



Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau Newsletter



Volume 15 Issue 1

Published Irregularly

March 2022

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Chamber of Commerce Building, Honesdale, PA

Board of Directors

Tim Jaggars, President (570) 499-1323

Bob Rutledge, 1st Vice President (570) 224-6982, Bonnie LaTourette, 2nd Vice President (570) 729-8499,

Joyce Carson, Secretary (570) 226-3864, Amy Theobald, Treasurer (570) 448-2215

Clinton LaTourette (570) 729-7865, Zach Jones (570) 267-8239,

Stan Bialecki (570) 357-0533, Karen Loscig (570) 798-2669, Craig Olver (570) 253-4161, Karl Eisenhauer (570) 226-1644,

Ben Komar (570) 642-1347 and Courtney Swendson (570) 862-3328.

Member Services:

MSC Business: Robert Melnick (717) 562-2700

Nationwide Farm Agents: Chapman Insurance (570) 689-2653, David Zeiler (570) 226-3114, Meagher Agency (570) 253-0466, Rick Leet (570) 798-2666, Sonnie Lehman (570) 296-6416, Turano Insurance (570) 253-0301

Sherwin-Williams 1-800-4-Sherwin

A Note from President Tim Jaggars

Hello Members,

As I sit down to write this brief newsletter and reflect on this past year.... WOW! What a year it has been! Now in my second year serving as your President, and the second year since the start of a pandemic, I have to say your Board is doing an amazing job. Last year we reached our membership goal first in our region and brought home the "coveted" Membership Champs Banner. The State Capital was still closed to visitors in March, but we set up a meeting with our State Legislators to meet on a farm in Wayne County. Again, we had the ears of our local and state officials on a farm in Pike County in September. Volunteers including FFA and 4H members still sent the message of Agriculture by reading books for Ag Literacy week to students in our elementary schools. Our community showed its support by helping us give out seven scholarships to area students. Fairs resumed with livestock shows and auctions taking place, and we were there to support them. The State Annual Meeting was, well attended with Delegates representing our counties, working to discuss and pass policies that affect our everyday life in rural Pennsylvania. So, you can see we have adapted and continue to do the work of Farm Bureau. I would like to close by saying "THANK YOU" to each and every member.

Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau President,

Timothy Jaggars

Spring Greetings from the Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau Women's Committee

The Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee is looking forward to a busy Spring. The committee celebrated "Farmers Care" in January. A donation of canned goods and \$200 was delivered to the Honesdale Emergency Pantry. The FARM-tastic book "Barn at Night" was presented to all public and elementary school libraries. A few ladies attended the Pa Farm Bureau Night Out at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins hockey game. The committee recognized the baby that was born at the Wayne Memorial Hospital on National Ag Day, March 22nd. Mom & Dad received a gift of local products. Rural Road Safety Week is April 17-23. The theme for this year's safety contest is "Animal Safety-Please ask before you touch or pet." The coloring page contest (age 4-6), 3-D display contest (age 7-9 & 10-12) and Video contest (age 13-15 & 16-18) guidelines can be found at:

<http://www.pfb.com/safetycontests> or contact Bonnie LaTourette 570-729-8499. The deadline for the safety contest June 1st.

Submitted by Bonnie LaTourette

Legislative Report Bob Rutledge

Hello fellow Farm Bureau members!

Here is a brief rundown of the happenings legislatively at Farm Bureau. This year, I would like to highlight a few accomplishments of the past year at the state level.

Governor Wolf signed into law legislation that was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly creating a broadband authority in Pennsylvania. This authority is required to develop and oversee a plan for broadband deployment to rural areas. The hope is that under this authority's supervision, and coupled with federal infrastructure dollars, a significant improvement in service will be realized for rural PA. Another win for PA farmers was the signing of Senate Bill 725 that clarifies the type of driver's license those farmers can use while operating single trucks or truck combinations over 26,000 pounds. Farmers have always had an exemption from needing a CDL driver's license when operating those vehicles in PA. and 150 miles in interstate transportation. But enforcement actions by State Police were causing confusion as to whether farmers needed a Class A non-CDL, instead of a regular Class C driver's license. This Bill clarifies that farmers can use a Class A, B, or C driver's license in those circumstances.

Agritourism Civil Liability reform was made a reality in 2021 with the passing of Act 27. This Act will protect farmers operating agritourism businesses from frivolous lawsuits while operating their businesses. This is not a free pass to total negligence on behalf of the farmer but will provide legal protection for things that are beyond control of the operator such as uneven ground, unpredictable animals, or a bad storm. There are steps the farmer will need to take to qualify for this immunity, such as posting warning signs and providing visitors with a waiver to sign. Two tax code issues were addressed in 2021 as part of the tax code bill. First, Pennsylvania farmers will now be able to defer for one year income received from crop insurance for one year. Secondly, clarifying language was adopted on how farmers can qualify for sales tax exemption on multipurpose agricultural vehicles (such as ATVs and side-by-sides). While farmers were already exempt from paying sales tax on these vehicles, they were often subjected to needless scrutiny and audits caused by internal rules of the Department of Revenue. The new language adopted by this bill should reduce the likelihood of future audits.

While the list of issues needing to be resolved to better our way of life in rural America never ends, I feel the accomplishments of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau this past year are commendable. Each of these legislative actions I listed above have real life effects on real life farmers. I would like to ask, if not for Farm Bureau, who would take up these issues with our lawmakers? Who would be your voice in Harrisburg? Who would lawmakers turn to for recommendations to remedy an ag related issue? Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development carries a lot of respect and weight among our legislators, and for that we should all be Farm Bureau Proud.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Rutledge



Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau



Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau

Joyce Carson, Secretary
62 Skyview Lane
Hawley, PA 18428

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.pfb.com (717) 761-2740



Spring Scholarship Dinner Saturday, April 09, 2022 7 p.m.



Park Street Complex, Honesdale, PA

Lester Stinnard of Market 13 will cater a roast beef and fried chicken dinner

Cost: \$20 per person **Reservations:** Joyce Carson 570-226-3864 **RSVP by:** Friday, April 1, 2022
Scholarships will be awarded at this meeting.

Hello Wayne/ Pike Farm Bureau Members,

I wanted to provide you with a quick update on the Young Agriculture Professionals (YAP) Committee for our county. Stay tuned for our upcoming Farmer to Farmer Event to be held in conjunction with the Cooperage Project. At the State Level the Annual YAP picnic will be held at Knoebels Amusement Park on Sunday, July 10th. Recently, I had the distinct privilege to represent Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau at the YAP State Leadership Conference at the Wyndham Garden in Boalsburg, PA. As a first-time attendee I was amazed at the level of skill and wealth of knowledge possessed by the dedicated agrarian young people within our state. The available breakout discussion sessions provided a better understanding of how Farm Bureau is structured and how Farm Bureau provides resources for success. Specifically, for me, a stronger understanding of Policy Development was one of the biggest takeaways from the conference. Policy Development truly is the heart and soul of our organization. Developed by our very own at the Grassroots Level (Bottom up) vs. many other groups that offer a more "Astroturf" (Top down) approach. It allows us to cast a wide net from all walks of life, all commodities, and all levels of involvement to voice their concerns. There is power in numbers and our unique Policy Development program allows the opinions and desires of our organization to speak as one voice. Lastly, we have been active with our County Facebook Page. Relevant community events, local opportunities and agricultural anecdotes are posted regularly to help keep our members up to date. As always, we are still looking for young people enthusiastic about Agriculture to join our County Membership. No matter their role they are essential to our future!

Warm Regards,
Courtney Swendsen

Mark your calendars to join us for the up-coming "Farmer to Farmer" Conferences.

The Cooperage and the Wayne/Pike Farm Bureau have partnered to bring you two "Farmer to Farmer" conferences to help beginning farmers and food businesses negotiate some of the more difficult aspects of running a successful ag enterprise.

March 21, 2022 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Accounting Tips for Farms & Food Businesses with MSC Business Services, an affiliate of PFB.

April 6, 2022 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Marketing Your Brand - a panel discussion with three county farm & food businesses
Big G Organic Farm, Creamworks Creamery and Black & Brass Coffee Roasting Co.

Both meetings will be held at the Cooperage, 1030 Main St. Honesdale. They are free and open to all agriculture advocates.



Get more for your membership with Farm Bureau. www.pfb.com/wayne-pike
Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau - Promoting agriculture while connecting with the community.