



ELK COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 3

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WE NEED YOU!!!!!!



Volunteer at the Ice Cream Booth at the Elk County Fair !!!

We are in need of Volunteers for the ice cream booth for the time during the fair. If you can give a few hours or an evening or more please sign up on the google form provided or scan the code. This is the biggest fundraiser the Elk County Farm Bureau does. The funds are used for Ag Labs and Agriculture education along with our scholarships. It doesn't pay much but the reward is great.

<https://forms.gle/LKdBP987xxuJ4r2N9>



Elk County Farm Bureau Advertising

Let's face it, advertising costs are expensive and how can you be sure where you are advertising is helping? We want to help.

Elk County Farm Bureau would like to put together an advertising page for our members and no cost to you as long as you are a Farm bureau member.

What do we need? We need you to send an email or mail us a business card with your business name, what you sell or your services, phone or contact info, etc. We will add you to the listing and create a booklet to distribute throughout Elk County for customers to find you. This will be updated quarterly as membership changes. Deadline for the first printing is July 1st, 2024.

PDA Bureau of Animal Health Updates State Dairy HPAI Quarantine Order in Response to USDA Action

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) Bureau of Animal Health, in conjunction with the Center for Dairy Excellence, has convened regular updates on the evolving situation with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy cattle in nine U. S. states, affecting 43 premises. At this writing, Pennsylvania continues to be dairy HPAI-free, but state animal health officials caution that all producers should remain vigilant in updating their biosecurity plans to meet the potential threat. New data now suggest that the HPAI virus was spread from wild birds to cattle beginning in late 2023 and has been spreading in cattle since then. PDA is advising dairy farms to protect their cattle as much as possible from wild birds to prevent further virus spread among dairy farms. There is still just one human case reported to date, but mutations in the virus suggest bovine adaptation. Milk and mammary tissue carry the highest viral load in cattle. There is some evidence of limited respiratory shedding.

The PDA's April quarantine order was revised May 9 to mirror the succeeding USDA order's terms. All lactating dairy cattle being transported interstate must be tested (except for those moving directly to slaughter). All non-lactating cattle from affected states must be tested within 7 days of movement. PDA has developed a response protocol to quarantine positive premises if needed.

PDA also reminds farmers to use their premises ID number when reporting suspect cases to get testing reimbursement. Farmers should work with their vet to initiate testing if they suspect HPAI. PDA is currently drafting guidelines for fairs and exhibitors. Out-of-state animals must be tested prior to entry. USDA will be offering an aid package work up to \$28,000 for affected farms to use for PPE, heat treatment of waste milk, and reimbursement for production losses. The CDC is working with state health departments to proactively distribute PPE. PDA is working with the PA Dept. of Health to prepare. PDA also outlined sampling basics for farmers who need to submit them.

HPAI A (H5N1) OUTBREAK IN DAIRY CATTLE

H5N1 Updates: Due to the evolving situation, please visit the links below for the most updated situation with HPAI A (H5N1) in dairy cattle.

o APHIS:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-diseases/avian/avian-](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-diseases/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock)

[influenza/hpai-detections/livestock](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-diseases/avian/avian-influenza/hpai-detections/livestock)

o PFB:

<https://pfb.com/hpai-in-dairy-cattle-resource-guide-what-to-know/>

Long Term Members of the Elk County Farm Bureau

We would like to take a moment and thank the long term members of the Elk County Farm Bureau. These are members 30 years or longer as a consistent member. Thank you for being a part of this organization!!

Roger Aumen-38 years

Paul Swanson -38 years

Ernie Mattiuz -38 years

Patrick Sheeley-38 years

Pierre Pontzer-38 years

Don Lundin-38 years

Paul Oldland-38 years

Steve Brendel -37 years

Russ Hanes -35 years

David Wolfe -35 years

Charles Swanson -34 years

Micheal Riddle 34-years

Edward Glass-30 years

Honoring our Editor:

Rosemary Mattiuz left this world to be with her heavenly Father late Mother's day evening. She and Ernie worked for several years on this newsletter and have made it what it is today. She also shared a love for agriculture and made sure that by sharing her story of farming we all learned a little more of what Farmers do every day. She will always be remembered for her kind words and the smile she shared with everyone she met. Rosemary will be greatly missed.

YAP Events-Calling all Young Ag Professionals Ages 18-35

Are you an Elk County Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18-35 and want to do more with your membership? Join in the fun at this years Young Ag Professionals Picnic at the Thiele Farms



The poster is for the Western YAP Summer Picnic Region. It features a green background with a white cloud-like shape containing event details. The text includes: Butler County, July 21, 2024, 11am-???, Food Provided, Family Friendly, RSVP by July 7th, 2024, Using the link or QR code. To the right, it lists: 11:30 Tour at Har-lo Farms, 12:15 Social/food@ Thiele Farms, Live Band, and Tour/presentation. A QR code is shown with a 'SCAN ME' button below it.

western YAP SUMMER PICNIC REGION

Butler County
July 21, 2024
11am-???
Food Provided
Family Friendly
RSVP by July 7th, 2024
Using the link or QR code

11:30 Tour at Har-lo Farms
12:15 Social/food@ Thiele Farms
Live Band
Tour/presentation

SCAN ME

If you are interested in attending this event contact ROD Michele McMinn at 717-982-3280 or scan the barcode.

Upcoming Events: Summer Legislative Tour

The Summer Legislative tour will be held at the New location for the Wilcox Winery on Friday August 16th from 10am.-2pm If you would like to join us please make your reservations with Michele McMinn at 717-982-3280

PFB Testifies to Pennsylvania House Game & Fisheries Committee on Crop Damage Legislation

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.

Additionally, PennDOT data between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, shows that there were 5,848 accidents in the state that were directly or indirectly caused by deer. At least 1,264 people were injured and nine people were killed in those crashes. 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event

Meetings at the Gahr home on June 26th and July 24th at 7:00pm

Elk County Fair August 5-10th

Aug 16 The Legislative tour-Wilcox Winery

Ag Progress Days-August 13th-15th

If interested in registering for any event go to PFB website or get a hold of a board member



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106 N Michael St
Saint Marys, PA 15857-1196
814.781.3888

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Growing Communities
Many Voices United Vision

Legislative Days and F.A.R.M.E.R Dinner



Rick Taylor (Vice President) and Ray McMinn (Vice President and State Director Dist 13) attended the Legislative Days in Harrisburg, Pa on March 26th. They were able to meet with Representative Mike Armanini and Senator Cris Dush and discuss issues that are important to Pa Farm Bureau. These issues start at the county farm bureaus as policies and go through the state annual meeting to become PA Farm Bureau Policies. Pictured above are Ray McMinn, Representative Mike Armanini and State Senator Cris Dush, Rick Taylor. F.A.R.M.E.R held its annual fundraising dinner the night before and This Week in Pennsylvania tv hosts were there to share their insights on the current political climate in Pa and their predictions for the upcoming 2024 elections.

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**.



Member Benefits



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit www.pfb.com/services or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million** in **annual savings**.

To redeem discounts, use the required codes, web-sites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

Member Benefits are subject to change without notice. Membership Dues Are Non-Refundable.

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Exceptions may apply



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Online purchases

Farm and Business



Account# 855488417
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Renewals code: PAFB
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1.800.8-SADDLE
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30 day waiting period



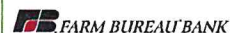
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www.budget.com/pafb

Health and Wellness



Code: Group 946
www.scriptsave.com



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Additional Benefits

Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!

For a complete list of discounts offered by +375 locally-owned businesses in nearly 50 counties visit pfb.com/localdiscounts.

Local discounts not offered in all counties

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Deals Plus

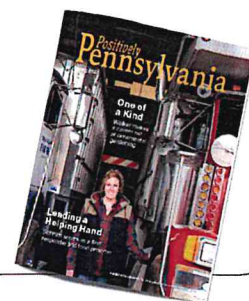


pfb.enjoymydeals.com

Publication

PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

A total \$6 portion of annual member dues covers subscriptions to *Positively Pennsylvania*. Members receive 4 issues of *Positively Pennsylvania* per year on a quarterly basis. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



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