

**We Need Your Photos!**

We are working on several projects for 2025 and 2026 that require photos! They can be old photos of your farm or homestead over the generations, newer pictures of you and your kids working or having fun on the farm or even your grandparents, who were first generation Farm Bureau members! We especially love scenic and aerial photographs of your farm!

Feel free to email us photos and include any identifying information of anyone pictured, farm name and address, year you became a Farm Bureau member (if you remember) and, if it's an older photo, when it was taken. Emails can be sent to [c\\_rotz@hotmail.com](mailto:c_rotz@hotmail.com).

Photos will be utilized at the 2025 county fair as space permits at our booth, at the 2025 Fulton County Historical Society Festival of Lights and, hopefully, next year at a larger, featured display at the Historical Society Annex.



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### Cultivating New Ideas ...

#### Pennsylvania Has Representation On National Wildlife Committee!

We are beginning a new year, which will bring many new opportunities for the Farm Bureau. At the November annual state meeting, it was announced that I was nominated and appointed to a newly-formed committee in the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF).

The Wildlife Damage Committee, a part of the Issue Advisory Committee in Washington, D.C., will be meeting on February 19 to discuss various federal wildlife damage issues. It is comprised of nine members representing the states of Pennsylvania, Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Our role will be to discuss common wildlife damage problems that we face in our daily agricultural operations, provide options for possible solutions and work in an advisory capacity with the AFBF board.

Just within the last several weeks, I was asked to chair this new committee. I have humbly accepted this position and look forward to communicating with other states, which have similar wildlife damage issues like we have in Pennsylvania. I look forward to this meeting and will provide you with details of that gathering in the next edition of “The Agrarian Connector.”

*Submitted by: FCFB President Kevin Mountz*



### Farm Bureau WLC Hosts Farm To Table Tea

The Women’s Leadership Committee of the Fulton County Farm Bureau hosted a tea for 16 residents from the Fulton County Medical Center long-term care unit November 9.

The tea focused on a farm-to-table theme with the utilized ingredients being sourced from the Committee's farms and homesteads spanning all four corners of the county. From fresh herbs and apples to turkey and sour dough starter, the seasonal food presented was a feast for the eyes as well as the stomachs of residents and hospital staff.

Among the treats served were ham and turkey salad sandwiches on sourdough bread, herb ricotta cheese scones, butter molded into turkeys, applesauce, pumpkin pie parfaits, pumpkin rolls, apple butter whoopie pies, almond tea cakes with blueberry jam, fresh pressed apple cider and tea with local honey.

Committee members also had the opportunity to introduce their food, share how it was prepared and provide some background information on themselves and their farms and homesteads. Committee members making contributions to the tea included Mim Barnes, Amanda Shives, Tammy Decker, Abigail Metcalfe, Anita Shields, Amber Brant, Reagan Stolipher, Joanna Brady and Chanin Mountz.

Plans are already under way to visit with the long-term care residents again in the month of February and for a special “Day on the Farm” at the medical center in April.

Interested in becoming a member of the Women’s Leadership Committee, please contact Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 or [chaninmountz0071@gmail.com](mailto:chaninmountz0071@gmail.com).



**Your County Boards**

**R.O.D. Kenny Sechrist - 717-409-9170**

**PFB Environmental Expert - Grant Gullibon - 717-731-3547**

**PFB Attorney- Joe Montenegro - 717-731-3572**

**PFB Federal Gov. Affairs - Bailey Fisher - 717-731-3585**

**PFB State Gov. Affairs - Mitchell Kurek - 717-731-3518**

**The entire PFB Staff - 717-761-2740**

**County Conservation Districts**

**Penn State Extension**

**Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture**

**Township Supervisors**

**County Commissioners**

**County - State - Federal Elected Leaders**

**USDA**

**Horizon Farm Credit**

**AFBF**

**Chamber of Commerce**

**High School Ag Teachers**

**Nationwide Insurance Staff**

**Numerous other state agencies and Ag organizations**

**Home & Auto – Ford, Jiffy Lube, Sherwin Williams, nrg, Staples, Affinity Cellular**

**Travel – Choice & Wyndham Hotels, Avis & Budget Car Rentals**

**Farm & Business – Grainger, Lancaster Farming, Horse Loverz.com, Case IH, CAT, John Deere, Shipley Energy**

**Health & Wellness – Script Save, My Free Pharmacy**

**Financial & Insurance – Farm Bureau Bank, PFB Health Services, Nationwide, Free Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance**

**Additional Benefits – My Deals which offers discounts at thousands of local businesses and quarterly publications produced by our staff at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to keep you current on all thing's agriculture. Also many County specific discounts.**

We are 27,000 members strong, we are the voice of the farmer

Policy Development, have your issue prioritized as a state or federal policy of the Farm Bureau

Meet elected leadership at our Spring and Annual Meetings

Attend other county and state events where you will have access to various county, state, and federal leaders

Legislative Day in Harrisburg, huge access to state elected leaders

AFBF & PFB Text Alerts which go directly to your elected leaders

Access to your counties Board of Directors, Regional Organization Director, and all PFB resources that can be used to be heard and make a difference

Pennsylvania Immersion Lab which was at events that had 2 million in attendance

Ag Literacy Week – In 2000 classrooms reaching and teaching over 40,000 young minds about agriculture

Ag Labs – were in 148 schools last year reaching 80,000 students

Ag Crates that also help our local teachers educate young minds about agriculture

FARMTastic Books which also educates our kiddos

Farm Bureau Days helps to educate you on important topics and possibly earn spray points

Numerous other training sessions organized by county leaders and members to keep you current on all thing's agriculture. Our manure pit and grain bin safety training will save lives.

We help to elect the 6 board seats for Agriculture Societies for the Penn State Board of Directors

The peace of mind that you are not alone out there. You have an entire team of very qualified individuals at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that are there to serve you no matter what your issues are. We may not know the answers, but we know people that do!

Below are the 2024 estimates that were impacted by the work of the PFB to maintain tax breaks for seed, feed, fertilizer, and diesel. He did not have any vehicles with Farm Stickers but that is also a savings to farmers. Also, the savings from Clean and Green. Without PFB, these breaks could easily go away.

Seed Cost - \$34,052, 6% sales tax savings were \$2043

Feed Cost (Minerals and Supplements) - \$ 8,767, 6% sales tax savings were \$526

Fertilizer Cost - \$28,797, 6% sales tax savings were \$1728

Diesel Cost - \$16,989, assume \$2.89/ gallon = 5879 gallons, tax would have been 25 cents/gallon, so the savings were \$1470

Total Savings from seed, feed, fertilizer, and fuel = \$5767

Estimated tax on 400 acres would be \$17,467. C&G in this area is a 27% reduction which means the tax would have been \$22,183. A savings of \$4,716

Total 2024 savings were - \$10,483 thanks to PFB !

This past October, I had the incredible privilege of attending the 2024 Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. Over four intensive days, I learned how to sharpen my public speaking skills, navigate live radio and television interviews, and build strong relationships with lawmakers to advocate for agriculture effectively. Meeting with congressional assistants and learning how to connect through storytelling was transformative and gave me the confidence to amplify the voices of farmers in our community.

Since graduating, I've been putting these skills into action having discussions with local leaders, preparing workshops for farmers, and raising awareness about the Farm Bill and other issues. Advocacy for agriculture is more important now than ever, as we've nationally lost the equivalent of 77 farms per day over the last five years. Programs like AFB WLC Communications Boot Camp help bridge the gap between farmers and legislators as well as the public, ensuring that the future of agriculture remains strong.

I'd be happy to speak at your events or meetings. Please feel free to contact me at [OldSwordFarm@gmail.com](mailto:OldSwordFarm@gmail.com). Together, we can support and celebrate the vital work of our farmers.

*Submitted by: Suzanne Shea, Adams County Farm Bureau Women's Leadership chair*

A northern Fulton County native and local “advocate” has been recognized as the state’s “Outstanding Woman In Agriculture” by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

As part of the state Farm Bureau's 74th annual meeting held in Hershey November 17-19, Chanin Rotz-Mountz was presented the award by President Chris Hoffman and state Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) Chair Susan Myers of Montgomery County.

The award is given to a female Farm Bureau member, who through hard work, creativity and perseverance, has contributed in a positive manner to agriculture. Consideration is given to the person's farming operation, contributions to agriculture and committees and organizations. One winner is selected in each of the state's 16 districts, which are forwarded to the state level for the final selection.

Rotz-Mountz joined the Farm Bureau in 2016 and would later assume the roles of administrative secretary, county WLC chair and member of the county's Board of Directors. In recent years, she has been instrumental in spearheading fundraising for both board and WLC projects, such as bringing the immersion lab to the Fulton County Fair and collection efforts to benefit local farmers injured in accidents.

She also organizes monthly events for local WLC members ranging from educational programs and hands-on classes to community service projects. Over the course of the last year, the WLC gathered items for, created and distributed Thanksgiving Blessing Boxes to local Farm Bureau families; created and delivered Christmas treat boxes for volunteer firefighters and EMS, the state police and staff at the Fulton County Medical Center emergency room; and held a farm-to-table tea for the long-term care residents at the hospital.

Using the skills she learned through more than two decades working at “The Fulton County News,” Rotz-Mountz also oversees the county Farm Bureau’s quarterly newsletter called “The Agrarian Connector” as well as social media efforts on a local level.

*“My time at the newspaper has been a great benefit to my work at the Farm Bureau. It’s allowed me to establish many contacts over the years with not only local residents*

*but elected officials at various levels, which are all important when building membership and advocating for agriculture,”* said Rotz-Mountz.

*“My goal has always been to build upon what our former county President Marlin Lynch created during his decades in the organization,” she said. “Some day when he’s able to come back to our board, I hope what we have done in his absence will be something he’s proud of.”*

Looking ahead to the future, Rotz-Mountz hopes to continue building upon not only county membership but participation in the WLC monthly events while also working in collaboration with other ag-related organizations such as Dairy Promotion, the Conservation District, the Fair Association and Grease, Steam & Rust.

Pennsylvania  
**Farm Bureau**

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# FPR Policy Resolutions Adopted At State Meeting

A large contingency of county farmers traveled to Hershey recently to make their voices heard at the 74th annual Pennsylvania Farm Bureau state meeting on a variety of topics ranging from solar energy and wildlife management to dairy.

In total, Farm Bureau members took action on 204 policies brought to the floor from board's spanning the commonwealth. The record number of policies included a pair of policies written here in Fulton County delving into the issue of food processing residuals (FPRs).

FPRs are the waste or leftover by-products that remain following the production of commercial foods. The leftovers can contain any number and types of materials whether it be bones and blood or vegetable peelings and feathers. The FPRs can also possess by-products and chemicals that are utilized in the food production process.

In many cases, certain FPRs are being hauled to Pennsylvania from other states where its application is prohibited or, in some cases, permitting fees for application, storage or transport are deemed too high by those involved. In Pennsylvania, land application of food processing residuals does not currently require a permit as long as it's part of a "normal farming operation" and the applicator follows the state manual for handling the materials.

As a result of concerns posed by area residents and farmers regarding the pungent odor emanating from FPRs as well as questions regarding possible water contamination and over application, the county Farm Bureau presented two policies, which were amended by Policy Committee in Camp Hill and presented to the state delegation in Hershey as follows:

\*We support the application of FPRs in normal farming operations provided that guidelines are established and updated outlining storage, handling and application; and FPR nutrients are characterized prior to application.

As defined by the Pennsylvania Right To Farm Law, a normal farming operation is "customary and generally accepted activities, practices and procedures that farmers adopt, use or engage in year after year in the production and preparation for market or poultry, livestock and their products and in the production and harvesting of agricultural, agronomic, horticultural, silvicultural and

aquacultural crops and commodities."

\*We encourage additional research by the Department of Agriculture that will further define what FPRs are and clarify the difference between acceptable and unacceptable FPRs for soil enrichment.

The two policies were adopted by the state delegation and will now be included in the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's annual policy book for 2025 along with an additional six policies that were acted upon regarding FPRs. Those policies deal with documentation related to manure and FPR transport; the state Conservation Commission serving as the lead agency dealing with FPRs and the need for adequate staffing and funding for those duties; and liability regarding the content of FPRs fall onto the generator of FPRs versus the recipient.

## Visit these local businesses for a Special Farm Bureau Discount!!!!

You will need to check each business individually to see how much the discount is and what it MAY or MAY NOT apply to. You will need to present a current membership card to receive the discount. We appreciate all the businesses that participate in this discount promotion, and recommend you take advantage of their willingness to make this happen. We hope to add more in the near future.

1. Barnhart's Lawn, Garden & Bicycle  
Hancock, MD 301-678-6438
2. Gordon's Memorials - Don & Kathy McClure  
McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5952
3. Krazy Rayz BBQ- McConnellsburg, PA 717-325-1016
4. Peck's Auto Repair and Towing - Gary Peck  
McConnellsburg, PA 717-446-9691
5. Everett Marble and Granite Works -  
McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5999
6. Carquest Auto Parts, Thomas Automotive  
McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-7213
7. AC&T of Hagerstown, Maryland 800-458-3835, ext. 147
8. Knobsville Florist - McConnellsburg, PA 717-987-3191
9. McLaughlin's Drug Store, Retail Pharmacy  
McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-3724
10. Sam's Flooring Inc., Bill and Jess Sensinderfer  
Saint Thomas, PA 717-369-4351
11. Richard Price Farm Equipment 717-987-3395
12. Buchanan Trail Sporters, McConnellsburg, PA 717-485-5996

# Farm Bureau To Award Second Annual Scholarship

The Fulton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is pleased to announced it will be awarding the second annual "Growing Together" Scholarship to a deserving senior from Fulton County this spring. All Class of 2025 seniors are encouraged to apply, whether they are enrolled in a public school setting, charter school or a homeschool program.

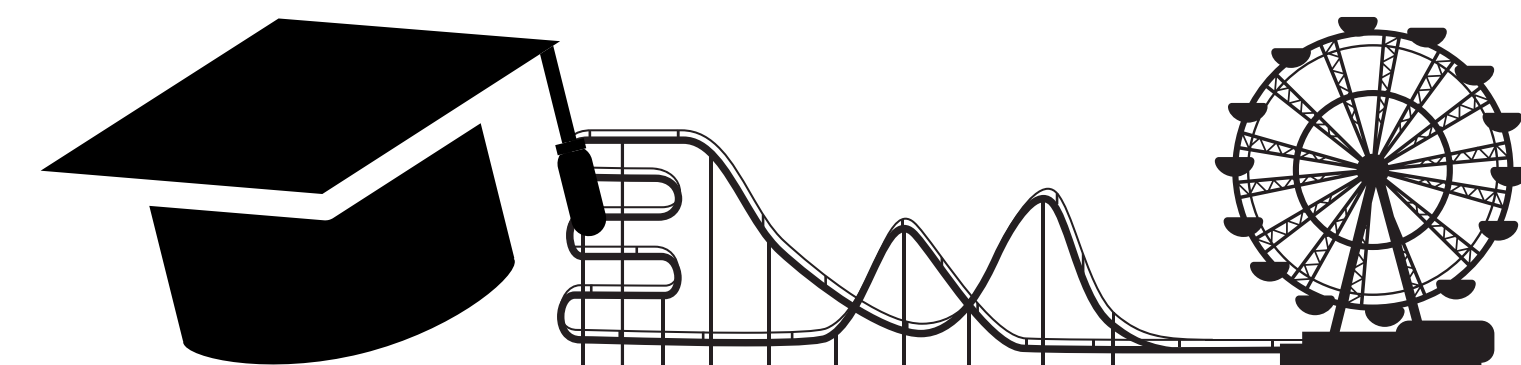
Among the eligibility requirements outlined in the scholarship are being a legal resident of Fulton County and having a parent/guardian or grandparent, who is a current member of the Fulton County Farm Bureau. The applicant must also be enrolled as a part or full-time student for the coming fall semester at a community college, university or trade school.

One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for 2025. However, in the event local businesses or residents would like to donate toward the annual scholarship fund, there is a possibility that monies beyond the original \$1,000 allotment could be awarded.

All applications must be received no later than April 1. A committee will be selected to review the applications, and the Board of Directors will announce the winner from the pool of applicants at its April monthly meeting. A special ceremony will be held to recognize and congratulate the lucky senior.

The 2024 scholarship recipient was Hailey Palmer of Warfordsburg. The selection was made by an independent committee comprised of Franklin County Farm Bureau members.

For more information, to make a donation toward the scholarship fund or to receive a copy of the Growing Together Scholarship, please contact Chanin Rotz-Mountz at 717-552-0071 or c\_rotz@hotmail.com.



# Upcoming Calendar of Events

**\*Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m.** - WLC class on organic fertilizer/soil enhancements with Master Gardener/FCFB member Fred Marz and seed/plant swap at 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg

**\*Saturday, April 26** – WLC "Day on the Farm" at FCMC (Raindate: May 3)

**\*Thursday, May 22 at 6 p.m.** - WLC class on weaving demo/presentation with Morgan Kinghorn at 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg

**\*Saturday, May 24, 8 a.m.-noon** - manure pit training at Needmore Firehall for volunteer firefighters and farmers

**\*Thursday, June 19 at 6 p.m.** - Celebrate dairy month! WLC farm tour at Pigeon Cove Farms in Warfordsburg

**\*July 27-August 2** - Fulton County Fair

**\*Friday, August 22** - Farmers Legislative Breakfast at Krazy Rayz BBQ and Smokehouse. Time, cost and meeting itinerary to be determined.

**\*Sunday, September 21, at 1 p.m.** - Fall membership meeting/pig roast at 2800 Cito Road, Big Cove Tannery.

\*\*\*Board of Directors meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. at 25185 Great Cove Road, McConnellsburg. Members are always welcome to attend!

# First Responders, Farmers To Attend Manure Pit Training

Focused on service and providing for the community in 2024, the Fulton County Farm Bureau headed into the new year with a similar focus of giving back but through educational and safety initiatives.

This spring, on the heels of several smaller projects, the Farm Bureau will be joining forces with Nationwide Mutual Insurance and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS) to offer a one-of-a-kind training opportunity to both county first responders and farmers.

On Saturday, May 24, a manure pit training class will be made available to county volunteer firefighters at the Needmore Firehall. The four-hour training will include a hands-on segment limited to 30 firefighters from the Needmore, McConnellsburg and Hustontown fire companies.

Any additional first responders are still urged and welcome to sit in, even though the hands-on portion of the class is limited to 30. Area farmers can also benefit from this educational training as they witness first-hand the dos and don'ts associated with manure pits to better keep their farm family and workers safe. Farmers do not need to be a Farm Bureau member in order to attend.

The course includes the use of a 150-gallon manure pit rescue simulator, which will be traveling to Fulton County from Peosta, Iowa. The simulator allows participants to work through various scenarios and in different roles associated with performing rescue operations in low-oxygen situations.

According to a study by Purdue University, 11 accidents involving livestock waste storage facilities were reported during the year 2022. Eight of those incidents resulted in fatalities with the youngest being a 16-year-old boy. In fact, between 1975 and 2021, of the 486 reported incidents, 288 were fatalities. The average age of the victims was 37, the university noted, which is substantially lower than the average age of the U.S. farmer.

The university also reported that the most common task or job leading up to injuries or fatalities with livestock waste storage facilities was performing maintenance in or around the structures, including pump repairs.

Focus areas for trainers during the class here include the air-quality monitoring before, during and after res-

cues; the proper use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA); harnessing; rope rigging for below-grade rescues; and the use of a tripod. Participants will also be instructed on identifying hazards within the confined space; understanding the process for entry of confined spaces; lockout procedures; and where to look for OSHA references and resources related to confined-space entry.

Dan Neenan, NECAS director of safety and transportation stated four new gas monitor trainers will also be utilized as part of the hands-on segment and hazardous materials/gases that will be touched on range from hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide to carbon monoxide, methane and ammonia.

The Needmore Volunteer Fire Company under the direction of Chief JR Sigel will be providing the 150 gallons of water necessary for the training. All hands-on participants will be required to have SCBAs for the training and be clean shaven.

Interested county firefighters and other first responders are urged to sign up through their respective fire chief. County farmers interested in attending training should contact Chanin Mountz at 717-552-0071 prior to May 1 to secure a seat. There is no cost to attend.

Expenses accrued for organizing and hosting a class not only include the cost of the training itself but mileage, food and lodging as well for the trainer for the round trip from Iowa.

To date, officials from the Center for Dairy Excellence, Dairy Farmers of America, Farm Credit, and the Fulton County Medical Center have verbally pledged their financial support for the Farm Bureau's project here. In addition, Country View Family Farms and the Robert Snyder Agency have graciously offered to provide lunch and a light breakfast for those in attendance through meal sponsorships, and officials at the Medical Center will be on hand to offer free health screenings.

Furthermore, Fulton County, through the efforts and guidance of 911/EMA Director Brian Barton, has also agreed to assist with the cost of the training, as it covers various HAZMAT-related topics and in turn will be a benefit to not only first responders but those in the community they serve.

# Donations Sought For RMH

A "Farmers Care" event organized to benefit the Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in Hershey kicked off in January under the guidance of longtime Fulton County Farm Bureau members Lonnie and Debra Palmer.

Through this annual, charitable event, the Farm Bureau will be accepting cash and gift card donations as well as pantry, household and office-related items through February 28.

Topping RMH's 2025 list of highly sought-after items are cash and gift cards to the following establishments: Sam's Club, Amazon, Staples, Walmart and Uber. Gift cards, cash and checks made payable to "Ronald McDonald House, Hershey" can be mailed directly to Farmers Care Project, c/o Lonnie and Debra Palmer at 4053 Pigeon Cove Road, Warfordsburg, PA 17267.

Other wish list items, according to officials at RMH, include:

\*pantry items- single-serve chips and salty snacks, juice boxes, individually wrapped cookies and cracker packets, mixed nuts or trail mix packs, granola bars, breakfast bars and pop tarts.

\*household items- Lysol all-purpose cleaner, Pledge multipurpose cleaner, Tide free and gentle laundry pods, dryer sheets, disinfectant wipes, Swiffer wet jet mopping pads, Swiffer wet jet cleaning solution and select-a-size paper towels.

\*office supplies- standard-size, white copier paper and forever postage stamps.

The Palmers noted that RMH is unable to accept used, outdated or expired items and asks that those wishing to donate are mindful of the dates on pantry items when contributing. Other items that are also not suitable as donations are stuffed animals, baby food and formula and medical supplies, the Palmers said.

There are well over a dozen locations within the county specifically designated for cash and gift card donations at this time. Donation jars are currently located in McConnellsburg at Krazy Rayz Smokehouse & BBQ, MacDonald's Pharmacy, McLaughlin's Pharmacy, Mamma's Pizza, McConnellsburg True Value and Car Quest.

Donations jars for cash, checks and gift cards are

also at K's Place and Knobsville Florist in Knobsville; Pineloft Landscape and Garden Center, Keller's Country Store and Ridgeline Hardware located in Hustontown; as well as Harr's Store and Eader's Butcher Shop in Big Cove Tannery. Cathy's restaurant in Crystal Spring will also be accepting monetary and gift card donations as is Burnt Cabins Grist Mill and Younker's Meat Market, Mercersburg.

In addition, Pineloft Landscape and Garden Center and Krazy Rayz will also accept any pantry, household and office donations from the RMH wish list as well as monetary donations. Items can also be dropped off at the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church by making advance arrangements with the Palmers.

Furthermore, RMH is still accepting magazine and soda tab donations for their facility. If you are a civic group, church or organization that needs assistance transporting a large donation of wish list items, please make arrangements by contacting Palmer at 717-294-3162 or 717-372-4420.

Last year, the Fulton County Farm Bureau collected \$7,410.51 in cash donations as well as supplies and continues to be a leader statewide in the Farmers Care project thanks to the generosity of area residents, churches and businesses.

This year's delivery to RMH Hershey is slated for March 14.

