



Berks County Farm Bureau Berks Newsletter

Robin Lincoln, Editor

March Edition 🍀 2024

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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Robin Lincoln _____ 484-925-4132

Regional Organization Director

Joseph Poppiti _____ 610-533-2558

State Director District 3

Paul Hartman _____ 484-955-8590

Spring Banquet Friday, April 5, 2024 Check in time is 6:30pm



RED CREEK WILDLIFE Center will hold a live presentation with animals!

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

Kathryn's Katering: Fruit Cup, Tossed Salad, Chicken, BBQ Pork Ribs, Potato Filling, 2 vegetables, and Dessert will all be on the menu.

\$15 a person, kids 10 and under free

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 3/25/24



A Night At the Reading Phillies

Free RPhils tickets can be picked up at the Banquet!

A Night at the Reading Phillies:
June 5, 2024 Gates open at 6pm Game at 7pm

For some crazy reason you can't make it to our wonderful Banquet?

Mail a self stamped self addressed envelope to:
Bob Tercha 25 Mertz Rd, Mertztown PA 19539 (maximum 6 per member)
He will mail you the free tickets.

Not sure if the game is canceled due to weather or some reason? Call RPhils

Legislator Breakfast

Tuesday April 16 at 8am
Wegman's Restaurant 4401 Pottsville Pike, Reading
RSVP phone or text to Larry Kehl 484-256-5322 leave message

Meet Our Newest Board Member



Meet our newest board member: Jeremy Meck! He is a dairy farmer who started farming while he was still in school back in 1998. He has two sons, Wyatt who is 8 years old and Brooks who is 6 years old. Jeremy has been a member of Land O Lakes Co-op for over 21 years and he is still farming 400 acres of land in Berks and Lancaster Counties. Additionally, he has been working as a seed dealer for Seed Consultants for over 10 years and he is also serving as a crop insurance agent for Morrissey Insurance.

Jeremy is currently in his 5th year of serving on the Berks County Farmland Preservation Board. He believes that Farm Bureau provides farmers with opportunities to get involved with legislators, which enables them to create policies to keep our country strong.

Budget

The 23-24 budget is now complete, albeit 165 days late. On Wednesday, December 13th the Governor signed the remaining budget bills bringing an end to a frustrating budget cycle. The fiscal code included things such as increased funding for public safety and criminal justice reforms. The education code included funding for the School Facility Grant Program, Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program and school based mental health resources for students, among many other things. Notably, funding for Penn Vet, the states only veterinary school, did not pass. It was brought up for a vote in the House twice and failed to meet the two-thirds majority each time. Those who voted no say it was because the school has failed to condemn antisemitism. University president, Liz Magill, resigned amid the controversy. The legislature and university leadership are in negotiations, it is our hope they come to a swift resolution. The Governor is set to deliver his 2024 budget address in February.

PA Senate

Supporting Pennsylvania's Dairy Farmers

On Monday, Nov. 27 Senators Elder Vogel and Judy Schwank introduced a cosponsor memo for legislation that will, according to the memo, allow the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board to collect and distribute the over-order premium collected on Class I fluid milk in Pennsylvania and allow for flexibility for the board regarding the future of the premium and address some of the ancillary items that have been seen historically with the over-order premium. We look forward to the legislation being introduced and seeing the final language.

Protect your next with the Ag Insight Center

We feed your need for insights and information with access to the Ag Insight Center, providing members with the latest resources, innovations and information to help drive your future business success.

Scan here to learn more:

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Berks County Nationwide Agents

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Spotts Insurance Group Inc
Reading
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610-582-2862

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Wyomissing
610-374-2911

Spotts Insurance Group Inc
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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 **800.522.2375**.

PA House of Representatives

On Thursday, December 14th Representative John Galloway officially resigned his seat after being elected to a district judge position. The House is now at an even 101-101 split. A special election is scheduled to take place on February 13th to fill the seat. The Republican candidate for the seat is Candace Cabanas, Jim Prokopiak is the Democratic candidate. The House is expected to return to session on Tuesday, February 6th. The first full week of session for 2024 will take place from March 18-20. Speaker McClinton said the House isn't returning until March because of a leak in the chamber roof, critics are saying it's because House Democrats don't want to return until after the special election.

Hunting for Crop Damage Solutions: Legislative Package

On Friday, Dec. 8 Senators Elder Vogel and Greg Rothman introduced the Hunting for Crop Damage Solutions legislative package. The memo states "Agriculture is one of Pennsylvania's largest and most important industries. The products grown and raised by farmers feed our communities and provide valuable exports to other states and countries. A recent hearing shed light on increasing crop damage by wildlife and the negative impact that damage has on Pennsylvania farmers. Fortunately, Pennsylvania farmers and hunters can both be part of the solution.



Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board Over-Order Premium Hearing

On December 6th the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) held a hearing on the over-order premium (OOP) which will stay at \$1 per hundredweight through June. John Painter II, Chair of PFB's Dairy and Farm Policy Committee, offered testimony on behalf of Farm Bureau. Mr. Painter agreed with the Petitioner's recommendation that the Board maintain the over-order premium at \$1.00 per hundredweight for the next six months, along with the fuel adjuster premium.

In accordance with PFB policy he also stated that OOP reform should be focused on 3 primary goals: (1) uniform distribution among all Pennsylvania dairy farmers; (2) the amount charged to Pennsylvania consumers is not substantially more than what is distributed back to Pennsylvania dairy farmers; and (3) the distribution system must not provide incentives by which payment of the premium can be avoided by moving milk across state lines.



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Contact Eric Rosenbaum | 484-788-7263

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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
April 5	Spring Banquet	Oley Fair Center	6:30 p.m.
May 17	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
June 14	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.
June 5	A Night At the RPhils		6:00 p.m.
July 12	Board Meeting	Ag Center	7:30 p.m.



Interested in receiving the online version of our Newsletter?

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!!