



Centre County Farm Bureau *Newsletter*

From the Desk of the President C. Allen Ishler

After a wet spring and a dry summer, I think we've had a good crop season. The corn and soybeans have gotten the much needed rain going into fall. Even some dry weather to finally make some quality hay.

The first item of business is that we had an excellent summer picnic and benefit auction. We were able to raise just over \$1800 to provide support for several of our scholarship programs. Thank you to all that participated either as contributors or buyers.

The policy development exercise at the picnic was very helpful information for the board. Thank you to all that participated. Don't forget that the Policy Development meeting will be at the Grange Fair Office September 8th at 7pm. Please bring your ideas forward to the meeting.

The summer Farm Legislative Tour was excellent. This year's tour was at a poultry farm. With Avian Flu on the forefront in national news, there was excellent information provided to a well attended group of township supervisors.

Our County Farm Bureau Golf outing continues to grow. The event was held Monday August 17, 2015. Dr. Rod Ericson, past president of PSU, was our honorary chairman and spoke briefly at the evening Bar B Q thanking the golfers and sponsors for their support. The money raised goes to Pa Friends of Ag Foundation. They own and operate the ag labs that visit elementary schools across the state. Part of the money also goes to College Farm Bureau Scholarships.

Don't forget 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 8, 2015. Reservations are due September 28th, 2015.

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. Also, check us out on Facebook.

Until we meet again. *Allen*

Judge Blocks WOTUS Rule in 13 States with Injunction

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A federal judge in North Dakota has blocked the implementation of the new "waters of the U.S." rule in 13 states. The preliminary injunction issued late Thursday governs North Dakota and a dozen other states that sued the Environmental Protection Agency, claiming the agency overstepped its jurisdiction in crafting the WOTUS rule. Pennsylvania has not joined any lawsuit against the EPA over the WOTUS rule. In granting the preliminary injunction, Judge Ralph Erickson wrote that states suing the EPA are likely to succeed because it appears the agency exceeded its authority in creating the rule. "On balance,

the harms favor the states," Erickson wrote. "The risk of irreparable harm to the states is both imminent and likely. More importantly, delaying the rule will cause the agencies no appreciable harm. Delaying implementation to allow a full and final resolution on the merits is in the best interests of the public." According to published reports, EPA officials say the ruling only applies to the 13 states that brought suit against the agency. But PFB President Rick Ebert believes EPA should halt all further action on the rule. "While EPA has tried to posture the legal impact of the ruling on Pennsylvania and other states, it has received a clear and well-reasoned directive from federal court that it will likely lose its case against challengers to the WOTUS rule," Ebert said. "A prudent agency should be very reluctant to move forward with any plan to implement or enforce a regulation that a competent court has initially found to be illegal until the legal process in the North Dakota case is fully completed. We hope and expect EPA to be prudent in putting this illegal rule on hold nationwide." The rule, set to take effect today, significantly expands federal authority under the Clean Water Act.

Pennsylvania Starts New Quarantine Rules to Prevent Avian Influenza

Pennsylvania has set strict standards for cleaning vehicles and containers transporting poultry and related products to help prevent the spread of high pathogen avian influenza. The bird flu has not been discovered in Pennsylvania, but state officials are taking measures to prevent it from spreading into the state. Under the new rule, all vehicles and containers hauling poultry and poultry products must be cleaned and disinfected by using commercial truck washing equipment. Companies will be required to keep documentation of cleaning and disinfection. The virus has spread from wild birds into commercial flocks mostly along migratory bird flyways. It has been discovered in 21 states-the closest being Michigan. The virus has killed roughly 50 million birds. Pennsylvania has already established a quarantine requiring a 72-hour testing period for the movement of poultry to live bird markets and eggs for commercial breaking operations from states with confirmed avian influenza outbreaks.

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**Don't Forget to RSVP for the Fall Dinner Meeting
 by September 28th**

Evalene Ishler 422-8776 or Cinda Corl 238-8742

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

September 8th – Policy Development Meeting 7pm

October 8th – Fall Meeting Banquet 7pm

November 16th-18th PFB State Annual Meeting