



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

April Edition 2023

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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A Night at the Reading Phillies

June 7, 2023

Gates open at 6pm; Game at 7pm

Mail a self stamped self addressed envelope to:
Bob Tercha 25 Mertz Rd, Mertztown PA 19539
(maximum 6 per member)

Pictures throughout the Farm Bureau



PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro speaking with PFB



4H Ignite students who went to Washington DC speaking at BCFB Spring Banquet



Yvonne Hartman Entertainment at the Spring Banquet

State Legislative Update From State and Local Government Affairs Specialist Lily Guthrie

2023 State Legislative Priorities

Below are the state legislative priorities for 2023. As always, we will address any relevant issue that arises throughout the session according to PFB policy.

- Broadband
- Dairy
- MS4/Stormwater
- Solar
- Transportation
- Wildlife & Crop Damage

Appropriations Hearings

House & Senate Appropriations Committee hearings with the Department of Agriculture took place in the last two weeks.

ENERGY

House Passed Lower Energy Costs Act

On March 30th, the House passed H.R.1, the Lower Energy Costs Act with a bipartisan vote of 225-204. The bill would address high energy costs by increasing the production of American energy and reducing regulatory burdens through comprehensive permitting reform. Farm Bureau supports H.R. 1.

SUSTAINABILITY / CLIMATE

Protect Farmers from the SEC Act

On February 14th, Senators John Boozman (R-AR) and Mike Braun (R-IN) along with Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK) re-introduced the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act in both chambers. This was prompted by the SEC's proposed "Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures" rule, which is expected to be finalized in April. AFBF has compliancy, privacy, small business, and liability concerns in addition to an overreach of Congress. The Protect Farmers from the SEC Act would prohibit the SEC from requiring farms to report Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions.

Ask your U.S. House Member and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the Protect Farmers from the SEC Act of 2023 by completing AFBF's Action Alert.



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DAIRY
*Whole Milk
 for Healthy Kids Act*

Representatives “GT” Thompson (R-PA) and Kim Schrier (D-WA) introduced H.R.1147, the *Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act*. The bill

would allow whole, reduced-fat, low-fat, and fat-free flavored and unflavored milk in school cafeterias.

Current PA co-sponsors are Representatives Cartwright, Meuser, Perry, Smucker, Joyce, Reschenthaler, and Kelly.

Ask your U.S. House Member to co-sponsor the bi-partisan Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023 by completing PFB’s Action Alert.

(<https://pfb.com/advocate-for-policies/actnow/>)

DAIRY PRIDE Act

Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Representative John Joyce (R-PA) introduced S.549 / H.R.1462, the Defending Against Imitations and Replacements of Yogurt, Milk, and Cheese to Promote Regular Intake of Dairy Everyday Act or the DAIRY PRIDE Act. The bill would prohibit the sale of any food that uses the market name of a dairy product (such as milk, yogurt, or cream cheese) unless the food (1) is the milk of a hooved animal, (2) is derived from such milk, or (3) contains such milk as a primary ingredient. Current PA co-sponsors are Representatives Cartwright, Meuser, and Thompson.

The DAIRY PRIDE Act is especially important after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a draft milk guidance on February 22, 2023, that would allow for nut- or plant-based dairy beverages to be

labeled as milk. PFB will be submitting comments to FDA on the guidance.

Ask your U.S. House Member and U.S. Senators to co-sponsor the bipartisan DAIRY PRIDE Act of 2023.

Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act

Representatives Nick Langworthy (R-NY) and Joe Morelle (D-NY) introduced the Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act. The bill would initiate a Federal Order Hearing within 180 days in addition to giving USDA the needed authority to cost survey dairy product manufacturers. It is hoped for this bill to be included in the 2023 Farm Bill. The current PA co-sponsor is Representative Meuser. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) plans to introduce companion legislation in the near future.

Ask your U.S. House Member to co-sponsor the bipartisan Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act of 2023.

TRADE

U.S. and Canada Dairy Dispute in the USMCA
 The U.S. has established a second U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) dispute panel with Canada over their application of tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for dairy products. The issue remains that Canada is not following the decision of the December 2021 USMCA dispute settlement panel, where the U.S. won. The panel ruled that Canada violated the terms of the USMCA by restricting access to its market for U.S. dairy products with inconsistent TRQ measurements. Farm Bureau supports using the enforcement measures in USMCA to reach the negotiated access to Canadian markets for U.S. dairy products.

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
May 5	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
June 9	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
July 14	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.



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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!

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!!