

# Centre County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau



American  
Farm Bureau Federation

## **NOTICE OF SPRING MEETING**

Centre County will host its annual spring information/dinner meeting on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at New Hope Lutheran Church off route 45 in Spring Mills at 6:30 pm. Guest Speaker will be a Nation Wide Agent On Ag 101. Cost to attend is \$10.00 per person (\$5 for children 12 and under). Meal to include roast beef , and cake & ice Cream. Reservations are due by Saturday, April 5<sup>st</sup> to Evalene Ishler, 814-422-8776, Sally Tanis, 814-364-2123 or Cinda Corl at 814-238-8742. We look forward to seeing you on April 15<sup>th</sup> .

### *From the Desk of the President*

*Daniel M. Kniffen*

Hopefully spring is just around the corner. It has been a long winter for all of us. We can use a little sun now, it won't be long we'll be hitting the field getting fertilizer out and getting ready to put the corn in the ground. Hopefully the summer growing season will be good to us and the rain gods will smile upon us so we have a good growing season.

The first item of business is for you to remember to attend this year's spring annual dinner April 15<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see many of you there.

Next the summer picnic is scheduled for Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will be hosting the benefit auction at the summer picnic again this year. As you know the revenue generated will provide support for the Ag in the classroom project. Any additional money raised is used to support the county scholarship programs. If you can, please bring an item of value for the July auction. In the past your Farm Bureau has hosted the picnic and covered a portion of the cost of the meal to encourage people to attend and support the auction. If you do not plan to stay for dinner and to support the auction please consider making a contribution to cover the full cost of your meal and to support the Ag in the classroom program. Watch for more details in the near future.

To aid the board with policy development we will again be conducting a survey at the picnic to help identify policy issues for this fall. Please bring your thoughts forward. The regular Policy Development meeting this year will be at the Grange Fair Office September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We hope to see you there.

The Board of Directors will be visiting with the County Commissioners this spring. Previous meetings have provided for a very good exchange. We intend to continue this activity into the future. If you have an issue you would like the board to cover please talk with a board member we'll be sure to carry it forward.

Our summer Farm Legislative Tour is coming together real well. We have identified a couple of speakers for the event. The topics for this year include the Agricultural chemical use and application, GMO issues and the Food Safety Modernization Act. Every year the committee identifies a diverse panel of industry representatives for presentations. Many of the issues common to one industry are issues for the other Ag enterprises. This is an excellent opportunity for the board to share our issues with the lawmakers.

We had a very successful membership year last year. As many of you know the new membership year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our current membership Chairmen Liza Walton of Coburn Feed Mill has work diligently to meet our goal as the 2013/2014 membership Chairperson. It is the responsibility of every member of Centre county Farm bureau to help her help us reach our 2013/2014 member goal.

I am happy to report Andy Bater has our summer golf outing well under way. We are actively seeking individuals or groups of people to help us with this event. If you can be available to spend ½ a day helping your organization with the golf event please contact either Andy or one of the board members. This event will go a long way to helping us reach our goal of support for the Ag in the Classroom and the Mobile Ag Labs Project. If you can spare some time we can really use your help.

Thank You for support of your Centre County Farm Bureau. It is the support of the members like yourself and the hard work and support for your County Board of Directors that makes your organization successful. You should be proud of what you have built. With your help we can also make this year successful for the Centre County agricultural community. Please support our local Allied Industries. They always support our efforts.

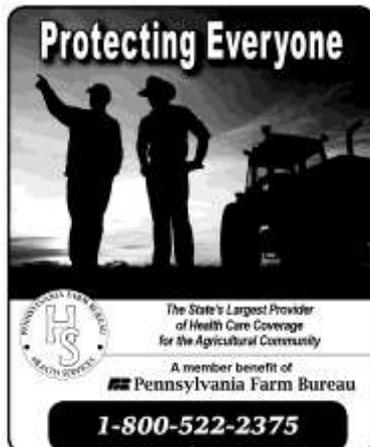
I hope to see you on down the trail. *Adios*

*Daniel M. Kniffen*

### Centre County Farm Bureau is 57 years old, wow!

**We are on the hunt for historical materials or recollections pertaining to our founding. We will use this information for the “about” page on our soon to be launched website, and of course to prepare for our “diamond jubilee” come 2017!**

If you can help, please contact Andy Bater at [917-270-5193](tel:917-270-5193) or [andrew.bater@verizon.net](mailto:andrew.bater@verizon.net)



### Food Check-Out Week - Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Shows that: Farmers Care

This year, volunteers from county Farm Bureaus continued to show that farmers care for their communities by donating food, supplies and money to six Ronald McDonald Houses in Pennsylvania.

Held in celebration of Food Check-Out Week, Farm Bureau volunteers raised more than \$60,000 in donations for homes in Danville, Hershey,

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Philadelphia (which has two houses), Pittsburgh and Scranton.

In the past 16 years, Pennsylvania farmers have collected more than \$900,000 in donations for the houses.

“Pennsylvania farmers truly care about the quality of the food they produce,” said PFB President Carl T. Shaffer. “The hard work they put into raising healthy animals and growing fresh fruits and vegetables is well worth the effort, knowing they are providing safe food for their friends, neighbors and consumers.”

The Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, which was the first house opened to families 40 years ago, recently honored Pennsylvania Farm Bureau by naming a room in the house after the organization. A plaque outside one of the room gives recognition to Farm Bureau’s continued commitment to the charity.

“This has been near and dear to my heart,” said PFB State Board Member Sonia Fink, who has worked in her region to organize the collection of donations. “I think this is one of the best projects that Farm Bureau is involved with.”

Farm Bureau has continued to work with the Ronald McDonald Houses because of the quality job they do assisting families during their time of need.

“These houses help reduce some of the emotional and financial stress on families with sick children, and can be especially helpful for families living in rural communities who must commute long distances to be with their children at specialized hospitals,” Shaffer said.

## **Farm Bill a Reality**

Congress has finally passed a five-year Farm Bill—a piece of legislation that was two years in the making.

With a signature by Pres. Barack Obama, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has started the process of establishing the programs laid out in the 2014 Farm Bill. That includes expanded crop insurance programs and a new dairy safety net.

PFB President Carl T. Shaffer commended Congress and the President for their work on the Farm Bill, and for including provisions that create more risk management tools for producers.

“The new farm bill includes a much stronger crop insurance program that should help farmers purchase enough insurance to better protect themselves from severe losses due to extreme weather disasters. It should also encourage additional farmers, who have not acquired crop insurance in the past, to do so,” said PFB President Carl T. Shaffer.

Along with providing farmers the necessary risk management tools, the Farm Bill saves \$23 billion over the next 10 years.

“Farm Bureau believes this farm bill will give farmers and ranchers a measure of business certainty for this and coming years, allowing them to better manage risk while carrying out the important business of providing food and jobs for America,” said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

Most new crop insurance programs created by the 2014 Farm Bill will not be available for producers until 2015, said Dale Moore, director of public policy for the American Farm Bureau Federation. There was simply not enough time for the USDA to come up with guidelines and still meet the traditional March closing dates for crop insurance, he said.

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Some new provisions include:

- A Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO), which provides farmers the option of buying county-level insurance that covers part of the deductible under the individual yield and revenue loss policy. The program is not available for farmers enrolled in Agriculture Risk Coverage.
- Beginning farmers and rancher are eligible for a higher subsidy rate on insurance.
- The Risk Management Agency will develop insurance products for underserved commodities. The bill also authorizes studies of insurance for swine and poultry catastrophic disease, business interruption and food safety.
- Insurance for organic crops is to offer price that reflect the retail or wholesale price.
- The Supplemental Agriculture Disaster Assistance is funded permanently. That includes a Livestock Indemnity Program for animal losses from bad weather and a Livestock Forage Program from losses due to drought or fire. It also creates a program of emergency relief for livestock, honey bees and farm-raised fish not covered by the previous two programs.

Along with new crop insurance programs for traditional commodities, risk management tools have been expanded to specialty growers, including those raising organic crops, Moore said.

“We appreciate how much Congress has worked to protect crop insurance,” Moore said.

## **This Year’s Safety Contest**

The State Women's Leadership Committee is very excited about the theme for the 2014 Safety Contest:

### **“Safer, Smarter on the Farm.”**

The committee will hold a coloring page contest for kids ages 4-6. Additionally, there will be a poster contest, incorporating the theme, for kids ages 7-9 and 10-12. For children ages, 13-15 and 16-18 there is an essay contest and they can also create a web page.

All of these contests are centered on the theme "Safer, Smarter On The Farm". For rules and a copy of the coloring page, go to <http://www.pfb.com/safetycontest>.

## **Congressman Thompson to Speak at FARMER Dinner**

Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson will serve as the keynote speaker during the FARMER Dinner held March 31 in Harrisburg. The FARMER Dinner is a major fundraising effort for the organization and is held the evening before PFB's State Legislative Conference. Thompson serves on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, where he chairs the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy & Forestry. Since its inception 34 years ago, FARMER, which stands for Farmers Allied for Responsive More Effective Representation, has recognized lawmakers who are friendly to agriculture. Each election cycle, the bi-partisan FARMER Committee reviews the records of involvement of members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly on important agriculture and rural issues, including input from county Farm Bureaus. Those lawmakers identified by FARMER as "Friends of Agriculture" are publicly recognized and receive a modest campaign contribution. The FARMER Banquet will take place Monday, March 31, at the Hilton Harrisburg, beginning with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person or \$225 with spouse.

Deadline for reservations is **March 24**. Reservations can be made by contacting Ginny Keever at [717.761.2740](tel:717.761.2740) or [ykkeeever@pfb.com](mailto:ykkeeever@pfb.com).

**Officers & Board of Directors for 2013**

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PFB OFFICE	717-761-2740

<b>Nationwide Agents</b>	
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Judith Meyer, State College	234 – 4500
Alan Anderson, State College	355-5486
Dian Min Jiang, State College	346-7293

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Rural Road Safety Week
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – Spring Meeting
- July 17<sup>th</sup> – Centre County Summer Picnic
- August 11<sup>th</sup> – Centre County Golf Outing