

Northumberland County Farm Bureau Newsletter

Special Edition!

Summer 2026



Northumberland County Whispering Oaks Winery Tour & Annual Meeting

Monday, September 21, 2026
5:15 pm Winery Tour / 6:00 pm Meal

Featuring:

- Election of Board Directors
- Vote on Policy Resolutions
- Food / Fun / Fellowship
- Meet with Local Lawmakers

RSVP: Sam Ferster by 8/29
Please TEXT (570)850-6070



Please consider putting your membership on **auto-renew**! This is a simple process which saves the Farm Bureau valuable time and resources. You can update your membership while on www.pfb.com - simply scroll to the membership tab and then to join/renew membership. Make sure your membership number is handy! You can also call the state office at 717-761-2740. Thank you for your consideration!!

Membership

Northumberland County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

President

- Sam Ferster (570) 850-6070

Vice President

- Andrew Wolfgang (570) 556-8797

Treasurer

- Tom Strouse (570) 452-4377

Secretary

- Tessa Applegate (570) 259-4217

Membership Chairman

- Paul Billow (570)-850-9512

Director

- Ethan Witmer (570) 850-1939

Regional Organization Director

- Cody Stoner (443) 655-3786

ntdembeck@pfb.com

State Board Rep

- Jason Wolfe (570) 713-0224

Knoebel's Picnic Rep

- Clair Esbenshade (570) 765-3331

- Tom Strouse (570) 452-4377

Local Discounts!

BS&B Repair, Inc. (Union) \$500 off any new Bobcat skid loader, excavator or compact track loader

Harsco AgroSil (Butler) 10% off per ton of ag lime

Hess's Auctioneering (Union) Farm Bureau Preferred Pricing

Hoover Tractor LLC (Union) 5% off batteries & oil

Rovendale Ag & Barn, Inc. (Northumberland) 10% off parts & service, additional savings on sales, exclusions may apply



Simply show your Farm Bureau membership card and save on your next purchase!



INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is announcing a new partnership with R&B Insurance Services! Together, we aim to make insurance and employee benefits simpler, more accessible, and tailored to the unique needs of each member.

PFB 2026 State Legislative Priorities

Below are the state legislative priorities for 2026.

- Agricultural Labor
- Animal Health
- Energy
- Dairy
- Farm Policy
- Regulatory Reform & Sustainability
- Technology
- Transportation
- Wildlife Management

PFB 2026 State Legislative Conference Update

Pennsylvania's State Legislative Conference took place in April this year. Members from both Northumberland County and throughout the Keystone state had the opportunity to make visits and connect with dozens of legislators and staff for lunch. These officials reinforced their commitment to PA's agricultural industry and we cannot express how excited we were to have time with Governor Shapiro, Secretary Redding, and the Department of Agriculture.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Reminds Bird Owners to Update Biosecurity Practices

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau continues to remind all bird owners in the Commonwealth, whether they are commercial poultry producers, maintain flocks of non-poultry birds, or tend to a small backyard flock, to continue implementing robust biosecurity practices as the southcentral portion of the state has experienced a number of recent highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) detections. With wild bird migration increasing seasonal risk, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is urging all poultry producers—commercial, non-commercial, backyard—to reinforce preventative biosecurity measures immediately:

- Limit and track farm access
- Require protective clothing and footwear for anyone entering poultry areas
- Clean and disinfect vehicles and equipment
- Prevent contact between domestic flocks and wild birds
- Monitor flock health closely and report unexplained illness or death immediately

Farmers should report sick birds or unexplained deaths to [717-772-2852](tel:717-772-2852). Anyone encountering sick or dead wild birds should contact the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 1-833-PGC-WILD. Producers may also request free Wildlife Biosecurity Assessments through USDA resources.

Calendar of Events

County Board Meetings

Ask a board member for the location address

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the Month @ Wolfgang Family of Companies
located in Herndon

Annual Meeting - Sept 21st @ Whispering Oaks Vineyard



**Pennsylvania
Farm Bureau**

75 Years of Legislative Wins

Sales Tax Refund on Gasoline for Farm Use

Recognized that fuel used off highway — such as in tractors and other farm equipment should not be taxed the same way as fuel for regular transportation. Farmers could apply for a refund of the liquid fuels tax.

1956

Sales Tax Exemptions

PA preserved sales tax exemptions for farmers on capital investments such as equipment and machinery used directly in farming operations.

1963
1971

Property Tax Exemptions

Reduced the tax burden on many structures and expenses directly used for crop production livestock, or storage of agricultural goods.

1973
1984

Clean and Green Program

Encouraged land conservation by offering tax assessments based on a property's use value rather than its market value.

1974

Milk Security Fund

Created to protect dairy farmers from financial losses due to unpaid milk deliveries by milk dealers.

1980

Ag Security Areas (ASA)

Created to strengthen and safeguard agriculture in PA. Landowners could petition their local government to designate their land as part of an ASA. It provided added protection from eminent domain.

1981

Right to Farm Act

Designed to conserve, protect and encourage the development of agricultural land for food and commodity production. The Act helped to protect agricultural operations from nuisance lawsuits and restrictive local ordinances.

1982

PA Farmland Preservation Act

Established a statewide program (fund) to protect prime farmland from development by purchasing agricultural conservation easements.

1988

Animal Health and Diagnostic Act

Established to enhance the diagnosis and investigation of diseases in farm animals. It created a dedicated funding source and panel of ag experts to develop methods for managing disease outbreaks effectively.

1988

PA Nutrient Management Act

Enacted to address agricultural nutrient pollution that was impairing water quality in PA and downstream areas like the Chesapeake Bay. Farmers could voluntarily file a Nutrient Management Plan.

1993

Federal Estate Tax Exemptions for PA Farms

An estate could be passed on to heirs without incurring federal estate tax if estate was under a certain (high) threshold.

2001

ACRE

Protected farmers from local ordinances that unlawfully restricted normal agricultural operations. Ensured that local laws do not exceed, duplicate or conflict with state agricultural regulations.

2005

Limited Liability Protection for Equine and Agri-Tourism Enterprises

Provided limited liability protection to Equine and Agri-tourism Enterprises.

2006
2012

PA Inheritance Tax Exemption

Eliminated PA inheritance tax on agricultural property transferred to close family members if specific conditions were met.

2012

Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program

Initiative to help farmers reduce water pollution through conservation practices. Supports farmers and agricultural landowners in implementing best management practices to improve water quality and soil health.

2022

Wildlife Crop Damage Package

Legalized Sunday hunting while simultaneously protecting agricultural interests by requiring farmer representation on the Game Commission Board, strengthening trespassing penalties, and streamlining the process for farmers to manage crop damage caused by wildlife.

2025

Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act

Restored whole and 2% milk (regular and flavored) as available options for school meal programs.

2026

For 75 years, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has been advocating to protect and promote agriculture in Pennsylvania. By joining PFB, you will gain a powerful voice in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. that stands up for farmers every single day.

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Health Services

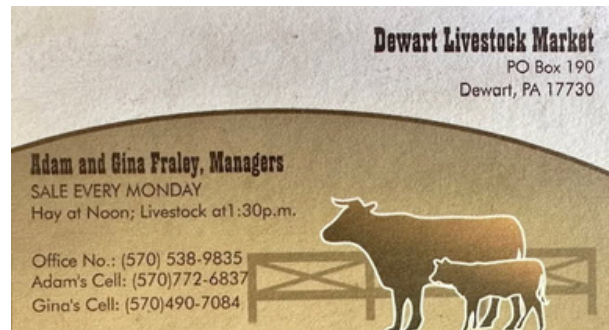
Choosing your Medicare plan can be overwhelming. It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

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**.



Thanks to our 2025 Northumberland County Farm Bureau Scholarship Sponsor!

Please view the scholarship application if you are interested in receiving the award

Women's Leadership Events

Check out the website and don't miss out on upcoming events!!!

<https://pfb.com/members-only-information/be-involved/womens-leadership-committee/>



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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2026 Northumberland County Farm Bureau Scholarship Award

The Northumberland County Farm Bureau is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to any Northumberland County Farm Bureau family member that is in good standing. The scholarship is open to any family member who is attending college or a program of higher learning, preferably with an interest in agriculture. Applicants may only receive the award one time. In order to apply for the scholarship, one must complete the following application:

Name_____

Farm Name_____

Address_____

_____zip_____

NCFB member_____

PFB ID number_____

School/Facility attending_____

Major/Trade pursuing_____

Anticipating year of graduation_____

Attach on a separate paper a 500-word essay answering the following question:

How has agriculture influenced your life and how do you see your role in agriculture in the future?

Applications are due August 9, 2026

Send applications to Sam Ferster at samferster@icloud.com



Member Benefits



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit www.pfb.com/services or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million in annual savings**.

To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

Member Benefits are subject to change without notice. Membership Dues Are Non-Refundable.

Home and Auto



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to download certificate.
Must be a member for 30+ days;
rebate not always stackable;
some exclusions may apply.

\$500.00 off exclusive
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National Fleet Discount



Must show membership card.
Exceptions may apply.



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Online purchases



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www.affinitycellular.com/pafb

Farm and Business



www.grainger.com/farmbureau



www.lancasterfarming.com
Renewals 10% off



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Membership number required
10% off



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www.pfb.com/shipley-energy
Membership number required

Legal



717.761.2740
www.pfb.com/lsp

PFB's Legal Services Plan offers complimentary informational consultations from local law firms.

Financial and Insurance



www.farmbureaubank.com



Nationwide® offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including farm*, auto*, home*, pet*, travel*, powersports, commercial and life insurance.
*Select discounts may apply.

To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit Nationwide.com/pfb.

Additional Benefits

Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!

For a complete list of discounts offered by +375 locally-owned businesses in nearly 50 counties visit pfb.com/localdiscounts.
Local discounts not offered in all counties.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Deals Plus



pfb.enjoymydeals.com

Travel



800.258.2847



877.670.7088



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www.avis.com/pafb



800.527.0700
www.budget.com/pafb

Health and Wellness



717-686-9323
www.rbinsurance.com



www.scriptsave.com



800.522.2375
www.pfb.com/healthservices

Publication

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 portion of annual member dues covers subscriptions to *Positively Pennsylvania*. Members receive 5 issues of *Positively Pennsylvania* per year. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717-761-2740
www.pfb.com

Northumberland County Farm Bureau, 903 Boyer Hill Road
Sunbury, PA 17801

Bulk Rate
US Postage
Paid
Permit No.
12345

Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, PA 98765-432