

Spring Annual Meeting Attendance Disappointing

While only 24 CVF members showed up for the Spring annual Meeting on March 22, the board attributed it to still feeling the effects of the Covid shutdowns.

Nevertheless, all went as planned with reports from President Jordan Siegel, Region 13 State Board member Ray McMinn, WLC



State



President Michelle McMinn, Region 6 ROD Isaac Harrington and Vice-President Steve Reichard.

The Chinese Auction had a nice variety of items to the delight of the winners.



Scholarship Winners Announced

A highlight of the Annual Meeting was the random drawing to pick the three winners of the \$500 CVF Scholarships.

The winners were:

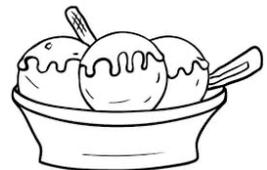
Harrison Porter who is majoring in criminal Justice at Clarion University,

Kayla Aaron who is majoring in nursing at Clarion University,

Jacob Bowser who is majoring in exercise science at Slippery Rock University.

These scholarships are funded by money raised in the CVF funding efforts such as the Chinese auction at the annual meetings. This auction brought in \$115 into our Ag education funds and there were \$52 in donations.

Following the meeting, everyone enjoyed some social time with apple crisp and ice cream.



Please help us. Suggestions would be welcome from our membership on how to improve our meetings to increase attendance. Would you rather have a full meal or change the time? Please let our board know what would work best for you. We have tentative plans for another picnic for our fall annual meeting on August 23 at 6:30 PM. We moved it up a month to have warmer weather.

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

June 2022 Volume 7 Issue 2

Clarion/Venango/Forest County Farm Bureau
c/o Linda Stahlman
175 Marks Lane, Fairmount City, PA 16224

Board Meeting Change

The regular meeting of the CVF Board was changed to the third Tuesday of every month. Since Covid, meeting places have been in different places. The meeting locations will be posted on the CVF Facebook page and 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.

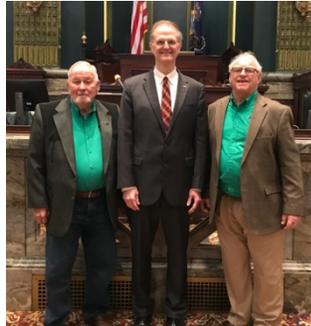
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CVF Sends two Representatives to Legislative Day March 30

Governmental Relations Director, Bud Wills and board member Paul Stahlman met with 21st



District State Senator Scott Hutchinson and 63rd District State Representative Donna Oberlander on the Legislative Day in Harrisburg.

The key state issues that were discussed included:

- **Meat Processing**--Seeking solutions that provide tax credits to start up or support existing small meat and poultry processing facilities for upgrades on equipment and to create a state-based meat inspection program to promote local processing that complies with the Cooperative Interstate Shipment Program.
- **Stormwater and Clean Water Solutions**— Seeking legislative solutions to:
 - Oppose legislation that would develop joint municipal stormwater management plans
 - Oppose fees on stormwater
 - Support 100% agriculture exemption to stormwater fees
 - Support substantial crediting for agriculture conservation practices as they apply to stormwater fees
 - Significant reform to permitting surrounding stream cleaning.
- **Dairy**—Made recommendations on dairy policy including:
 - Whole milk into schools
 - Eliminate the over-order premium and minimum wholesale and retail price

- Support PMM accounting for all of the money collected on all milk sold in PA
- Support PMMB starting a retail assessment of premiums paid to dairy farmers on non-Class 1 dairy products
- Support amending the Milk Marketing Law to allow milk to be included in shopping reward programs.

- **Transportation**—Made the following suggestions:
 - Allow farmers to tow registration exempt trailer, implements and trailer with a personal vehicle
 - Support reciprocity agreement with other states, specifically Ohio.
 - Exemptions from IFTA/UCR regulations when traveling interstate less than 5,000 miles/yr. from our state borders
 - Farmers and custom operators obtain a yearly over-width permit for equipment that exceeds current Vehicle Code standards.
 - Expand overweight hauling to 90,000 lbs. for farmers hauling their own product without a need for permit
 - Support expanded permitting for increasing GVWs for hauling of agriculture products
 - Support driver’s license reform for immigrant ag workers
- **Minimum Royalty**—Recommendations for:
 - Guarantee landowners would receive the state’s minimum royalties of 12.5% without post-production costs begin deducted.
- **Lyme disease**—Recommendations to:
 - Support funding to research on Lyme Disease vaccines
 - Require health insurers provide long term coverage for treatment for treatment of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases the prescribed by a physician.

**Don't Forget to
Join us in Greene County
Regional Women's
Leadership Conference
"Embracing the Past—
Focusing on the Future"**

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

9:00am to 3:00pm \$16 per person

**Valley View Farm
108 Orndorf Road
Waynesburg, PA 15370**



A basket will be raffled with all proceeds going to the Ag Lab. Each county is to bring two raffle items and a centerpiece.

Keynote speaker will be Denise Leigh, author of "Born a Country Queen". Each participant will receive a copy of her book, compliments of EQT.

Registration includes a lite breakfast, a delicious lunch and a treat for the road.

A registration flyer can be obtained by emailing Michele McMinn at michelemcminn85@gmail.com.



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
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- Work within your budget
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To check availability in your county call **800.522.2375**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

30th Richard Prether Golf Classic

June 13. 11 AM to 6 PM

**Hershey Country Club.
1000 E Derry Road
Hershey, PA 17033**



**Phone: 717-533-2360 for
information**

Since 1993, this **fundraising event** has generated more than \$916,000 in total contributions to the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, which is a charitable organization supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The foundation funds a variety of projects, including six Mobile Agriculture Education Science Labs, and the weeklong Educator's Ag Institute, which includes seminars, farm tours and educational materials for teachers, who work with students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

YAP Summer Picnic



FREE July 10

Lunch at 11 AM

RSVP to Zach Speer by June 26

724-856-5346

district15yap@gmail.com

Venue:

Knoebels

**391 Knoebels Boulevard, Route 87
Elysburg, PA**

**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.

PDA Enforcement of Hayride Attractions Will Start in 2023

Recently, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture issued a variance for hayride attractions from the requirement that a registered engineer certify such rides, but those attractions would still need to register with the Department and meet other standards, such as insurance coverage and inspection by a qualified person. After an inquiry from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, the Department confirmed they will not perform enforcement actions of hayrides until 2023, and the Department is open to suggestions on other changes to technical safety standards.



The Department of Agriculture has the ability to regulate hayride attractions under the Amusement Ride Inspection Act. However, until recently, there has not been national standards for the inspection of hayride attractions. After ASTM, an international standards organization, developed those technical standards, the Department of Agriculture started informing operators of those standards and the related requirements under the Amusement Ride Inspection Act.

The Department's decision to start enforcement in 2023 will give operators time to adjust to these standards, and also for suggestions to be made. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is reviewing these standards and will continue to work with the Department on possible changes, or legislative solutions, as necessary

Game Commission Approves Several Changes to Red Tag

Pennsylvania Game Commissioners recently approved several significant changes to the Agricultural Deer Control Program, commonly known as Red Tag, that will help farmers better manage deer populations on their lands.

The program is designed to give farmers an extra option to handle deer damage in the early spring and fall, outside of the traditional big game hunting calendar. Hunters will be able to obtain up to four Red Tag permits per-property, making it consistent with the allocation to the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).



Local Agents

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Joseph M. Davis
717-710-6256
jmdavis@pfb.com

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CVF Planning a Farm Fest

Realizing the need to raise substantial funds for our Ag Education account, the CVF Board organized a committee, headed by Dave Yeany, to plan a major event. That committee decided to do a Farm Fest at Gumtown Park in New Bethlehem next year over the weekend of August 11-13, 2023.

They are ambitiously planning to have a variety of attractions to draw a big crowd. Stay tuned!



Red Tags Cont'd

The summer period during which Red Tag hunting is closed (currently May 16 – June 30) would be expanded to April 16 – July 31. Permits will be valid from August 1 through September 15 and then Feb. 1 through April 15.

Hunters would not be able to use Red Tag from May 16 to June 30, but would cumulatively have more potential days afield to use their permits. Permits would be issued for the license year that begins July 1 and runs through June 30.

It will become hunters' responsibility to report their successful harvest, not the landowner.

The program would also be open to all hunters, including those living out of state. Lastly, landowners would no longer need to enroll in the Game Commission's Hunter Access program before using the Red Tag program. These changes fulfill many Pennsylvania Farm Bureau policies in regards to the Red Tag program.

We will monitor the program to see how these changes are implemented and will advocate for other possible adjustments as needed. All of the changes to Red Tag will go into effect November 2022. In related news, the Game Commission also increased Doe Tag allocations for the 2022-2023 hunting season to 948,000 an increase of 23,000 tags from the previous hunting season.

DEP Extends Energy Efficiency Rebate Program for Farmers

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has extended the deadline for its rebate program for farmers that assists with the cost of energy efficiency projects.

The Agriculture Energy Efficiency Rebate Program is offering rebates to defray the costs of installing LED lighting or variable frequency drives on the farm, which can save energy while saving money on utility bills.

The rebate program has expanded its list of eligible equipment to now include all energy efficient ventilation equipment (including fans, motors, and controls such as variable frequency drives) and milk pumping equipment (including pumps, motors, and controls such as variable frequency drives).

Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2022, on a first-come, first-served basis as long as funding is available. The available rebates will pay for 50% of the equipment costs, up to \$2,000. Total funding to any one applicant will not exceed \$5,000. Interested ag producers should apply for a rebate voucher prior to purchasing and installing the equipment.

DEP has up to \$10,000 available for this program through State Energy Program funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

All applications must be submitted online through the Electronic Single Application system. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, visit the [DEP agriculture and farming energy webpage](#).

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.

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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 these publications, \$3 for Positively Pennsylvania and \$3 for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Grassroots Advocate (formerly Country Focus). Members receive 4 issues of each publication per year on a quarterly basis. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.

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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 2022

- June 1 – Deadline to submit Safety Contest entries to President Jordan Siegel
- June 13 – 30th Richard Prether Golf Classic, Hersey Country Club
- June 21 - CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Place TBA
- June 26-30 – Educators Ag Institute, Penn State University
- July 10 – Yap Summer Picnic, Knoebels, Elysburg, PA. RSVP by June 26
- July 13 – Regional Women’s Leadership Conference, 9 Am -3 Pm, Waynesburg, PA
- July 19 - CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Place TBA
- August 9-11 – Ag Progress Days, Furnace, PA
- August 16 - CVF Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Place TBA
- August 23 – Fall Annual Meeting Picnic, Place TBA

Looking way ahead—Farm Fest, Gumtown Park, New Bethlehem. August 11-13, 2023

Have a Safe and Fun Summer

NOTE: Any last-minute changes in meeting locations will be posted on the CVFacebook page and website: www.cvffarmbureau.com