

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau Directors

David DeLeon, President.....	570-853-3520	John Benscoter.....	570-833-4250
Jim Barbour, 1st V. President.....	607-435-0830	Joseph Decker.....	570-756-2657
William Shay, 2nd V. President.....	570-396-4752	Karen Harmer.....	570-289-4128
Micheline Klim, Secretary.....	570-289-4756	Joseph Plonski.....	570-765-2901
Emma Hinkley, Women's Leadership.....	570-289-4943	Mike Russell Jr.....	607-972-3842
		Donna Williams.....	570-942-6348

Non-Director
Jessica Prusinowski, Treasurer.....908-310-0905

People Serving You

Nationwide Appointed Agencies

R. Leet Agency.....	18 Como Rd. PO Box 300, Lakewood, PA	570-789-2666
	321 Main St., Hallstead, PA.....	570-465-3296
Little & Nelson Ins.....	66 Public Ave, Montrose, PA.....	570-278-1151
	1344 Main St, Susquehanna, PA.....	570-853-3372
Manci Ins. Agency.....	35 E Tioga St., Tunkhannock, PA	570-836-3372

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau
Liz LoSchiavo, Editor, nefamilyfarming@gmail.com
1089 Coleman Road, Montrose PA 18801

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

August 2025

SCFB Scholarship Program and Recipients

For the third consecutive year we proudly awarded two scholarships of \$1000 each to senior students in the county.



Our focus has been on the student's work experience, extracurricular activities, community or volunteer activities, an impressive transcript of

school courses and grades, and a program of study in higher education with a connection to agriculture. We also require an essay and a letter of recommendation. Also, we like to see a close family member connected to our membership.

We had our best response in numbers and backgrounds of candidates this year making the decision most difficult.

However, two seniors really stood out. Chelsea Empet, daughter of Richard and Dana Empet from Kingsley plans to attend Penn State and major in Animal Science. Her accolades and involvement go on and on. Chelsea plans to remain in the ag industry although not certain it will be on the animal care side, business and financial management, or scientific research.

Andrew Kowalewski, son of Mike and Michelle Kowalewski from Montrose and Blue Ridge HS is another of our recipients. Andrew is another excellent student who checked all the boxes when looking for a top notch student worthy of this honor. Andrew will also be attending Penn State to study Animal Science with plans to become a large animal veterinarian.



We congratulate both of these excellent students and wish both great success in each of their chosen fields.

Lisa Romanienko, chair of our scholarship committee awarding scholarships to Dana Empet, accepting for her daughter Chelsea and to Andrew Kowalewski

Local Discounts for Farm Bureau Members in Susquehanna County

SCFB Members - show your membership card at these participating businesses and ask about the Farm Bureau discount.
www.pfb.com/localdiscounts

- Andre & Son, Inc. - True Value** (Montrose) - 5% off any in-stock store items not already on clearance or promotional pricing
- Auto Plus** (Great Bend) 10% off
- Barhites Sales & Rentals** (Clifford) 10% off all rentals, 5% off all sale items in-stock/shop repairs, 5% off parts, 15% off labor
- Blue Stone Pizzeria** (Hallstead) 10% off all menu items
- Flynn’s Hardware/Flynn’s Stone Castle** 10% off animal feed, Lawton
- Gerard E. Shinn Construction** (Uniondale) 5% off any contracted work
- Glezen’s Power Equipment Inc.** (Hallstead) 10% off parts
- J&J Springs** (New Milford) 10% off all water delivery to homes
- JDE Salon** (Montrose) 20% off all retail products
- Liberty Carpet, Inc.** (Hallstead) 10% off in-stock & special-order flooring, 5% off hardwood
- Little Leaf Natural Products** (Montrose) 10% off everything; must show membership card
- Maloney’s Pub & Restaurant** (Hallstead) 10% off food on Sunday and Monday only
- New Milford Hardware** (New Milford) Trade Discount - up to 10% off depending on item
- Nicholson Tire Service** 5% off tires and labor, Nicholson. Available to Susquehanna and Wyoming County Farm Bureaus
- Pump N Pantry** All stores except Troy - buy one get one free hotdogs (Kunzler’s from Lancaster)
- Rhonda’s Country Heart Décor** (Montrose) 10% off everything in store
- Russell Farms** (Brackney) 5% discount
- Rustic Roost Café** free drink with meal purchase, Kingsley. Available to Susquehanna and Lackawanna Farm Bureaus
- Scarfalloto’s Hometown Market** (Montrose) 5% off total order
- Speakeasy Saloon & Resort** (Union Dale) 10% off any dinner and room rental
- Stone’s Trustworthy Hardware** (Great Bend) 10% regular priced items; some exclusions apply
- Strauss Chiropractic/Northeast Nutrition** (Kingsley) Initial consult, complete exam & x-rays for \$25 (normally \$175-250)
- Summit Workwear** (New Milford) 15% off boots and workwear
- Timberline Lawn and RV** (Montrose) 10% off in-stock or ordered parts; \$100 minimum purchase
- Wandering Trails Veterinary Care** 10% off services excluding medications, Towanda. Available to Susquehanna, Wayne, Bradford, and Wyoming Farm Bureaus
- William Shay Flagstone** 10% off 10 by 10 Patio Package, Thompson. Available to Susquehanna and Wayne/Pike Farm Bureaus

Farm Safety Day

Friday, October 10, 2025; 10:00 AM—3:00 PM

Rick and Dana Empet Dairy Farm

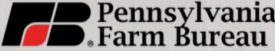
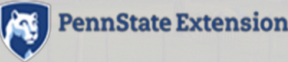
664 Tingley St., Kingsley, PA 18826

(about 3 miles from the Lenox Exit 211 of I-81)

Speakers from Penn State Extension, local fire departments, and EMT Services will cover these farm safety areas:

Animal Handling (Dairy Cows), Manure Pits, Tractor (PTO, ROPS), Pesticides Safety, First Aid kit, and Chain Saw Safety.

This is a free event, rain or shine, lunch provided. Registration deadline October 1, 2025. For registration or more information Email to Michal Lunak (mpl5660@psu.edu) or Dana Empet (danaempet@gmail.com).



Upcoming Events

- August 11th - 16th Harford Fair.** Please stop by our booth in the usual location near the Grandstand. Tell us what we’re doing right or wrong. If not a farm bureau member it’s a great opportunity to join. Join now and you’re a member through the end of 2026. Of course we’ll have fresh whole milk and apples available.
- August 28th, 5pm Our annual county picnic.** Belchers’ Pavilion, Palma Gun Club. 1014 Barlow Rd, Uniondale. Suggest any policies you believe we should take and promote at our Annual Meeting. Find out more about our planned Farm Safety Day with the PSU Extension Bring a covered dish to share if you’d like. We will have barbecue chicken and sweet corn provided, no charge.
- October 3rd Annual County Dinner Meeting.** 5:30 Social and delicious dinner at 6:30pm. County Policies to be approved by membership. Find out more about our county FFA program. Usual location at the Montrose Bible Conference. Be sure to reserve by calling David @607-768-9893 Jim@607-435-0830, or William @570-396-4752 by 9/25.
- Oct 10th Farm Safety at the Rick and Dana Dairy Farm.** Topics already on the schedule include: Animal handling, Tractor safety, Chain Saw safety, Pesticide safety, waiting for confirmations for EMS/EMT First Aid/ Stop the bleed and manure pit safety. Please refer to poster for information and more info will be advertised as we get closer to the date. Lunch is free.

BRAG Fair

Susquehanna County Farm Bureau participated in the first ever BRAG FAIR in New Milford fairly close to the Blue Ridge School. Adele Bennett and her FFA students put this opportunity together for the public to visit various vendors involved in agriculture. It provided a small fundraiser for the program but more importantly it provided the community a chance to experience the fact we have



a very active and growing educational agricultural program in our county.



As anyone can guess finding the right day this Spring and Summer without rain was nearly impossible. And sure enough there was no cooperation with the weather. How about cold and wet almost the entire time. The weather didn't curb the enthusiasm of the FFA students who

were more than helpful in aiding all the vendors and explaining what their program is all about.

Special thank you for to Directors Emma Hinkley and John Benscoter for being at the SCFB table the entire time and informing the public what Farm Bureau is all about.



Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?

Pennsylvania
Farm Bureau
Health Services

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
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
- Help with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.

To check availability in your county call **800.522.2375**.



Having the safety talk with your kids isn't just important—it's essential.

In 2023, 19% of deaths in off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents were children under 16, with only 2% wearing helmets! The **Let's Champion Rider Safety** campaign, provides tips and resources for effective safety discussions and protection for young riders.

Learn more at
Nationwide.com/ATVsafety



Scan code to get
safety tips for your
young riders.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
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Governmental Update

By: William Shay

In the rolling hills of northeastern Pennsylvania, agriculture is more than an industry; it's a way of life. Susquehanna County's farms and rural communities form the backbone of the local economy and culture. Yet, as the challenges facing farmers become increasingly complex—from changing regulations and market volatility to environmental stewardship and rural development, the need for thoughtful, effective farm policy has never been greater. Central to this process is the participation of those most affected: the people and farms of Susquehanna County. Encouraging and enabling their involvement in writing farm policy for the Susquehanna County Farm Bureau is not just a matter of representation, it is essential to crafting practical, responsive, and visionary solutions for the future of agriculture in the region.

A farm policy that genuinely reflects the needs, challenges, and aspirations of Susquehanna County's agriculture community cannot be built in isolation. Policies made without farmers input risk being out of touch or ineffective. When farmers, agribusinesses, and rural residents participate in policy formation, the resulting guidelines carry a sense of ownership and legitimacy. The Susquehanna County Farm Bureau, as a grassroots organization, is uniquely positioned to harness the collective wisdom of its members and advocate for policies that support local agriculture.

Wildlife Committee Report

As many of us have read over the last 2 years our Wildlife and Fisheries committee has worked tirelessly to reduce farmers' crop damage from wildlife. Last month this project had tremendous success when our state legislators passed Senate Bill 518 and House Bill 1431. And on July 9th Governor Shapiro signed the second bill into law after signing the first one a couple weeks earlier. This shows how important it is when members from county farm bureaus send policies to our Annual Meeting in November each year. Having delegates discuss their importance, decide if each is critical to agriculture and rural life, and if so have those become part of our Farm Bureau state policies. From there committees such as Wildlife can talk with our legislators to have them become law. This is never a fast process and often takes compromise and patience. These last two years were no exception.

Russell Redding, PA Secretary of Agriculture, said "when the standard greeting when you are out somewhere is about deer damage, you have a problem. Every time I would go somewhere, every county fair, every legislative breakfast, every time you'd turn around there was a deer damage concern and Farm Bureau was constructive in that and very pointed in that we have to address these issues."

The first step in the process was our delegate body revoking our opposition to Sunday hunting. There was a condition however and that was having our legislators address this ongoing and worsening issue of wildlife damage. In addition we needed good conversation with the PA Game Commission and other hunting groups.

In 2017 alone PA farmers lost an estimated \$20 million in corn damage, the highest in the country. And another \$15 million loss in soybeans. Secretary Redding mentioned how important trespassing provisions are, and with "most of hunting taking place on private property the relationships between hunters and landowners is critical." And this has been addressed in these bills.

Chris Hoffman, president of PA Farm Bureau spoke of how our organization supports both of these bills. "These measures will help farmers better control deer populations, protect their crops and support the long-term sustainability of agriculture in our state. We thank the general assembly for getting these important bills across the finish line and Governor Shapiro for swiftly signing the bills into law. We look forward to using the tools they gave us to mitigate crop damage and help protect the profitability of our farms."

House Bill 1431 introduced by Mandy Steele, includes increased trespass penalties and repeals our Sunday hunting ban. However there are still protections for landowners through written permission requirements.

A few of our priorities that were part of HB 1431 were amended and became part of SB 518. One item makes it easier to report crop damage harvest and streamlines carcass handling requirements limiting the time farmers had been spending on this. Another item of importance makes certain that at least one member of the PA Game Commission must be actively engaged in agriculture and understands the intersection of agriculture and wildlife management.

Governor Shapiro said during the signing of this legislation, "there were a lot of pivotal moments in the legislative process. One that was incredibly helpful if not the most pivotal was the marriage between the agricultural interest, farm interests and the advocates for this legislation. I want to thank the Farm Bureau for their incredible willingness to engage on this."

In addition to the legislation PFB worked with the Game Commission on creating the Certified Hunter Program. This will help all landowners, especially farmers dealing with wildlife damage. The program at first will be a pilot one in the Southwest Region of 10 counties. The program will connect landowners with certified hunters trained to manage deer overpopulation. The landowner has total control as to who can enter his property. All the hunters will be trained in ethics, safety, responsibility, and hunting effectiveness.

The vision here is to help farmers deal with crop damage while benefiting hunters as well. Hunters do not have to be a resident of this region to participate. Hopefully the program will expand significantly the following year.

We fully understand this legislation does not solve the issue of wildlife damage but it's a big step in the right direction.

Secretary Redding said "today is a story of more and less. More days to hunt, more opportunities to bag a deer, more effective deer management, more relief from crop damage and more food on the table. It's less crop damage, less habitat destruction and less hunger. That's a good solution."