



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Elizabeth Peifer, Editor

Fall Edition 2015

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

Thank you for your patience while we try to implement e-mail delivery of the newsletter. We have had to change delivery systems several times.

Please e-mail BerksCoFBnews@aol.com if you would like to stop receiving your paper newsletter in favor of the online version.

Berks County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

President

Larry Gelsinger _____ 610-678-0912

Vice President

1st Paul Hartman _____ 610-689-0870

Secretary/Treasurer

Robin Lincoln _____ 484-925-4132

Directors

Steve Burkholder _____ 610-682-2871

Dorothy Wagner _____ 610-689-5496

Joe Rosenbaum _____ 610-323-4448

Dennis Essig _____ 610-488-7126

Bobby Tercha _____ 610-682-4526

Charles Seidel _____ 610-562-4137

Brennan Johns _____ 484-955-1997

Harry Shaak _____ 610-562-7298

George Moyer _____ 717-933-8748

Governmental Relations Director

Craig Lutz _____ 610-678-0609

Women's Leadership Committee Director

Elizabeth Peifer _____ 610-689-4934

Young Farmer & Rancher

Rachael Kirkhoff _____ 610-750-1531

County Information

Director/Newsletter Editor

Elizabeth Peifer _____ 610-689-4934

State Director District 3

Joe Fecondo _____ 484-239-2772

BCFB Fall Banquet and Annual Meeting

Friday, September 25, 2015

6:45 Registration, 7:00 Dinner

Adults \$10 - Children 10 and under FREE

Ontelaunee Grange • 284 White Oak Lane • Leesport, PA 19533
Salad, ham, potato filling, corn, string beans, ice cream and berries

Make reservations by September 15th:

Robin Lincoln • 315 S. Baumstown Road • Birdsboro, PA 19505 • Phone: 484-925-4132

Great Food, Election of Directors, Voting for Polices for 2016 and door prizes!

Don't miss your chance to propose and vote on policies to be promoted by Farm Bureau in the year ahead. All Regular Members can present and vote on policies. Management doesn't choose what's important, WE DO!

See our website www.pfb.com/berks for a listing of policies proposed as of our September 11 Board Meeting.

We are collecting non-perishable food products for BCFB to donate to the Berks County Food Bank. These donations support the FB Young Farmers and Ranchers Harvest for All.

Legislative Farm Tour

Thursday, September 3, 2015 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Blue Mt. Restaurant • 24 Roadside Drive • Shartlesville, PA 19554

Invited guests: PA Secretary of Ag, Russell Redding, Senator David Argall, Representative Barry Jozwiak and Congressman Charlie Dent.

There will be discussion over breakfast followed by tours of a Dairy Farm, Duck Processing Plant, Tree Farm and Winery. Both Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

To reserve your space contact Dennis Essig 610-488-7126 or Craig Lutz 610-678-0609.

Measure the Candidate

Thursday, October 8, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Berks Co Ag Center • 1261 Welfare Road • Leesport, PA 19533

Bring your friends and family. Become informed voters. See and hear the people you are voting for. Get your own questions answered. Refreshments will be served following the program.

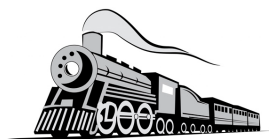
Voting is a right, a privilege and a responsibility. Election Day is November 3, 2015.

Reminder: Autumn Leaf

Train Excursion

Port Clinton to Jim Thorpe and back

Saturday, October 3, 2015 • 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Reservations: \$39.00

Robin Lincoln • 315 S. Baumstown Road • Birdsboro, PA 19508 • 484-925-4132

Information: Dennis Essig 610-488-7126

Space is limited. So, get your reservations in today.

Ralph Sanner Will Be Missed

In May, Farm Bureau lost a long time advocate in Ralph Sanner, age 84. Ralph served as a BCFB board member. He was active in policy development and will be sorely missed for his efforts in membership. Ralph was tireless in recruiting new members and encouraging lapsed members to renew. Our thanks goes out to his family for sharing this great man with BCFB and agriculture in general.



SAFEMARK DEALERS

Kantner Tire
230 S. Franklin Street
Shoemakersville, PA
610-562-2567

Pikeville Equipment
521 Oysterdale Road
Oley, PA
610-987-6277

Zimmerman Farm Service
180 School House Road
Bethel, PA
717-933-4114



Protecting Everyone

- Individual & Family
- Group Business
- Senior, Medicare
- Dental & Vision

Call PFB Health Services

1-800-522-2375

www.pfb.com/healthinsurance

MSC BUSINESS SERVICES

PFB Members' Service Corporation

*Continuing to Add New Services & Partnerships
Creating the Best Total Program of Its Kind*

Services

- Farm Management Service
- PFA FACCTS®
- Write-up Services
- Benchmarking
- Payroll Services
- RFD Tax
- Consulting Services
- REAP Credit Resale
- Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor

Call 717.731.3517

Email: FMS@pfb.com

www.msCBS.net

MSC Business Services Account Supervisors

Carl Ganster - 610-678-1816
Vance Getz - 717-945-6645

David Mory - 610-419-0250
Jason Seibert - 717-274-0217



Nationwide®
On Your Side

Berks County Nationwide Agents

Kathy Barry *
Robesonia, PA
610-693-5000

Richard McFeely
Reading, PA
610-777-2224

Daniel Williams
Kutztown, PA
610-683-6823

Michael Davidheiser
Boyertown, PA
610-367-6095

Hugh McGinley
Birdsboro, PA
610-582-2862

David Wilson
Birdsboro, PA
610-582-9233

Brian Hunsinger
Douglassville, PA
610-582-5204

James McIntyre
Morgantown, PA
610-286-6170

William Young
Reading, PA
610-779-8064

David Koeffler
Reading, PA
610-929-9951

Christine Ramsey
Shillington, PA
610-777-3258

** Farm Certified*

Timothy Long
Mertzown, PA
610-682-6304

Jeffrey Spotts *
Wyomissing, PA
610-374-2911



Firestone Farm Tires

to Work for You!



Call for your nearest Safemark Dealer

717.944.1466 or 800.732.8473

Visit us on the web at www.pafbsafemark.net/



We are Proud to Offer These Fine Services for Members!

Individual counties may offer additional benefits. Information included in your county newsletter.

For more information visit www.pfb.com/services

Start enjoying these great services available to Farm Bureau members. For more information on each service, visit www.pfb.com/services or contact Member Relations at 717.761.2740. Usage codes can be found in each issue of your membership publication or online at the Members Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.

Apparel

fbapparel Personalized with your logo! Mugs, pens, hats too! <http://shop.fbproud.org/>

Banking

M&T Bank \$250 loan application fee waived on agriculture loans www.mtb.com

PNC Call MSC Business Services for specials. 717.731.3517

Susquehanna Bank \$75 discount on application fee for agriculture loans www.susquehanna.net

FARM BUREAU BANK www.farmbureaubank.com

Business Services

MSC BUSINESS SERVICES

- Payroll preparation
 - Record-keeping & tax planning/ preparation
 - Accounting software & computer leasing
 - Business analysis, consulting & benchmarking
- All services provided by experienced professionals.
717.731.3517 www.mscbusiness.net/

Computers

DELL Minimum 7% discount on selected products & promotions. www.dell.com Code: **KS107384879**

Health Insurance

PFB HEALTH SERVICES
Quality healthcare, vision & dental insurance coverage for you, your family or business. We have solutions to meet all your needs.
800.522.2375 www.pfb.com/healthservices

Hearing Aids

ClearValue Up to 60% off MSRP on all Starkey Hearing Instruments www.clearvaluehearing.com
Code: **FBUS110** 888.497.7447

Hotels

Reservations worldwide!
10-30% OFF
Advance reservations required.

CHOICE HOTELS
800.258.2847 Code: **00209780**

WYNDHAM HOTELS AND RESORTS
877.670.7088 Code: **8000002941**

Insurance

- Up to 10% - Auto Insurance
- Up to 10% - Farm Insurance
- Up to 5% - Motorcycle, ATV, Snowmobile, RV and Boat Insurance
- 5% - Long-Term Care Insurance
- 5% - Veterinary Pet Insurance



Visit www.nationwide.com/PFB for more valuable Nationwide benefits for PFB members. 800.932.0630

Legal

PFB LEGAL SERVICE PLAN
Mette, Evans & Woodside - providing legal guidance to PFB members. 717.731.3517

Leisure

Save up to 40% on the cost of pre-ordered movie passes.* **REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP**
Call PFB at 717.761.2740 to order.

Prescriptions

SCRIPTSAVE Savings on brand name & generic medications. Savings 22% - 50%. www.scriptsave.com Group **946**

Universal Rx Savings up to 50% at the pharmacy, online & with mail-order. <http://pfbpoc.com>

Security

ADT \$200 cash back on new security system installation. Call 800.699.9238
Code: **A20345**

LifeLock IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION 10% discount. 1-800-LIFELOCK
Code: **Farmbureau** www.lifelock.com

* May not be available in all areas

Supplies

AmeriGas 5 cent discount per gallon of propane. 800.427.4968

ENERGY PLUS 5% cash back and bill savings on your electricity*
Code: **PFB6133** 866.964.5672
www.EnergyPlusRewards.com/PFB6133

GRAINGER 10-50% discount on millions of products, supplies & repair parts. FREE shipping on internet purchases.
www.grainger.com Code: **855488417**

HORSELOVERZ.COM 10% off everything. Code: **PAFARMB2015**



Paint & supplies discounted 25% (some items up to 40% off) Must show membership card.

STAPLES Business Advantage Office Supplies, Industrial, Cleaners & Medical Supplies.
Co. ID: **1586181PHL** www.StaplesAdvantage.com

Travel

AVIS 800.331.1212 Code: **A298800** **Budget** 800.527.0700 Code: **Y775700**
Up to 20% off car rentals

CASE IH Member rebates of \$300 or \$500 on eligible tractors.
Call your local dealer.

GM \$500 member rebates on eligible vehicles. Must be a member for at least 30 days. Rebate is not always stackable.
Visit <http://www.fverify.com/GM>

Vehicles

jiffy lube 10% discount off products and services. Code: **11361045** National Fleet Discount

SAFEMARK Top quality chains, tires, twine and other vehicle/farm supplies.* 717.944.1466
www.pfb.com/safemark

POLARIS Discounts of \$300 on all full size utility, sport vehicles & GEM electric vehicles and \$200 on all full size ATVs. Must be a member for at least 30 days.
Visit <http://www.fverify.com/Polaris>



Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation

The Foundation's mission is the preservation and promotion of agriculture – the largest of the Commonwealth's industries. The Foundation seeks to:

- Enlighten the public about farming and agriculture
- Create educational programs for children in middle and elementary schools who may have no other exposure to agriculture
- Train teachers on agricultural concepts while helping them meet their own continuing education requirements
- Support agriculture and preservation of the farm
- Fund scholarships for postsecondary agricultural studies
- Promote career opportunities in agriculture

Your generous donations help us toward our goal of creating a common stewardship of the economy of agriculture.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st Street, P.O. Box 8736 | Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736 | 717.761.2740

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
September 11	Board Meeting	Dorothy Wagner, Oley	7:30 p.m.
September 25	BCFB Fall Banquet & Annual Meeting	Ontelaunee Grange	6:45 p.m. Registration 7:00 p.m. Dinner
October 2	Board Meeting	Ag Center, Leesport, PA	7:30 p.m.
October 3	Autumn Leaf Train Excursion	Port Clinton, PA	9:00 a.m.
October 8	Measure the Candidate	Ag Center, Leesport, PA	7:30 p.m.
November 13	Board Meeting	Ag Center, Leesport, PA	7:30 p.m.
November 16-18	PFB Annual Meeting	Hershey Convention Center	
December 11	Board Meeting	Ag Center, Leesport, PA	7:30 p.m.
January 8	Board Meeting	Ag Center, Leesport, PA	7:30 p.m.
January 8-13	AFBF Annual Convention	Orlando, FL	

BJ's Extends Special Membership Rate for All in 2015

BJ's Wholesale Club is extending a special offer for Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members who enroll throughout **2015**. You can save \$10 off the \$50 annual membership fee for Inner Circle Membership if you enroll by the deadline – plus get three bonus months free.

You can save even more if you join BJ's Rewards Membership. You can save \$20 off the \$90 annual Membership fee – in addition to getting three bonus months of membership free. Rewards members earn a 2% payback on BJ's purchases. Both offers expire **December 31, 2015**.

An enrollment application can be found in the Member's Only section of PFB's website at www.pfb.com or you can obtain one by calling PFB's Member Relations Division at 717.761.2740. Applications must be either be downloaded from the PFB web site, or sent to your home from the Member Relations divisions. This exclusive offer cannot be applied for at an individual store.



A BJ's Membership gives you exclusive access to a huge selection of top-quality brands and products at outstanding values, from groceries to electronics to pet and paper supplies to everything for baby and so much more. Plus, you'll enjoy valuable specialty services that can save your family time, money and hassle. You can enjoy even more savings with manufacturers' coupons BJ's is the only major wholesale club that accepts them all. BJ's Wholesale Club has over 180 locations in 15 states including Pennsylvania.

Perdue Supports "Ag on the Go"

The Arthur W. Perdue Foundation provided \$20,000 in support to help the new "Ag on the Go" program reach students in urban schools. The Ag on the Go program, operated by the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, kicks off in September in Philadelphia.

Throughout the year it will also visit schools in Harrisburg, York and Pittsburgh. The support of Perdue, along with the American Agriculturalist Foundation, Pennsylvania Beef Council and Pennsylvania Pork Producers, will allow the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation to provide science lessons to children in third to fifth grades.

"We created Ag on the Go in order to provide fun, hands-on, science-based experiments focusing on food nutrition, farming and the environment to inner city schools that typically are not served by our Mobile Agriculture Education Science Labs," said Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Rick Ebert, who serves as chairman of the Friends of Agriculture Foundation. "A huge benefit of the new program is that it can be especially helpful to school districts struggling with tight budgets."

PFB is thankful for the support from Perdue and other organizations. Learn more about Ag on the Go at: www.pfb.com/agonthego.

New Slate of FFA Officers Selected

The Pennsylvania FFA Association selected a new slate of State Officers for the 2015-2016 school year. The new officers are: State President—Lily Guthrie, Perry County; State Vice President—Tyler Watkins, Huntingdon County; State Secretary—Rachel Greig, Crawford County; State Treasurer—Elizabeth Winklosky, Westmoreland County; State Reporter—Katie Sharrer, Adams County; State Sentinel—Luke Kerstetter, Snyder County and State Chaplain—Jonathan Noss, Perry County. The new officers were chosen during the 86th PA FFA Convention held recently in State College. Officers give up a year of their post-high school career to travel the state promoting agriculture.

Spotted Lanternfly Monitoring Expands

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has expanded its monitoring program for the invasive Spotted Lanternfly into Montgomery and Lehigh counties after the pest was discovered last year in Berks County.

There is no evidence the lanternfly has spread beyond Berks County. So far, eradication efforts have killed nearly 100,000 bugs, which feast on a host of agriculture crops and have no natural predators in the United States. If left unchecked the bug, native to Asia, could seriously impact the state's grape, fruit tree and hardwood industries. Residents are encouraged to contact 1.866.253.7189 if they spot the lanternfly.

Pension Reform Bill Vetoed

Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed a pension reform plan adopted by the Pennsylvania General Assembly that would have moved new state and school district employees out of the state pension system.

Gov. Wolf said he vetoed Senate Bill 1 because it did not provide any immediate savings to the state and does not fairly address the lingering problems with the state pension system. Pennsylvania's two public pension systems—one for school districts and the other for state government employees—are underfunded by at least \$53 billion due to poor market performance and prior legislative action.

While the issue has been debated for several years, Senate Bill 1 was the first time that lawmakers had come to an agreement on the state's ailing pension system.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supported Senate Bill 1 and will continue to work with lawmakers on legislation that will address the issue. Farmers are concerned that additional property tax increases will be used to fund shortfalls in the pension systems.

PA Congressional Delegation Concerned Over Long-Eared Bat Designation

Members of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation recently sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service outlying concerns over the listing of Northern Long-eared Bats as threatened. There are concerns the designation could have lasting impacts on farming and logging activities throughout Pennsylvania, even though those activities are not impacting bat populations.



The Northern Long-eared Bat populations have declined significantly due to White Nose Syndrome, which is spread in areas where bats hibernate. However, the designation by the Fish and Wildlife Service will put restrictions on the application of pesticides and harvesting of timber during times when the bats are not hibernating. The state's Congressional delegation asked the Fish and Wildlife Service to carve out specific exemptions for farming and timber activities that are not causing a decline in bat populations as it looks for ways to reverse species loss.

U.S. Senate Committee Introduces Tax Bill

The Senate Finance Committee passed legislation that would help farmers better manage their cash flow and tax liabilities. The bill includes a provision to extend Section 179 small business expensing through 2016.

That provision allows farmers to deduct capital expenses over a few years, rather than the full life of the equipment. The bill would also extend bonus depreciation through 2016. Both provisions allow farmers to better manage their expenses and income.

“Section 179 and bonus depreciation lend stability and help minimize risk in an unpredictable industry,” AFBF President Bob Stallman said. “Farmers and ranchers rely on tax provisions that allow them to manage their cash flow and put their money back to work for their businesses and local economies.”

Farm Bureau is working with Congress to make these tax provisions permanent.

Sign up to receive your newsletters via email!

Contact us at BerksCFBnews@aol.com with your name and proper email.

USDA Expands Crop Insurance for Fruit Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering expanded crop insurance provisions for fruit growers. The Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) and Actual Production History Yield Exclusion (APH) can now cover fresh fruits in some counties, starting with the 2016 crop year. SCO will be available for apples, blueberries, grapes, peaches, potatoes and other crops. Currently SCO covers row crops in selected counties. SCO is a policy endorsement that can be used to supplement existing crop insurance, and covers a portion of losses not covered by other insurance.

Farmers who grow apples, blueberries, grapes, peaches, potatoes and tomatoes also have the option of selecting APH Yield Exclusions for the 2016 crop year. The program allows farmers with qualifying crops in select counties exclude low yields during times of natural disaster or bad weather from their production history when calculating yields to establish insurance coverage. Crop years are eligible when the average per acre yield is at least 50 percent below the average for 10 crop years. It can allow farmers to receive higher approved yields on federal crop insurance.

For more information contact your local Risk Management Agency office.

Wolf Vetoes Liquor Privatization Bill

Gov. Tom Wolf vetoed a bill that would have moved Pennsylvania out of the liquor business by allowing private businesses to sell a wider variety of beer, wine and spirits. The move comes days after the General Assembly approved legislation that would have allowed beer distributors to sell wine and liquor, and would also provide similar provisions for bars, restaurants and grocery stores with in-house restaurants. State stores would be phased out in areas where distributors begin offering similar quantity of products. Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports the privatization of state liquor stores.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Reaches New Membership Milestone

Pennsylvania farmers continue to support Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Our membership exceeded the 61,000 member mark for the first time in the 65-year history of our organization. PFB added 1,642 total members over the past year to reach an all-time membership high of 61,406. Thanks to the hard work of our membership volunteers, PFB qualified for the American Farm Bureau Federation Navigator Award.



“Farm family volunteers played a major role in helping our organization increase membership for the 18th consecutive year by encouraging others in the agricultural community to join Pennsylvania Farm Bureau,” said PFB President Rick Ebert. “It is farmers who know firsthand how Farm Bureau works to solve and prevent problems for agriculture. They also understand how the organization gets results through its volunteer members, who contribute their valuable time working in numerous roles at the county, state and national level.”

Thank you to all those who took time out of their busy schedule to volunteer and recruit new members for Farm Bureau!

Local Tax Bill Passes Pennsylvania Senate

A Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supported bill recently passed the Pennsylvania Senate. Senate Bill 356, introduced by Sen. Mike Folmer, will make the filing of local income taxes consistent with the more simplified methods for reporting and payment of income tax provided under state and federal income tax laws.

Folmer’s bill would give farmers the option of making a single filing and payment of estimated taxes, instead of quarterly filings, and allow for “safe harbor” provisions for payment of estimated taxes, based on income from the prior tax year. It would also make the deadlines for local income tax reporting and payment the same as state and federal deadlines. Senate Bill 356 now heads to the House for consideration.

Find out more about all of our great Member Benefits and Services at www.pfb.com!

