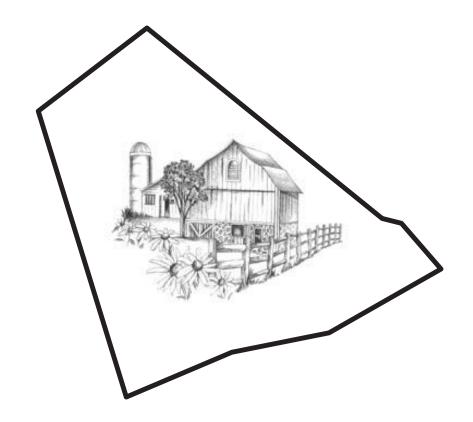
Lebanon County Farm Bureau

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Lebanon County Farm Bureau Summer 2022 Newsletter

In This Issue:

- ~ Annual County Member Picnic
- ~ Policy Development
- ~ Agriculture in PA State Budget

Dates To Remember:

- ~ Penn State Ag Progress Days August 9-11, 2022
- ~ Annual County Member Picnic August 20, 2022
- ~ Legislative Tour and Discussion August 24, 2022

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Neil Dembeck
Cell: 443-355-3786

Email: ntdembeck@pfb.com

<u>Vice-President:</u> Tim Crouse 717-454-9956 timcrouse46@yahoo.com

Second Vice-President: Dale Heagy 717-865-0703 dtheagy6@gmail.com

Secretary/ Treasurer: Tracy Heagy 769 Ono Rd Annville, PA 17003 717-865-0703 dtheagy6@gmail.com

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Directors:

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Jason Seibert 717-908-6972



Lee Wenger 717-908-7448



Summer Legislative Tour Planned

Every year, as our elected officials recess for the summer, we like to take advantage of the opportunity and host a legislative tour to interact and discuss agricultural issues.

When: Wednesday, August 24, 2022 @ 10:00

AM

Where: Talview Dairy Farm 1501 Mount

Pleasant Rd. Lebanon, PA 17042

All Lebanon County Farm Bureau members with legislative questions or concerns are invited to participate in the tour and discussion. Upon conclusion of the tour, the group will meet for a discussion of current issues of focus. At noon there will be a light lunch provided by the Lebanon County Farm Bureau. Current elected officials have been invited as well as the candidates running for the PA 98th and 101st State House of Representatives districts. A special thank you to Brent and Stacey Copenhaver for opening their farm to us for this event!

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED. Please contact Jeff Werner at werneracres@gmail.com or by calling 717-865-5727.

Let Your Voice Be Heard During Policy Development

One of the many things that make Farm Bureau a great organization is that it is completely driven by the grassroots. Everything the Farm Bureau organization supports and opposes is determined by the farmer members. This is all done through a process known as policy development. It all starts with an issue. That issue is addressed with a policy and if passed at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau annual meeting, this policy becomes an official stance of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The organization's members and directors of government affairs can then discuss these policies with our elected officials and encourage them to create solutions for these problems. Are you running into issues on your farm that are a detriment to your ability to successfully and effectively farm? We want to know about it! Contact Board Vice President and Policy Development Chair Tim Crouse at 717-454-9956. Let's create solutions to the problems we are facing and make agriculture a stronger industry for ourselves and future generations. Policy ideas must be submitted by August 20th to be considered at the Lebanon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

LEBANON COUNTY FARM BUREAU PICNIC
DATE: Saturday August 20, 2022 TIME: 11:00am
LOCATION: Cowrageous Picnic Grove
ADDRESS: 535 Rexmont Rd, Lebanon PA 17042
RSVP: By August 5th to Tracy Heagy at 717-865-0703
or Email: dtheagy6@gmail.com

There will be a free catered lunch for members and their families courtesy of local agribusinesses. Picnic tables will be available for seating under an outside pavilion, but members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs as well. There are bathrooms with sinks for hand washing available at the pavilion. There will be a brief member meeting and activities will be provided for children. During the brief member meeting, we will be voting on new terms for 6 board members. If any voting member is interested in being nominated for a 2-year term or has questions about what the position entails, they are encouraged to contact board President, David Zimmerman, @ 717.639.9215. In addition to being a board member, there are many opportunities to get involved on committees. These include committees to visit legislators, plan events, educate consumers, and much more. See any board member for more on how you can make your organization yours!

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Applauds Agriculture's Inclusion in 2022-23 State Budget

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is pleased that the 2022-23 state budget will institute a program for conservation funding on farms, with \$220 million in funding to create the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) to the clean streams fund, aimed at reducing nutrient and sediment runoff, which comes as a huge victory for farmers as PFB's biggest legislative ask of the year.

While information regarding how the funds will be administered to county conservation districts is not yet available, a burden will be lifted off a lot of farmers that can now implement their best land management practices on their properties to keep the environmental impacts to a minimum.

As a whole, conservation districts will receive an increase of \$6.8 million, with \$5 million coming from the Department of Environmental Protection and the other \$1.8 million coming through the Department of Agriculture.

The 2022-23 state budget also notably includes \$32 million to help combat avian influenza, with \$25 million of the funding coming in the form of indemnity payments to the impacted farmers. An additional \$6 million is available to increase laboratory surveillance activities while another \$1 million was allocated for additional staffing for the Department of Agriculture.

An increase of funds to the Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission was also a part of the 2022-23 budget, which is a win for Pennsylvania farmers. When the original budget proposal was rolled out the program was essentially going to be cut, but the final iteration of the budget saw the commission reinstituted with an increase in funding.

Agricultural research and extension were given an increase of five percent, which is just shy of \$3 million worth of funding for the 2022-23 year.

The budget also reinstates a \$5 million general fund appropriation for the Farm Show, reducing the reliance on Race Horse Development Fund dollars. The budget increases funding for the State Food Purchase Program by \$2 million as well, to provide emergency food assistance and purchase surplus agricultural products.

Overall, the Department of Agriculture will see just shy of a 30 percent increase this year in funding.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert shared the following thoughts on the 2022-23 state budget:

"I'm really happy with the passage of the state budget this year with agriculture being the number one industry. We had our priorities of the extension service and the diagnostics lab supported. It really shows legislative support for the ag industry.

In addition, the added funding for conservation will help us reach our 2025 water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay. We have a lot more funding resources to go back to the conservation districts to work toward that goal so farmers can implement practices to reach those goals."

PFB Hosts Dairy Pricing Discussion Meetings

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) held its most recent dairy pricing discussion meetings on Monday, July 10th in Ebensburg at Hoss's, and Friday, July 15th at Brubaker farms in Mount Joy. The discussions have been ongoing across the state this past year.

The main part of the discussions revolved around PFB policy regarding the over order premium, allowing members the opportunity to learn about milk pricing to influence county policy as policy development gets underway.

Attendees heard from multiple speakers, including PFB State Board Director David Graybill, PFB State Dairy Committee Director of Region 3 Ron Wenger, Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board Executive Secretary Carol Hardbarger, American Farm Bureau Federation Economist Danny Munch and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Executive Deputy Secretary Greg Hostetter.

Lebanon County Farm Bureau Serves Up Milkshakes At Lebanon Area Fair

As has become tradition, the Lebanon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors took their turn at the Lebanon Area Fair milkshake stand for the 2022 fair. Around 12 volunteers served at the stand on Saturday July 23rd from 11AM-2PM. A great time was had by all!





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Publications

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 parties of annual member dues covers subions to these publications, \$3 for Pasitively 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 requency and details are subject to change.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau 510 S. 31st Street P.O. Box 8736 Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736 717.761.2740 www.pfb.com

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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.

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