



# Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

September 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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### 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

## 80th Annual Fall Banquet

Friday, October 1st, 2021

Check in time is 6:30pm

This amazing event will be held indoors at the  
**Oley Fair Center: 26 Jefferson St, Oley 19547.**

Kathryn's Katering: Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad, Roast Beef, BBQ Pork Ribs, Potato Filling, Green Bean Almondine, Corn, and Dessert will all be on the menu.

**\$15 a person, kids 10 and under free**

Speaker: Michael Stolitca CAO  
(chief administrative officer) for PFB

There will also be a discussion of policies.

Mail your check for \$15 a person  
(kids 10 and under free) made out to:

**BCFB: Mail to:  
Robin Lincoln  
315 S Baumstown Rd,  
Birdsboro PA 19508**

*This will secure your reservations. (no tickets)  
Reservation Deadline is Monday 9/20/21*

## Tax Provisions on Crop Insurance, MAVs Included in Budget Package

Two tax provisions that will benefit Pennsylvania farmers—one offering flexibility related to state taxes on crop insurance payments and another clarifying when multipurpose agricultural vehicles are exempt from state sales tax—have been adopted as part of the 2021-2022 state budget package.

The measures, both of which Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocated in support of, had been introduced as stand-alone bills but were rolled into the tax code bill that accompanies the budget.

The provision on crop insurance allows farmers to defer crop insurance payments from state income taxes for one year, bringing state tax policy on crop insurance in line with federal rules. PFB believes the move gives farmers greater flexibility in paying taxes on crop insurance payments at the times when they need it the most. Because crop insurance payments are triggered at times of severe weather and significant crop loss, farmers receive such payments when the year did not go as planned. Greater flexibility for state income taxes will help farmers manage income and expenses in difficult years.

The other measure clarifies when purchases of MAVs for agricultural purposes are exempt from state sales taxes. Farmers receive a sales tax exemption when purchasing MAVs to be used primarily for farming. However, the state Department of Revenue has a narrow definition of what is considered a farming activity. Many farm chores—maintaining and repairing pasture fencing, for example—fall outside of the department’s definition.

PFB has heard from an increasing number of members who have faced state tax audits after claiming the exemption for MAVs used on the farm and had to pay state sales tax because their use of the equipment did not meet the department’s criteria for farming. The measure expands the scope of activities considered “farming” to include the wide range of ways MAVs can be used on a farm to support the farmer and their business.



Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

**Focused on Agricultural and Small Businesses**

717.731.3517  
www.mscbusiness.net



## For your always growing side.

We help protect your farm, family, finances and future. As a Farm Bureau member, you may be eligible for a discount on your farm insurance from the #1 farm insurer.<sup>1</sup>

Learn more at [nationwide.com/pfb](http://nationwide.com/pfb).

<sup>1</sup>SNL Financial, 2017 (National) Market Share Report. Products underwritten by Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Affiliated Companies. Home Office: Columbus, OH 43215. Subject to underwriting guidelines, review, and approval. Products and discounts not available to all persons in all states. Nationwide, the Nationwide N and Eagle and Nationwide is on your side are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau and the letters FB are registered service marks of American Farm Bureau and used under license by Nationwide. © 2019 Nationwide AFC-0315A0.2 (05/19) 11091933

### Berks County Nationwide Agents

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Robesonia  
610-693-5000

**Michael Davidheiser**  
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610-367-6095

**Brian Hunsinger**\*  
Douglassville  
610-582-5204

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610-929-9951

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**Tompkins Insurance**  
Wyomissing  
888-601-2611

**The Deangelo Company**  
Wyomissing  
484-334-4132

**David Wilson**  
Birdsboro  
610-582-9233

**William Young**  
Reading, PA  
610-779-8064

\* Farm Certified

### MSC Business Services Account Supervisors

**David Mory**  
717-908-0552

**Jason Seibert**  
717-908-6972

## Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



Choosing your Medicare plan can be overwhelming. It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

**Farm Bureau’s experienced and trained staff are ready to help. At no cost to you, we can:**

- Answer your questions
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
- Help with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.  
To check availability in your county call **800.522.237**.

## House Passes Bill to Allow Heavier Loads for Spring Planting

The state House of Representatives has passed legislation supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that would allow for transportation of heavier loads of spring planting materials.

Representatives voted 122-79 in favor of House Bill 1232, sponsored by Rep. Jason Silvis of Westmoreland County. The measure now heads to the state Senate for consideration.

The bill would create a seasonal overweight permit for the movement of up to 95,000 pounds of lime, fertilizer and/or seed between March and June. PFB believes this would help farmers get ready for spring planting with fewer truck trips.

## Transportation Bills Advance

A pair of bills supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that seek to address transportation-related concerns faced by Pennsylvania farmers are moving forward in the legislative process.

The state Senate Transportation Committee voted unanimously to advance Senate Bill 725, which would clarify what type of license farmers need to operate heavier trucks, and Senate Bill 736, which would add flexibility for home delivery of farm products. Both measures now head to the full Senate for consideration.

Senate Bill 725, sponsored by Sen. Camera Bartolotta of Washington County, would clarify that farmers may operate trucks, or truck combinations, with a gross vehicle weight above 26,000 pounds with a Class C driver's license. A 2014 law allows farmers to operate heavier trucks without a commercial driver's license. Pennsylvania State Police have more recently interpreted that law as requiring farmers to hold a Class A license when operating heavier vehicles and have taken enforcement action as a result. The bill would affirm that the General Assembly's intent was for farmers to be able to operate such vehicles with the more common Class C license.

Senate Bill 736, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Langerholc of Cambria County, would allow farmers to use farm-registered vehicles for the home delivery of products they produce on their farms. The state's vehicle code allows farmers to use farm-registered vehicles to transport products to and from a place of business; however, if a farmer wanted to start a home-delivery service for their products, they would need to obtain a

commercial registration for a vehicle. This is a challenge for agriculture, especially as more farms expand into home delivery, because many of the exemptions provided to farmers are predicated on them driving a farm-registered vehicle.

## Cover Crop Rules for Prevented Planting Updated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will now allow agricultural producers with crop insurance to hay, graze or chop cover crops for silage, haylage or baleage at any time and still receive 100 percent of the prevented planting payment.

Previously, cover crops could only be hayed, grazed or chopped after Nov. 1, or the prevented planting payment would be reduced by 65 percent.

The change gives producers greater flexibility for the 2021 crop year and into the future.

USDA's Risk Management Agency will not consider a cover crop planted following a prevented planting claim to be a second crop. But RMA will continue to consider a cover crop harvested for grain or seed to be a second crop, and that crop would therefore remain subject to a reduction in the prevented planting indemnity.

Find out more about these and other Member Benefits and Services at [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)



## Rosetree Consulting

*Agricultural • Environmental*

Rosetree Consulting provides soil sampling, crop consulting, and government regulatory documents for agricultural operations of all sizes. Our goal is to provide clients with the information and understanding needed to make better decisions and have a more profitable operation. Rosetree Consulting offers a 5% discount on regulatory services (manure management plans, nutrient management plans, conservation plans, odor management plans) to Berks County Farm Bureau members.

Contact Eric Rosenbaum  
484-788-7263

**Berks County Farm Bureau**  
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Birdsboro, PA 19508

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
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.



### Interested in receiving the online version of our Newsletter?

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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](mailto:robinl@ptd.net) to let us know!



**Check out Berks County Farm Bureau website:**

[www.pfb.com/berks](http://www.pfb.com/berks)  
See more information in the  
online version of the newsletter!!