



March 2018-Vol. 18-1

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## March 2018

News from Centre County Farm Bureau

### Letter from our President: Bethany Coursen

Greetings! As we anxiously await the arrival of spring, the Centre County Farm Bureau Board has been busy! You will notice that we have included 4 tickets for our Ag Education and Promotion raffle again this year. This raffle has been gaining momentum and we would like to thank you for your help with that. This is our primary fundraiser that allows us the ability to purchase books about agriculture for our local elementary schools, provide scholarships for college students pursuing careers in agriculture, support our local schools, FFA's and Ag students with educational opportunities, as well as help maintain and fund the Mobile Ag Labs throughout the county and statewide. Rick Homan will be spearheading this fundraiser again this year. If you are looking for a way to help, consider contacting Rick or any of the board members about selling extra tickets. Many hands make light work!

On a less positive note, many of us in the dairy industry are heading into another year of low prices and threats of contract loss, quotas, and reduced quality premiums. The board is actively working to engage our local, state and federal legislators on our behalf. We would love to get input and feedback on your thoughts and feelings regarding this situation. After all, we are advocating for you. I will be heading to Harrisburg in April for a round of face-to-face meetings, so I would love to hear from you. The **Spring Banquet is Thursday, April 12 at 7pm** at New Hope Church in Spring Mills. This would be a great time for you to come and discuss your feelings with us. Please note that the time for RSVP is shorter than normal. So, please call Evalene Ishler at (814) 422-8776 as soon as possible to confirm. We look forward to seeing you at the Banquet!

*Bethany Coursen,*

Centre County Farm Bureau President

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual CCFB Agricultural Education and Promotion Raffle**

The CCFB Board of Directors is pleased to announce the kickoff of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Agricultural Education and Promotion Raffle. Various businesses and individuals within Centre County have generously stepped up to support the Raffle with donations and cash gifts. The Raffle exists to raise money for our Agricultural Education and Promotion Fund, which is used to support students and initiatives within the county by way of scholarships and financial support for other programs. The last two years the raffle raised over \$3,000 and with your help we'd love to see that increase again this year. The Mobile Ag Ed Science Labs, Student Scholarships, Collegiate Farm Bureau, PSU Block and Bridle, The FARMtastic Book program, F.A.C.E. Leadership Conference and Ag in the Classroom programs are just some of the programs supported by the money raised by the raffle. To that end, enclosed you will find 4 raffle tickets that we are asking for your help to sell. The drawing will be held prior to our Annual Meeting on October 11, 2018, with the winners being announced at the meeting. While winners need not be present to win, we encourage all members to mark their calendars and join us for a fun evening. Do you have a business where you receive customers and are able to put a stack of tickets out for sale? Are you an individual or a family and you are able to sell more than the amount of tickets enclosed with this newsletter? Contact any of the Directors (see back of newsletter for contact info) or send us an email at [centrecountyfb@gmail.com](mailto:centrecountyfb@gmail.com) and we will get more tickets to you right away. We will have extras available at the Annual Spring Meeting on April 12th as well.

### **Annual Spring Banquet Date Announced – April 12, 2018**

Centre County Farm Bureau (CCFB) will hold its annual Spring Meeting/Banquet on Thursday April 12, 2018 at 7:00pm at New Hope Church, 119 Cobblestone Court, Spring Mills, PA 16875. Along with fellowship and a great dinner prepared by volunteers at the church, we will have a guest speaker. We will also discuss the Annual Ticket Raffle Kickoff. Never been to the spring meeting? We'd love to see you and a guest. Contact one of the Directors (contact info listed on a later page in the newsletter) and we'll plan to meet you at the door. To RSVP for the spring banquet, call Evalene Ishler at (814) 422-8776 by April 2nd. Also bring a friend or neighbor with you who might be interested in becoming a member of the Farm Bureau so that they can see what we're all about! If you do so, we'll give you 2 free raffle tickets (valued at \$10).

### **Local Benefits and Provider Highlight – Egg Hill Farm, LLC**

Enjoy 5% off \$300 or more on custom manure hauling

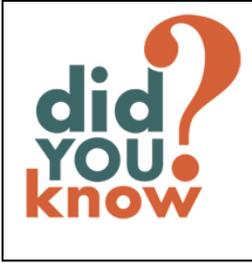
Allen Ishler and his wife Holly live in Spring Mills, PA and own and operate Egg Hill Farm LLC along with their son Chris. Allen and Chris are third and fourth generation farmers, farming the land farmed by Allen's grandfather Carl and father Ronnie until their retirements. Their farm consists of 148 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat as well as hay. They also do custom farming including manure hauling and a cow and calf field operation where they sell the feeders right off the farm.

### **Did you know?**

Centre County Farm Bureau now has a website:

<http://centrecfb.org>

And you can like us on Facebook too! Search for Centre County Farm Bureau and keep up with all the latest news!



You can confirm where milk is produced by looking for the state code on the label?



**In Pennsylvania, look for code 42!**

State	Code	State	Code	State	Code	State	Code	State	Code
Alabama	1	Hawaii	15	Massachusetts	25	New Mexico	35	South Dakota	46
Alaska	2	Idaho	16	Michigan	26	New York	36	Tennessee	47
Arizona	4	Illinois	17	Minnesota	27	North Carolina	37	Texas	48
Arkansas	5	Indiana	18	Mississippi	28	North Dakota	38	Utah	49
California	6	Iowa	19	Missouri	29	Ohio	39	Vermont	50
Colorado	8	Kansas	20	Montana	30	Oklahoma	40	Virginia	51
Connecticut	9	Kentucky	21	Nebraska	31	Oregon	41	Washington	53
Delaware	10	Louisiana	22	Nevada	32	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<b>42</b>	West Virginia	54
Florida	12	Maine	23	New Hampshire	33	Rhode Island	44	Wisconsin	55
Georgia	13	Maryland	24	New Jersey	34	South Carolina	45	Wyoming	56

## **Board of Directors Highlight – Laura Young**

Laura Young was born and raised in Hazleton, PA and graduated from Penn State in 1998 with a



B.S. in Horticulture/Plant Science. She completed an International Apprenticeship at Rijnbeek en Zoon Perennial Exporters in Boskoop, South Holland, The Netherlands from 2001 to 2002. Along with her husband Jay, Laura co-owns and operates Young American Growers, a diverse small farm in Spring Mills focusing on the wholesale production of shade perennials, the production of meat goats, and the construction of Christmas Wreaths for shipping and retail sale. Together they also co-own Rising Spring Meat Co. a small-scale USDA-inspected slaughter facility in Spring Mills, PA. Laura was one of the founding members of the North Atherton Farmers Market in State College, PA and served as the market

President and Manager from 2010-2014, managing one of the fastest growing markets in the region with 30+ vendors. Interested in the promotion of local food, small business and local economy, Laura maintains an active presence in local food and business discussions around the community. In addition to these roles, Laura is also a full time employee at Penn State serving as the Office for Research Information Systems as their Assistant Director and Lead Business Process Analyst for Penn State's Centralized Application Tracking System (CATS) which houses the protocols and review processes related to the regulatory review of human, animal, biohazards and isotopes research. Laura has been instrumental in managing our website and social media presence and is Vice President of your Centre County Farm Bureau.

## **NEWS FROM THE STATE AND BEYOND**

### **Governor Outlines State Budget Proposal**

Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed 2018-2019 state budget would ramp up funding for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's operations and maintain funding for several programs critical to farmers, including for Penn State Cooperative Extension and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. But the plan would also eliminate funding from several other important agriculture programs.

Wolf outlined his \$33 billion spending plan this week, the first step in a several-month budget process. The state budget must ultimately be drafted and approved by the General Assembly.

The governor's plan calls for an 8.5 percent increase in the Department of Agriculture's general operations, which provides funding for jobs and services that support agriculture, and the continuation of current funding for the Animal Health Commission, transfers to the Nutrient Management Fund and Conservation District Fund, Pennsylvania Fairs and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Funding for Extension and Penn Vet would remain at current levels.

"We are pleased that the governor's proposal recognizes the important role programs overseen by Penn State and Penn Vet play in helping farmers learn about and implement positive changes on their farms based on breakthroughs in research and technology, while also benefitting from research and practical solutions that improve animal health and the food supply," said PFB President Rick Ebert.

Farm Bureau has concerns about other parts of the plan that would eliminate funding for the Agricultural Excellence Programs, Agricultural Research and several other promotional programs administered by the state Department of Agriculture. PFB plans to work with lawmakers and the Wolf administration to restore funding for those programs in the final budget.

## New Initiative Aims to Promote Careers in Agriculture

Maintaining the nation's food security depends on more than 48,000 people a year filling jobs that support agriculture.

But as Americans are further and further removed from farming, fewer young people are considering going into agriculture-related fields. Students without farming backgrounds often don't consider agriculture-related professions because they're not interested farming.

Yet for students who don't see themselves milking cows or driving a tractor, there are many opportunities to support the work that happens on the farm, such as working as a crop scientist, veterinarian, financial manager or mechanic. Connecting tomorrow's bright, young minds with those much-needed professions is the goal of a new Pennsylvania Farm Bureau initiative.

The program, which begins this month, will send Farm Bureau members into seventh- through ninth-grade classrooms to talk to students about careers in agriculture. Farm Bureau has put together a presentation that volunteers can give, an informational packet about careers in agriculture and a website where students and their teachers can learn more information.

"Less and less of our workforce coming out of school is focused in on those careers that we need in agriculture," said PFB Vice President Chris Hoffman, chair of PFB's Ag Promotion Committee, which is heading up the effort. "This is a good way for us to get out there and really talk about what it is that we do."

The program stems from PFB's new strategic plan, which directs the organization to both expand its reach to Pennsylvania students and work to promote careers in agriculture.

Hoffman stressed that while the Ag Promotion Committee is the messenger organizing the program, helping PFB reach these strategic goals to benefit agriculture is something all members should be focused on.

"What we hope comes out of it is that we start a conversation," Hoffman said. "We hope members are able to have a conversation with their schools, they're able to connect with more young adults and we start to have more people going into careers with an agriculture focus."

Farm Bureaus is looking for volunteers to visit schools in their area and help students learn about agriculture careers. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.pfb.com/agcareers](http://www.pfb.com/agcareers).

## Bill Would Relieve Livestock Farmers of Emissions Reporting Mandate

Farm Bureau supports a bipartisan effort in Congress to relieve farmers of an upcoming requirement to report routine emission of gasses from livestock to the federal government.

The Fair Agriculture Reporting Method (FARM) Act, sponsored by Sens. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Joe Donnelly (D-Ind.), would clarify that farmers do not need to report routine emissions from farm animals and manure under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act.

Both the Bush and Obama administrations had supported exempting livestock farmers from the pair of laws, which pertain to Superfund sites and emergency preparedness. But a federal court ruling last year mandated that farms report emissions under the laws. That mandate has been delayed several times and is now scheduled to take effect May 1.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall urged Congress to act quickly on the bill, saying that the mandate would leave farmers with the costly and difficult task of measuring routine animal emissions and complying with red tape.

"Congress did not intend to regulate farms as toxic Superfund sites," Duvall said. "Farming and ranching are challenging enough without having to report, under threat of law, something that is a routine part of raising animals, but is nearly impossible to predict or measure. We are also concerned that these needless reports would effectively create a federal database of livestock farms for activist groups to target."

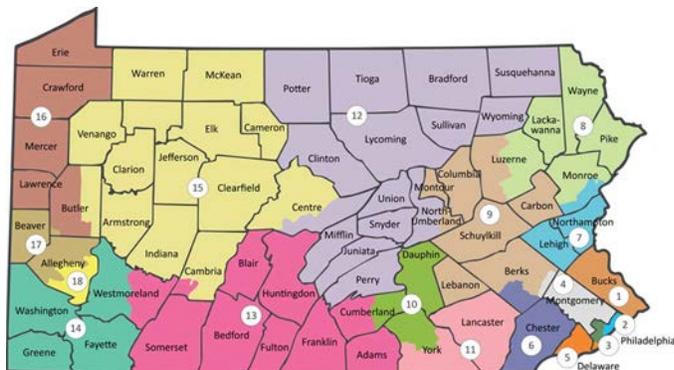
The bill has drawn support from both Republicans and Democrats. Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) is a cosponsor.

## Pa. Supreme Court Releases New Congressional Map

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has established new congressional districts for the state that will take effect for the upcoming primary election in May. Many Pennsylvania voters will find themselves in new congressional districts.

The court had given Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf and the GOP-led General Assembly a limited time to agree on new congressional districts after ruling that the then-current map violated the state Constitution. Wolf vetoed a map developed by the Legislature, which led to the court implementing a map drawn by its hired expert.

The court's ruling on Pennsylvania's congressional map came in a lawsuit from 18 Democratic voters who say the current maps discriminate against them by creating districts that benefit Republicans. Pennsylvania Republicans have challenged the new map in federal court.



## Dairy Safety Net Proposals Included in Federal Budget Deal

As efforts to draft the 2018 Farm Bill get underway, Congress is taking early steps to address one of the top priorities for Pennsylvania farmers: Suring up the safety net for dairy producers.

A federal spending bill passed last month by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump included provisions intended to strengthen the Dairy Margin Protection Program as well as expand risk management options for livestock farmers. Those measures were among Farm Bureau's top priorities for the 2018 Farm Bill. They were included in a bipartisan deal to continue funding the federal government and end a brief shutdown.

The Margin Protection Program, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, aimed to offer relief for dairy farmers when the margin between milk prices and feed costs falls below a certain threshold. However, the program has not worked as intended and dairy farmers continue to struggle.

Changes in the recent legislation include significantly lowering premium rates, waiving the \$100 administrative fee for underserved producers and changing the margin-calculation and potential payout schedule to monthly, instead of every other month. Premiums for the lowest levels of coverage above catastrophic protection were eliminated and others were reduced by an average of 70 percent.

To encourage farmers to purchase coverage above catastrophic protection, Tier 1 coverage—which offers a discounted premium for farms insuring lower volumes of milk—will apply to the first 5 million pounds of production, up from the current level of 4 million pounds.

In addition, producers will have another chance to sign up for 2018 coverage or change their coverage level in May.

The legislation also removes a \$20 million cap on livestock-related expenditures under the Federal Crop Insurance program. That will allow for more risk management options for cattle, swine, lamb and dairy farmers.

The bill also provides \$90 billion in disaster aid spending, which is critical to helping farmers affected by hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters during 2017, and offers \$6 billion to fight the opioid addiction crisis, which has hit rural America hard, especially the farming community.

## Humane Society Officer Training Bill Advances in State Senate

A bill supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau that would require humane society police officers to go through additional training and learn about farm safety and biosecurity protocols has advanced in the state Senate.

House Bill 1917, sponsored by Rep. Frank Ryan of Lebanon County, cleared the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and is now being considered by the Appropriations Committee. The bill already passed the House.

The measure would increase the number of training hours humane society police officers go through initially as well every two years. Officers would also be required to learn about farm biosecurity protocols and how to identify potential hazards on farms and reduce the risk of causing damage or harming people or animals. The training would include on-site visits to farms.

PFB believes that such training will help protect both the humane officer and farmers—as well as their animals and property—in the event that investigation of a farm is necessary.

## Bill to Ease Regulations on High Tunnels Passed by Committee

A proposal to exempt certain high tunnel structures used to extend the growing season of locally grown produce from stormwater management planning has cleared a hurdle in the state Senate.

House Bill 1486, sponsored by Rep. David Zimmerman of Lancaster County, was advanced by the Senate Environmental Energy and Resources committee and now heads to the state Senate for consideration. The measure already passed the state House with bipartisan support.

The bill would prevent municipalities from requiring that farmers submit stormwater management plans on high tunnel structures that meet common sense guidelines clearly identified in the legislation.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau supports the measure and believes farmers applying this technology on their farms should be free of the burdensome paperwork, delay and cost often imposed by local regulation. More and more farmers are using high tunnels to extend the growing season to meet increasing consumer demand for fresh, local fruits and vegetables.



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## Deadline Approaching to Claim Free Money for Agricultural Plans in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

There's still plenty of state grant money available for farmers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to recoup the cost of developing environmental plans.

But there is only a short time left for farmers to take advantage of this program. Grant applications must be submitted on or before **April 1**.

The state Department of Environmental Protection announced in October it would make \$1.5 million available to reimburse farmers in the watershed who hired professional consultants to aid in the development of their nutrient management, manure management or agriculture erosion and sediment control plans.

At the end of February, the department had \$737,875 still available. That means farmers who apply for the funding would be very likely to be approved. Reimbursements are available for plans developed after Jan. 1, 2017.

For more information about eligibility and grants available, farmers in Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Elk, Jefferson, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Union, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming counties should contact Sara Bolton of Larson Design Group at **570.374.5700** or [sbolton@larsondesigngroup.com](mailto:sbolton@larsondesigngroup.com).

Farmers in Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Indiana, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Somerset, and York counties should contact Jedd Moncavage of TeamAg at **717.721.6795** or [jeddm@teamaginc.com](mailto:jeddm@teamaginc.com).

## ACRE Law an Important Tool for Farmers

The ACRE (Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment) Law, ensures that local ordinances that attempt to regulate agricultural activities do not violate state law. The law states that if a municipality has an agriculture-related ordinance that conflicts with, exceeds or duplicates already-existing state agricultural standards, then that local ordinance cannot stand.

Farm Bureau members who gathered for Farm Bureau Days events in several regions last month, had the opportunity to hear Deputy Attorney General Rob Willig speak about the ACRE Law. Willig is the point of contact in the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office that deals with ACRE complaints.

Willig, speaking at a Farm Bureau Days event in Montgomery County, acknowledged that farming was a top priority of Pennsylvania. "Agriculture is vitally important to the health of the Commonwealth," he said, adding that agriculture has a \$75 billion economic impact in the state. "If that \$75 billion is cut by a fraction," he said, "it can have catastrophic effects."

When it comes to dealing with townships and municipalities passing ordinances that could be potentially disruptive to farming, ACRE has been a good tool to aid farmers. "ACRE is just one more arrow in our quiver to help farmers and sustain agriculture," Willig said. He added that filing an ACRE complaint is easy. "You can start the ACRE process right there on the website, send me an email, or call the number," he said. There is no official form to start a complaint, and it doesn't have to be in any specific format. Willig said he's even had complaints come in on handwritten sheets of paper.

For every complaint he receives, Willig sends a letter to the township that he has received an ACRE complaint that is under review. He also sends a letter to the farmer acknowledging that the complaint was received.

Willig said he tries to resolve complaints first by working as a mediator between the farmer and the township. If that doesn't work, he goes through a more-lengthy process of researching the ordinance and the law and, if there are discrepancies, notifying the township.

Most of the time, Willig said, they don't have to go to court over a problematic ordinance. When Willig decides to accept a case, he writes up a letter brief to send to the township. Usually, the township accepts the research and changes the ordinance, and the case is closed. If the township disagrees or won't change the ordinance, the attorney general's office has the right to sue in Commonwealth Court if the township doesn't want to change the ordinance. Willig said that's the last resort he will turn to.

## Game Commission Establishes New Disease Management Area

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has established a new Disease Management Area (DMA) in an effort to slow the spread of chronic wasting disease in the state.

The move came in response to the detection of a CWD-positive deer on a deer farm in Lancaster County, the only known case of CWD so far in that area.

The new Disease Management Area 4 will include 346 square miles in northeastern Lancaster County, southeastern Lebanon County and western Berks County. That includes the Adamstown, Denver, Ephrata, Mohnnton, Richland, Womelsdorf and Wyomissing areas as well as state Game Lands 46, 220, 225, 274 and 425.

The Game Commission will increase sampling for CWD within the new area. The commission will test all road-killed deer in the area and take steps to encourage hunters to submit samples for testing.

Hunters and residents with DMAs face certain restrictions intended to stop the spread of the disease.

The intentional feeding of deer is prohibited within DMAs and hunters may not use or possess urine-based attractants. Hunters who harvest deer within a DMA may not transport the carcass outside the DMA without first removing and properly disposing of all high-risk deer parts, including the head and backbone.

CWD is an always-fatal illness that affects deer, elk and other cervids. It has not been proven to affect humans; however, experts recommend using caution when handling deer carcasses and not eating the meat of CWD-positive deer. The number of CWD cases has risen sharply in Pennsylvania and the disease has been detected in both free-ranging and captive deer.

## PFB Opposes Bill to Cut State Legislative Seats, Reduce Rural Influence

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is pushing against a plan that would dilute the voice of rural families in state government by reducing the number of seats in the General Assembly.

The state House recently passed House Bill 253, which calls for cutting the number of House districts to 151 from 203 and reducing the number of Senate districts to 37 from 50. The legislation now heads to the Senate for consideration.

PFB believes that cutting legislative seats would result in more districts being concentrated in urban and suburban areas, reducing the influence of rural Pennsylvanians. That would weaken the ability of farmers and rural families to have their concerns and needs addressed in Harrisburg.

If the bill were to clear the General Assembly this year, it would be only the first step in a lengthy process. Changing the size of the General Assembly would require an amendment to the state Constitution. For that to happen, the House and Senate must each pass identical resolutions in back-to-back legislative sessions. Then, the proposed amendment would be put to a public vote in the form of a ballot question.

The General Assembly passed a resolution last session calling for the reduction in the House but not one calling for reducing the Senate or both chambers.

## USDA Releases Emergency Funding to Stop Spotted Lanternfly Spread

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is releasing \$17.5 million in emergency funding for programs to halt the spread of the invasive Spotted Lanternfly. The pest—which was first identified in Berks County in 2014 and has spread throughout southeastern Pennsylvania—is a major threat to agricultural crops, particularly fruit trees and hardwoods.

The emergency funding will be used for a two-pronged approach to containing the Spotted Lanternfly threat. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will monitor and control the outside of the infestation area to stop the insect from spreading while the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will work within the core infestation area to reduce Spotted Lanternfly populations.

"We've seen a dramatic expansion in the range of this pest over the last year and we need to take decisive action to prevent the spotted lanternfly from spreading throughout Pennsylvania and into neighboring states," USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said.

"We have the tools to fight this invasive insect and—together with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture—we have developed an area-wide approach that will begin before the pest starts to re-emerge in the spring."

### Hemp Program Expands in Second Year

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has 39 industrial hemp research applications for 2018, enabling up to 1,000 acres of the crop to be grown statewide this spring. In 2017, the first year of the program, 14 growers produced 36 acres of hemp statewide.

"We're pleased with the response and the enthusiasm around this promising and versatile crop," Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding said. "And we're especially pleased that so many of our first-year growers have committed to continue their research."

Pennsylvania's industrial hemp pilot program allows farmers to grow limited amounts of hemp under state supervision to research the crop's cultivation and uses. Hemp, while widely used in the U.S., had been illegal to grow here for decades due to its relation to the marijuana plant. While hemp and marijuana share a plant family, industrial hemp does not contain any significant amount of the psychoactive component in marijuana. While hemp is still a federal controlled substance, the 2014 Farm Bill allowed states to conduct research programs with the crop.

"There is a considerable amount of interest in hemp and tremendous economic development potential," Redding said. "Allowing research was a good first step, but the potential of this crop warrants the federal government allowing more extensive production. Legitimizing industrial hemp will give entrepreneurs the assurance they need to invest in this industry."

### USDA Projects Increased Demand for Corn and Soybeans

The U.S. Department of Agriculture projects continued growth in demand for corn and soybeans over the next ten years.

Corn acreage may decrease initially with more acres being devoted to soybeans. Lower prices for corn may increase its use in livestock feed, which may encourage the expansion of cattle and hog production to satisfy the demand for meat. Projected future reductions in ethanol production will reduce the availability of distillers grains, which will shift the demand for more corn for use in livestock feed.

Strong demand for soybeans is expected globally, particularly from China, which may cause prices to rise and provide higher returns to U.S. producers.

### Dairy of Distinction Applications Available

Farmers have until **April 15** to apply for the Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction program.

Dairy of Distinction recognizes dairy farmers that maintain attractive farms, which helps build consumer confidence in dairy products. Dairy farms that receive the highest score in each of the 10 Pennsylvania districts will receive a Dairy of Distinction sign to display in front of their farm.

"This program is conducted by volunteers and recognizes the hard work and dedication of dairy producers who promote a positive image for the dairy industry," said Mike O'Connor, secretary of the Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction program and professor emeritus of dairy science in Penn State's [College of Agricultural Sciences](#).

Roadside judging of farms will take place in May and June. Judges will look for factors that fall under a farmer's control, such as well-kept buildings, neat landscaping, properly-maintained fencing, lanes and roads. In addition, judges will also look at manure management, animal cleanliness, and maintenance of barnyard and feed areas.

For an application, call **814.574.9219** or visit [www.dairyofdistinction.com](http://www.dairyofdistinction.com).

## Help Us Spread the Word: Educator's Ag Institute

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation is committed to growing agriculture literacy. And one way the foundation achieves that goal is by helping educators develop lesson plans based on agriculture.

The foundation, a charitable organization supported by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, is hosting the Educator's Ag Institute this summer at Penn State. This year's institute, planned for July 8-12, will give teachers an up close and personal look at farming practices, and how they can use agriculture as the basis for lesson plans.

While at the conference, educators will tour a number of Penn State's agriculture facilities, participate in hands-on lessons and leave with a host of materials for use in their classrooms.

The Educator's Ag Institute is open to new educators, along with those who have previously attended our Ag in the Classroom workshop. Participants will also tour several area farms and hear from farmers about how they grow food, care for and feed their animals, and how the farm is run. Educators will receive Act 48 credits and/or can register for continuing education credits through Penn State.

Many of our county Farm Bureaus have previously sponsored educators to attend and we are encouraging that same outreach this year. Please consider sharing information about this valuable workshop with educators in your area. For more information, contact the foundation at **717.731.3556** or [www.pfb.com/aginstitute](http://www.pfb.com/aginstitute).

## Friends of Ag Golf Tournament Coming Up in June

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation's major fundraising initiative is returning for its 26<sup>th</sup> year.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Richard Prether Golf Classic will take place **Monday, June 18** at the Hershey Country Club, West Course. The outing is sponsored by the foundation and Nationwide Insurance.

The golf outing proceeds help support agriculture education outreach through the foundation's many programs including the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab, Ag on the Go, Educator's Ag Institute, Ag Literacy Week, our Scholarship programs, and other ag literacy outreach events we attend throughout the year.

The foundation tournament will be conducted as a four-person scramble and will be held on its scheduled date, rain or shine. The cost of the golfing package is \$150 per person and includes greens fees and cart, driving range privileges, lunch and refreshments on the golf course, golf contests and prizes, gifts, dinner and a chance for door prizes.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. The driving range will be open at 10 a.m. and there will be a putting contest from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Lunch will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with a tournament shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m.

The deadline for reservations is **June 1**. Be sure to reserve your foursome early since space is limited to 144 golfers. To make your reservation or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities please contact the coordinator, Natalie Siembariski:

Pennsylvania Friends of Ag Foundation  
c/o Natalie Siembariski  
P.O. Box 8736,  
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736  
Phone: **717.761.3555**  
[NASiembariski@pfb.com](mailto:NASiembariski@pfb.com)

## Tell EPA If You Can't #FloatUs, It's Not a #WOTUS

Farm Bureau has launched a social media campaign encouraging farmers to tell Washington that federal water rules should make sense.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed repealing and rewriting its controversial Waters of the U.S. rule. As currently written, the 2015 rule would give the federal government broad authority to regulate as "water" nearly every acre of farmland in Pennsylvania.

So as EPA begins the process of redefining what is—and what isn't—a "water of the U.S.," Farm Bureau is asking members to send a clear message that we need a common-sense rule.

Take a photo of a rubber duck in an area of your farm that would have been regulated as a navigable water under the WOTUS rule, and share that photo on social media using the hashtags #FloatUs and #CleanWaterRules. The duck should be in an area where it will not float but that the 2015 WOTUS regulation considered to be navigable water, such as a ditch, low land or farm field. The goal is to show EPA, using the rubber ducks, that if you can't #FloatUs, it's not a #WOTUS.

Make sure to tag Pennsylvania Farm Bureau on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and your post will be entered to win a \$100 gift card to your favorite restaurant. Every time you post and tag PFB before **June 30, 2018**, you are entered to win.

For more information and for suggested messages for your social media posts, please visit [www.pfb.com/FloatUs](http://www.pfb.com/FloatUs).

### *Member Benefit Spotlight*

#### PFB Members Can Save on Sherwin-Williams Paint

Need to spruce up a dingy-looking combine or put a fresh coat of paint on a barn roof?

As a Farm Bureau member, you can save on paints and coatings from Sherwin-Williams. Just show your Farm Bureau membership card at your local Sherwin-Williams store to receive a 25 percent discount and up to 40 percent off on some items.

Sherwin-Williams offers a wide variety of paints and sealants for use on just about everything around the home or farm from tractors, equipment and machinery to barns, fences and buildings.

"We offer a lot of different products that you're not just going to get at your everyday paint store," said Roger Bailey, Sherwin-Williams sales representative for the Harrisburg area. "To me, it's all about finding the right paint for the right surface."

The best way for farmers to learn about their paint options is to contact their local Sherwin-Williams store, Bailey said. From there, they can be put in contact with a sales representative who can visit the farm and talk to the customer about options.

Representatives can discuss help a customer determine whether a fresh coat of paint can help extend the life of a barn roof or whether more extensive repairs are needed.

"Once we have eyes on something, we can look at the service and determine if it's something that needs some prep work or if it can just be painted," Bailey said.

Representatives can also walk customers through what prep work is required, recommend a painter if needed and use computer software to show customers a picture of what the finished job would look like. They will also give the customer records of which paints were used in which areas in case that information is needed in the future.

For more information about your Sherwin-Williams benefit through Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, visit [www.pfb.com/sherwinwilliams](http://www.pfb.com/sherwinwilliams) or contact PFB Member Relations at 717.761.2740.

## There's more to membership! Enjoy these benefits of belonging...

### Home and Auto



THE LINCOLN  
MOTOR COMPANY

#### NEW IN 2017!

Exclusive cash bonus toward the purchase or lease of an eligible new vehicle. \*\$500 off Ford, \$750 off Lincoln  
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Must be a member for 30+ days; rebate not always stackable, some exclusions may apply



Up to 30% off millions of supplies for home, business & farm with FREE standard shipping on all orders

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Add up savings on office & janitorial supplies, technology, printing services and more

Code: 1586181PHL  
[www.StaplesAdvantage.com](http://www.StaplesAdvantage.com)



5 cent discount per gallon of propane. Contact your nearest location for details.



Roll out a 25% discount on paint & supplies, with some items up to 40% off  
Exceptions may apply

Must show membership card



Drive on with 10% savings on products and services

Code: 11361045  
National Fleet Discount



Stock up and save 15% on supplies for home & farm. Free shipping on qualifying orders over \$99

Code: PFB15  
[www.mkesalesdirect.com](http://www.mkesalesdirect.com)

### Member Publications



Stay current on Ag issues and Farm Bureau news

Stories about farming, food and destinations

Contact advertising coordinator for details. 5% off advertising rates in PFB Publications

A \*portion of annual dues covers a one-year subscription to a PFB publication. Farmer ("Regular") members receive 11 issues of the Country Focus newspaper and one Farmer ("Associate") members receive 6 issues of the bi-monthly Positively Pennsylvania magazine. Applicants selecting "farmer", "part-time farmer" or "agribusiness" on the Membership Application are classified as "regular" members. Should no box be checked and a farm name not be listed, member will be classified as "associate." Please contact your county Farm Bureau with questions regarding membership classifications.

### Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st Street, P.O. Box 8736  
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736  
717.761.2740 | [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)

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### Farm and Business



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10% off top brands of equipment, tack and apparel for horse and stable

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should do the same. With these benefits, now there's even more to membership. To take advantage of savings from these fine services, visit [www.pfb.com/services](http://www.pfb.com/services) for all the details.

To redeem discounts, use the codes, websites and/or phone numbers. This information is also available in your membership publication, on the back of your membership card and within the Members Only website at [www.pfbmembers.org](http://www.pfbmembers.org).



### Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!

Check out your county newsletter for details about discounts offered by locally owned businesses close to home.  
Local discounts not offered in all counties.

### Financial and Insurance



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\*May not be available in all areas

<b>COUNTY AND STATE CONTACT INFO</b>		
<b>Centre County Board of Directors</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Bater, Andy	Director	(814) 446-2253
Coursen, Bethany	President	(814) 404-7247
Fetterolf, Dave	Director	(814) 360-4569
Homan, Rick	Director	(814) 349-5986
Garling, Lyn	Director	(814) 349-2697
Ishler, Allen	Director	(814) 280-2180
Mondock, Tara	Director	(814) 863-6095
Turner, Millie	Treasurer	(814) 883-6474
Young, Laura	Vice President	(814) 359-6844
<b>MSC Accountant</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Region/Location</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Hoover, Leslie	Region 7	(570) 837-3817
Kiess, Jena	Region 7	(814) 232-0036
Wirt, Tim	Region 7	(570) 742-3199
<b>Nationwide Agents</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Region/Location</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Anderson, Alan	Milesburg	(814) 355-5486
Bryon, Dave	Philipsburg	(814) 237-5192
Karstetter, Mark	State College	(814) 238-6038
Menna, Joseph	Bellefonte	(814) 355-9582
Miller, Wes	Centre Hall	(814) 364-1965
Stennett, Brian	Bellefonte	(814) 251-9887
Stern, Pamela	Mill Creek	(814) 643-4410
<b>State and ROD</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Clapper, Justin	ROD	(570) 971-2289
Snook, Dave	State Board Member	(570) 263-7050

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**Spring Banquet / Meeting**

April 12, 2018, 7pm, New Hope Church,  
Spring Mills, PA  
RSVP to Evalene Ishler at 814-422-8776

**Summer Picnic Meeting**

July 10, 2018, 7pm, Centre Hall Lions Club,  
Centre Hall, PA  
RSVP to Evalene Ishler at 814-422-8776

**Annual Fall Meeting**

October 11, 2018, 7pm, New Hope Church,  
Spring Mills, PA  
RSVP to Evalene Ishler at 814-422-8776

