but if not, Cody is looking forward to getting to know and work with all of you!

You can reach Cody at  
(717) 991-9106  
or  
[CWStoner@pfb.com](mailto:CWStoner@pfb.com)



## Annual Strawberry Social Coming June 1!

This year's annual Strawberry Social will be held on Sunday, June 1 from 2-4 PM at Perrydell Farms, 90 Indian Rock Dam Rd, York, PA. Not only will you get to eat the yummy fresh, local strawberries, and ice cream from Perrydell, but you will be on a working farm and get to see how the store works, here from the family on their Century Farm, and see the cows that make the wholesome goodness you've come to know and love! This is the annual event we have all come to know and love with a new location for this year. We will update you on what is happening in Harrisburg and Washington DC, as well as locally within Farm Bureau.



Make sure to RSVP so we have enough food for everyone! Call Kate Livingston-Menges at (717) 655-1248 or email Kate at [kml5484@gmail.com](mailto:kml5484@gmail.com)

## Save the Date for York County YAP Event!

Mark your calendars for the next York County YAP event on Saturday, August 2 at Mad Radish Farm in Dover, PA! Mad Radish grows vegetables and pasteurized chickens and eggs with a Farm Stand and CSA program. Come with us to learn how they do it, what their growing pains were, what their ideas for success are, and see how their operation is ran behind the scenes! YAP members are those between the age of 18-35 but all are welcome to attend. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Anna Benton at (717) 916-8599



## Welcome New York County FB Members!

We want to welcome the new members that have joined York County Farm Bureau since January 1, 2025!

Paul Jacobs	James Mallios	Doris King
Josh Hoffman	Amy Zill	Laura Vasold
Jay Van Deusen	Robert Pitzer	Stephen Burns
George De Mers	Thomas Vizzard	Nick Willcox
York Ag Products		

## York County Farm Bureau 2025 Board of Directors

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[calwilstap@gmail.com](mailto:calwilstap@gmail.com)

Charles Brown (717) 225-1461

## AFBF Annual Meeting in San Antonio

The annual meeting of AFBF was held January 24-29 this year in San Antonio, TX. The theme was Step Up and Drive Forward. There was a trade show, breakout sessions, YF&R Competition, networking, and workshops. District 8 State Board member Julie Schrum was a delegate for the annual meeting of voting delegates. Pennsylvania once again brought the most policy's to the floor! Remember, these policies were taken to the national level from the state level, which came from the county levels! That is grassroots working at it's finest! Thank you to those who submit ideas and policies each year to make our organization stronger in these every changing times!



## Legislative Day @ Harrisburg Capitol

The annual Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Days at the Capitol was held on Tuesday, April 8. Nine members of York County Farm Bureau met with nine legislators from 8 AM—1 PM. We were able to meet with Representatives Wendy Fink, Kate Klunk, Joe D'Orsie, Marc Anderson, Mike Jones, and adopted Representative Amen Brown from Philadelphia! We also met with Senator Dawn Keefer & Kristin Phillips -Hill. We were also able to meet with Representative Carol Hill-Evans of York City after the event. The priority issues of Farm Bureau were discussed with each one as well as sharing our policy book as a reference. We even had lunch with several Legislators while Governor Shapiro spoke on Ag in PA. Our hard work and building these relationships and sharing our priorities help when it comes to personal issues right here in York County as well. If you have a concern, reach out to a board member and we can ensure we get your information shared with the right legislators to see what help can be provided.

Thank you to those members who attended the event for the day!



## Immersion Lab @ York Fair

This year, York County Farm Bureau is bringing the Immersion Lab to the York Fair! Last year was the first year we had a booth there, now this year, we will bring the educational trailer for all entrants to the fair to explore! If you would like to be a sponsor for the Immersion Lab at the York Fair, please reach out to Julie Schrum at (717) 324-3410 to help us defer the cost in order to provide this great tool to York County residents and our guests at the fair!



## Women's Leadership Safety Contest

The annual Women's Leadership Safety Contest is underway and due to the County President by May 1, 2025. The theme this year is "From the Barn to the Field—Safety First". The age ranges for the contest are as follows:

1. Age 4-6 Coloring Page
2. Age 7-12 Poster
3. Age 13-18 Video

To get the details, please visit <https://pfb.com/be-involved/womens-leadership-committee/safety-contests>



## New Treasurer for York County

We would like to welcome Aaron Burkindine as the new Treasurer for York County Farm Bureau. Terri Marsteller had asked to step down as she has taken on a few personal business adventures and needed to free up some of her time. Thank you Terri for your work to transition our information to Quick-books, complete an audit, and find and get Aaron setup for success! Aaron works full-time as the Fawn Grove Borough Secretary. Welcome Aaron and thank you for taking on this position!

## 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**.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Penn State Trustee Election, State College**  
May 8, 2025

**Manure Pit Safety Training, Wellsville, PA**  
May 25, 2025

**York County Strawberry Social, York, PA**  
June 1, 2025

**Friends of Ag Golf Outing, Hershey, PA**  
June 9, 2025

**Friends of Ag Brewfest**  
June 21, 2025

**Ag Progress Days**  
August 12-14, 2025

**York State Fair, York, PA**  
August 18-27, 2025

## Earth Day in York County

In order to celebrate Earth Day in York County this year on April 22, the York County Commissioners held a press conference announcing the results of a first-of-its-kind water quality monitoring program!

York County officials announced the county's water pollutant levels are significantly lower than initially reported by the state, according to data from the county's 10-year Water Quality Monitoring initiative – the first of its kind in the state and the nation.

"We are the first county in Pennsylvania and the entire nation to undertake this kind of innovative water quality monitoring program," said York County President Commissioner Julie Wheeler. "Here in York County, we pride ourselves on the responsible stewardship of our precious land and waterways."

"As part of its ongoing efforts to reduce pollutant levels in the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay watershed, York County has engaged community stakeholders, such as the county's farmers, the York County Conservation District and others, working together to develop solutions.

The differences in the nitrogen data were also significant, with DEP's computer-generated data showing nearly 12 million pounds of nitrogen in York County waterways while the real-time data developed by the county showed a four-year average of just 7.2 million pounds – or 60 percent of the levels reported by DEP.

Phosphorus levels also were less under the real-time water quality monitoring done by the county and USGS, with the four-year average being 370,064 pounds of phosphorus compared with the DEP's reported 446,995 pounds – a roughly 17 percent difference.

"We have long suspected that the water pollutant numbers reported by DEP were not accurate, and we now have the data that shows we were correct," said Wade Gobrecht, director of the York County Planning Commission. "Through this first-of-its-kind

collaboration with the USGS, we have real-time data collected over a four-year timeframe, which show unequivocally that our waterways are cleaner than

what had previously been reported. Moving forward, we believe this approach will ensure we are relying on accurate data to help drive our water quality improvement efforts."

For more information on York County's Water Quality Monitoring initiative, visit [yorkcounty-wqm.org](http://yorkcounty-wqm.org)

York County Farm Bureau President Barron Shaw was invited to speak on water quality. Here is his statement:

My name is Barron Shaw, and I am the President of the York County Farm Bureau.

As a 7th generation farmer on the same piece of property, I identify myself first as a steward of my land. I work hard to prevent erosion, improve its fertility, and value its biodiversity. No farmer wants to see his topsoil wash downstream, nor waste valuable money on nutrients that are not needed or are leached away before they are used. Farmers are highly invested in the ecology of their land.

The results you've seen today are good news for York County farmers and all residents of York County. I hope that environmental advocates and regulators see it as good news as well. These positive results cannot and should not be dismissed by those who might be disappointed to learn that farmers aren't the problem they have been made out to be.

Instead, it is a great opportunity for those who develop these complicated models to look more closely at their assumptions, data, and algorithms. We hope they work with us to find out why we are doing so much better than expected. If there is something we are doing well, then perhaps it can be replicated elsewhere.

Whatever is found, the good news is that the stream monitors will continue to provide data in order to help validate future improved versions of the models. Public trust will depend on that.

Many people today have become cynical about the government's role in our daily lives. But the project you've heard about today is a great example of local government doing the right thing at the right time. On behalf of the York County Farm Bureau I'd like to thank the York County Commissioner's for their work on this project over the last 5 years.



## Kennard-Dale FFA Barn is Open!

Kennard-Dale FFA's new barn is officially open! York County President Barron Shaw & State Board member Julie Schrum were able to meet with FFA Director Hanna Harris for a walk through! The barn is 54'x60'. The idea came to Miss Harris when she began at Kennard-Dale 5 years ago. They already have a wonderful greenhouse and aquaponic system for the plant and natural resource classes, but were missing the animal section. What a great opportunity the students will now have with animals as a result of this new endeavor. There are 2 pygmy goats (Kenna & Dale) residing here and a cow has recently appeared thanks to a loaned donation! There are two pastures where the animals can graze. Some questions asked of Miss Harris on the topic: How will you choose what student will get the job of taking care of the animals over the summer when the time does come? There will be an interview process as this is expected to be a paid position for a student. They will have to apply and interview with myself and possibly other individuals. This is a serious job as the lives of the plants and animals will be greatly affected by the person caring for them. I will still be heavily involved but this student will see and care for them a lot over the summer.

If anyone is willing to loan or purchase animals for the students to take care of at the barn, as well as purchase or provide veterinary services, it would be greatly appreciated! For more information about donating items or animals, please reach out to the Kennard-Dale FFA Director, Hanna Harris. Email [harish@sesd.k12.pa.us](mailto:harish@sesd.k12.pa.us)



## Ag Literacy Week in York County

Ag Literacy week was March 17-21 and thanks to our friends at York State Fair, we were able to supply 100 books to schools in York County who submitted a request! There were 2,000 books handed out across the state! Four York County Farm Bureau members and Kennard-Dale & Gifford-Pinchot FFA attended events at five schools in the County as well. The book was about what's under the soil that helps our plants grow and educating students on what composting is. The teachers have done a great job at educating students, as many were educating us! Thank you to everyone who participated in this worthwhile event and thank you to the Friends of Farm Bureau Foundation for promoting this event each year!



## Foundation Golf Outing set for June 9!

The annual Friends of Ag Foundation Golf Outing will be held on June 9 in Hershey. Since 1993, this **fundraising event** has raised over \$1 million in total contributions to the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, which is a charitable organization supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The PA Friends of Ag funds a variety of projects, including six Mobile Agriculture Education Science Labs, and the weeklong Educator's Ag Institute, which includes seminars, farm tours and educational materials for teachers, who work with students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. To register or be a sponsor, go to <https://pfbfriends.com/events/pa-friends-of-ag-golf-classic>



# Member Benefits

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit [www.pfb.com/services](http://www.pfb.com/services) or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million** in **annual savings**.



To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at [www.pfbmembers.org](http://www.pfbmembers.org).

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P.O. Box 8736  
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## Farm and Business



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## PFB Member Service



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## Publication

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 total \$6 portion of annual member dues covers subscriptions to Positively Pennsylvania. Members receive 5 issues of Positively Pennsylvania per year. 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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[K.eberts@grovefinancial.net](mailto:K.eberts@grovefinancial.net)

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