



# Centre County Farm Bureau *Newsletter*

## *From the Desk of the President* *Daniel M. Kniffen*

What a great summer it has been not only for the crops but also your county farm bureau. Admittedly making hay has been somewhat of a challenge, but the corn and beans look great.

Beginning with the summer picnic, we had almost 70 people attend the event this year. The auction raised almost \$1900. Monies that will be used to support the Ag in the classroom teacher training as well as the county scholarships awarded to deserving students.

Next our Annual Legislative farm tour at Way Fruit Farm was a great opportunity to inform our lawmakers about the many issues confronting Ag producers. The lawmakers commented on how important the meeting is for them and they appreciate our effort to help them better understand the Ag issues.

Our next challenge was to host the first county golf tournament. We had almost 70 golfers show up for the day. Individuals from as far away as California participated in the outing. Following the day of golf we had a dinner and an auction. Items donated went a long way to making the day a complete success. The event was a huge success thanks to the effort of the chairman Andy Bater, honorary Chairman Abe Harpster and the dedicated committee. Thank You group it would not have happened without all of your collective effort.

It's not too early to start planning to attend the fall dinner. Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We will be at the New Hope Church (Spring Mills) again this fall. Please call and make reservations with either: Evalene Ishler 422-8776, Sally Tanis 364-2123 or Cinda Corl 238-8742. Reservation MUST BE made by Sept. 29, 2014 in order to secure your spot. I hope to see many of you there. We have policy to discuss and vote on and elections for members to your Board of Directors. Please take your responsibilities seriously. This may be the most important meeting we host all year. Pay your annual dues before the meeting and receive one free meal at the fall meeting

Students get your applications in to Jana Peters for the fall scholarship program. Her Email address is: [jpeterspsu@gmail.com](mailto:jpeterspsu@gmail.com). You must be a student in your second year of college in an agricultural major.

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*

## Do you have an issue that needs attention?

Centre County Farm Bureau will hold a policy development meeting at the Grange Fair Office on Sept. 9, 2014, 7 pm. Please attend and help with policies for the new year. If you cannot attend but have a policy suggestion contact me at [814-364-2123](tel:814-364-2123) or [idealholsteins@gmail.com](mailto:idealholsteins@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Sally Tanis  
Policy Development Chair

## Membership Drive

The 2015 Membership Drive is here and it's time to kick it into high gear! Please help us reach our 5% goal of 19 new members by early November. With every member's help, we can get this done! If you would like to help, need membership materials or even just have a suggestion for a new member to contact, please let me know! My phone number is (484) 459-6387 or you can email me at [EJW194@gmail.com](mailto:EJW194@gmail.com). Remember... if EACH ONE REACHES ONE, we can tackle this job together! Thanks again from your membership chair, Eliza Walton.

## YFR

The Centre County Young Farmer and Rancher group is planning a potluck picnic this fall together with Clinton County's YF&R (date and time to be determined). This spring we met for dinner and bowling, and it was a big success! We had a good turnout of about 20 people and it was exciting to meet other young and beginning farmers in the area. It's a great way to meet new people involved in agriculture. Don't miss the fall gathering, it is going to be fun! Contact Chris Ishler for more information. (814) 280-5131 or [cai8300@gmail.com](mailto:cai8300@gmail.com).

## House Passes Long-Sought Pesticide Measure

The U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 935, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, by a vote of 267-161. The bipartisan legislation amends both the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Clean Water Act. The measure would correct the duplicative requirements associated with EPA's regulations by specifying that federal Clean Water Act permits are not needed for the lawful land-application of pesticides for agricultural use. All of Pennsylvania's Republican House Members voted for H.R. 935.

## Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Opposes EPA's Waters of the U.S. Proposal

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau voiced its opposition to a recently proposed rule jointly issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers that attempts to expand federal regulation of land areas as "waters of the U.S.," during a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in Altoona.



Speaking on behalf of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), Cambria County Farm Bureau President Tommy Nagle testified that farmers are concerned about the possible consequences of the proposal on farms and the future viability of family businesses, especially when you consider that land features identified in the proposal are found extensively on farms all across the nation.

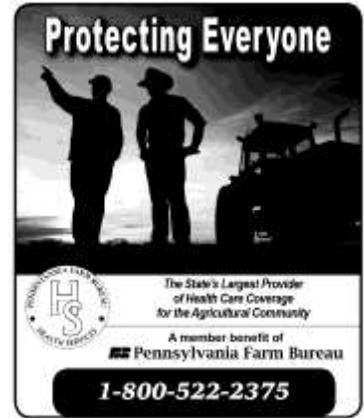
“What if the ultimate effect of this rule prevents farmers from passing their operations on to their children, or prevents young people—like me—from becoming farmers?” asked Nagle.

Farm Bureau maintains that Congress clearly intended regulations under the Clean Water Act to focus on navigable waters, not ponds, ditches or puddles that occur on land during a heavy rainstorm. In addition, two Supreme Court rulings have affirmed that the federal government is limited to regulating “navigable” waters.

“Those of us in agriculture believe that the authors of the Clean Water Act included the term “navigable” for a reason,” said Nagle, who with his wife Tracy, raises a herd of beef cattle and grows corn, soybeans and other grains on 775 acres near Saint Augustine in Clearfield Township.

Farm Bureau notes that the 370 pages of regulatory language effectively erase current limitations on EPA and Army Corps authority. The proposed rule is supposed to be a clarification, but it seems to only provide more confusion and less clarity for farm families whose land will be judged by these agencies. “If I guess wrong on their judgment, I could face fines of up to \$37,500 per day. If they guess wrong, I have to go to court to correct it. That’s a scary thought,” added Nagle.

PFB is also questioning the validity of EPA claims that agricultural exemptions currently provided under the federal Clean Water Act should relieve farmers of any need to worry about the proposed rule. Exemptions provided in the Act are mostly limited to plowing and earth moving activities, and do not apply to the use of fertilizers or similar farm inputs on farm fields. Many practices in fields could require government approval through a complex process of federal permitting, if the proposed rule becomes final.



Farm Bureau is asking EPA and the Corps to extend the comment period from 90 days to 180 days in order to provide farmers, who are actively engaged in planting their crops, to fully review how the proposed changes will impact their businesses and give them time to provide feedback.

Additionally, Farm Bureau is calling on EPA and the Corps to voluntarily withdraw their proposed rule. In absence of voluntary withdrawal, Farm Bureau is seeking the help of Congress to take political and legislative action to have EPA and the Corps “ditch the rule.”

Visit <http://ditchtherule.fb.org/> to Take Action!

**Don't Forget to RSVP for the Fall Meeting by September 29<sup>th</sup>**

Evalene Ishler 422-8776, Sally Tanis 364-2123 or Cinda Corl 238-8742

**Board of Directors for 2014**

Dan Kniffen, President	814-422-8686
Sally Tanis, Vice President	814-364-2123
Cinda Corl, Secretary	814-238-8742
Bethany Coursen, Treasurer	<u>814-404-7247</u>
Herb Cole	814-349-8781
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Allen Ishler	814-422-8224
Scott Wolfe	814-422-8455
Donn Fetterolf, PFB Board	814-349-8213
Chelsea Wood, ROD	570-971-2289
PFB OFFICE	717-761-2740

**Nationwide Agents**

Mike Karstetter, State College	238 – 6038
Wes Miller, Centre Hall	364 – 1965
Pamela Stern, Huntingdon	643 – 4410
Dave Byron, State College	237 – 5192
David Baughman, Howard	625 - 2317
Donald Hollinger, State College	237 – 1227
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:**

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

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