

## Issue 51

January 2024

### FSA Program Renewal

Agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the *Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024* (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the *Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018* (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through September 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland. Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

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### A Note from the County President

As many of us are planning for the upcoming planting season, much of our seed and fertilizer has been ordered. The snow is a welcome "wet" addition to the dry ground while the cold is no fun for those of us with animals. Spring will be here in the blink of an eye, and we will be in the field soon.

The rising costs of mailing are making us decide as to how many newsletters are needed. We want to know if you are reading our publications. The State Farm Bureau sends out biweekly emails and 5 publications of *Positively Pennsylvania* each year. To find out if you are reading our county newsletter and the State publications, I ask that you send me a quick email at [sjkrick@gmail.com](mailto:sjkrick@gmail.com) (or call me (717) 487-4556) and let me know what you are reading, the first page, the entire newsletter or do you just skim the highlights?

This is also a good time to let us know what you think about York Farm Bureau and its programs and even suggest events, classes or other programs you think we should offer.

We are also updating our email address list. Many of you will be getting a call to accomplish this. We will use this as a tool to keep you updated on happenings with our county farm bureau, we promise not to sell them or fill your inbox with a bunch of non essential items.

Wishing you a wonderful winter and sunny skies!

Dolores Krick—[sjkrick@gmail.com](mailto:sjkrick@gmail.com) (717) 487-4556

### Young Ag Professionals Conference

The Annual YAP Conference will be held February 16-18, 2024 at the Harrisburg Hilton this year! YAP is the division of Farm Bureau dedicated to those new and young farmers age 18-35 but this event is for everyone who is a Farm Bureau member! Join us to meet these new and young farmers, learn in breakout sessions next to them, and hear the keynote speaker Alex Weber from American Ninja Warrior! Reserve your space today by visiting <https://pfb.com/be-involved/young-ag-professionals/conference/> Registration was due by January 19, 2024 but may still be accepted. Cost is \$80 per person.



## TASK Conference

The 2024 T.A.S.K. (Together Advocacy Stimulates Knowledge) Conference will be held in Gettysburg on February 9 and 10 so York County members will not have far to travel to attend. New this year, starting at noon on February 9, Farm Bureau members will be able to experience the Gettysburg Civil War Battlefield with an agricultural focus. Tom Vossler, Colonel, U.S. Army (retired) will lead members on a battlefield bus tour focusing on the agricultural impacts of the Civil War on the region. Colonel Vossler is a former director of the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks. This is a not-miss tour to experience.

The conference keynote speaker is Paul Moya. Moya is best known for his role as CEO of Millennial Labs — a global consultancy trusted by Fortune 500 leaders, non-profits, and government entities throughout the Americas, Asia and Europe.

Headquarters for the conference will be the Wyndham Gettysburg, Conference registration fee is \$60 and the battlefield bus tour an additional \$25 per person. Additional information and registration link are available at <https://pfb.com/be-involved/ag-promotion-committee/2024-ag-promotion-conference/>. Register by January 12, 2024!

## Region 2 Days

Region 2 Farm Bureau Days is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 at the Members 1st Credit Union headquarters in Mechanicsburg. This is a great day filled with education, legislative updates and networking with the other local county farm bureau members! This event is open to all Farm Bureau members! RSVP to Neil at (443) 655-3786.

## Whole Milk in Schools & PFB Action Alerts

On December 13, 2023, Rep. Lloyd Smucker spoke on the House floor in favor of H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act. This legislation would expand the choice of milk options for school lunch programs to include whole milk, 2% milk, and flavored milk. U.S. Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson, along with 329 of his colleagues, voted in favor of H.R. 1147, the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act*. This legislation, which passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, will restore the option of whole milk in school nutrition programs. PFB President Hoffman was quoted "Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members have waited for over a decade to see progress made on getting whole and two percent milk back in schools. Today, the House had

## Annual York Ag Recognition Banquet

March 28, 2024 will be the 37th Annual York County Agriculture Recognition Banquet held at the York Expo Center All-Trans Memorial Hall East. This banquet is held each year to show appreciation for all York County Farmers, dealers, vendors, and consultants. This year the Keynote speaker will be PA Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman!

Nominations are being accepted now for the Farm Family Award and Ag Industry Award. These are due by February 1, 2024 and can be found on their Facebook page or contact one of your York County Farm Bureau board members for a copy! This is a great opportunity to recognize both a farmer or farm family and an Ag Industry that you know who is working hard in agriculture every day!

## AFBF Annual Convention

The Annual Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention was held January 19—24, 2024 in Salt Lake City, UT this year! Pennsylvania as well as York County was represented at this annual event where Farm Bureau members from across the US come to fellowship,

learn, and have national delegate sessions under one roof!

We are excited to report that all of the Federal policies that were

on the floor to vote on were passed! For a recap, visit [www.fb.org/newsline/afbf-concludes-2024-convention-by-setting-policy-priorities](http://www.fb.org/newsline/afbf-concludes-2024-convention-by-setting-policy-priorities)



a historic vote for the dairy industry by passing H.R.1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023. Of course, our dairy farmers are going to see benefits of this legislation, but America's students and families are also beneficiaries."

While this did pass the House, it is now moved onto the Senate and we hope for the same results!

If you are signed up for PFB action alerts, you received notice on December 13 to click the link to send your support in voting YES for H.R. 1147, Whole Milk For Healthy Kids Act, and our legislators heard us! If you are not signed up yet, go to <https://pfb.com/advocate-for-policies/actnow/>

## York County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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## Membership Dues

Just a friendly reminder that the annual membership dues were due by 12/31. If you forgot and didn't get them paid, there is a grace period to get that done! You can renew online at <https://members.pfb.com/renewal/>

Your dues stay here within York County, aid in the publications you receive, help fund the state budget, and also goes to AFBF. This money is what aids in running Farm Bureau in order to speak, fight, and educate on the behalf of all farmers and ranchers! Not all of you have time to meet with your legislators on items that are important to you, but we can be your voice. Without you, Farm Bureau would not exist! We are the largest non-profit grassroots agricultural organization, we are happy that you are a part of it!

## PFB Annual Convention Recap

November 12— November 15, 2023 was the Annual PFB Meeting held in Hershey, PA. Members came to join in fellowship with members across the state, attend educational breakout sessions, and work hard on the delegate floor to pass resolutions you the grassroots members submitted!

York County was well represented on the delegate floor and throughout the event even participating in the Trivia Night!

At the annual meeting delegate session is the largest and most important part of the event. This is where the policies submitted by the members are brought before the delegate body from across Pennsylvania and voted on. 83 policies were brought before the delegates to vote on this year. 32 were passed to send off to the national level of American Farm Bureau



Federation. The AFBF met in December in Washington DC and of those 32 policies, 22 were passed at the national level! PA came in 2nd of submitting the most policies across the US!

This is Grassroots working at its best from the ground up!

Mark your calendars now for the 2024 Annual Meeting being held at the Hershey Lodge November 9-12, 2024.

## Welcome New York County Board Members

The York County Farm Bureau calendar year runs from October—September for board members who serve term limits. Board members term out after 6 years or choose not to run for a second term.

We would like to welcome the following members to the York County Farm Bureau Board effective October 2023.

\* Trent Young (Airville)

\* Ruth Richardson-Miller (Stewartstown)

\* Les Vough (Spring Grove)

We still have one vacancy on the board, so if you are interested, please reach out to an existing board member and join our team working for York County!



## Member Spotlight: Dave Badders

Dave Badders is a fourth generation farmer, but has varied a bit from his original roots. Dave has worked for Baltimore County Fire Department for 30 years while still farming his 150 acres...of yellow butterfly popcorn! Dave grew up helping out on his grandparents farm who milked dairy cows and harvested crops. Dave is like many farmers who live on the state's border that is a member of both Maryland and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau as he does business in PA while having his farm in MD.



The harvest season for popcorn is similar to that of conventional corn with a few hard differences.

The moisture to shell popcorn needs to be at 18% or lower. Popcorn cannot be ran through a grain dryer...obviously! The kernels are sensitive and cannot be cracked or chipped in order to pop, so the least amount of handling the better. Popcorn is harvested with the same head as conventional corn, just with adjustments made to the concaves. A grain cart is not used, but unloaded directly into a truck for the least amount of handling. It is hauled directly to Reist Popcorn in Mount Joy (who is also a Farm Bureau member!) where it is tested and unloaded. Dave's kernels are then shipped out and used primarily for movie theatre popcorn! So the next time you eat popcorn at the movies, think that maybe, just maybe, it came from a nearby farm! There are actually several varieties that can be grown in PA. The US has about 250,000 acres of popcorn grown and only 600 acres are grown in PA.



With Dave's background in the fire service and agriculture, he aspires to share his stories to educate farmers on the importance of Farm Safety.

Fun Fact: Did you know you can put a cob of popcorn in a brown paper back in the microwave and pop popcorn right off the cob!! Thanks Dave for the ride along and education on popcorn!

Source: Dave Badders

## 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

### Mid Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention

January 30-February 1, 2024

### PA Dairy Summit

February 7-8, 2024

### Ag Promo TASK Conference, Gettysburg

February 9-10, 2024

### YAP Conference, Harrisburg, PA

February 16-18, 2024

### Region 2 Farm Bureau Day, Mechanicsburg

March 7, 2024

### PA Ag Literacy Week

March 18-22, 2024

### FARMER Dinner, Harrisburg, PA

March 25, 2024

### PFB State Legislative Conf., Harrisburg, PA

March 26, 2024

### Ag Recognition Banquet, York Fairgrounds

March 28, 2024

### York County Strawberry Social

June 2, 2024

### Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania Furnace

August 13-15, 2024

### York County Annual Meeting

September 8, 2024



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