

The Annual Strawberry Social is Coming Sunday, June 2, 2-4 PM



Mark your calendars and RSVP for the Annual Strawberry Social for York County Farm Bureau members, family, and friends! The event will be open to all so we ask that you share with your family and friends to invite non-members to come see what we are all about! Corn Hole will be top on our list of fun for the day! Ice cream will be provided by Meadowburne Farms (Dillsburg, PA) and Strawberries are provided by Shaw Orchards (Stewartstown, PA). Location is at the Bass Pavilion at Lake Redman boat dock.

You need to RSVP by May 25 so we have enough for everyone! Call Kate at (717) 655-1248 or Julie at (717) 324-3410 to RSVP. You can also email yorkcountyfarmbureauupa@gmail.com us at or click here <https://yorkcountyfarmbureau.square.site/>

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A Note from the County President

I hope this newsletter finds you well as we embark on a busy spring season! We just wrapped up on the annual Farm Safety Week campaign which aligns with the start of planting season. While we spend the week highlighting the importance of Farm Safety and Roadway Safety it is important to stay vigilant and aware of the dangers daily in our operations.

This past spring while partnering with Northern FFA and the York County Agricultural Society over 100 classrooms in York County were visited and shared with about agriculture during Agriculture Literacy week! Education and sharing our individual stories in agriculture continues to be more important than ever - I challenge all of our members to think about how we can each share our agriculture story to help bridge the gap from the farm to the table.

Have suggestions on how our York County Farm Bureau can continue to improve and support the hard work of agriculture? I would love to hear from you - 717-655-1248 or KML5484@gmail.com

Say Safe & have a great Spring.
I hope to see you at the Ice Cream Social!

Kate Menges

York County Ag Recognition Banquet

Did you attend the 37th annual York County Ag Recognition Banquet at the York Fairgrounds on March 28? If you missed it, you missed out!

Awards were handed out for the following:

2024 Tony Dobrosky Future Leaders Award: Penelope Brosius, Dover, PA.

Centennial Farms: Rodney & Joyce Smyser, York, PA; Leroy & Joyce Bupp, Seven Valleys, PA; Thomas, Gregory & George Perry, York, PA

2024 Outstanding Ag Industry Award: Chronister Farms LLC, Windsor, PA

2024 Outstanding Farm Family Award: The Walkers, Glen Rock, PA

2024 Hoke 4-H Leadership Award: Eliana Fetters, York, PA

Finally, the keynote speaker was Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman who spoke on the Power of Agriculture.

Welcome New York County Farm Bureau Members!

We want to welcome the new members that have joined York County Farm Bureau since 1/1/24. We appreciate your support, contributions, input, and being part of the largest agricultural grassroots organization!

- * Steve Martin, York, PA
- * Paul Stewart, Delta, PA
- * Michael Saylor, Wellsville, PA
- * Erik Deller, York, PA
- * James Cornwell, York, PA
- * Dustin Flinchbaugh, York, PA
- * Michael Males, Delta, PA
- * Adam Amer, Dover, PA
- * Nicolas Posey, Felton, PA
- * Jason Joines, Felton, PA
- * Bruce Button, Wallace, NC
- * Ginni Mae Brock, York, PA
- * Brandon Gething, York, PA
- * Todd Horner, York, PA
- * Donato Perez, York, PA
- * Jessie Godfrey, Dallastown, PA
- * Zach Kilgore, Airville, PA
- * Bonnie Lee Gyenes, York, PA
- * Valerie Dorn, Stewartstown, PA
- * Jeff Keeney, Dillsburg, PA
- * Jesse Smith, Seven Valleys, PA

York State Fair

The great York State Fair is coming July 18-28, 2024 at the York Fairgrounds. This is a family fun event for the community to come see judging on everything from produce to baked goods, jams, livestock and more! A great concert line up is scheduled as well as all the wonderful food vendors and rides for kids. There are poster contests for the kids, FFA & 4-H will be present, and plenty of ag organizations including York County Farm Bureau and the Grange! The Ag Education Center is located in Memorial Hall West.

For more information or to register your entry, go to <https://www.yorkstatefair.com>



Legislative Day in Harrisburg

Every year, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members invade the State Capitol to speak to our legislators on topics affecting agriculture in the Commonwealth. York County is proud to say on March 26, five York County Farm Bureau members were able to visit each office of our legislators to provide information we are advocating for in the County and had meetings with Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, US Senator Bob Casey's staff, and enjoyed lunch with Representative Mike Jones. Governor Josh Shapiro was present during the luncheon to speak to the crowd 210 members, 105 legislators/staff for a total of 315! The Dairyman's Association also had their stand setup outside for milkshakes to enjoy and the Immersion Lab was on site for members, the public and legislators to walk through and experience! York County is working hard to be your voice!



York County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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kml5484@gmail.com

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Treasurer

Appointment at May Meeting

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HPAI in Dairy Cows

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and State veterinary and public health officials are investigating an illness among dairy cows, HPAI. As of this publication print, no cases have been confirmed in PA.

On April 29, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service unveiled a Federal Order introducing measures to protect the livestock industry against highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza.

The Federal Order may be viewed [here](#) and is effective on Monday, April 29, 2024. Its highlights include:

Mandatory testing for interstate movement of dairy cattle

- Prior to interstate movement, dairy cattle are required to receive a negative test for Influenza A virus at an approved National Animal Health Laboratory Network laboratory
- Owners of herds in which dairy cattle test positive for interstate movement will be required to provide epidemiological information, including animal movement tracing
- Dairy cattle moving interstate must adhere to conditions specified by APHIS
- As will be described in forthcoming guidance, these steps will be immediately required for lactating dairy cattle, while these requirements for other classes of dairy cattle will be based on scientific factors concerning the virus and its evolving risk profile

Mandatory Reporting

- Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A nucleic acid detection diagnostic results (PCR or genetic sequencing) in livestock to USDA APHIS
- Laboratories and state veterinarians must report positive Influenza A serology diagnostic results in livestock to USDA APHIS

The USDA has identified [spread between cows within the same herd](#), spread from cows to poultry, spread between dairies associated with cattle movements, and cows without clinical signs that have tested positive. On April 16, APHIS microbiologists identified a shift in an H5N1 sample from a cow in Kansas that could indicate that the virus has an adaptation to mammals. As of April 30, 2024 the FDA confirmed that pasteurization is killing the virus and there is no live virus in the nations milk supply.



Please Join Us
I.C.E. Summit
June 28 & 29 2024

*История
Сельского
Восстания*

2nd Annual State Leadership Conference
Registration \$65.00
includes tour, dinner and breakfast

Holiday Inn at 100 Pine St., Williamsport, PA
Call 570-327-8231 and ask for PA Farm Bureau ICE Summit
To reserve a room at \$119+tax/fees

Friday Noon-1:00pm registration
3:30-5:00pm tour at Ulrich Farm & Store
Dinner at 6:30pm Farm State of Mind
Saturday 8:00am Breakfast with
PFB Vice President Tommy Nagle and
Keynote Speaker Kristin Pronschinske of NuVue

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

New Discount from Shipley

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is excited to provide members within Shipley Energy's delivery territory a discount on fuels to heat your home and run your business.

Commercial fuels for Ag & Business will receive a .02 cent discount on Diesel, gasoline, heating oil, and propane. Home heating fuels will receive a .10 cent discount on heating oil and propane.

Call to get your quote today at 855-626-4088 for commercial or 866-943-4272 for home fuel.



Penn State Offers Butcher School!

Penn State University is proud to announce the launch of its 2024 Butcher Apprenticeship Program, designed to revolutionize education and meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in the meat processing industry.

The Butcher Apprenticeship Program, hosted by Penn State Extension, is a comprehensive initiative to provide hands-on training and education for individuals aspiring to become proficient butchers. This program is tailored to equip participants with the necessary skills, knowledge, and expertise required for a successful career in meat processing.

Learn More: <https://extension.psu.edu/butcher-apprenticeship-program>



**BUTCHER SCHOOL 2024
APPLICATIONS ARE
NOW OPEN!**



www.bit.ly/butcherschool



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**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

York County Strawberry Social

Lake Redman

June 2, 2024

Foundation Golf Outing, Hershey, PA

June 10, 2024

Women's Leadership ICE Summit

Williamsport, PA

June 28-29, 2024

YAP Summer Picnic, Mechanicsburg PA

August 11, 2024

Ag Progress Days, Pennsylvania Furnace

August 13-15, 2024

PFB Annual Meeting, Hershey, PA

November 17-19, 2024

Foundation Golf Outing

The annual Foundation Golf Outing will be held again in Hershey, PA on June 10. Cost is \$200 per golfer or \$800/foursome. Contact Carolina Nicholson (717) 731-3555 to register or for more information!



This fundraiser has raised over \$1 million in total contributions to the PA Friends of Ag Foundation which is a charitable organization supported by PFB. The foundation is who funds the mobile ag labs, Educator's Ag Institute, and Immersion Lab!

Election of PFB President

According to the bylaws, Article V, Section 2. the nominating committee will meet to nominate a candidate(s) for the next vacancy in the office of president or vice-president. This year the committee will interview candidates for the office of president.

If you are aware of a qualified individual who is interested in running for the office of president, please ask that person to submit a letter and resume to the PFB Nominating Committee no later than Friday, July 26, 2024. They can do so by mailing the letter and resume to:

PFB Nominating Committee
PO Box 8736
Camp Hill PA 17001-8736

The results of our interviews will be reported in the *Grassroots Advocate*.



Pet insurance makes it more affordable to provide your pets with the care they deserve. You can be reimbursed for eligible veterinary expenses, from emergencies to routine office visits.

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Fetching savings is easy

1

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2

Send us your claim

3

We'll send your reimbursement!

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Members - Get a quote with your member discount at benefits.petinsurance.com/pfb-npr or call 877-738-7874 and mention group code N788.

*Some exclusions may apply. Certain coverages may be excluded due to pre-existing conditions. See policy documents for a complete list of exclusions. Products underwritten by Nationwide Pet Insurance Company (NPI), Columbus, OH; Nationwide Casualty Company (all other states), Columbus, OH; Agency of Marine (NPI) Insurance Agency, An affiliate of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. Subject to underwriting guidelines, terms and conditions. Products and discounts not available in all states. Insurance terms, definitions and exclusions are provided for informational purposes only and do not constitute an offer of insurance. Coverage is provided by individual member and company. ©2024 Nationwide Insurance Company. 8003 Nationwide, the Nationwide "N" and Eagle, and Nationwide is on your side are trademarks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. 8003 Nationwide 22/09/20



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Save the Date!

The Annual Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Meeting held in Hershey, PA will be Sunday, November 17- Tuesday November 19, 2024.

York County Scholarship Application

It's that time of year again where York County Farm Bureau is taking applications for the \$1,000 scholarship we award each year! If you have a student enrolled in college or a trade school, make sure your child completes this application by June 30, 2024.

Go to <https://yorkcountyfarmbureau.square.site/scholarship-application>



Benefits of Farm Bureau Membership

Farm Bureau was founded on being a grass-roots organization working together to make real change to advance agriculture. AFBF was organized on November 12, 1919, in Chicago by Farm Bureau leaders from 34 states to give farmers and ranchers a voice and a seat at the table in shaping policy that impacts farm and ranch families across the country. Today, AFBF is the country's largest general farm organization and the leading advocate for farm and ranch families with 2,800 county farm bureaus in 50 states plus Puerto Rico consisting of 6 million member families!

Policy. It must be in the policy book in order for Farm Bureau to take a stand on an issue. The policy book is updated annually at our Annual Meeting. This is our guideline on how we work for you on legislation and laws.

Discounts. As a member, you receive discounts to over 100 local and nationwide businesses saving you money. Members have often said they get their \$100 annual dues returned to them in the discounts alone! Fun fact: top redeemed discounts in past 12 months were Arby's, Auntie Anne's, Hersheypark, Amazon, and Advance Auto Parts! Use the **MyDeals** App today to save!

Member Services. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau offers health insurance, dental plans, vision plans, prescription savings, hearing aids, and savings on Nationwide Insurance.

Networking. Make sure to attend our local York County events as well as State or National events. All these events are open to all membership, not just Board Members. You can make connections across the county, the state and the US!

Cuff's Run Update

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accepted a preliminary permit application for the proposed pumped storage project along the Susquehanna River at Cuffs Run in York County at which time public comment was open to voice your opinion. April 1, 2024, marked the last day for comments. Hikers, trail runners, cyclists, boaters, bird watchers, kayakers, and many other groups of individuals who cherish the recreational areas around Cuffs Run spoke up in opposition and voiced a myriad of concerns to the Commission with 1,234 comments made on the site. Chesapeake Bay Foundation as well as both Safe Harbor and Holtwood both intervened and said they don't give consent and also are asking the FERC commission to deny YES preliminary permit. We also want to thank all our Representatives who worked tirelessly to educate the public and stand up in stopping this project.

Now we are in a waiting period as FERC has 60 days from April 1 to make a ruling on the preliminary permit application. We do know FERC is reviewing the comments as some of those who posted have been contacted for further information.

Wildlife & Sunday Hunting

Andy Bater, Chairman of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Wildlife & Fisheries Committee, testified to the Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee on HB 2106-2108 on Tuesday, April 9. The package of bills is intended to begin to mitigate the issue of crop damage and other wildlife issues affecting farmers across Pennsylvania. The package of bills includes stricter trespass penalties, streamlined deer carcass removal, ensures at least one game commissioner meets the definition of a farmer, adds a database of good-standing hunters for farmers to contact, and removes the restrictions on Sunday hunting. PFB fully supports this package of bills as they currently are written. As long as these key PFB priority issues are addressed in these bills, PFB will support Sunday hunting within this package. This is according to our policy: "We recommend supporting Sunday hunting if multiple PFB policy priorities are included in legislation." Crop damage is a major issue for Pennsylvania farmers. USDA estimates from federal crop insurance data shows that Pennsylvania suffered north of \$20 million in losses on corn in 2017 – the highest reported number in the nation. That same study showed that Pennsylvania farmers suffered north of \$15 million in losses to soybean crops in 2017.

PFB is glad to help lead the combined effort of working to solve this issue by working with multiple hunting and conservation groups to mitigate the problem together. Movement on this legislation is expected this spring.

Policy Development

At the core of any grassroots membership organization are the members and there are a little over 28,000 in PA! A grassroots organization can only be successful if its members water the grass.

Policy starts at the grassroots membership level and works its way to the top. Policies submitted to the York County Farm Bureau are voted on at our annual meeting and then passed onto the state level for review and movement onto the State Annual Meeting and if merited, onto the Federal Level. At each level policies are analyzed, questioned and debated to ensure they are the best to represent the interests of our membership. Policies are a united 'stance' on an issue- whether it be a current issue in agriculture or a potential future issue (possibilities include but not limited to utilities, infrastructure, markets, industry, labor, government, society issues and more).

If you're already a policy development veteran, keep up the good work! Also, get your neighbor, children or farmhand involved. Good policy stems from good ideas - ideas that may be beyond the scope of what you're familiar with. Getting more members involved leads to more knowledge, input, and education for all of us.

Involving new individuals in the process may uncover a problem that many of us didn't know existed.

It takes many voices to grow and unite our communities - don't let your voice be silent. Submit your policy ideas now to someone on the County Board or directly to Kate Livingston-Menges at kml5484@gmail.com

PFB Updates their Strategic Plan

A Peer to Peer Report was conducted by AFBF in June 2023. The last Peer to Peer Report was completed in 2017. The results were presented to the PFB Board of Directors in September 2023. The strengths and challenges of the organization were explained in detail. Strengths included resilience, grassroots focus, state board engagement, increased outreach and strong financial position. Some challenges we face include role clarity, communication, and member engagement.

A Committee was formed to review the results and update the PFB Strategic Plan. At the May 2024 meeting the PFB Board was presented with this strategic plan which includes outreach & education, leadership development, and membership growth & support. We will continue to update you as we continue this positive path forward!

State Board Member Julie Schrum

^Farm Vitality Planning Grant

PDA has a new grant opportunity: The Farm Vitality Planning Grant Program. This grant will help fund professional services for those planning for the future of a farm. The program will enhance the long-term vitality of Pennsylvania's farms through sound business planning, efficient transitions of farm ownership, strategic farm expansion, diversification of agricultural production, and building a team of financial and technical expertise as a resource for Pennsylvania's farmers.

Grants may be used for expenses related to the following projects:

- Creating or obtaining business plans or management strategies to enhance the long-term economic viability of a farm.
- Creating or obtaining plans for the transition of ownership and operation of a farm to new owners and operators.
- Creating or obtaining plans for transfer of ownership and operation of a farm within the farmer's family.
- Creating or obtaining business plans to diversify an existing agricultural operation to new or different forms of agricultural production.
- Creating or obtaining business plans for a farm expansion or to seek financing for farm growth.
- Creating or obtaining plans to maintain the long-term economic viability and protect the investment of public funds in preserving farms that are subject to perpetual agricultural conservation easements acquired under the Agricultural Area Security Law, for agricultural production.

The maximum grant amount is \$7,500 and is limited to 75% of project costs.

- This is a reimbursement grant.
- The amount of reimbursement is based eligible costs submitted by an approved applicant for an approved project during the fiscal year in which the grant is offered.
- Grants will be awarded on a funds-available basis.
- In-kind support will not be counted toward an applicant's matching contribution.

To complete your application, go to: <https://prdagriculture.pwpca.pa.gov/Funding/Farmbill/Pages/Farm-Vitality-Grant.aspx>

What's New With Powerlines?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently approved a \$5+ billion multi-state project to provide power to Northern Virginia. Part of that project will impact York County transmission lines running from Otter Creek to Fairfield Road, and in the area around Delta.

The proposal calls for a wreck-and-rebuild of the Otter Creek line (that was just rebuilt in 2017) to add a 500kv line in addition to a new 230kv line.. It would require higher poles and additional width of right-of-way, but no change in the existing route in PA. Maryland residents will not be so lucky, as the line will turn west in Baltimore County and require new ("greenfield") right-of-way west into Carroll and Fredrick county. The exact route has not been determined.

Replacement and additional lines will be built from Peach Bottom to Graceton, and Peach Bottom to Conastone. There will also be expansions of the North Delta substation, and a new switching station near the Otter Creek line requiring new property acquisition.

Most of these upgrades require approval of the Pennsylvania PUC; however, because the reason for the upgrades is reliability (even in other states), there is a high likelihood of approval. Moreover, FERC provided the utilities with an abandonment guarantee that will cover all "prudent" expenses. So spending starts now.

In short, most of the high voltage infrastructure in the area is going through significant upgrades, doubling capacity. After these upgrades, there will be little room for additional expansion. Why all the changes?

Most of the upgrades are related to a huge increase in power demand in Northern Virginia's "Data Center Alley." Some of the upgrades are necessary to ensure that Maryland has enough power after they deactivate their last large coal burning plant: Brandon Shores. None of the enhancements are needed to supply power in Pennsylvania.

Future articles will examine public policy in Maryland and Virginia and the potential impact on our farms and electric bills here in Pennsylvania. Rest assured that the York County Farm Bureau is working to ensure our local legislators are aware of the potential problems.

Submitted by Barron Shaw

York County Farm Bureau
Newsletter Editor
710 Main St.
Fawn Grove, PA 17321

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Jeff Gillis (855) 606-2988
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