



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

March 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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Regional Organization Director

Ethan Howard..... 610 533 2558

State Director District 3

Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508

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

Kathryn's Katering: Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad, BBQ Ribs, Baked Chicken, Potato Filling, Buttered Corn, Green Beans, Dinner Rolls.

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

\$12 a person, kids 10 and under free

Mail check to: Robin Lincoln 315 South Baumstown Rd, Birdsboro PA 19508
Deadline: 3/9 (This will reserve your spot, no tickets will be distributed.)



The entertainment for the evening will be:
Marian and Friends Ventriloquist
Everyone loves and laughs along with the humorous stories and songs that the variety of characters perform. From soft-sculpture puppets to a life-sized ostrich, audiences are captivated by the show.

You WILL be able to pick up your FREE Reading Phillies tickets for June 29 at the Banquet.

Free Ticket Alert!!

BCFB Night at the Reading Phillies will be held on Monday, June 29!
Won't you join us for a night of Baseball Fun? Gates open at 5:15 Game at 7:10

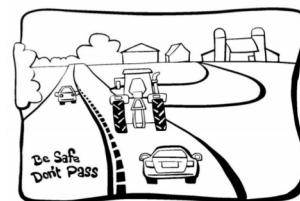
Free tickets up to 6 per BCFB member Pick up tickets at Spring Banquet or Send a stamped self addressed envelope to: Robert Tercha 25 Mertz Rd, Mertztown Pa 19539
Questions? Contact Robert Tercha 610-451-2460 Deadline 6/15

Legislative Breakfast at Wegman's Restaurant with Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding Friday, March 27, 2020 7:30am-10am

Visit with Legislators and their aides! Wegman's Restaurant is located at 4401 Pottsville Pike (RT 61) Reading PA 19605. Call or text Larry Kehl to let him know you'll attend by March 20 at 484-256-5322.

2020 Safety Poster Contest

2020 Safety poster Contest has begun. The theme is "Be Safe, Don't Pass". Please check the PFB website <http://bit.ly/38vTNE5> for coloring pages; they will also be available at the banquet. Entries must be submitted to Berks County by the end of April.





Clinics that are closer than the next county.

Accessible, quality healthcare is a top priority for every community, and you can do your part by responding to the 2020 Census.

Over \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities based on census data. This includes money for health care assistance and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

2020CENSUS.GOV

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Census 2020



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We help protect your farm, family, finances and future. As a Farm Bureau member, you may be eligible for a discount on your farm insurance from the #1 farm insurer.¹

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¹SNL Financial, 2017 (National) Market Share Report. Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review, and approval. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle and Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau and the letters FB are registered service marks of American Farm Bureau and used under license by Nationwide. © 2019 Nationwide AFC-0315A0.2 (05/19) 11091933

Census data impacts funding for things like:

- > Medical Assistance Program
- > Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- > State Children's Health Insurance Program
- > Child Welfare Services State Grants
- > Family violence prevention services
- > State Public Water System Supervision

For more information, visit:
2020CENSUS.GOV

Shape your future
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United States
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Contact Eric Rosenbaum
484-788-7263

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USMCA Signed Into Law

The U.S-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a new trade pact supported by Farm Bureau that replaces the North American Free Trade Agreement and expand market opportunities for American farmers, is now law.

President Donald Trump signed the landmark trade agreement last month, following its bipartisan passage by Congress.

The Senate voted 89-10 in January to ratify the trade deal. Pennsylvania’s delegation was split with Sen. Bob Casey, Jr. voting in favor of the agreement and Sen. Pat Toomey voting no. The House approved the measure 385 to 41 in December with all Pennsylvania members voting in favor.

“This trade agreement comes at a critical time for farmers and ranchers, increasing optimism that we’ll turn the corner in 2020,” American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said. “USMCA is an important step toward restoring the competitiveness of America’s farmers and ranchers, strengthening our trade relationships in North America and setting an example for agreements with other important trading partners.”

USMCA was negotiated and signed in late 2018 by Trump, then-Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mexico’s legislature has already ratified the deal. The ratification process has just started in Canada.

The deal has been a key priority for Farm Bureau, especially as farmers have suffered financial losses as a result of trade disputes and market uncertainty. The agreement is expected to increase U.S. agriculture exports by \$2 billion and result in a \$65 billion increase in gross domestic product. It provides new market access for U.S. dairy and poultry, while maintaining the zero-tariff

platform on all other agriculture products. The deal also gives U.S. dairy products tariff-free status and greater access to Canada’s protected market, which is expected to net dairy producers an additional \$242 million.

“Nearly 60 percent of all agriculture exports from Pennsylvania, which total more than \$1.43 billion per year, were sold to Canada and Mexico under NAFTA,” PFB President Rick Ebert said. “And those figures are expected to increase under the USMCA.”

Farm Bureau Members Set National Policy

Delegates to the American Farm Bureau Federation’s 101st Annual Convention adopted policies to guide the organization’s work in coming year on key topics such as dairy programs, farm labor, hemp regulations, conservation compliance and climate change.

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.

Also at the convention, AFBF President Zippy Duvall and Vice President Scott VanderWal were re-elected to two-year terms, three new members were elected to the AFBF Board of Directors and 13 board members, including PFB President Rick Ebert, were re-elected to two-year terms on the board.

Some policy highlights from the delegate session include: Dairy programs: Delegates voted to support creation of a flexible, farmer- and industry-led milk management system. This includes giving individual dairy farmers a voice by allowing them to vote independently and confidentially on rules governing milk prices.



Farm Bureau Tire Service

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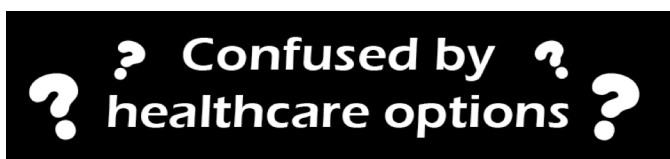


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www.pfb.com/healthservices

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
March 20	Spring Banquet	Ag Center	6:45 p.m.
March 27	Legislative Breakfast	Wegman's Restaurant	7:30 a.m.
April 3	BCFB Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
June 29	BCFB at the Fightin' Phils		7:10 p.m.
October 2	Fall Banquet	Ag Center	6:45 p.m.
October 8	Measure the Candidate	Ag Center	7:30 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!



Check out Berks County Farm Bureau website:

www.pfb.com/berks

See more information in the
online version of the newsletter!!