

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026

SAVE THE DATE

PICNIC

July 19, 2026

FARM SHOW

August 10 - 15, 2026

ANNUAL MEETING

Sept 25, 2026

BOARD MEMEBERS

PRESIDENT

JAMES THIELE

V. PRESIDENT

EVELYN MINTER

SECRETARY

LINDA HALSTEAD

TREASURER/DIRECTOR

TOM GOLDSCHTEITER

DIRECTORS

RACHEL ALTMAN

GUY DAUBENSPECK

BILL DUNCAN

JIM HALSTEAD

WILLIAM THIELE

JED WILBUR

WLC EXOFICIO

KARI THOMPSON

YAP EXOFICIO

BRITTANY SPEER

2026 MEMBERSHIP STATS

Total Members: 890, New Members 98, Non-
Renewals - 124

Membership is critical to our "Grassroots" organization, we work diligently to bring in new members and renew existing members. **We need your help.** If you believe farming and agriculture is critical to our country, families and future. Please *renew your membership early, invite others to join us*. For more information please contact our membership chair Evelyn Minter - 724- 679-8169

Policy Development

Have a concern, need a place to be heard?
Farm Burueau gives you that.

Contact Evelyn Minter - 724-679-8169

**Want to share your talents
or time to support agriculture
and Community?**

HELP US

EDUCATE*ADVOCATE*PROMOTE

Contact Linda Halstead - 724-272-5595
(see attached committee list)

SPOTLIGHT

INTRODUCING OUR FIRST BUTLER COUNTY JUNIOR FARM BUREAU AMBASSADORS

SAM WALOWEN



My name is Samuel Walowen, I am 15 years old and started my love for agriculture and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) 6 years ago when I joined 4-H. I became a 4H STEAM State project ambassador also known as SPA for the state of Pennsylvania this year.

I have had chickens for as long as I can remember and last year I did a meat pen for 4H where I won grand champion for them and this year I will be doing a meat pen again and showmanship at the Farm Show. As a Junior Ambassador for the Farm Bureau, I value the opportunity to advocate for agriculture, connect with other farmers, and help strengthen the future of one of the most important industries in our state.

Outside of 4-H, I enjoy riding quads, reading about history (especially WWII) collecting chickens, 3D printing, thrifting, working on a farm, and spending time with my family and friends. I appreciate the chance to share what I have learned along the way and look forward to continuing to support and promote farming in our community.

ABIGAIL WEICHEY



Abigail Weichey is 12 years old and entering into the 8th grade at St. Wendelin's School. She lives outside of Butler with her parents, Jesse and Melissa Weichey. Abigail is a spirited young lady who is very active in the community. She enjoys volunteering with the elderly and serving the Lord at church. Much of the spring and summer is dedicated to raising her market lambs, attending jackpot shows, the Big Butler Fair and the Butler Farm Show. While she is passionate about showing livestock, Abigail values the friendships and connections she builds even more. Abigail is a dedicated member of the 4-H Premier Livestock Club and has been showing primarily market lambs since she was 8. She has also exhibited rabbits and goats, and this year she is expanding her experience with a hog project. Abigail is honored to serve as the Butler County Farm Bureau Junior Ambassador this year. She is looking forward to deepening her knowledge of agriculture and helping educate others about the vital role farming and agriculture play in our communities and everyday lives.

DREW WEIFENBAUGH



Drew is a junior at Butler Area School District who, alongside his general studies, is enrolled in the HVAC program at Butler County Vo-Tech, where he has earned state certification in refrigeration. He is an active student-athlete, having participated in cross country and track & field, and currently plays basketball for Butler. When he's not on the basketball court or in the gym, Drew enjoys spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, and camping. Whether he's hunting and fishing with his father or casting a line in a local pond or stream with family and friends, he values every opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and create lasting memories.

Outside the classroom and athletic arena, Drew is deeply involved in the YMCA's Youth & Government program, where he has spent the past four years serving as an attorney in the judicial branch. Through this program, he attends weekly meetings and participates in both the annual Pre-Legislative Conference and the Model Convention held at the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg. In this role, he prepares briefs and presents arguments in a courtroom setting. In recognition of his commitment and leadership, Drew was elected by his peers to serve as Judicial Liaison for his Butler YMCA chapter. He also works at the YMCA as a lifeguard.

CON'T BELOW

DREW WEIFENBAUGH BIO CON'T

Drew maintains a strong work ethic beyond the YMCA, providing landscaping services for neighbors and family. In the summer of 2024, he completed an internship with the Butler Blue Sox, where he managed scoreboard operations, coordinated music for player introductions, welcomed fans, assisted with ticketing, and contributed to on-field promotions and entertainment.

Dedicated to giving back, Drew volunteers with several organizations throughout the community. Most recently, he served as a lifeguard for his high school's adaptive swim program. He has supported Operation Troop Appreciation since the age of four, initially by creating cards for veterans and continuing to contribute over the years. Additionally, Drew has participated in multiple fundraising efforts benefiting UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

His volunteerism also includes service with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sarver and Victory Family Church in Cranberry Township, where he has assisted with community dinners, Vacation Bible School, and annual events. Drew has further supported local schools and organizations through events such as pancake breakfasts, spaghetti dinners, and community programs at HIS Kids Christian School. At Butler Catholic, he has volunteered at open house events, sold 50/50 raffle tickets at basketball games, and assisted with the Little Dribblers basketball program.

Drew looks forward to continuing to make a positive impact through his service as a Butler County Junior Farm Bureau Ambassador.



William Thiele of Thiele Dairy Farm in Cabot checks milk level in a holding tank after milking.

Like many area farmers Thiele has seen a significant drop in milk sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thiele has been able to mix unused milk in with feed instead of water. A Butler County farmer found himself behind the Resolute Desk in the Oval Office on Wednesday, Jan. 14, as President Donald Trump signed a bill that will directly affect his livelihood.

William Thiele, who owns Thiele Dairy Farm in Jefferson Township, was among the dairy farmers present when the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act became law. It passed Congress late last year.

The act permits schools enrolled in the National School Lunch Program to serve whole and 2% milk to students again after those products were banned for more than a decade under the President Barack Obama-era Hunger-Free Kids Act.

"With me being a dairy farmer, it's vitally important to me," Thiele said. "It's an experience that I'll for sure never forget. I'm very thankful for all the people who helped put it together for me."

As the director of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau District 15, Thiele received an initial call Monday to gauge his interest before going through a brief screening process. He was notified on Tuesday that he was selected as one of several farmers from across the nation who were invited to the White House.

As part of the visit, he had the chance to meet Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins. "I know some of those things are very short notice, but thankfully I was able and willing to go,"

said Thiele, who served as the commonwealth's representative. Thiele said the move will hopefully push school districts to provide healthier and better tasting options to students in the coming years.

"Milk has been proven time and time again that it is so vitally important for the growth of children," he said. "That's the main goal in all of this." With the number of options on the market right now, Thiele said milk prices are being artificially depressed. However, he hopes the law could change consumers' preferences and have a positive ripple effect down the supply chain.

"Instead of the average consumer drinking a half gallon for their household in a week, maybe it turns into a gallon," he said. "Hopefully, it has a snowball effect and that will eventually help producers like myself because there'll be more people wanting whole milk."

MEAT RAFFLE

**FILL YOUR FREEZER WITH LOCAL MEAT &
SUPPORT LOCAL BUTLER CO. BUSINESSES!**

Benefits the Butler County Farm Bureau

Donation: \$10.00 per ticket , only 500 tickets are being sold

2 Winners will be picked based on the official PA Daily Pick 3 lottery number using the day and evening drawing on October 25, 2026

WINNER #1- Day Pick 3 number on October 25, 2026

Fill your freezer and fridge with local meat including:

- 1/2 Pig from 2026 Butler Co. 4-H Farm Show
- 5 lbs. Ground Beef from Daubenspeck Farm – Renfrew, PA
- 1 Whole Chicken from Halstead Farms – Saxonburg, PA
- 1 Whole Turkey from Jones Turkey Farm – Cabot, PA
- \$50 Gift Card McKruit's Custom Meat Cutting – Cabot, PA
- \$100 Gift Card Thoma's Meat Market – Saxonburg, PA
- Fun Fore All Family Fun Park Gift Cards – Cranberry Twp., PA
 - *Donated by Butler County Chamber*

WINNER #2- Evening Pick 3 number on October 25, 2026

Fill your freezer and fridge with local meat including:

- 1/2 Pig from 2025 Butler Co. 4-H Farm Show
- 5 lbs. Ground Beef from Daubenspeck Farm – Renfrew, PA
- 1 Whole Chicken from Halstead Farms – Saxonburg, PA
- 1 Whole Turkey from Jones Turkey Farm – Cabot, PA
- \$50 Gift Card Schnur's Country Market – Butler, PA
- \$100 Gift Card Welter's Meat – Butler, PA
- Gift Basket – Experience Butler County, PA

**Tickets available from Board Members
and at the Farm Bureau table at Butler
Farm Show**



Ag Institute

The county Ag Institute Coordinator promotes the Ag Institute program to schools and teachers.

Ag Lab Coordinator

The county Ag Lab Coordinator promotes the Mobile Ag Science Lab program to schools and potential sponsors.

Environmental Resources Coordinator

The primary function of the County Environmental Coordinator is to help farmers understand and respond to complaints filed against them with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

FARM-tastic Books Coordinator

The purpose of the FARM-tastic Books Coordinator is to advocate for agricultural literacy and develop programs to promote the selected books.

Farmers Care Coordinator

The County Farmers Care Coordinator works with Farm Bureau volunteers to organize and implement activities. The goal is to raise awareness about our safe and affordable food supply and collect food, money and other needed items for Pennsylvania's five Ronald McDonald Houses or local food banks

Fundraising Coordinator

The County Farmers Care Coordinator works with Farm Bureau volunteers to organize and implement activities. The goal is to raise awareness about our safe and affordable food supply and collect food, money and other needed items for Pennsylvania's five Ronald McDonald Houses or local food banks

Government Relations Director

The County Farmers Care Coordinator works with Farm Bureau volunteers to organize and implement activities. The goal is to raise awareness about our safe and affordable food supply and collect food, money and other needed items for Pennsylvania's five Ronald McDonald Houses or local food banks

Information Director

The County Information Director (CID) develops a professional relationship with the news media (newspapers, magazines, radio and televisions) in their county, writes news releases about County Farm Bureau issues and events, disseminates materials to the news media

Leadership Development Coordinator

The purpose of the Leadership Development Coordinator is to identify, recruit and guide farmer members into meaningful roles in the county Farm Bureau.

Legislative Committee Chairperson, National level

The purpose of the County National Governmental Relations Committee is to implement American Farm Bureau policies and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau national initiatives.

Legislative Committee Chairperson, State level

The purpose of the State Governmental Relations Committee is to implement PFB policies through grassroots contacts to state elected officials.

Local Affairs Committee

The function of the County Local Governmental Relations Committee is to direct activities that help solve local problems. They receive direction from the Board of Directors to decide issues of importance to the membership, then analyze them, and create a plan with Board approval to solve those problems.

Member Relations Director

The purpose of the County Member Relations Director is to work with the County President to help in the appointment of committees and monitor and encourage activity in the committees under their area of responsibility.

Member Services Coordinator

The purpose of the County Membership and Services Committee is to plan and implement a membership campaign that will result in membership growth for the County Farm Bureau, and to promote Farm Bureau services and benefits in the county.

Newsletter Editor

The County Newsletter Editor (CNE) writes and publishes the County Farm Bureau Newsletter, and covers County Farm Bureau issues and events.

Policy Development Committee Chairperson

Safety Coordinator

The purpose of the County Safety Coordinator is to work with Farm Bureau volunteers to organize events which educate the public & farmers about safety procedures and concerns, with a goal to reduce accidents and save lives.

Webmaster

The purpose of the County Webmaster is to develop and maintain a county website to help promote the programs, projects, and activities of the County Farm Bureau. This could also include a County Farm Bureau Facebook page.

Wildlife Damage Coordinator

The purpose of the County Wildlife Damage Coordinator is to help farmers resolve crop or livestock damage problems from wildlife. Problems with wildlife damage are addressed through information and education about programs available to farmers, updating and improving related organization policy when needed, and interaction with wildlife agency staff and sportsmen organizations.

Women's Leadership Committee Chairperson

The purpose of the Women's Leadership Committee is to enable and encourage women to become more active in the County Farm Bureau.

Young Ag Professionals Chairperson

The purpose of the Young Ag Professionals (YAP) Committee is to surface and develop young members who may become future leaders of Farm Bureau and enable them to become more active in the County Farm Bureau.

SEE SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU
CONTACT LINDA HALSTEAD 724-272-5595
LET'S TALK!

Butler County Farm Certified Nationwide Agents

30963 Michael J Raisley 1120 N Main St Ext Butler PA 16001 Butler
66236 Daniel Conville Agency LLC 308 E Main St Evans City PA 16033 Butler
66403 Richard W Kotch Jr 201 S Duffy Rd Butler PA 16001 Butler
67813 Keystone Insurance Brokers 1074 Pittsburgh Rd Valencia PA 16059 Butler
68277 Raisley Insurance 1120 N Main Street Ext Butler PA 16001 Butler
68278 Raisley Insurance 1120 N Main Street Ext Butler PA 16001 Butler
80611 Richard W Kotch Jr 201 S Duffy Road Butler PA 16001 Butler
97398 Keystone Insurance Brokers 1074 Pittsburgh Road Valencia PA 16059 Butler
98871 Daniel Conville Agency LLC 308 E Main Street Evans City PA 16033 Butler

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.

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.¹ 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.

¹ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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Twine Available

PART #	DESCRIPTION	#AVAILABLE	PRICE
9600/210	Small square bale - Blue Poly - Heavy Duty	22 Blue, 2 Orange	\$47/bale
9000	Sisal-Small Square Bale	5	\$30/bale
20,000/110	Poly-Blue Light Duty	2 Orange 5 Blue	\$25/bale
30' Gold Max	Silage Wrap	8	\$91/roll
	Silage Tape	2	\$16/roll

Happy
Birthday
America

250

