

## PFB President Hoffman Discusses Top Priorities at Annual Meeting



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) is urging lawmakers in Harrisburg and D.C. to address multiple key issues that will build resiliency in the agriculture community, Farm Bill, Dairy issues, Crop Damage, ACAP and more.

These priorities have been put at the forefront of PFB to aid in building a strong foundation for the agriculture community and our members. "Pennsylvania must prioritize the education and introduction of the younger generation to the field of farming. It is concerning to witness a decline in the number of young farmers, and we aim to address this issue with the assistance of the Farm Bureau and our constituents," Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman said during a news conference held as part of PFB's 73rd Annual Meeting.

"As we look towards the future, it is important to evaluate whether Pennsylvania farmers possess all the necessary tools and resources," Hoffman added. "It is crucial that we proactively tackle future challenges to ensure the resilience of our farmers and rural communities."

Hoffman noted that Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows the importance of growth and success of rural Pennsylvania. To achieve this, the necessary infrastructure investments, including broadband, must be made.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau also urged federal policymakers to ensure that agriculture is included in discussions about climate and sustainability, and to recognize the positive efforts already being made by farmers in these areas. Farmers are increasing food production while reducing inputs. But to enhance the farming industry, policymakers everywhere must maintain their support for agriculture, Hoffman said.

"We are working tirelessly to build relationships in Pennsylvania and around the country," Hoffman said. "With these relationships we can start looking forward to a bright future for agriculture not only in Pennsylvania, but across the nation."

Farm Bureau is urging Pennsylvania legislators to pass legislation that will help further develop and protect the future of agriculture. Establishing these connections will not only help this generation of farms, but the generation of farms that are yet to come.

Lastly, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau looks to state and federal lawmakers to work in a bipartisan manner to correct all issues facing agriculture today.

"We have the necessary resources – land, climate, and market accessibility," Hoffman said. "It is imperative that we make every effort to promote Pennsylvania as an exceptional farming destination."

## CVF County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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### District 13 State Ag Promotion

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### YAP Representative


John Mark Miller 724-599-5967



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### Contact these Farm Certified Nationwide Agents:

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**Lgoth@leachagency.com.**

**814-275-3224.**

## Board Meetings

The regular meeting of the CVF Board is held on the third Tuesday of every month. The Board is currently meeting at Eat 'n Park. Changes in the meeting locations will be posted on the CVF Facebook page and the website: [www.cvffarmbureau.com](http://www.cvffarmbureau.com). All CVF members are welcome to attend the meetings to express their ideas and to become involved in the county work.

# Highlights from the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of PFB November 12-15, 2023 Hershey, PA

CVF was represented by Randy Hagofsky, Steve Reichard, Dave Yeany, Paul Stahlman and Bud Wills.



In two days, the delegates from all over Pennsylvania chapter reviewed and voted twice on 164 grassroots policies submitted from every county. Of the five policies which came from our CVF membership, only one made it through the voting. It reads “We oppose any restrictions on fossil fuels as a source of energy in agriculture, residential and commercial industries.”

Our CVF Board reported that there was much more discussion this year on game commission issues than on dairy as it was in the past.

## **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.**



## **Elk County Farmer Honored with Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award**

Ernie Mattiuz was presented the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for his dedicated work and service for the advancement of PA agriculture. Ernie was a familiar face at our CVF meetings for eight years when he served as our representative on the PFB State Board.

Mattiuz, a third-generation farmer in Kersey, Pennsylvania, owns and operates Earleyville Farm, which he started as a cow-calf operation at the age of 18 with his father. As markets changed, Mattiuz decided to move into pork and began selling direct to the consumer, before transitioning into grains.

He is extremely passionate about educating the next generation of consumers, having spent years writing grants to help get the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation’s Mobile Education Ag Science Labs into local schools.

“Ernie has shown true leadership in promoting the legislative needs of Farm Bureau and its members at the county and state level,” PFB President Chris Hoffman said. “His efforts in Elk County have made an impact in educating the public about the needs of farmers, which is important for all of us.”



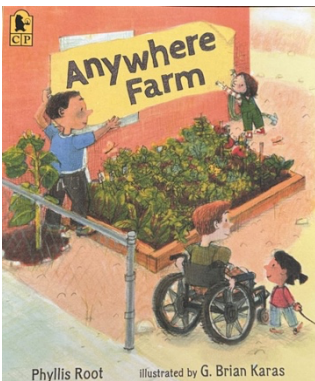
## AG LITERACY WEEK

Consider reading in a classroom near you.

PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation invites all members of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry to join with us to celebrate Ag Literacy Week. By becoming a reader, you can help us share the story of agriculture and teach students about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives.

**Registration deadline is December 15, 2023.**  
**Agriculture Literacy Week in PA is March 18-22, 2024.**

To learn more about Ag Literacy Week and all that we are planning for our event visit <http://pfbfriends.positivelypa.com/ag-literacy-week/> or contact the foundation at 717-761-2740.



### *Anywhere Farm*

Written by Phyllis Root, and Illustrated by G. Brian Karas  
The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation's 2024 Ag Literacy Week book, *Anywhere Farm* allows children to explore the different options

where one can plant a farm. From a box or bucket to a pan, almost anything can be turned into a home for green, growing things. Windows, balconies, and front steps all make wonderful spots to start. After all, anywhere can be a farm, all it takes is one small seed and someone to plant it.

## Pennsylvania Farm Show Theme: Connecting Our Communities

January 6-13, 2024

2024 Pennsylvania State Fair™ will connect the \$132.5 billion PA Agriculture industry to lives positively impacted daily by its success.

## Fond Farewells to Familiar Faces



### ROD Isaac Harrington

Isaac has been our ROD for Region 6 since the summer of 2021. He moving on to a position with Centerra Coop in Cambridge Springs and is looking forward to be more involved with production agriculture. His email is [MuttonButBeef@gmail.com](mailto:MuttonButBeef@gmail.com) and his cell is 814-602-8916. We wish him well in his new endeavors and expect to see him again with the Erie County FB.

### Michele McMinn

Michele has been the WLC President since November 2021 and on the District 13 WLC Board for the past 8 years. Her husband Ray is our representative on the state board and she assures us that she will still be very active in FB work. She lives on a farm in Elk County, producing lamb, chickens, vegetable and field crops.



### 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**.



## YAP Leadership Conference 2024

### “Can’t Stop Now”

**Registration is now open** for the 2024 YAP Leadership Conference! The conference will be held in Harrisburg, PA at the Harrisburg Hilton on February 16-18th.

The event will start with an opening reception on Friday evening at 7:30 PM. There will be tours on Saturday morning, as well as the state Discussion Meet contest. An agenda with detailed session topics for Saturday and Sunday will be available soon.

You must register and pay online in advance to complete your registration. You also must make, and pay for, your own hotel reservations separately with the hotel. This information is provided on the registration form.

Conference registration funding is available through some County Farm Bureaus. To get in contact with your County Farm Bureau Board about possible conference registration funding, please search for your County Farm Bureau contact at the following link: [County Farm Bureau Directory](#).

Parking is discounted to \$10/day when you verify your ticket at the hotel front desk. There is plenty of space to park in the hotel parking garage, but carpooling is still encouraged. Trucks that sit high off the ground may not be able to fit in the parking garage. Street parking is also available.

**The registration deadline is January 19th.** You can register at: [www.pfb.com/yapcon24](http://www.pfb.com/yapcon24).



**Please Don't forget to renew your membership.**



## PFB Members Elect Tommy

### Nagle as Vice President

HERSHEY – Cambria County farmer Tommy Nagle has been re-elected as Vice President of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) by voting delegates at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the state's largest farm organization.

Nagle previously was appointed as Vice President by the PFB Board of Directors to fill a vacancy following last year's Annual Meeting. “It was very humbling to be re-elected by the Farm Bureau members and delegates,” PFB Vice President Tommy Nagle said. “President Hoffman and I will have a full agenda to promote and enhance the agenda of agriculture.”

Nagle raises beef cattle and grows crops on his family farm in Patton, Cambria County.

Nagle served on the PFB State Board of Directors for three years before being elected Vice President. Nagle has served on the Cambria County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for eight years, from 2011-2019 and has served as the President of Cambria County Farm Bureau from 2014-19. Nagle has been a longtime contributor to Farm Bureau, previously serving as the Vice President of his county, and he served as the policy development chair and the Young Farmer and Rancher (now Young Ag Professionals) chair in Cambria County.

In 2013, Nagle and his wife, Tracy, won PFB's Young Farmer and Rancher Achievement Award, which is awarded to a Young Farmer and Rancher involved in production agriculture who has excelled in their farm or ranch and that demonstrate superior leadership skills. Nagle holds an accounting degree from Saint Francis University. Tommy and Tracy have five children.

## Scholarships Available

**CVF Farm Bureau is offering three scholarships for post-secondary students coming from member households. The application is included in this newsletter. See the application for the requirements and have it sent in by March 15, 2024. The winners' names will be randomly drawn and announced at the Annual Spring Meeting. Date TBA.**



## Tyler Fraser Steps into VP Role on CVF Board

Tyler joined the CVF Board in 2021 and has been an active member ever since. Despite being a very busy guy, he finds time to make meaningful contributions to the work of our board and recently accepted the role of vice-president.

He works as a union heavy equipment operator for Local 66. In the past, he traveled around doing union pipe line work.

His wife Katie currently works at the Farm Service Agency office in Clarion and will be moving to the NRCS office later this month.

They are first generation farmers, owning a farm in Porter Township, Clarion County, where they have a cow/calf operation to raise feeder cattle. They also have hogs and chickens.

Tyler and Katie grew up in Beaver County. While in high school, he made a connection with agriculture when he worked for a dairy farmer.

They have two rambunctious sons, Everett, age 8 and Clayton, age 5.

We can thank Steve Reichard and Jordan Siegel for getting Tyler involved with CVF.

**A position on the CVF Board of Directors is open for anyone interested in becoming more involved in creating grassroots policy for the legislation that affects agriculture. We're especially looking for young farmers who have stakes in a future in agriculture. If interested, Contact Jordan Siegel at 814-221-5301.**

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Joe Diamond, Region 4 ROD will be helping Region 6 until a new ROD is appointed. He can be contacted at 814-934-0330 or [jmdiamond@pfb.com](mailto:jmdiamond@pfb.com).

# Clarion Venango Forest County Farm Bureau \$500 Scholarship Application

**Submission Deadline March 15, 2024-Please Read the Application Carefully!**

Previous winners are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Area Code): \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

College, Technical, or Trade School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

College Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ School Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Dates of Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ CVF Membership number: \_\_\_\_\_

CVF Membership Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CVF Membership Township: \_\_\_\_\_

## Eligibility Requirements:

Applicant must:

Be a member or from a member household of the Clarion Venango Forest County Farm Bureau.

Be enrolled to attend one of a variety of post-secondary institutions for the next school year. These include, but are not limited to: four-year colleges, business colleges, graduate schools, technical schools, trade schools, and community colleges.

Applicant must have maintained a 2.0 or higher QPA, "C" grade average, or 80% grade average.  
(current high school or college)

## Application Requirements:

Submit a **completed** Scholarship Application Form.

Provide a **current grade transcript**, \*need not be an *official* transcript.

Question should be directed to your school guidance counselor or CVF Farm Bureau at (814) 221-5301

Return completed application requirements to:

Clarion Venango Forest County Farm Bureau, 386 Shoup Rd, Knox, PA 16232



**Pennsylvania Farm Bureau**

*Pulling Together for the Future of Agriculture*



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 2023-24

December 19 - CVF Board Meeting & Program of Works/Budget, 5:30 PM,  
Home of Allison Beichner

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

January 16, 2024 - CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Eat 'N Park, Clarion

January 6-13 – Pennsylvania Farm Show, Harrisburg

February 16-18 – YAP Leadership Conference, Harrisburg Hilton

February 20- CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Eat 'N Park, Clarion

March 15—Deadline for Scholarship applications

March 19- CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Eat 'N Park, Clarion

March 18-22 – Ag Literacy Week



**NOTE: Any last-minute changes in meeting locations and times will be posted on the CVF Facebook page and website: [www.cvffarmbureau.com](http://www.cvffarmbureau.com)**