



Columbia County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with American Farm Bureau Federation and Pennsylvania

Farm Bureau CCFB Newsletter September 2023

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Hello Columbia County Farm Bureau members,

Today as I was walking around the equipment used on our farm performing some necessary maintenance, I started to think about the equipment my family used when I was a young boy. Most of the equipment has been upgraded to bigger and more efficient machines. GPS technology has been added to most pieces of our equipment to improve our crop planting and harvesting decisions along with better record keeping.

Then I pause and think to myself “Why Change”. I do have to admit that I am not a big fan of change as it often involves an education to use the new features these machines and equipment are often fitted with. But without change, would we be able to remain a profitable operation today?

Our family farm required more family members to operate the farm using the older equipment in my youth. But today it is being operated by my son and myself. We are farming more acreage and performing custom work for neighboring farmers making these changes necessary.

I was blessed to be put on this earth to be a farmer and I learned to endure “change” to retain our farm operation with the intention of being able to pass it along to future generations.

Today as I write this letter, there have been many changes within the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau organization the past few years. Many of you know the sale of Safemark, MSC business services being shut down and the more recent sale of the Farm Bureau building in Camp Hill. These decisions were well thought out and difficult to make and our membership needs to retain faith in the people we elected into the position to make these decisions for our organization.

Our members need to be reminded that the foundation of Farm Bureau is the strength of the “grass roots” procedure of policy development upon which it was founded. It is critical that our membership remain strong and united to sustain our farm operations of being over regulated so that we may continue our way of life and the future generations to come. The education of our legislative representatives and the public is indeed another important tool we must use to help them understand our issues and how it may also impact their lives.

This is truly the reason why Farm Bureau is as strong of an organization today as it has ever been in the past. As I move forward with my farm operation, there will be many changes that will need to be made to sustain my operation and so too will it be necessary for the Farm Bureau organization to make changes for the betterment of its members.

Mark Shultz - Columbia County Farm Bureau President

Annual Meeting

The Columbia County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held September 14, 2023 at Ponduce Farm Market banquet hall. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm with meeting following. Meal cost is \$15.00 per person payable at door. Please text or call your meal reservations by September 5, 2023 to Deanna Adamson at (570) 394-3368. Meeting agenda will feature meet the Columbia County Commissioner candidates, election of board members, and policy approval along with any business needing discussed.

Legislative Update

Legislatively speaking: This year we met our PA Farm Bureau Vice President Tommy Nagle at our spring meeting. Several county members then attended the Harrisburg Legislative Conference where we discussed issues with our new state Senator Linda Culver and state Representative Robert Leadbeter. Both are very supportive of our policies, so we are “preaching to the choir”. I was asked to attend the June trip in Washington DC and Mark Shultz went along to meet the national legislators including Congressman Dan Meuser, G.T. Thompson and others from around the state. Also met with the staff from Senators Casey’s office to discuss issues and Farm Bureau policy.

Clifton Miller – Government Relations Director

Young Ag Professionals

Our county Young Ag Professionals (YAP) group is growing! In July we met at Fran’s Dairy Bar in Millville for an ice cream social. There were 16 YAP, board members, local legislators, and guest present. Watch your email for more information about fall events including a grain farm tour. For more information contact Nicole Guise at nicolerguise@gmail.com or (717) 650-7110.

Multi-County Farm Bureau Picnic

The 2023 Multi-County picnic held at Knoebel’s was attended by 349 Farm Bureau members and their families. We were pleased to have Luzerne County join us this year. It was an excellent opportunity to gather and socialize with other Farm Bureau members from our neighboring counties. A catered lunch was provided for all to enjoy through business sponsorships. Please take time to thank the businesses when patronizing them.

The businesses that sponsored the picnic were Affordable Fuel, Boyd Station, Chick 2 Chicken, Clark’s Feed Mill, DFA, Farm Credit, Farmer Boy, Helena, Hooper, Hoover Tractor, Kathy Barry Agency, Keystone Applicators, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Rovendale Ag, Seedway, Shade Valley Farm, Steven’s Feed Mill, Susquehanna Valley Insurance, Weaver Tire Service, and Wise Potato Chip. Thank you to all for supporting Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Women's Leadership

Pat Porter is currently our Women's Leadership chair for our county. Please contact any county Farm Bureau board member if you would like to be involved with this in our county. We are always looking for members to contribute in any way to keep our County Farm Bureau an active organization in our community.

Ag Promotion and Education, Policy and PFB Matters

On your behalf, approximately 1900 K-2 students were read the 2023 Ag Literacy book, "The Day The Farmers Quit". Over 30 volunteers stepped it up to read in all private and public schools in the county. "Thank you" to all volunteers, schools, libraries and the museum that participated. Mainville Ag Services, once again, provided the majority of the funding for the books and materials.

The Mobile Ag Lab, Educator's Ag Institute and Ag Crates are also ongoing programs used to educate and strengthen relationships between our members, students and consumers. Farm Bureau has joined with a coalition of ag organizations, businesses and the Pa. Dept of Agriculture to develop the program "Ag and Food Careers in Pa." Schools in the county have been sent information so that students can match interests with potential Ag careers.

The Bloomsburg Fair is around the corner. Last year, Farm Bureau worked with the Fair Association, The Pa. Pork Producers and FFA students and instructors to create a wide-ranging display that included food plate nutrition, Ag Education, legislative information and the sow and piglets. We were named one of the top two exhibits of the Fair.

We need your help for this year. Our display will once again be in the Rabbit and Poultry Building. The Immersion Lab will be an addition to our exhibit. PFB has teamed with Giant Foods to create a mobile education unit geared to interact with the public at special events. To volunteer please email me at cporter604@aol.com or call 570-672-9894.

The September 14 Columbia County Annual Meeting is when policy proposals are discussed and voted upon. Later, approved State and National Policy proposals from all counties are then given PFB consideration using a time-tested process. We are a grass-roots organization where the direction of PFB starts at the county level. Please call or email with policy suggestions to the above-listed contact information. Your voice counts!

We need your email contact information. PFB's Farm Bureau Express is email bi-weekly to all members. We want you to know the issues and events that affect you and all agriculture.

PFB is moving. We all know that: PFB is progressive and active.

PFB headquarters is moving. This is not a desperation move, but a well-thought-out decision involving real estate consultants, legal counsel and accounting advice. The current building in Camp Hill has been sold. PFB will remain in the Camp Hill area by leasing office space. The lease is for seven years and the annual lease cost will be less than the current yearly operating and maintenance costs. The sale income will be placed in a special real estate fund that will not be comingled with operating monies. Decisions whether to continue leasing or purchase facilities will come down the road. Our primary mission is to represent you by developing relationships and educating legislators and regulators about agricultural issues. This move will strengthen our mission and is in the best interests of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Charlie Porter

PFB Board member, Ag Promotion and Education Committee member

Columbia County Farm Bureau Local Discounts

Knoebel's Lumber-10% off on hardware

Nescopeck Agway-5% off regular priced items

Renco Ace Hardware-5% off all regular priced items

Stauffer's Glass Company-15% off materials for glass and mirrors

Woody's Place Diner and Coffee House-10% off full menu

Bird Printing-10% off printing

Zeisloft Farm Equipment-10% off aftermarket parts, tools, paint, combine and tractor parts. Smaller discount on Stihl and lawn mowers

Tri County Ace Hardware-10% off all regular priced items, excluding electrical wire and power tools

P-Nut Bowl-free shoe rental for your group with one PFB membership

Maciejewski Plumbing and Heating and Air Conditioning-15% off the annual cleaning fee of \$150 on your heating/cooling system.

Jack Metzger Ford-10% off parts and accessories for Ford and VW

Wild for Salmon-10% off products sold over the counter-521 Montour Blvd (Route 11), Bloomsburg

American Paper Supply-10% off in-store purchases up to \$100

Big Dan's BBQ – 10% off all menu items

Coal Dock Drive-In-10% off all regular priced menu items

Ponduce Farms-10% off any purchase of \$10 or more

Bloomsburg Truck & Trailer Service-20% off labor

Members should show their membership card at these participating businesses and ask about the Farm Bureau discount.