



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

January Edition 🍀 2020

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.

Please e-mail robinl@ptd.net to let us know your preference: paper vs. email/online.

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State Director District 3

Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508

HAPPY NEW YEAR

to everyone from the Berks County Farm Bureau
Let's make it a great year!

Spring Banquet
Friday, March 20, 2020
Check in time is 6:45 p.m.

Price and food is still being worked on, however you WILL be able to pick up your FREE Reading Phillies tickets (*that date yet to be determined*)

This amazing event held at the
Berks County Ag Center: 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport PA 19533



2020 Safety Poster Contest

2020 Safety poster Contest has begun. The theme is "Be Safe, Don't Pass." Please check the PFB website www.pfb.com/safety-contests for forms; they will also be available at the banquet. Entries must be submitted to Berks County by the end of April.



Meet Our New Board Member

We are happy to welcome a new member to our board, Mr. Mark Wicks:

Greetings farm bureau members! My name is Mark Wicks and I am honored to be the newest member of the board of the Berks County Farm Bureau. I grew up on a dairy farm outside of Strausstown and graduated from Delaware Valley University with a degree in Dairy Science. I currently live in the same area with my wife, Joan whom I met at Del Val. We have a daughter and son who are both U. S. Air Force officers.

We own a small farm and breed a small herd of Wagyu beef cattle. Shortly after I graduated, I worked on the family farm and also as a part time artificial insemination (AI) technician. I eventually had the opportunity to take over one of these businesses and now operate under the name of Wicks A. I., INC. doing business in much of eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. I am also an active pilot and flight instructor.

One of the issues that I have great interest in is eliminating the school property tax. I plan to move that forward any way that I can. I'm looking forward to meeting many new Farm Bureau members over the next few years. Please let us know what issues are important to you.

2019 Policies As approved at the Fall Banquet Berks County 10/04/19

State

1. We support PFB developing a group health insurance program for its membership.
2. We support the PA Dept of Revenue developing a means of providing Farmers with a tax exemption number as many vendors are not satisfied unless one is provided.
3. We oppose the PA Game Commission's decision to withdraw land from active farming.
4. We recommend that PA Farm Bureau list legislator's phone numbers and names in the Country Focus with their voting records on the issue of elimination of school property tax.
5. We recommend that PA Farm Bureau lobbies the FSA to put ARC-PLC on the 578.

See the rest of the policies and more on page 4.

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A 1/3 portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Farmer members receive 11 issues of the *Country Focus* newspaper and "Friend of Farm Bureau" members receive 4 issues of the quarterly *Positively Pennsylvania* magazine. Applicants selecting "farmer", "part-time farmer" or "agribusiness" on the membership application are classified as "farmer" members. Should no box be checked and a farm name not be listed, member will be classified as "friend of farmer". Please contact your county Farm Bureau with questions regarding membership classification.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
February 14	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
March 13	BCFB Board Training	Ag Center	7:00 p.m.
March 20	Spring Banquet	Ag Center	6:45 p.m.
April 3	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
October 2	Fall Banquet	Ag Center	6:45 p.m.



Interested in receiving the online version of our Newsletter?

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!

Please e-mail robinl@ptd.net to let us know!

2019 Policies As approved at the Fall Banquet Berks County 10/04/19 *Continued*

Federal

1. We recommend deletion of AFBF item #204 policy #1 (relating to hemp legislation that has been achieved).
2. We recommend deletion of AFBF item #204 policy #2 (relating to hemp legislation that has been achieved).
3. We support AFBF monitoring the development and marketing of lab grown protein, also known as clean meat, so as to provide FB members with accurate and timely information.

Federal and PA

1. We support the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp and we recommend AG Funding for Research & Development of the processing and marketing of industrial hemp.
2. We oppose diversion of any Ag funding to clean meat research and development.



The Annual Convention was held in November at Hershey Lodge. Many topics were discussed along with various speakers.

Maybe you would like to attend next November? Speak with any board member for more information! *(It's free to attend.)*



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