

Don't Forget to bring your Family to the CVF Fall Annual Meeting

Tuesday, August 20, 2024
Fryburg Sportsman's Club Farm
3100 Marble Strobeleton Road, Tionesta, PA



Greetings from PFB Vice-President Tommy Nagle

Guest Speaker—Leah Smith, GIS Director, Clarion County
Speaking on Clean and Green

Special Presentation to retiring State Representative 63rd District
Donna Oberlander

CVF Board Elections and Activities Updates

Come at 6:00 PM Dinner at 6:30 PM

Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and tableware will be provided.
Please bring a large covered dish to share.



Bring an ITEM for our Chinese Auction to help fund our
Ag literacy programs.

Donations will be also be accepted.

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

Annah Burke 814-706-8607

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 Pifer 814-590-0801

District 13 State Ag Promotion

Amanda Balon 814-335-0804

YAP Representative

John Mark Miller 724-599-5967



Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau Newsletter is published by the Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau Four times per year.

August-September 2024 Volume 9 Issue 3

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 drive your future business success.

Scan here to learn more:



Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau and FB are trademarks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used with permission under license by Nationwide. © 2022 Nationwide CMO-1329PA.1 (10/22)



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.**



Big Foot Pancake Breakfast

On June 8, CVF served a Pancake Breakfast to approximately 70 people in Marienville in conjunction with the Big Foot Festival. The event netted about \$500 for our Ag Literacy Accounts.

We want to thank everyone who helped to make this event successful.

Alex McGuire Scholarship

In 2023, a scholarship fund was set up in memory of Alex McGuire who would have been a 2024 graduating senior at Redbank Valley High School. Donations to the fund totaled \$1000.

CVF sent applications for this scholarship to Redbank, specifically for Career Center students who were classmates of Alex. Two \$500 scholarships were awarded.

The recipients were Logan Kiehl and Garrett Shaffer. Logan plans to join the Carpenter's union and Garrett will be pursuing career in welding.

CVF Scholarship Application Changes Coming



The three \$500 CVF scholarships have always been given out by a random drawing. The CVF Board is currently reviewing our application and wants to change it to a merit-based award. It is hoped that students will invest time writing about their career hopes and plans so that we can give these scholarships to those most deserving.

The new application will be available in the December newsletter. Applicants will have a deadline TBA in March 2025.

Something to Think About

They ran to the groceries, they filled up their carts,
 They emptied the Tops and Price Chopper and Walmart,
 They panicked and fought and then panicked some more,
 Then they rushed to their homes and they locked all the doors.
 The food will be gone! The milk, eggs and cheese!
 The yogurt! The apples! The green beans and peas!
 The stores have run out, now what will we do?
 They'll be starving and looting and nothing to do!
 Then they paused, and they listened a moment or two.
 And they did hear a sound, rising over the fear,
 It started out far, then began to grow near.
 But this sound wasn't sad, nor was it new,
 The farms were still doing what farms always do.
 The food was still coming, though they'd emptied the shelves,
 The farms kept it coming, though they struggled themselves,
 Though the cities had forgotten from where their food came,
 The farms made them food every day, just the same.
 Through weather and critics and markets that fall,
 The farms kept on farming in spite of it all.
 They farmed without a thank you.
 They farmed without praise.
 They farmed on the hottest and coldest of days.
 They'd bought all the food, yet the next day came more,
 And the people thought of something they hadn't before.
 Maybe food, they thought, doesn't come from a store.
 Maybe farmers, perhaps, mean a little bit more.

God Bless America!

CVF Sponsored



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, including



- **Mobile Ag Lab**
- **Ag Safety Days**
- **Scholarships**
- **AG in the Classroom**
- **Ag Literacy**
- **FFA Events**
- **Farm Tours**

There will be a variety of rodeo classes and several activities for kids. To fund this event, we will need Sponsors, who will be able to donate at different levels of sponsorship. If you can be a sponsor or can help to enlist sponsors, please contact Tyler Fraser or Jordan Siegel.

More details to come in future newsletters.

Annual Meeting Speakers



Tommy Nagle

Cambria County farmer Tommy Nagle was re-elected as Vice President of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau at the 2023 Annual Meeting in Harrisburg. Nagle raises beef cattle and grows crops on his family farm in Patton, 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. Overall, Nagle has more than a decade of experience in Farm Bureau leadership roles.

He 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 holds an accounting degree from Saint Francis University. Tommy and Tracy have five children.



Leah Smith

Leah is the Director of GIS (Geographic Information System) in Clarion County. She will be speaking on Clean and Green at our annual meeting.

She holds a BS degree in Environmental Biology from Clarion University. Her background in Ag includes being a herdsman for a 160

dairy cow operation.

Clarion County's GIS (Geographic Information System) does everything from maintaining data for 9-1-1 to making maps.

Clarion County GIS Department offers GIS consulting services, database management, custom maps, and training services to the county's departments and offices. Major priorities of the GIS Department include:

- Create, edit, and maintain current and additional GIS Layers
- Develop, manage, and maintain GIS database
- Performs GIS analysis for county agencies and public

- Developing custom maps
- Facilitating GIS education and training seminars

What is Clean and Green?

Clean and Green tax incentives were created in 1974 to encourage the protection of Pennsylvania's farmland, forestland and open spaces through lower tax assessments for land owners who enroll.

Property taxes for land enrolled in Clean and Green are based on land use values rather than fair market values, which usually results in a tax savings for landowners. In counties that have not had a recent countywide tax reassessment, taxes could already be lower on those properties.

Owners of 10 or more acres in eligible use may enroll. Properties of fewer than 10 acres can be enrolled if they can generate at least \$2000 annually in farm income.

In order to be eligible for Clean and Green, a property must fall into one of three categories:

- Agriculture use—currently in production agriculture.
- Agricultural reserve—lands are open space lands and must be open to the public for outdoor recreation or enjoyment of the land's scenic or natural beauty. The requirement for land being open to the public does not mean that the owner may not impose any restrictions on public access.
- Forest reserve—forested land capable of producing timber or wood products.

For more information to apply for the Clean and Green program, contact the Clarion County Tax Assessment Office at 814-226-4000 ext. 2301 or assessmentoffice@co.clarion.pa.us.

New Face on PFB Staff

Mitchell Kurek is the new State & Local Affairs Specialist in the Government Affairs and

Communication Division. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson University with a degree in Law & Society and Lehigh University with a Masters in Public Policy.

Mitchell's goal is to work closely with as many members as possible, relaying their message to policymakers. He is passionate about ensuring that farmers have the resources and support they need to continue providing safe, nutritious products across our state and nation.



PFB Applauds Agriculture's Inclusion in 24-25 State Budget; Several PFB Priorities Signed into Law

CAMP HILL – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is pleased that the 2024-25 state budget funds the creation of an animal health diagnostic lab in Western Pennsylvania, contributes \$50 million to the Clean Streams Fund, which extends the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and invests \$31 million to help farmers impacted by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). All three are key Pennsylvania Farm Bureau priorities.

PFB advocated for the need for an animal diagnostic lab in Western Pennsylvania to provide necessary testing for animals and helping speed up the results, allowing Pennsylvania to mitigate any infectious disease outbreak, like avian influenza, more effectively. Currently, the only diagnostic labs in Pennsylvania are located at Penn State, the University of Pennsylvania in Chester County and at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture office in Harrisburg. The site of the Western Pennsylvania lab has not yet been chosen.

PFB also advocated for the creation of ACAP in the 2022-23 budget and is pleased to see its continued funding. The program initially invested \$220 million for conservation programs across the state and PFB is pleased to see ACAP receive continued funding.

The budget allocated more than \$33 million in combined funding for Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, also known as Penn Vet, and Penn Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease in 2024-25, despite the state withholding funding for the program last year. Funding for Penn Vet is crucial for agriculture, as it is the only-state funded veterinary school in the state.

Penn State ag research and Extension received flat funding at just under \$58 million.

Governor Josh Shapiro's 2024-25 budget also invests \$10 million in agriculture

innovation to help support new solutions and technologies including energy and conservation endeavors, funds the 2024-25 PA Farm Bill, funds Fresh Food Financing, PASS, and other food access initiatives.

Overall, the Department of Agriculture's budget grows nearly 10 percent to \$228 million, while general operations, centers of excellence and farmers market coupons will receive increased funding in the 2024-25 budget.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Chris Hoffman shared the following thoughts on the 2024-25 state budget:

"Overall, this is a really strong budget for Pennsylvania agriculture," Hoffman said. "Once again, Governor Josh Shapiro and his administration has shown their commitment to agriculture by having a budget that reflects that. Investing in a new animal health diagnostic lab and investing in conservation ensures that the next generation of farmers have a place. Continuing to invest in agriculture is vital, as it creates food security for our state and our nation."

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.



Please renew **Your Membership** before September 30 to get the \$5 discount.

Membership after September 30 is \$100. Remember PFB is **Your Voice** in Harrisburg and Washington DC.

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**.

We Welcome These New Members
Josh Bashline
Ken Bryan



Blast Away Hunger August 31 - RSVP by August 17

Central Penn Sporting Clays - 75 Quarry Rd. Wellsville, PA 17365

\$115: Individual "Solo Sharpshooter"
Includes: Meal, one round Walking course or bring own golf cart

\$440: Team of 4 "Target Titans"
Includes: Meal, and one round (Golf cart Rental available for \$30)

\$65: Meal Only "Spectating Supporter"

You may bring your own gun and shells
*shells must be low brass; 7 1/2, 8, or 9 shot only

Safety Glasses and Ear Protection provided at no cost but you may bring your own if you prefer.

Loaner Guns Available @ \$20
Shells Available @ Market Price



Event Schedule

- 11:00 - 11:30 Registration
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch (Keynote: Clancy Harrison, Founder of The Food Dignity[®] Movement)
- 12:30-1:00 Safety Briefing, Course Operations, and Shooting Squads Finalized
- 1:00-3:00 Sporting Clay Shoot (50 round course)
- 3:30 Awards Ceremony and Final Remarks

Membership Giveaway

Have a chance to win up to \$2000!

- ▶ New members who join by October 31 will be entered to win **\$1000**
- ▶ All members who sign-up for auto-renewal by October 31 will be entered to win **\$1000**
- ▶ New members and all renewals submitted by September 30 will be entered to win **\$2000, \$1000, and \$500**

Sign up on our website
www.ptfb.com/reasons-to-join

 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau



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.

August 8—Scholarship Committee Meeting before Board Meeting 6:30 PM

August 8 -- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

August 20—Fall Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM Fryburg

Sportsman's Club Farm

August 31—YAP Skeet Blast Away Hunger Event, Wellsville, PA

September 5-- CVF Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Stahlman Farm-dinner provided

October 3-- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

November 7-- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

November 17-19—PFB Annual Meeting, Hershey

December 5-- CVF Board Meeting, 7 PM, Clarion County Extension Office

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