



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

August 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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Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508

Upcoming Events: Policy Development Meetings!

L Grumbine: August 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

D Wagner's: August 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

D Zimmerman: September 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

We understand if you can not or do not wish to attend the meetings; if you have any policies you would like included please email or leave a voice message for Robin Lincoln at 484-925-4132. She will be sure to submit them.

All policies will be included in our next newsletter for all regular members to vote on and return.

Events Canceled

BCFB Night at the Reading Phillies of course was canceled and those tickets are NOT valid; however we will be having the event next year! A new date and tickets will be issued next year.

Fall Banquet scheduled for October has been canceled.
Measure The Candidate Night for October has been canceled.
The Membership Kickoff meeting has also been canceled.

2020 Safety Poster Contest

I am happy to announce we have a winner for the 2020 Safety poster Contest: Phoebe Stutzman!! Congratulations Phoebe! Great Job! You will be receiving your prize in the mail shortly.



Purple Paint Law

The "purple paint law" proposed by Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) allows landowners to use purple paint to alert potential trespassers of property boundary lines. The purple paint would serve the same purpose as a "No Trespassing" sign by indicating that a person does not have permission to enter the property.

The purple stripes must be vertical lines at least 8 inches long and 1 inch wide. They must be 3 to 5 feet off the ground, readily visible to a person approaching the property and no more than 100 feet apart. The law applies everywhere, except in Philadelphia and Allegheny County.

Reference: <https://bit.ly/33jFG40>

EPA Allows Limited-Time Use of Existing Dicamba Stocks

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will allow farmers to use their existing stocks of three dicamba herbicides through July following a federal court ruling last month that vacated the products’ registrations.

EPA’s order bans further sale or distribution of the three affected products— XtendiMax, Engenia, and FeXapan, except to ensure proper disposal. But the agency is allowing growers and applicators to use existing stock in their possession and purchased before June 3 (the date of the court ruling) until July 31, after which application will be prohibited.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall wrote a letter to the EPA following the court’s ruling, asking for guidance for farmers.

“Farmers across the country invested in dicamba-resistant seeds based on the EPA’s previous approval,” Duvall wrote. “Millions of acres of crops have already been planted and there’s no turning back. The clarity provided by the EPA provides certainty for farmers who were left wondering how they would protect their crops and stock America’s pantries.”

At a recent on-farm event in Lancaster County, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler said the agency will abide by the court ruling, “but we will do so in an orderly manner.”

Several organizations involved in the push to vacate the dicamba registration took emergency legal action asking the court to force EPA to require growers to halt dicamba use immediately. However, the court denied that request, leaving in place EPA’s order allowing growers to use existing stocks until July 31.

Farm Bureau, along with other agricultural groups, filed a legal brief asking the court to keep EPA’s order in effect. Farm Bureau and other groups warned that granting the request to force EPA to immediately ban dicamba would “put America’s soybean and cotton growers at risk for financial devastation.”

“Growers have planted millions of acres of crops that depend on the use of dicamba products this growing season,” the agriculture groups wrote. “Because no viable alternatives exist that can be deployed immediately, banning growers’ use of existing stocks of dicamba products could have disastrous



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Contact Eric Rosenbaum
484-788-7263

New COVID-19 Relief for Dairy Announced

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has released details of a new state program that will provide payments to dairy producers who have faced financial losses due to having to dump milk or pay additional marketing costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with adopting a temporary state budget in May, the General Assembly set aside \$20 million in federal stimulus funding to be used for relief for dairy farmers. Of that total, \$5 million will be used to reimburse dairy farmers who participate in the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System by donating excess dairy products to the charitable food system. The remaining \$15 million is set aside for direct payments to eligible producers.

Producers are eligible to apply for the payments if they suffered losses due to having to discard milk themselves and/or if they were assessed a fee by their cooperative to share in the cost of milk dumped by other cooperative members. Each eligible farm will receive a minimum payment of \$1,500. Once each eligible farm receives the minimum payment, farms that suffered losses or were assessed fees greater than \$1,500 will receive an additional pro-rata share of the remaining funds, not to exceed the actual amount of the loss.

Producers can fill out and print an application online that must be mailed in to PDA by Sept. 30. Instructions, including the mailing address, are on the form. The application form is available at <https://bit.ly/2zJb2FI>.

Farm Bureau Outlines Priorities for Agriculture Relief

In a recent letter to leaders in Congress, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall outlined the priorities farmers hope to see included in legislation providing relief from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The communication came as Congress considers follow-up legislation to the CARES Act, which provided wide-ranging relief related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for agriculture. Duvall noted that there are still some concerns for agriculture that were not addressed in the CARES Act and that farmers continue to suffer financially due to the pandemic.

“The economic losses across the U.S. agriculture sector are broad-based, directly impacting farmers and ranchers and their supply chain partners – from input providers to end users,” Duvall wrote. “Producers have witnessed their markets shrink overnight or even disappear, while supply chains have been stretched to the limit in response to the pandemic. The widespread closures at the retail level are impacting consumer demand and purchasing patterns in ways that the industry has never experienced.”

Among the priorities highlighted were:

- Supporting producers by extending relief funding for losses incurred after April 15, replenishing the Commodity Credit Corporation funding to \$68 billion, providing additional resources to state Departments of Agriculture and supporting biofuel production facilities.
- Supporting livestock farmers by providing aid to

independent and contract poultry producers, opening Conservation Reserve Program acres for emergency haying and grazing, and waiving overtime fees for FSIS meat inspectors in small and medium-sized packing plants.

- Supporting rural communities by increasing funding for community health care centers and taking steps to expand broadband access.
- Expanding eligibility and increasing funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and making the program more workable for agriculture.
- Providing housing funding to accommodate social distancing guidelines for H-2A workers and funding to help offset the cost of protective equipment and sanitizing supplies.



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
September 11	Board Meeting	TBD	7:30 p.m.
October 9	Board Meting	TBD	7:30 p.m.



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So far, 2% of our members have agreed to stop their paper/snail-mail newsletters.

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

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