Schuylkill/Carbon Farm Bureau

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Battlefields or Farm fields?

What would you do if you received a knock on your door and found a military officer on your front porch? He is telling you that your fields growing with your summer crops will be turned into a battlefield the next morning. There is no debate; this is going to happen.

For farmers Bliss and McCready, their response was to take down their fences so the Union soldiers could have an easier access.

Those attending the T.A.S.K. conference on February 9th were given the opportunity to tour the Gettysburg battlefields with a retired military historian leading the way.

It's hard to imagine what we now think of as sacred memorials were once fields and meadows hosting crops and livestock. We should take a minute to remember what happened during the Civil War, and how fortunate we are to

be able to work in our fields without the worry of them turning into battlefields.

We are blessed to be able to live and farm in a country where we are safe and free.



Pennsylvania Monument in Gettysburg.

Schuylkill/Carbon Board of **Directors**

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- Dennis Baver, 570-366-2713
- Cody Holden, 570-345-0668
- Ben Everett, 610-295-2540
- Board of Directors meet every 4th Monday of the month at Jersey Acres Farm 1615 Panther Valley Rd, Pine Grove, PA

SCFB Women's Committee News

On March 5, 2024, the Schuvlkill/Carbon Farm Bureau Women's Committee participated in the "Farmers' Care" Day at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, PA.

Farmers' Care Day is in conjunction with the date that the average American has earned enough money to buy their groceries for the entire year.

Food is donated to the Ronald McDonald houses throughout Pennsylvania to help families who need to stay close to the hospitals where their children are patients.



Kate Hendricks and Deb Marbarger delivered "grab and go" items to the families so they were able to take snacks with them as they visit the hospital.







Sharing the Story About Farming

During the winter and early spring months, our board of directors went out into the community to let neighbors and "city folk" know what farming actually means and how it affects every person. Whether it was at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, meeting with local and state legislators or teaching school kids by reading books in the classroom and local libraries, they were there!



State board member Charlie Porter and Lilly Guthrie at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Every county had representatives from their local Farm Bureau in attendance each day of the show.



SCFB directors met with State Legislators at Leiby's Restaurant in South Tamaqua in early March. Pictured in Row 1: Jamie Barton, 124th District; Doyle Heffley, 122nd District; Tim Twardzik, 123rd District; Joanne Stehr, 107th District; Dave Koch. 2nd Row: Dennis Marbarger, John Halabura, Josiah Meck, Dan Troxell, Duane Miller, Boots Hetherington, Julie Ballay, and Kent Heffner.



On March 26,2024, SCFB directors traveled to Harrisburg to meet with State Representatives in their offices to share ideas and concerns. Pictured are Boots Hetherington, Rep. Tim Twardzik, Kent Heffner, Rep. Joanne Stehr, Dennis Marbarger and Dan Troxell.

"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways." John F. Kennedy



"Teach Your Children Well" (Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young)

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau excels in providing agricultural education to the students in our state. The Mobile Ag Lab, Teachers' Institute, Farm-tastic books and Ag in the Classroom books are just a few of the possibilities our schools can take advantage of. Below are a few pictures from the first quarter of the year that represented Farm Bureau in the very best way.



Kate Hendricks (center) donates Farmtastic book "Polly and the Birth Day" to the Orwigsburg Library. Also shown are Claudia Gross (L), Librarian and Robin Price.





Deb Marbarger reads "The Anywhere Farm" to Mrs. Krista Kantner's Kindergarten class at Blue Mountain Ele. East as part of the Ag in the Classroom week. The children learned that you can plant a garden where ever you are. (Even grow "corn in a horn" or "kale in a pail"!)



Dennis Marbarger is shown with Tanya Savitsky, Ringtown librarian, and Kathy VanGieson, Frackville librarian with the Farm-tastic books "Polly and the Birth Day" and "From Seed to Plant". Both libraries have many of our Farm-tastic books to share with their communities.



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