



# Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

May Edition 2021

The newsletter is always available online at [www.pfb.com/berks](http://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](mailto:robinl@ptd.net) to let us know your preference: paper vs. email/online.

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## Spring Banquet

*Due to Covid restrictions the Spring Banquet will be virtual this year.*

Spring Meeting: Virtual and By Telephone: **Friday, May 21, 2021 07:00 PM**

Would you like to join in on the discussion about the raising of dues?

Article II, Section 6. Dues. The annual county dues in this county Farm Bureau shall be based on the membership class, as outlined below, plus any amounts required to be forwarded to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation for each member, including any costs for the AD&D program and Farm Bureau publications:

a. Voting Member: \$20.00

b. Friend of Farm Bureau Member: \$55.00

c. Subsequent member class or class subcategory created by PFB Board of Directors: As determined by county Board of Directors.

*(Please note, the total cost will add up to \$100 per year for a voting member and \$100 per year for a Friend of Farm Bureau intro membership).*

### Join on the computer:

<https://bit.ly/3byn1WM>

Meeting ID: 934 2270 5143

Passcode: 309536

### Dial in by phone:

1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 934 2270 5143

Passcode: 309536

*The Reading Fightin Phils are now operating at a limited capacity. Due to this restriction, we will see you next spring at the ballpark.*

## Safety Contest

The theme for this year's Safety Contest is:  
"Lightening Can Strike More Than Once"

There are 3 categories for the contest this year: Coloring Contest: 4-6 year old children can submit the coloring page from the PFB website for consideration,

7-9 and 10-12 year old children can enter a safety 3D display, 13-15 and

16-18 year old children can enter a safety video contest.

*All the information can be found on the PFB website.*

## Policies

Policies approved at the 10/2/2020 Zoom Meeting with Berks County

1. We recommend that all cable and satellite networks carry the Rural Free Delivery programming as part of their basic package.
2. We recommend that the PMMB start retail assessment of non Class 1 dairy products.
3. We recommend that the PFA lobby FSA to put ARC/PLC on form 578.
4. We recommend PFB to lobby state legislators (more aggressively) for the elimination of the school property tax.
4. We recommend that undersized eggs be allowed to be provided to food banks within seventy two hours instead of having to be discarded.



A Big Thank You to Kathy Barry of Nationwide for purchasing the safety equipment the Marion Township Fire Company will use for grain bin rescue!!

## What is the Circular Economy and How Will It Impact Agriculture?

As far back as the 1970s, many of us learned in school about the “Three R’s” in promoting environmental sustainability: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Today, these three essential components to protecting the environment are making a strong comeback as we work to address the challenge of plastic waste by creating a circular economy for the plastics we use every day.

What do we mean by a “circular economy for plastics?” It’s a model in which used plastics are recovered, recycled and reused to make new products as opposed to being discarded after a single use. Examples include converting a dry-cleaning bag into a door panel for a car, transforming a candy wrapper into a jacket, and using plastic bags to make new roads and bike paths. This solution and emerging market is reducing the amount of plastic waste headed for landfills and helping to supplement existing mechanical recycling infrastructure.

For the agriculture sector, plastics help to promote the health and safety of crops from seed to harvest. Plastic coverings on hoop houses, green houses and low tunnels increase the transmission of sunlight to maximize production and protect plants from pests and inclement weather. Plastic irrigation systems curb the overuse of water and silage, and also reduce waste by keeping grain and straw dry and protected in storage.

Innovations in recycling technologies are revolutionizing how we utilize products after use across a range of different industries, and the agriculture sector is playing a role in the circular economy of plastics to extend their life cycle. This includes converting plastic sheeting used for greenhouse covers and tunnels into plastic resins for reuse as different products, such as mulch.

While advanced recycling technologies may be new to Pennsylvania, private companies across the country are already manufacturing post-use plastics at a commercial scale into a versatile mix of new chemicals, feedstocks, products and more environmentally friendly transportation fuels.

The process is basic chemistry. The manufacturing facility receives the plastics, any remaining contaminants are removed and the plastics are heated, causing a change in chemical composition, and then cooled and condensed into fuels or feedstock for new petroleum-based products. This technology differs from incineration as combustion does not occur because oxygen is absent from the process, resulting in few emissions.

The Commonwealth has a strong agriculture sector and opportunity to lead by supporting recycling infrastructure to meet today’s waste management needs for the plastics used by industry. We look forward to seeing the expansion of these technologies in Pennsylvania to recover, reuse and recycle these important products and benefit the state’s environment and economy.



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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
May 21	Zoom Meeting & Board Meeting		7:00 p.m.
June 18	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.
July 16	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.



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