



Bucks County Farm Bureau

Volume 6, Issue 4

www.pfb.com

Fall 2022

President's Message

Happy Holidays to Bucks County Farm Bureau Members!

As we come to the end of 2022, we are all looking forward to next year. None of us know what will come up next year, but we will be here again as will Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau will always be with you. As the holidays come together, we will be gathering with our family and friends. Farm Bureau will be no different. In November some of your fellow Farm Bureau members will be at the State Annual Meeting listening to the resolutions that will be put forth by your county Farm Bureau and other resolutions that will be passed and become policies which will guide our county Farm Bureau and our national Farm Bureau. The idea is that our county be the guiding word of Farm Bureau nationwide. That is what true grassroots leadership is. I wouldn't be able to do this along with my fellow Farm Bureau board members if it weren't for the members of Bucks County Farm Bureau. If you haven't already renewed your membership, please do so and if you know of anyone that wants to join Farm Bureau, please invite them to join. We are also looking for more people to serve and help Farm Bureau in Bucks County.

Once again, Happy Holidays and I wish you all a Healthy and Blessed New Year! Please be safe out there and thank you.

Sincerely,

President
Bucks County Farm Bureau

BUCKS COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dolly Rutherford, Newsletter Editor	267-566-2123	orruth91@yahoo.com

**The Bucks County Farm Bureau meets the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.
Plumsteadville Grange, #1738, Route 611, Plumsteadville**

FARM-tastic Book Program—2022 Book: “Barn at Night” \$10.00

Past books are also available. Contact Glenda Wismer 215-766-0675 or
pamperedchefglenda@gmail.com

Please look for our 2023 book coming soon!

Jerry Harris/Paul Hockman Young Ag Professionals Grant-2023

Applicants must be between ages 20-30, a Bucks County resident, and be actively involved in production agriculture. Applicant and/or family must be members in good standing of the Bucks County Farm Bureau and be committed to a career in production agriculture. Applicants may receive up to two grants of \$2500.00, but not in succeeding years. Preference will be given to first time applicants. Applicants must be present to receive their grant at the Bucks County Annual Meeting in September. This grant is non-renewable. Please contact Mark Scheetz at 215-723-4904 or fivemfarm@verizon.net or Don Buckman at 267-718-0313 or donbuckman81@yahoo.com to request an application.

CALVIN WEIKEL TURNED 100 ON OCTOBER 16, 2022



Long time Bucks County farmer and Farm Bureau member, Calvin Weikel, turned 100 on October 16, 2022.

Calvin was born in the home on his uncle's farm where he was raised in Prospectville (Montgomery County) PA. Calvin's father raised chickens for eggs and meat, fruits, and vegetables. His dad sold these products on a huckster route in Glenside PA. Calvin would help his dad on this route whenever he could. Eventually he ran the route on his own. Calvin met his future wife (Doris Lamont, who turned 95 on October 10, 2022) on a blind date. Doris was a city girl from the Olney section of Philadelphia. They were married in 1948.

Calvin always loved farming. His dream was to have a dairy farm. As he neared graduation from Ambler High School (now Wissahickon), he started buying calves and heifers from neighboring farms. After graduation, he started milking on his uncle's farm. In 1952, Calvin's uncle died and Calvin began looking for his own farm. At that time, Calvin and his dad were in a partnership. His dad was still involved in poultry while Calvin focused on the dairy. They no longer had the huckster route. They found a 75 acre farm in Bucks County outside of Perkasie in Hilltown Township. They purchased the farm for around \$26,000.00. It was a real "fixer upper". Calvin and his father-in-law, James Lamont, a carpenter, repaired and replaced many of the buildings. The barn held about 30 cows with several pens for calves and heifers. The barn was eventually expanded to hold 52 cows. Calvin and Doris purchased adjoining land until they owned a total of 100 acres. Calvin rented an additional 150 acres. Calvin was a hard worker and a determined farmer. One of the things many neighbors remember about him was he would work from the middle of May, through summer, until the middle of September, without a shirt! Above the waist, Calvin had a very dark tan. He never put on sun lotion.

Calvin remembers after moving to the Perkasie farm, that it cost \$2.50 for vet call. Calvin and Doris used many modern practices on their farm. They used artificial insemination rather than using a bull. This service cost \$5.00/cow. If the cow did not become pregnant on the first service, the next 2 breedings for that cow were free! They were members of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA). Once a month, each cow's milk was weighed and tested for butterfat content. This information helped them make decisions regarding bulls to use and cows that should be culled from the herd. Calvin thinks that when they moved, gas cost around \$.25/gallon.!

The dairy herd was sold in 1978. Calvin continued to raise dairy replacement heifers as well as boarding heifers for other dairy farmers. Eventually the cattle on the farm changed from dairy to beef. Calvin continued to raise crops.

continued.....

Calvin and Doris think they joined the Farm Bureau in the mid 1950's. When they joined, the organization was called Bucks County Farmers Association. Most of the members of Farm Bureau were dairy farmers. Dues at that time were \$5.00/year. During the 1970's, Calvin served on the county board and Doris was on the women's committee. In the winter, Calvin would travel to other Bucks County farmers to collect renewals and/or get non-members to join. Sometimes Justus Moyer or Earl Yerkes would join Calvin collecting dues.

Calvin actively farmed until September 2015. At that time he was hurt in an accident on the farm. He spent 5 days in the hospital and then rehab. Due to the injuries, Calvin has not been able to return to work on the farm even though he would like to.

Calvin lives with his wife, Doris, in the house across the road from the farm. They built this house in 1994 when they sold 60 acres and the farm buildings to their son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Gretchen. They kept 40 acres with their new home. In addition to their son, Bruce, Calvin and Doris have 2 daughters: Kathy Moyer (Steve) and Judy Kehr (Jeff), 4 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

article by Bruce Weikel



Madison Mood, 2022 Young Ag Professional Grant recipient, and Mark Scheetz, President.

**Bucks County Farm Bureau expresses their sincere condolences to
Ken & Sandy Herstine for the loss of Ken's father, Leroy Herstine, who
passed away on October 5, 2022.**

BOARD MEMBERS' CHILDREN/GRANDCHILDREN ENJOYING THE FALL SEASON



Don Buckman's sons



Dolly Rutherford's grandson



Bruce Weikel's grandchildren



Glenn & Glenda Wismer's grandchildren



Glenn & Glenda Wismer's grandchildren



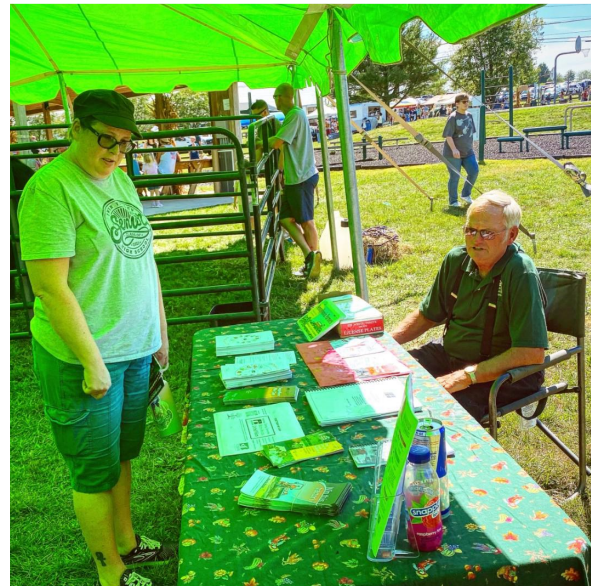
Dolly Rutherford's grandson

ENJOYING A BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY RIDING



Kate Goldenberg

MILFORD DAZE-SEPTEMBER 10, 2022



ANNUAL MEETING-SEPTEMBER 24, 2022



RuthAnn Moyer, Dairy Promotion , Mark Scheetz, President

Members enjoyed a delicious meal. Everyone went home with a great door prize.

Dairy Queen in Pipersville donated a free ice cream coupon to every attendee.

Congratulations to “Early Renewal” Winners! Members who brought their renewals were included in a drawing at Annual Meeting:

Dale Awckland, Ken Engleman, Joyce Koenig, Donald Steeley

A Very Sincere Thank You to Door Prize Donors

Applebee's, Baringer Bros. Meats, Blooming Glen Pork, Bolton's, Bucks County Brewery, Bryne Sewing, Capri's Pizza, Dairy Queen Pipersville, Davis Feed, Dominics Pizza, Dublin Agway, Giant Perkaskie, Giant Plumsteadville, Gromark, Haring Bros, Harleysville Feed, Hellericks, Housworth Taxidermy, Kate Goldenberg, Landis Markets, Little's, NAPA, R G Rutherford LLC, Shawn Coleman, The Perk, Timac, Tom Austin, Tony's D, Trauger's Market, TSC, Tussock Sledge Farm, Wawa, Weiss Markets



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Giant and PA Friends of Agriculture Unveil New Immersion Lab

For Immediate Release: Contact: William Whisler, Member Communications Director 717-724-9425 wrrwhisler@pfb.com

HARRISBURG-Celebrating National Farmer's Day today, the GIANT Company and the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation unveiled the PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg PA. The mobile immersion lab connects families to four Pennsylvania farms and the farm to table process, facilitating hands-on learning experiences and authentic food connections.

"The PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab is part of the GIANT Company's commitment to connecting families to a better future," said Dave Lessard, Vice President, omnichannel merchandising, fresh, The Giant Company. "The lab connects families to the farmers producing their food through an immersive, hands-on learning experience. It also pays tribute to the farmers who make our work possible. Together, we help families gather around the table, and we hope the immersion lab inspires the next generation of farmers and food system leaders." The immersion lab showcases BrightFarms, a hydroponic greenhouse; Buona Foods, a mushroom farm; Lazy Hog Farm, a swine operation; Painterland Sisters, a dairy farm and yogurt processor, featuring their on-farm production and environmental practices that bring foods from field to plate. Guests can experience driving a tractor through a virtual reality corn field, quiz their knowledge of common fruits and vegetables, practice building a balanced meal with Pennsylvania-grown foods, and explore growing career opportunities in food and agriculture.

The GIANT Company sponsored the PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab in partnership with the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation, a charitable organization supported by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The immersion lab will hit the road this fall, visiting schools and community events across Pennsylvania. "The immersion lab powered by GIANT helps the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation expand the reach of its mission-Planting Seeds, Cultivating Knowledge, Harvesting an Understanding of Agriculture.," said Rick Ebert, Present Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. "Consumers enjoy three meals a day, but many do not understand the process of bringing food from farm to table. The Mobile Immersion Lab serves as a connector, helping consumers better understand the process of food and agriculture and the role they play in our daily lives."

"Being included in the immersion lab is a chance for us to tell our story," said Stephanie Painter, co-founder, Painterland Sisters. "Painterland Sisters is a fourth-generation organic dairy and crop family farm. We are proud to connect consumers to the direct source of their food: the farmer. Our yogurt, and partnerships like the immersion lab, are the conduits or a greater purpose, educating consumers and their families on the importance of agriculture, environmental sustainability, local food systems, and dairy in our diet."

National Farmer's Day is October 12. It recognizes the integral role farmers play in bringing food from farm to table. The GIANT Company is proud to partner with 218 local vendors and 120 farms to provide fresh, quality, wholesome products to the families GIANT serves.

PFB Participates in 2022 Penn State University Ag Progress Days

PINE GROVE MILLS – Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) participated in Penn State University's annual Ag Progress Days' trade show, held August 9-11 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center grounds in Pine Grove Mills.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau hosted thousands of visitors to its building and offered insight on member benefits and the latest legislative and policy achievements by its Government Affairs and Communications Division. Visitors were able to learn about PFB-affiliated companies PFB Health Services and MSC Business Services can service PFB members.

The expo also showcased ways to get involved, allowing for engagement opportunities with members of PFB's state Young Ag Professionals and Women's Leadership Committee.

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation was also on hand to provide fun and educational programming that included hopscotch, interactive displays and the Ag Promotion Committee's cornhole tournament.

Ag Progress Days is held annually during August and is Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition. The event featured more than 400 exhibitors from the United States and Canada. The show is hosted by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and showcases educational programs, current research and the latest innovations in agricultural equipment and technology.

CREP Program Opportunity Available for PA Farmers

Most Pennsylvania farmers have at least a few acres that are hard to farm: Too steep, too rocky, too shady, etc. And if that land is prone to flood, you risk losing all your work — and your profit — on those lands in any given year.

If you are working twice as hard to earn half as much on some of your land, then maybe it's time to investigate the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). In a nutshell, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) pays farmers to retire and restore land that erodes easily or floods often. CREP is 100% voluntary for farmers. CREP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency, and many Conservation Districts in Pennsylvania can help farmers get enrolled.

CREP helps landowners with projects like these in two ways. First, the CREP program reimburses much or all of landowners' costs to restore the land. Then, CREP pays a guaranteed annual rent for up to 15 years. This can allow a farmer to focus their efforts on their own best land. Many farmers use their rental payments to help lease more productive land to make up for the acres taken out of production.

If projects like these pique your interest, check out www.CREPPA.org. This website provides a user-friendly introduction to the program, with case studies, payment scenarios, and other information that can help you decide if CREP is a good fit for your farm. And you can schedule a consultation with a nearby CREP planner in just a few clicks.

PFB Participates in PMMB Over Order Premium Hearings

The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) held its second over order premium hearing this year at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Building in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

Industry leaders and multiple Pennsylvania farmers met to discuss the current over order premium (\$1 per hundredweight) whether it should continue, and what options may exist as far as a competent replacement if it is discontinued.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Reading offered testimony asking PMMB to consider new ideas that would include uniform distribution of premium dollars and welcomed alternatives, if the amount does not charge consumers substantially more than farmers make and does not encourage processors to find ways to avoid having to pay the premium.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Dave Graybill, who is the chairman of PFB's Dairy and Farm Policy Committee testified on behalf of PFB and spoke in support of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's position.

Graybill asked PMMB to explore other options that would allow for the premium to be distributed uniformly to Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

Several farmers and stakeholders provided testimony with ranging opinions from support of the existing premium or calling for it to be eliminated.

AFBF: What Is the Farm Bill, and Why Does It Matter?

The farm bill refers to an authorization of mandatory and discretionary spending bills appropriated to provide assistance related to food and farms. It is a multi-year law that is primarily executed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and it governs a wide variety of agricultural and food programs. First created to help struggling farmers in the 1930s, the farm bill has expanded to be a resource to help the industry grow and thrive in an ever-evolving world. The current farm bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, is set to expire on Sept. 30, 2023. To prepare for the 2023 farm bill, discussions about how best to address the issues of agriculture have already begun. These will be especially important given what the agriculture sector has been up against over the past few years and the various unknowns farmers and ranchers face.

The farm bill provides an important consistent opportunity for policymakers to address agricultural and food issues comprehensively. It has grown over the decades to serve food and agriculture, but its roots are in farm commodity program support. These traditional support commodities include corn, cotton, wheat, soybeans, rice, dairy, peanuts, and sugar. The farm bill has expanded and broadened to include nutrition assistance, conservation, research, specialty crops and bioenergy programs. Because of this, the farm bill brings together some of the most unlikely partners to advocate for a legislative package composed of provisions that would likely not survive the legislative bureaucracy as stand-alone measures.

The farm bill continues to be entangled in political debates and ideological policy conversations. Over time, programs have been adjusted to respond to the market and economic pressures of agriculture, the U.S. and the world. As ideas are collected for future farm bills, even in today's debate, the question remains the same: how can the farm bill best serve its constituents?

Mental Health Resources Available

Research has found that many farmers are experiencing new stress and mental health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the farm economy and other pressures. If you or someone you know is struggling or has concerns about their mental health, please **know that you are not alone and there is help available**. There are unique factors that affect stress in the farming community as well as unique warning signs that someone is struggling. Those include:

- Change in routines or social activities
- Decline in the care of domestic animals
- Increase in illness or other chronic conditions
- Increase in farm accidents
- Decline in appearance of the farm
- Decreased interest in activities or events
- Signs of stress in children including struggles with school

Help and Resources Available:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or use the online chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat 24/7 for free and confidential support and to be connected with a skilled, trained counselor in your area. **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support via text. **PA 211** is a United Way statewide partner which offers trained resource navigators who can tell farmers what services may be available in their area to help with a variety of health and human service needs, from utility or food assistance to mental health support. Visit www.pa211.org, dial **211** from any landline or cell phone, or text your zip code to **898-211**. **Avera Health Farm and Rural Stress Hotline:** Call 800-691-4336 to be connect with a skilled, compassionate mental health professional. **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:** Call 1-800-662-HELP (4357) for treatment locators, SAMHSA's National Helpline, a Disaster Distress Helpline and other important information. Find additional resources, learn tips for starting important conversations about mental health, and register for free rural resilience training by visiting farmstateofmind.org. **Web Corner** | Health Services By Holly Cohick hlcohick@pfb.com

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Bucks County Farm Bureau is collecting soda & soup can tabs for charities (Farmers Care Day). You can give them to a Board member or drop off at a Board meeting or bring them to any Farm Bureau event. Thank you!

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Growing Your Expectations

There are many agricultural careers, so I encourage you to go to a website put together by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's Ag Promotion Committee and view all the different careers that are in agriculture. www.agandfoodcareersinpa.

Mark Scheetz, BCFB President

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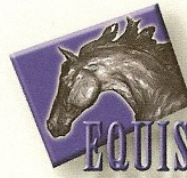
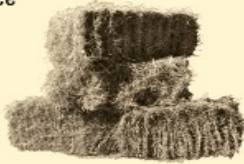
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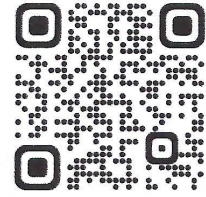
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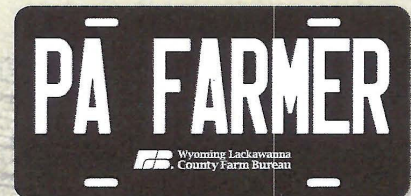
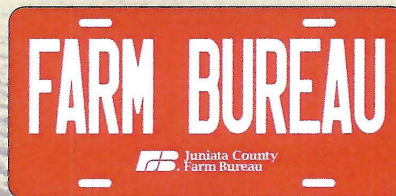
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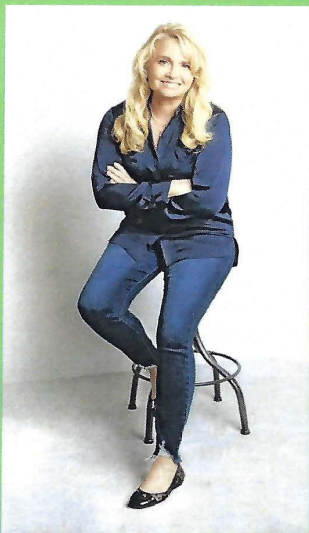
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 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

Ag Promotion T. A. S. K. conference

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in State College, March 10-11, 2023



Keynote Speaker: Michele Payn

Michele Payn personifies passion. Known as one of North America's leading experts in connecting farm and food, she serves as a resource for people around the plate.

Michele encourages all of her audiences to find people's hot buttons and speak their language - whether it's growing the farm and food conversation, developing an advocacy strategy, or discussing mental health.

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Other sessions include: Championing Agriculture, Bridging the Generational Divide and more!



Nationwide

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