



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

July Edition 🍂 2021

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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Open Position

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CID/Newsletter Editor

Robin Lincoln _____ 484-925-4132

Regional Organization Director

Ethan Howard..... 610 533 2558

State Director District 3

Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508

SAVE THE DATE!

The Fall Banquet will be held indoors on Friday, October 1st at 6:30. The event will be held at the Oley Fair Center 26 Jefferson St, Oley 19547. More details will be in our next newsletter. Come on out and say hello!

Meet Raechel Sattazahn



The newest member of the Berks County Farm Bureau Board is Raechel Sattazahn. Raechel and her husband, Doug, along with their children Easton (5) and Audrey (3) live in Womelsdorf on Doug's family farm. Zahncroft Dairy LLC is owned and operated by Doug and his brother, David, and milks about 250 cows. Raechel works full-time as Knowledge Center Director with AgChoice Farm Credit where she manages the organization's customer education efforts, programs for young and

beginning farmers and government and industry relations.

Raechel originally hails from a dairy farm in York County where her family now operates a retail beef and fresh-cut flower operation in Airville. She graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Animal Sciences. She also earned an MBA in Food and Agribusiness from Delaware Valley College.

Besides her involvement in Farm Bureau, Raechel is a leader for Western Berks 4-H Dairy Club, coach for the Berks County 4-H Dairy Judging Team, board member for Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and vice president of PA Farm Link.

Dues Increase

It has been determined there needs to be a necessary dues increase. The following is the dues structure:

Berks County Voting members:

Total Dues \$100

- PA Farm Bureau- \$70.15
- Berks County Farm Bureau – \$20.00
- American Farm Bureau Federation, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, and Publications – \$9.85

Friend of Farm Bureau members:

Total Dues \$100

- PA Farm Bureau – \$37
- Berks County Farm Bureau – \$55
- Publications – \$8



Books Purchased!

The Berks County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that we have purchased 60 books. These books will go to all the Elementary schools in Berks County along with some of the Berks County Libraries. This year's book is called "What's in the Garden," by Marianne Berkes. This book provides accurate information about agriculture to all the elementary children.



Ethan Howard our Regional Organizational Director holding a check to Ronald McDonald House donated by PFB.



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Berks County Nationwide Agents

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Kathy Barry *
Robesonia
610-693-5000</p> <p>Michael Davidheiser
Boyertown
610-367-6095</p> <p>Brian Hunsinger*
Douglassville
610-582-5204</p> <p>David Koeffler
Reading
610-929-9951</p> <p>James McIntyre*
Morgantown
610-286-6170</p> | <p>Jeffrey Spotts *
Wyomissing
610-374-2911</p> <p>Tompkins Insurance
Wyomissing
888-601-2611</p> <p>The Deangelo Company
Wyomissing
484-334-4132</p> <p>David Wilson
Birdsboro
610-582-9233</p> <p>William Young
Reading, PA
610-779-8064</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 10pt;">* Farm Certified</p> |
|---|---|

MSC Business Services Account Supervisors

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>David Mory
717-908-0552</p> | <p>Jason Seibert
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|---|--|



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NRCS Won't Restrict Cover Crop Harvesting

In response to concerns raised by Farm Bureau and other organizations, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service is walking back a plan to restrict how producers may harvest cover crops and remain compliant with conservation practice standard.

NRCS had proposed updating its conservation practice standard to prohibit mechanical harvesting of cover crops for hay, silage or other biomass uses. However, the agency announced earlier this month that it would not make that change, citing concerns raised by Farm Bureau and others that the restriction would present challenges to producers who use the conservation practice.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau submitted comments to NRCS in April outlining concerns over the proposal.

“Application of this standard would virtually prohibit management of cover crops in any way that would enable farmers to use their crops for marketing or as a source of feed for animals,” PFB wrote. “While engagement of ‘commercial’ production of cover crops has not been a universally accepted practice in the field of nutrient management, more recent studies have emerged to suggest that alternative methods for management and more sustained growth with timely dressing and harvesting of cover crops may provide greater efficiency in nutrient management and environmental benefit than more traditional production of cover crops with no harvesting.”

PFB cited studies from Penn State and Iowa State that found potential for cover crops to be produced for harvest while also improving environmental benefits.



SILO



Available Nationwide May 7, 2021

Directed by **MARSHALL BURNETTE**

Written by **JASON WILLIAMSON**

Produced by **SAMUEL GOLDBERG** and **ILAN ULMER**

Starring **JIM PARRACK, JILL PAICE, JACK DIFALCO, JEREMY HOLM, DANNY RAMIREZ,** and **CHRIS ELLIS**

Run Time: 77 Minutes

Official Website: www.silothefilm.com

Inspired by true events, SILO follows a harrowing day in an American farm town. Disaster strikes when teenager Cody becomes a victim of a grain entrapment accident. Family, neighbors, and first responders must put aside their differences to rescue him from drowning in the 50-foot tall silo where corn quickly turns to quicksand. Shedding light on an issue plaguing rural America, SILO shows how dangerous modern farming can be, while also highlighting the ways in which communities band together to look after one another.

A portion of the proceeds from SILO support the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, the Progressive Agriculture Foundation, and the John Bowne Agricultural Program.

Publicity Contacts:

Oscilloscope Laboratories
Sydney Tanigawa
sydney@oscilloscope.net

Ted Geoghegan
406.531.7799
TedGeoghegan@gmail.com

Berks County Farm Bureau
Robin Lincoln, Newsletter Editor
315 S Baumstown Rd
Birdsboro, PA 19508

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
July 16	Board Meeting		7:00 p.m.
August 20	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.
September 3	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.
October 1	Fall Banquet	Oley Fair Center 26 Jefferson St, Oley 19547	6:30 p.m.
November 5	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.
November 15-17	71st Annual Meeting in Hershey		
December 3	Board Meeting		7:30 p.m.



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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!!