

Berks County Farm Bureau **Newsletter**

Robin Lincoln, Editor

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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		gı	
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Robin Lincoln48	4-925-4132	F	
Regional Organization Director Ethan Howard 610 533 2558		T	
State Director District 3 Howard Robinson717-529-2508			

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 ow operates a retail beef and fresh-cut flower operation in Airville. She raduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Animal Sciences. She also earned n 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, oard member for Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and vice president of PA Farm Link.

Dues Increase

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

Berks County Voting members:

Total Dues \$100

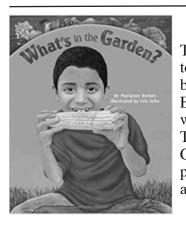
- PA Farm Bureau- \$70.15
- Berks County Farm Bureau \$20.00
- American Farm Bureau Federation, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, and Publications - \$9.85

Friend of Farm Bureau members:

Total Dues **\$100**

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

July Edition > 2021



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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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.

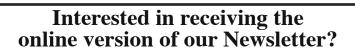


Berks County Farm Bureau

Robin Lincoln, Newsletter Editor 315 S Baumstown Rd Birdsboro, PA 19508 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID HAMBURG, PA PERMIT NO. 102

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



SIGN

Check out Berks County Farm Bureau website:

www.pfb.com/berks See more information in the online version of the newsletter!!