

# Clarion/Venango/Forest County Newsletter



Quarterly Newsletter of Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau



Volume 9, Issue 1

March 2024

## Spring Annual Meeting

April 11, 2024

Trinity Point Church of God

Dinner at 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6

\$20 for adults -- \$10 for children under 10

Payable at the door

### Buffet Dinner Menu

Catered by Daddy's Main Street

Rolls, Fresh Fruit, Toss Salad, Chicken, Meatloaf,  
Mashed Potatoes, Noodles, Green Beans with Bacon,  
Cupcakes and Ice Cream as well as Beverages.



### Meeting Agenda

#### Guest Speaker

Rick Kralj -- Food Preservation Guidelines

Policy Development Ideas

Drawing for three \$500 scholarships

#### Chinese Auction

Please bring an item for our Chinese Auction.



Kindly RSVP by April 4 to Linda Stahlman phone 814-365-5161,  
Text 814-319-4318, or email to [plstahlman@gmail.com](mailto:plstahlman@gmail.com)

## CVF County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

### President

Jordan Siegel 814-221-5301

### Vice President

Tyler Fraser 724-316-7590

### Secretary

Linda Stahlman 814-365-5161

### Treasurer

Kristina Stewart 814-321-8747

### Directors

Allison Beichner 724-301-4278

Steve Reichard 814-275-4876

Randy Hagofsky 814-473-8356

Paul Stahlman 814-365-5161

Dave Yeany 814-221-4360

### Associate Directors

Chip Abramovic 814-671-1497

Fred Allen 724-822-6849

### Governmental Relations Director

Bud Wills 814-379-3759

### Newsletter Editor

Linda Stahlman 814-365-5161

### Region 6 Organization Director

Michele McMinn 717-982-3280

### District 13 State Board Member

Ray McMinn 814-594-4876

### District 13 Woman's Leadership Cmte

Michelle Pfeiffer 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



## Protect your next with the Ag Insight Center

We feed your need for insights and information with access to the Ag Insight Center, providing members with the latest resources, innovations and information to help drive your future business success.

Scan here to learn more:



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### Contact these Farm Certified Nationwide Agents:

**Bret Atwood and Tammy Ferraino**

**bret@tgif.solutions**

**and**

**tammy@tgif.solutions**

**814-226-8820**

**Lisa Goth**

**Lgoth@leachagency.com.**

**814-275-3224.**

## Board Meetings

The regular meeting of the CVF Board is changing to 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](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.



## **Michele McMinn New Region 6 ROD**

We are pleased to announce that Michele McMinn was hired as our new Region 6 ROD. Her territory includes Board Districts 13 & 14 and the Armstrong, CVF, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Jefferson and Warren county chapters.

Michele is no newcomer to PFB. She was 2021-2023 WLC State President and on the District 13 Board for the past 8 years. We are sure her extensive experience in Farm Bureau will be a great help for our CVF Board.

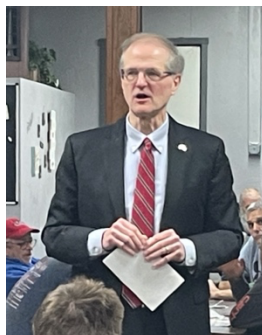
Her husband Ray McMinn serves on the State Board for District 13. She lives on a farm in Elk County, producing lamb, chickens, vegetable and field crops.

## **Legislative Breakfast February 16**

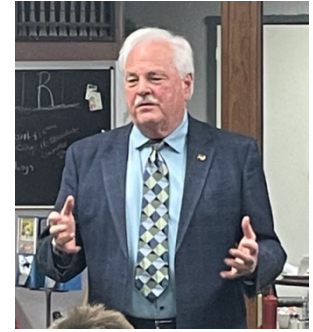
CVF hosted a breakfast for our local legislators on the federal, state and county levels. Each legislator was given a chance to talk about the issues that they are working on that concern our region.

Prominent issues were energy and environment, crop damage, the federal whole milk bill, lack of housing, the state budget and broadband.

Those attending included Brad Moore representing Congressman Glen "GT"



Thompson, State Senator Scott Hutchinson, State Representative Donna Oberlander, State Representative R. Lee James, Clarion



County commissioners Wayne Brosius, Ted Tharan, Braxton White and Venango County commissioners Sam Breene, Ken Bryan and Albert "Chip" Abramovic.

Brad Moore reported that the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids bill passed in the House and has a good likelihood of passing in the Senate because of the bi-partisan support it has. He urged farm bureau members to contact our senators to let them know how important this bill is to farmers.

Senator Hutchinson was concerned about the governor's proposed budget. The governor's revenue predictions are much higher than the projections of the independent agencies. He is hoping it can all be ironed out by July 1.

He also is concerned about the early retirement of coal and natural gas plants in PA. Solar and wind energy generators are being built but are not being built at a fast enough rate to keep up with consumption. He's predicting that eventually we'll have more blackouts in the northeastern US.

Rep. Donna Oberlander is quite concerned about the lack of housing in PA and how it affects the growth of our economy. We can't get businesses to come into the state when the housing is not there to provide for the workers. Building in PA is hard because of so many regulations.





## Our Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Come with Your Questions



### Rick Kralj

Rick is a Senior Penn State Educator in Jefferson County. He is well qualified to speak on food quality and preservation, food handling safety and nutrition and is a

certified instructor for SERV Safe. Rick has also appeared on various WPSU Digital Studio productions dealing with food preservation. With the increasing cost of food, many people are returning to growing their own food and preserving it. Your CVF Board felt that this was a very timely topic.

### 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**.

### 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.

26th Annual



Thursday, March 14, 2024



Featuring Daniel Salatin

At the  
Trinity Point Church of God  
180 W. Trinity Drive Clarion, PA

Presented by the  
Western PA  
Grazing Conference Committee

**Registration Deadline March 7, 2024**

**\$45 registration fee includes lunch**

**Register online at**

**[www.westernpagrazing.com](http://www.westernpagrazing.com)**

**Questions? Contact**

**Clarion CD at 814-393-6147**

# GOOD NEWS



**Congratulations to these  
Growing CVF Families**

**Dillon and Kristina  
Stewart  
Carson Michael  
January 9.  
8 lb. 1 oz  
Welcomed by his sister  
Savannah**



**Josh and Allison Beichner  
Jonah Thomas  
February 24  
6 lbs. 15 oz.**



**FARMERS  
ON THE RISE**

**Tyler & Katie Fraser Win  
Farmers on the Rise Award  
From Horizon Farm Credit**



Horizon Farm Credit awarded a total of \$100,000 to beginning farmers through the Farmers on the Rise Reward Program on December 7, 2023. Tyler and Katie were one of ten recipients.

## Kudos to Yeany Maple

**Best of Show for  
Maple Syrup  
PA Farm Show.  
Jan. 2024**



**Second Place in  
Very Dark  
Robust  
International  
Maple Syrup  
Conference,  
Sturbridge, MA**

**October 2024**

Tyler and Katie are beginning farmers who own and operate Fraser Cattle Company, on just over 60 acres with their two sons Everett (9) and Clayton (5). They are a first-generation operation currently raising cattle, hogs, and chickens.



They applied for the Farmer's on the Rise Program for funding assistance to grow their operation. They are anticipating retail meat sales from their farm and adding a sheep flock in the near future.

Both Katie and Tyler have extensive farming experience. Katie has worked in beef and dairy operations, and currently works for USDA-NRCS in Indiana, PA. Tyler has worked on large grain farms, a dairy farm, and is a heavy equipment operator. Both are utilizing their experiences, skills, and resources for their operation and appreciate Horizon Farm Credit's support in helping to make their dreams a reality.



## Scholarships Available

CVF Farm Bureau is offering three scholarships for post-secondary students coming from member households. The application is included again in this newsletter. See the application for the requirements and have it sent in by March 30, 2024. The winners' names will be randomly drawn and announced at the Annual Spring Meeting on April 11.



## We Welcome These New CVF Members

### Clarion

Maribeth Mitis  
Kevin Kaltenbach  
Wendell Wensel  
Herbert John Drayer  
Jennifer Rankin

Brian Acey  
David Fleming  
Cristen Clowes  
Anne Daymut

### Forest

Jeffrey Hartzell

Annah Burke

### Venango

Chip Abramovic  
Stacie Figueroa  
Maddie Hepler  
Meagan Marie Clark  
Jessica Michelle Snyder  
Nicole Penny

Kyle Knapp  
Ronald Shirey  
Samuel Willyoung  
Jessica Gossett  
Matt Hepler  
Randall Shaffer

**NW PA Maple Syrup Producers  
Association Taste & Tour**  
**Weekend March 16 & 17, 2024**  
**9 AM-5PM**  
**Visit Forest County's Yeany's Maple**  
**113 Chestnut St., Marienville**



Yeany's Maple is a 4,300-tap operation, located in the village of Marienville, Forest County. They boil on a 4x14 Force

5 Evaporator with a steam-away. They use 1200 gph Reverse Osmosis to cut down on fuel consumption and boiling time.



Celebrating their 20th year in business and their 21st sugaring season. Maple Kettle Corn and Maple Cotton Candy will be available along with other maple products to sample.

**Directions:** Take Rt 66N to Marienville coming from the south. Coming from the north, Take Rt 66S. Look for signs. They are located in the center of Marienville.

Great  
Plains 7'  
No-Till  
Planter  
Available  
for Rent to  
Producers  
in Clarion County



**\$12/acre Contact Clarion  
Conservation District to reserve  
@ 814-393-6147**

- \*Standard Seed Box
- \*Small Seed Box
- \*Native Grass Seed Box
- \* 10 Openers
- \*3,800 towing Weight
- \*75 HP recommended

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

**Submission Deadline March 30, 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 2024

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

**March 10—Daylight Savings Begins**

**March 14—Western PA Grazing Conference, Trinity Point Church of God**

**March 18-22 – Ag Literacy Week**

**March 26—State Legislative Conference, Harrisburg**

**March 30—Deadline for Scholarship applications**

**April 4, -- CVF Board Meeting, 6:30 PM. Clarion County Extension Office**

**April 11 -- CVF Annual Spring Meeting, 6:30 PM Trinity Point Church of God**

**April 12-20—Rural Road Safety Week**

**May 2 -- CVF Board Meeting, 6:30 PM. Clarion County Extension Office**



**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)**