



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

February Edition 2019

The newsletter is always available online at www.pfb.com/berks

Thanks to those of you who have opted to receive your newsletter electronically. So far, 2% of our members have agreed to stop their paper/snail-mail newsletters. We encourage you to help us move into the 21st century by letting us know that you want electronic only, or that you'd still prefer the paper version.

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BerksCoFBnews@aol.com to let us know your preference: paper vs. email/online.

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CID/Newsletter Editor

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Regional Organization Director

Ethan Howard..... 610 533 2558

State Director District 3

Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508



Spring Banquet

Friday, March 29, 2019; 6:45 p.m.

Berks County Ag Center

1238 County Welfare Road
Leesport, PA 19533



Adults \$11 – Children 10 and under free

Performing at our Banquet will be: **Brunner Bluegrass!**

This is bluegrass music along with some gospel music.

www.brunnerbluegrass.com



Mail your payment which will reserve your spot to:

Robin Lincoln 315 S Baumstown Rd Birdsboro PA 19508: by March 15

Kathryn's Katering Menu: Tossed Salad, Fruit Cup, Baked Chicken, BBQ Ribs, Potato Filling, Corn, and Mixed Vegetables, also an Ice Cream Sundae Bar.

We will also be accepting nonperishable donations for Harvest For All.

Also pick up your free tickets to July 1st, RPhils game at our Spring Banquet!



A Night at the Reading Phillies: BCFB at the Fightin' Phils!

Monday, July 1, 2019

Gates open at 5; Game at 7:10

Come early and see us
and the Dairy Princesses near the entrance gate!
FREE tickets up to 6 per BCFB member.

Send a stamped, self addressed envelope to:
Robert Tercha 25 Mertz Road, Mertztown PA 19539

Questions?

Contact Robert Tercha 610-451-2460 deadline June 15, 2019

Legislative Breakfast at Wegman's Restaurant Monday, March 11, 2019

7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Visit with Legislators and their aides!
4401 Pottsville Pike (Route 61), Reading PA 19605

Hear what's happening and ask your questions.
Call Larry Kehl & let him know you'll attend 484-256-5322.
Make reservations by March 6.

*(This is a free event however we do need a head count
to provide enough food for everyone.)*

PFB's Efforts Recognized at AFBF Convention

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members had good reason to be proud as they joined farmers from across the country in New Orleans for the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention.

PFB won Awards of Excellence in all four program activity areas, including Advocacy; Engagement and Outreach; Leadership and Business Development; and Membership Value.

"The awards highlight the hard work and dedication of our grassroots farmer volunteers and organization staff, who work in unison to achieve successful outcomes and address timely issues affecting Pennsylvania's agriculture industry and its farm families," PFB President Rick Ebert said.

In addition, PFB received the Apex Award from the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, which recognizes state Farm Bureaus that have increased their total donations to the foundation by 10 percent or more from the previous year. The foundation also presented PFB with the State Leader Award, the Challenge Award and the \$850 for 85 Challenge Award, which celebrated support of the foundation from PFB's State Board of Directors, Women's Leadership Committee, Young Farmer & Rancher Committee and Agriculture Promotion Committee.

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The Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award was presented to George Moyer!

George Moyer says he's made it his mission in life to leave the world a little better than he found it.

It's that philosophy that has fueled the Berks County farmer's tireless advocacy for the agricultural community. Throughout his more than 60 years in farming-and even now in retirement-Moyer has dedicated his time and energy to bettering Pennsylvania agriculture through Farm Bureau and numerous other agricultural organizations.

For those efforts, Moyer was named the recipient of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 2018 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

Moyer was recognized with the award during PFB's 68th Annual Meeting in Hershey. The award is presented to an individual whose dedicated work and service has significantly contributed to the advancement of Pennsylvania agriculture.

"I've known George a long time and had the honor of serving with him on our board of directors," PFB President Rick Ebert said. "George provided great insights and was a fantastic leader on the state board, where he tirelessly worked on behalf of farmers from his region and across the state. George truly embraced the volunteerism aspect of Farm Bureau."

In selecting Moyer, 85, as the award recipient, the judges cited his more than six decades of commitment to the agriculture industry and Farm Bureau. Over that time,

Moyer earned the reputation of being a farmer who communicated directly with politicians and community leaders to address and resolve problems.

Moyer was named a Mid-Atlantic Master Farmer in 1989 and held numerous positions during his career, which included serving on the Governor's Ag Research Funding Board, as a member of PFB's State Board of Directors, as Vice President of Berks County Farm Bureau and as a member of the Berks County Cooperative Extension Board for 18 years, holding a variety of roles, including board president.

Moyer is also credited with playing a major role in developing former U.S. Rep. Tim Holden into a major advocate for agriculture in Washington D.C., where he was a key member on the House Agriculture Committee. And as a membership volunteer, he's worked

tirelessly to get more farmers involved in Farm Bureau and grow the organization.

"Farm Bureau members encouraged me to participate in legislative conferences in Washington D.C. and Harrisburg, because they said I did a good job explaining to lawmakers how farmers felt about certain agricultural issues and how lawmakers could help farmers resolve problems, such as dealing with outdated regulations involving farm vehicles and equipment," Moyer said. "My family and I have always focused on running a good, honest business; and I've always strived to improve farms I've purchased over the years, whether it was repairing buildings, improving the fields through tillage work or contour strips or using no-till practices and cover crops."



George Moyer receiving award from PFB President Rick Ebert



Kathy Barry *
Robesonia, PA
610-693-5000

Michael Davidheiser
Boyertown, PA
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 8	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:00 p.m.
March 11	Legislative Breakfast	Wegman's Restaurant	7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
March 29	Spring Banquet Featuring Brunner Bluegrass	Ag Center	6:45 p.m.
April 12	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
May 10	BCFB Board Meeting	Meeting Location to be Determined	
June 14	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
July 1	BCFB at Fightin Phils	Gates open at 5:00 p.m.; Game at 7:10 p.m.	

Shutdown Delays Agriculture Programs

Implementation of the 2018 Farm Bill and a wide range of programs that farmers rely on to manage their businesses were delayed for most of January as a result of a 35-day partial shutdown of the federal government.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reopened Farm Service Agency offices in late January, shortly before Congress and President Donald Trump reached a short-term deal to reopen the government for three weeks as they continued to work through disagreements over funding for border security. With FSA offices back open, farmers are again able to apply for USDA programs, including agricultural loans, risk management and conservation programs and the Market Facilitation Program created to offset some of the losses farmers have suffered as a result of trade disputes.

The short-term deal gives Trump, a Republican, and congressional Democrats until Feb. 15 to settle their stalemate over funding for border security before the shutdown would potentially resume. Trump has pushed for a U.S.-Mexico border wall, while Democrats favor other border security measures.

"We are encouraged that the federal government will be reopened for three weeks while Congress and the administration work on a permanent budget solution," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said. "Farmers have crops to plant, animals to raise and food to sell. We need the Agriculture Department and the rest of the federal government up and running to do the job the American people need us to do."

In addition to shuttering FSA offices, the shutdown put new programs and changes brought about by the 2018

Farm Bill on hold. It also delayed government reports that farmers rely on for the market information they need to make decisions on a day-to-day basis.

Delegates Set National Farm Bureau Policy

Delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation's 100th Annual Convention adopted policies to guide the organization's work during its centennial year on key topics such as farm bill implementation, cell-cultured food products, trade, rural broadband access and rural mental health programs.

Pennsylvania delegates were among those from Farm Bureaus in all 50 states and Puerto Rico who voted on policy resolutions that originated at the county level.

"As our organization has done for the last 100 years, grassroots delegates from across the nation came together to express a unified voice on issues vital to the success of our farms, ranches and rural communities," American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said.

On the government shutdown, delegates urged the administration and Congress to work together to end the government shutdown as soon as possible. Delegates also voted to favor negotiations to resolve trade disputes, rather than the use of tariffs or withdrawal from agreements and to support the United States' entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership. On cell-based foods, delegates adopted a policies related to labeling, regulation, innovation and ensuring a level playing field for traditional protein. Delegates also voted to supported improved broadband coverage maps and increased funding for programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse and mental health issues.