

Annual Meeting Reviews Record Number of Policies

By Linda Stahlman

Two hundred four policies were put under consideration at the 74th Annual PFB Meeting held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center November 17-19. Of these policies, 144 were approved by the 175 delegates seated from 54 Farm Bureau chapters across the state. Those approved will now be reviewed by our professional PFB lobbyists.



CVF sent five delegates who include from l to r: President Jordan Siegel, Paul & Linda Stahlman, Dan Metz & Bud Wills.

The delegates debated a wide variety of policies including items affecting the state policies on Ag, health and safety, dairy, local government and zoning, farmland preservation, taxes, natural resources, stormwater, mineral extraction, education, foreign investment and farmland ownership, vehicle code and transportation, labor, hunting and fishing laws, wildlife management and private property rights to name a few.

As a first-time delegate, I found the debating quite interesting and was impressed with the reasonable pros and cons that were expressed. I have a new appreciation for the legislative work that PFB does for our grassroots membership.

Three of CVF's policies were brought to the table but only one was passed. It states: We recommend Tianeptine be defined as a controlled substance in the State of PA.

Highlights from the Annual Meeting



Chris Hoffman re-elected President of PFB for next two years.

PA Secretary of AG
Russell Redding
received the
Distinguished
Service to
Agriculture Award.



Fulton County FB Member
Chanin Mountz named
PFB Outstanding Woman
in Agriculture Award.

Somerset County
horse farmer
Denny Hutchison
named 2024
Distinguished Local
Affairs Leader
Award



You can read more about these winners in PFB.com under the Newsroom tab.

CVF County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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Linda Stahlman 814-365-5161

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Michelle Pifer 814-590-0801

District 13 State Ag Promotion

Amanda Balon 814-335-0804

YAP Representative

John Mark Miller 724-599-5967



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Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau
c/o Linda Stahlman
175 Marks Lane, Fairmount City, PA 16224



Having the safety talk with your kids isn't just important — it's essential.

In 2023, 19% of deaths in off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents were children under 16, with only 2% wearing helmets.¹ The **Let's Champion Rider Safety**[®] campaign, provides tips and resources for effective safety discussions and protection for young riders.



Learn more at
Nationwide.com/ATVsafety



Scan code to get safety tips for your young riders.



¹ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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Contact these Farm Certified Nationwide Agents:

Tgif Solutions, 9938 Rt 322 Ste 1, Shippenville 814-670-7100

Leach Agency, 342 Broad St., New Bethlehem 814-275-3224

Burns & Burns Assoc. Inc. 859 E. Main St., Clarion 814-226-8041

Board Meetings

The regular meeting of the CVF Board is the **first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM**. The Board will be meeting at the Clarion Co. Cooperative Extension Office. Changes in the meeting locations will be posted on the CVF Facebook page and the website: www.cvffarmbureau.com. **All CVF members are welcome to attend the meetings to express their ideas and to become involved in the county work.**

"RAISE THE BARN" FUNDRAISER

HELP US RAISE \$100K!



Pennsylvania Friends of
Agriculture Foundation™

A Charitable Organization Supported by
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

We're raising funds to keep our education programs alive and thriving in Pennsylvania!

Your donation will support...

- Mobile Ag Ed Science Labs
- Immersion Lab
- Ag Literacy Week
- Remake Learning Days
- Educator's Ag Institute
- Winter Ag Workshop

and so much more!

About the Foundation

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation is a charitable organization supported by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The Foundation has been educating the public and promoting agriculture, the largest of the Commonwealth's industries since its inception in 1986. Our farmers provide the food that feeds us, the food that keeps us healthy and nourishes us, the food that sustains our life. While agriculture continues to be a vital component of Pennsylvania's economy, many people do not understand its value and importance in their lives and our goal is to change that. Our Foundation has developed numerous educational programs that strive to bring agricultural education to students in unique and creative ways to teach them about farming, agriculture and how they get the food they eat.

Planting seeds. Cultivating knowledge.
Harvesting an understanding of agriculture.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!
SCAN THIS QR CODE OR ASK
FOR A DONATION SLIP!





NW PA Hay Drive

Helping farmers affected by Hurricane Helene

Thank you for considering supporting our efforts to provide farmers in NC and TN with items such as hay, fencing supplies, and grain. Every contribution made creates a significant impact!

To donate through Spurred to Victory Ministry, (our sister ministry and a 501-c3 non-profit) please scan the QR Code! There you will find details to donate online or our address to mail a check!



Ways YOU can get involved...

- Follow us on Facebook!
- Hay Bale Donations
- Hauling Donations
- Fencing Supply Donations
- Grain/Feed Donations
- Monetary Donations

Contact Us

1-814-221-4291 (Brittany Eisenman) | nwpahaydrive@gmail.com
 @NW PA Hay Drive: Helping those impacted by hurricane Helene

Clarion/Venango/Forest Farm Bureau Member Starts Hay Drive NW PA Farmers Helping Farmers

Brittany Eisenman and her husband Corey have been working nonstop to collect hay and monetary donations to support farmers facing total devastation from the effects of Hurricane Helene.

As of November 13, they have seen off 714 round bales, 1,890 small bales, 55 large squares and 2 large round bales of straw.

Other items sent include T posts, woven wire, fencing supplies, goat, chicken and livestock feed, small animal supplies, boots, lumber, insulation, chainsaws and as well as human needs

They have more hay promised from area farmers, but they really need the trucks to haul them. Brittany estimates it takes between \$1200 to \$1500 to get the trucks down and back. If you know of someone who could help, please contact her. **Contact info is on page 4.**

Brittany was recognized for this work at the annual meeting on Sunday, November 17.

CVF Scholarship Changes

Our CVF Scholarship winners have been drawn randomly at the Spring Meeting in the past. Many felt that this wasn't fair to the students who really have applied themselves. The Board has decided to put our scholarships into the hands of the Bridge Builders Community Foundation.

We will be awarding two \$750 scholarships in 2025. Applicants can apply online from the last week of January to the first week of March. The website is bbcf.org.

The foundation covers Venango, Clarion and Forest counties. Our criteria include: 1. Be a member or from a member household of the CVF Farm Bureau; 2. GPA of 2.0 or above; 3. Be enrolled to attend one of a variety of post-secondary institutions for the next year school year. These include four-year colleges, business colleges, graduate schools, technical schools, trade schools, and community colleges; 4 Plans to major in Agriculture or an Agriculture-related field.



We hope that this will encourage students to apply and to expect a fair judgement of their academic records.

Bull Ride Mania Rodeo

May 31, 2025

7 PM

Venango County Fairgrounds

The CVF Board is sponsoring a Bull Ride Mania Rodeo next May to raise funds for our Ag Educational Programs.



We are currently looking for sponsors. If you can help us, please contact Jordan Siegel, Tyler Fraser or Paul Stahlman.

Would you like to receive your CVF Newsletter by Email?

Your board is considering offering it by print or by email. An email newsletter would come in full color. It would save the Board some printing and mailing costs. But if you still prefer your print copy, that is totally fine. If you are interested in the email version, send your email request to plstahlman@gmail.com.

CVF Farm Bureau Mission Statement

To be an active and unified voice of the Clarion Venango Forest County Farm Bureau membership through policy development, education, political engagement and community enhancement endeavors.

Annual Fall Meeting Held August 20

Legislative Farm Tour Sweet Breeze Farm, Mayport



State Representative Donna Oberlander was congratulated on her retirement by Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson. Rep Oberlander has served Clarion and Armstrong counties for the past 16 years. "GT" praised her for her lasting impact on our commonwealth. She has been a dependable leader and was the first woman to serve as both Republican Whip and Policy Chairman. She has been a member of CVF for the past 21 years.

Leah Smith, Director of GIS, Clarion County, gave a presentation on Clean and Green which will begin in Clarion County in 2026 with the new property assessments.

PFB Vice-President Tommy Nagle was also present. He said the county chapters are the backbone of PFB. We need to tell our story and be proud of what we are doing, especially since farmers are producing more food now than in any time in history.

Tyler Fraser, Bud Wills and Dave Yeany were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Approximately 60 members were in attendance.



Nelson Smith talked about his four-generation family farm that has been in production since the 1800s. CVF's first Legislative Tour was held on his farm fifteen years ago.

Dairy robotics was the big draw for this year's Legislative Tour at the Sweet Breeze Farm, Mayport, owned by Nelson and Jared Smith. The Smiths are milking around 160 dairy cows in a modern robotic milking system. The cows go through the milking parlor on their own. They are fed, washed and milked entirely by robots. Jared said that their cows produce 1200 to 1300 gallons per day. A computer system tracks each cow's production and needs.



Nine members of the Redbank Valley FFA and their adviser Kate Kronen came to see what robotic milking was all about.

They also got to hear the different speakers talk about agriculture in PA. They were told that no matter what you want to do, there is a job in Ag.

Speakers attending were Mark Critz from the state department of agriculture, Justin Clapper from PFB, PA State Senator Scott Hutchinson, and State Representative Donna Oberlander. They talked about the Animal Lab that will be created in western PA which will be funded in the budget. The budget also will address the shortage of veterinarians.

Two other guest speakers were Alex DiCicco and Sean Lauer, wardens from the PA Game Commission. They reviewed the rules and regulations for farmers to help them kill deer for crop damage. There was quite a lot of discussion about the wildlife damage to crops.



Bylaw changes that need to be brought to the attention of our membership before the Spring Meeting. Full copies of our bylaws will be available at the meeting. The new bylaws need to be voted on by the membership to go into effect.

Article II Section 2- Remove Friends of Farm Bureau

Section 3- Application for Membership Upon special request, a member may select the affiliation to the county Farm Bureau of their choice. -Remove

Section 6: Dues

b. Friends of Farm Bureau Member: Total dues \$100.00 -Remove

Section 7: Membership in Good Standing: A member of this Farm Bureau shall be deemed in good standing if their membership is free from dues delinquency and not otherwise terminated, cancelled or in default on the date as to which the question of good standing is determined. - Remove

ADD:. For purposes of these bylaws, a “member in good standing” means a member who is current on their dues; has fully complied with any applicable policies and rules set by this Farm Bureau or Pennsylvania Farm bureau, including confidentiality and conflict of interest policies; and has not engaged in violent, belligerent, disruptive, or abusive activities such as: (1) violence, intimidation, threats, harassment, or physical or verbal abuse of directors, officers, employees, agents or members of this Farm Bureau; (2) causing or threatening damage to Farm Bureau property; (3) unauthorized use or access of Farm Bureau property; (4) knowingly disseminating incorrect, misleading, confidential or proprietary information regarding this Farm bureau; (5) any actions that may cause material risk or financial harm to this Farm Bureau.

The President may determine whether a member has potentially committed an offense to render them not in good standing and refer the matter to the Board for a final determination. The board may, in addition to any restrictions specifically mentioned in these bylaws, limit any services and privileges for any such member.

ADD. Section 8. Expulsion. A member who is not in good standing may be expelled by a 2/3 vote of a quorum of the Board if the Board believes that the member’s transgression is serious enough, provided that notice and a hearing are given to the member. The notice shall include, with sufficient detail, the reason and relevant dates for potential expulsion. The Board shall issue and provide to the member a written decision with 30 days of the hearings.

Article III

Section 1. Number and Authority. (Change of Board members to include WLC and YAP from 9 to 11)
ADD Section 2: Qualifications. For purposes of this section, a “conflict” shall be deemed to exist where a person is employed by or serves as an independent contractor or agent with: (1) this Farm Bureau; (2) Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; (3) American Farm Bureau Federation; (4) any charitable foundation, subsidiary, or related organization of either Pennsylvania Farm Bureau or American Farm Bureau Federation; or (5) any company in a contractual relationship with this Farm Bureau or the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau where the contract is valued in excess of \$500,000 annually. Volunteer work for or on behalf of any of the previously listed entities shall not be deemed a conflict. For potential conflicts involving a contract valued under \$500,000, the PFB conflict of interest policy and related disclosures shall apply.
ADD Section 5. Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6- Removal from Office The following shall constitute sufficient grounds for the removal from office of any officer or director without the necessity of a vote of the Board of Directors:

ADD a. Death.

Article V

Remove Section 4.2: Second Vice President: (Optional) The second Vice President shall, in the absence of the Vice President, exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Vice President; otherwise, the Second Vice President shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

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**.



CVF County Farm Bureau
175 Marks Lane
Fairmount City, PA 16224

Address Correction Requested

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, PA 98765-4321

Notable Events in 2024-2025

All CVF members are welcome to attend the CVF Board Meetings.



December 5 -- CVF Board Meeting, 6 PM, Stahlman Farm, Dinner before meeting

December 7—WLC Art Therapy, 2-4 PM, Paradise Community Center, Reynoldsville

January 2- CVF Board Meeting, 7s PM, Clarion County Extension Office

January 4-11—PA Farm Show, Harrisburg

January 24-28—AFBF Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

February 6-- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

March 6-- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

March 13—Farm Bureau Day

March 17-21—Ag Literacy Week

May 31, 2025—Bull Mania Rodeo at Venango County Fairgrounds, 7 PM

NOTE: Any last-minute changes in meeting locations and times will be posted on the CVF Facebook page and website: www.cvffarmbureau.com