



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

November Edition 🍂 2022

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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Regional Organization Director

Thomas Austin _____ 610-533-2558

State Director District 3

Howard Robinson _____ 717-529-2508

BCFB POLICIES 2022 as voted on and passed at the September 30, 2022 Annual Meeting

Local

- We recommend that the Berks County Agricultural Preservation Board allow trees to be planted along preserved farm driveways.

State

- We recommend eliminating Milk Marketing Law #2: (the following shall be eliminated): The elimination of the over order premium and the elimination of the minimum wholesale and retail price regulation.
- We recommend to the PFB Board of Directors that the state Policy Development committee move the Dairy Policies earlier in the agenda at the state convention. These policies should be considered on days 1 and 2, not days 2 and 3.
- We recommend to the PFB Board of Directors that the Executive Committee be required to notify all County Presidents 24 hours in advance of when and why the Executive Committee is meeting; and to relate to them the outcome of meetings within 5 business days.
- We recommend that the PFB Board of Directors have authority to eliminate any policies from PFB state policy book that are not related to agriculture or agribusiness.
- We recommend that the complete unedited and unredacted audited financial statements prepared by an independent auditor for all entities governed by the PFB Board of Directors be made available to all PFB state convention delegates two weeks before the annual meeting and to any members who request them.
- We recommend that all entities included in PFB audited financial statements be governed by the PFB Board of Directors as a whole. Example: Friends of Ag Foundation and MSC Business Services.
- We recommend that the PFB website include a section listing all PFB state committees, committee chairs, and committee members.
- We recommend elimination of the PFB Executive Committee. The PFB Board of Directors governs the organization.
- We recommend the PFB Board of Directors meet monthly to govern the organization.
- We recommend registration stickers for motor vehicles be reinstated.

PFB calls on the Government and Legislature to ensure that the DEP/Growing Greener grant reimbursement process be reviewed to provide timely, 30 day reimbursement to participating farm operations and county conservation districts.

BCFB supports this proposal when presented from Somerset County:

PFB Resolution Supports an Over Order Premium that:

1. Distributes premium dollars uniformly among all PA dairy producers.
2. The amount charged to PA consumers not be substantially more than is distributed back to PA dairy farmers.
3. Distributing system must not provide incentives to move raw milk across state lines to avoid over order premium from reaching PA dairy producers.

Supports a state minimum wholesale and retail price that:

1. Does not burden PA consumers with a price for dairy products that is significantly higher than surrounding states.
2. Helps to support small and local independent bottlers to compete with large national brands.



Larry Gelsing and Dwayne Salem presenting the Emeritus Award to long time BCFB Board Member George Moyer

SAVE THE DATE: for our Spring Banquet
Friday, March 31, 2023 Check in time is 6:30pm
Oley Fair Center: 26 Jefferson St, Oley 19547.



Robert Douglas (Doug) Love, a long standing Berks County Farm Bureau member passed away on Saturday, October 15 surrounded by family. All those who knew Doug know of his passion for cattle, farming, Robeson Township and agricultural policy.

The family is hosting a celebration of his life on Saturday, November 5th at 1 p.m. at the Robeson Lutheran Church, 3520 Plow Road, Mohnton, PA 19540 with a reception to follow at Sleepy Hollow A.C., 482 Westley Road, Mohnton.



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Grants Available to Pennsylvania Farmer Veterans Through PA Farm Bill

Governor Tom Wolf announced that Pennsylvania's farmer-veterans have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to meet their agricultural business needs. "This grant program is designed to recognize the great commitment of Pennsylvania's farmer-veterans: to love and defend their country and also to serve humanity by growing the food that we all need to survive," said Gov. Wolf. "When I created the Pennsylvania Farm Bill we included funding dedicated to this group of Pennsylvanians. It's a 'thank you' for their service and a commitment to better serving their needs as they serve ours."

Through Gov. Wolf's PA Farm Bill, the Department of Agriculture has awarded \$200,000 to two veterans' service organizations which will offer the farmer-veteran grants. Grants of up to \$10,000 will be awarded for various agricultural business needs ranging from food safety and biosecurity planning, to equipment, marketing, or working capital.

"Pennsylvania's veterans spent their military career protecting and serving others. When returning to civilian life, they bring critical skillsets and a commitment to service with them," said Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding. "We have worked hard to ensure that everyone who wants to be a part of agriculture has the opportunity to contribute without barriers. These grants are a down payment on the success of farmer-veterans in the industry, for the success of Pennsylvania." Military veterans in Pennsylvania continue to join the agricultural community in a variety of ways. According to the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture, Pennsylvania is home to more than 7,000 military veterans identified as agricultural producers. This program aims to support their success in Pennsylvania's \$132.5 billion agriculture industry.



Mental Health Resources Available

Research has found that many farmers are experiencing new stress and mental health concerns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the farm economy and other pressures.

If you or someone you know is struggling or has concerns about their mental health, **please know that you are not alone and there is help available.**

Mental Health Resources Available

- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or use the online chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat 24/7 for free and confidential support and to be connected with a skilled, trained counselor in your area.
- **Crisis Text Line:** Text HOME to 741741 for 24/7 support via text.

Find out more about these and other
Member Benefits and Services at
www.pfb.com.



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Contact Eric Rosenbaum

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
December 9	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
January 13	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
February 10	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
March 31	Spring Banquet	Oley Fair Center	6:30 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 to let us know!



Check out Berks County Farm Bureau website:

www.pfb.com/berks
See more information in the