



# Centre County Farm Bureau *Newsletter*

## *From the Desk of the President*

*Daniel M. Kniffen*

I hope everyone is feeling good about spring planting and the recent moisture. It has been challenging getting dry hay made and stored so far this year. Having lived in dry country you learn to never complain about moisture no matter what form it comes in or when it gets here.

We have a variety of activities coming up for your county farm bureau this summer.

PLEASE plan to step up, help out and get involved. Your board members can't do it all by themselves.

First and for most please remember the summer picnic on July 17, 2014 at the Lions Club park Centre Hall. Remember the auction to help support our Ag in the Classroom teacher education initiative. RSVP is mandatory so we can have a count to order enough of chicken for those attending. To make reservations please contact either Evalene Ishler (422-8776), Sally Tanis (364-2123) or Cinda Coral (308-2455) by Monday July 7, 2014.

Next our golf tournament is up and running for August 11, 2014. Again we'll need some member help with this event. You don't need to know ANYTHING about golf to help out. Please contact any one of the board members to sign up to help. Andy Bater (917) 270-5193 is chairman of the event and would like to hear from you if you can provide any assistance. Some jobs will only require an hour or 2 of your time.

We will be doing the policy development exercise at the picnic again this year. This effort is very helpful information for the board when establishing policy for the year. Please come prepared to share your issues. Additionally, don't forget the Policy Development meeting at the Grange Fair Office Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. You may also bring your ideas forward to the policy meeting.

Help us identify worthy college students eligible for an academic scholarship. A student must have successfully completed their first year of studies in some field of agriculture. Please contact Jana Peters [jpeterspsu@gmail.com](mailto:jpeterspsu@gmail.com) (814) 863 4198 or any of the board members if you know an eligible candidate.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the October dinner meeting. I hope to see all of you there. We will be at the New Hope Church Spring Mills. Please plan to attend we will begin at 7pm Thursday October 9, 2014.

Thank You for your continued support of your Centre County Farm Bureau. You have built a successful organization. With your continued support we will continue to grow. Please support our local Allied Industries. They always support our efforts.

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

## EPA rule will upend farming and livelihoods, Farm Bureau says

A new rule will illegally expand EPA jurisdiction to millions of acres of once-unregulated farmland, exposing farmers to fines and penalties for ordinary farming activities, the American Farm Bureau Federation told Congress last week.

"The EPA isn't content with regulating just water - they want to control land use, too, even though Congress and the Courts have already told them no," said Don Parrish, senior director of regulatory affairs at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The agency's overreach, Parrish said, ignores the will of Congress and courts, alike. And as bad as the rule is, the agency compounds farmers' problems by calling into question dozens of exemptions for basic farming techniques through a separate, interpretative rule already in effect.

"Farmers face an impossible choice," Parrish said. "The proposed rule that expands jurisdiction and the interpretive rule together are a bad idea that threatens livelihoods as well as local land-use and zoning authority. It's time to ditch this rule."

The Clean Water Act, signed into law in 1972, protects the nation's waters from pollution of all sorts. But Congress gave states, not the EPA, the primary responsibility to oversee land use. The latest proposal would turn that relationship on its head.

To help Farm Bureau members and others express the need for EPA to "Ditch the Rule," Farm Bureau has launched a website at [ditchtherule.fb.org](http://ditchtherule.fb.org). Focused on topics and analysis related to the "waters of the U.S." proposed rule, the easy-to-navigate site includes several sections: Take Action, Go Social, Find Answers and Get Resources. Visitors may also sign up to learn more, comment on the proposed rule and send tweets using the hashtag #DitchTheRule.



## Farm Bureau: Estate taxes ripe for repeal



With 218 co-sponsors-more than half of the House of Representatives-on board, legislation to repeal estate taxes is ripe for floor action, the American Farm Bureau Federation said recently. Rep. Kevin Brady's (R-Texas) Death Tax Repeal Act, H.R. 2429, would repeal estate taxes, and maintain stepped-up basis.

"Although permanent law enacted as part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 provided significant estate tax relief, repeal is the best solution to protect all farms and ranches from the estate tax," said AFBF President Bob Stallman.

The estate tax burden falls heavily on farmers because it takes more capital assets, such as land and equipment, to generate the same level of income as other types of businesses. If Congress fails to permanently repeal the estate tax, surviving family members may be forced to sell off parts of their farms, ultimately jeopardizing their livelihoods. "Look at land alone," Stallman said. "As it skyrockets in value, the chances of surviving family members having to sell some substantial acreage to pay estate taxes grows right along with it. This not only can cripple a farm or ranch operation, but also hurts the rural communities and businesses that agriculture supports."



**Don't forget to RSVP for the Summer Picnic by July 7<sup>th</sup>**

To make reservations please contact either Evalene Ishler (422-8776), Sally Tanis (364-2123) or Cinda Coral (308-2455)

**The time is nearing!  
Centre County Farm Bureau's  
"Drive" for the Future of Agriculture Golf Tournament.**

**Taking place on the Monday before Penn State's Ag Progress  
Days: August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
at Mountain View Country Club.**

The tournament will benefit Penn State Collegiate Farm Bureau and PA Friends of Ag Foundation. This tournament will help offer that opportunity through college level scholarships and, at the elementary and middle school level, fund the Ag Lab program that educates younger students about the food they eat.

**We need volunteers in the following areas!**

- Hole Signage Placement
  - Registration Table
  - Mulligan/String Table
  - Hole-In-One Witnesses
- Foursome Photographer & Assistant
  - General Photographer
- Dinner Table Decorations & Signage

We are also still looking for sponsors to help support the event. If you or your business is willing to donate to help our future farmers please visit [CentreCFB.org](http://CentreCFB.org) for sponsorship info.

If you are interested in helping or sponsorship please contact Andy Bater at (814)-446-2253 or [golf@centreCFB.org](mailto:golf@centreCFB.org)

**& Board of Directors for 2013**

Dan Kniffen, President	814-422-8686
Sally Tanis, Vice President	814-364-2123
CindaCorl, Secretary	814-238-8742
Bethany Coursen, Treasurer	814-422-8974
Herb Cole	814-349-8781
Henry Beiler	
Cody Edling	215-620-3078
Allen Ishler	814-422-8224
Scott Wolfe	814-422-8455
DonnFetterolf, PFB Board	814-349-8213
Ashley Hoover, ROD	570-971-2289
PFB OFFICE	717-761-2740

<b>Nationwide Agents</b>	
Mike Karstetter, State College	238 – 6038
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Joseph Menna, Bellefonte	355 – 9582
Judith Meyer, State College	234 – 4500
Alan Anderson, State College	355-5486
Dian Min Jiang, State College	346-7293

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**July 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> - PFB Office Closed**

**July 17<sup>th</sup> – Centre County Summer Picnic**

**August 6<sup>th</sup> - Legislative Farm Tour at Way Fruit Farm**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> – Centre County Golf Outing**

**September 9<sup>th</sup> - Policy Development Meeting 7pm at Grange Fair Office**

**October 9<sup>th</sup> – Fall Meeting at New Hope Church 7pm**