



CHESTER/DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, your go-to source for updates, insights, and opportunities in our agricultural community.

A grassroots organization that helps to lead Pennsylvania agriculture in our community and our legislation.

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau newsletter is a quarterly publication, providing timely updates on agricultural developments across the counties. This publication will include news on local farming initiatives, key events, and Farm Bureau activities, offering valuable insights and resources to our community of agricultural professionals. Stay informed on important happenings and events that support the growth and sustainability of farming in the region.

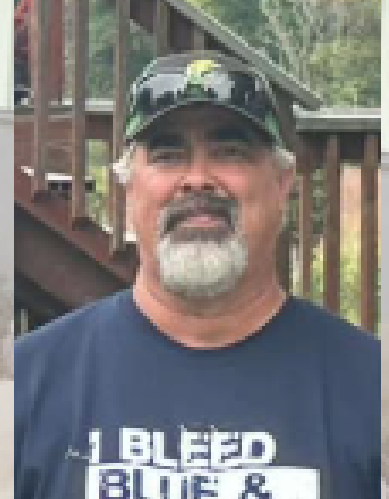


**SUPPORTING
AGRICULTURE
ACROSS
CHESTER/DELAWARE
COUNTY**

President's Letter

Hello to the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau,

Summer has officially arrived, bringing with it the familiar heat and humidity. While recent rainfall was welcome in many ways, it also presented challenges for local farmers—particularly during the wheat harvest, which proved difficult for many in our area.



As the season continues, we turn our attention to a long-standing Farm Bureau tradition: Policy Development meetings. These meetings are a vital part of our grassroots process and offer an opportunity for members to voice their concerns and propose ideas on legislative issues that directly impact their farms and businesses. This year, we're hosting two meetings at opposite ends of the county to make participation more accessible.

Your input matters—local successes like the passage of the Sunday Hunting bill and strengthened protections for private property rights began as policy ideas from members right here in our community. We encourage you to attend one of the meetings, engage in the discussion, and help shape the future of agriculture in our region. Meeting times and locations are listed below. We look forward to seeing you there!

Howard Reyburn

CDCFB Committee Reports

Women's Leadership Committee

The Women's Leadership Committee held a fantastic summer picnic with the YAP Committee on June 29, 2025, at Hibernia Park. During the fellowship and conversations that the picnic brought, the Committee was able to recognize those who won the Farm Safety Contest, our scholarship winner, and to hear some state updates from President Chris Hoffman, who was able to attend.

All of the county submissions from the Farm Safety contest were sent on to be judged against other submissions from across the state, and will hear the results at the PFB Annual Meeting in November.

Respectfully,

Anna Brown, CDCFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair

reyburnan18@gmail.com

P&E Committee

Planning for the 2026 PA Farm Bureau Amplify Convention has begun, and details are coming together quickly. The event will be held in February at the Penn State in State College, PA. The Joint Committee is excited to bring engaging workshops, interactive breakouts, and dynamic conversations to all the agriculture community in 2026!

YAP Committee

Check out the Eastern state YAP picnic at Paulus Farm on August 10th, starting at 11 a.m. Fun for the whole family, there will be food, networking and games. For more information and how to RSVP, contact Paul Harrop at paulfharrop@gmail.com

Government Relations

One of the most important things that the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau does is advocate for legislation that protects and aids farmers and the agriculture industry within our counties. With a successful legislative day in Harrisburg over, there is still plenty to do. If you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committees, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com

Rural Road Safety

While driving on a rural road, you may encounter farm equipment. This equipment comes in a variety of shapes and sizes.

Farm equipment is designed to be used primarily in a field and is not designed to travel at typical highway speeds. Most farm equipment is designed to travel at speeds of 15-25 miles per hour.

Just as motorists are entitled to operate their vehicles on public roadways, farmers are legally allowed to operate farm equipment on these same roadways. Caution and courtesy will help ensure the safety of motorists, passengers, and operators of slow-moving farm equipment.

If you're driving 55 mph and come upon a tractor that's moving 15 miles per hour, it only takes five seconds to close a gap the length of a football field between you and the tractor.

Recognize the Slow Moving Vehicle Emblem

When you see the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, you should immediately slow down. SMV emblems must be visible at least 500 feet away from the vehicle, but because it may be difficult for you to judge the speed at which you are closing in on a vehicle, you should slow down immediately. Think of the slow moving vehicle emblem as a warning to adjust your speed.



Do You Recognize these Symbols?

Less than 30% of drivers know what these symbols mean.* But it's a matter of life and death for drivers of automobiles, farm equipment and animal-drawn vehicles on rural roads.

This is a daytime view of the slow moving vehicle emblem. It is to be displayed on animal-drawn vehicles and on other vehicles designed to travel at speeds of 25 mph or less. It is not simply a reflector- it is a warning to slow down.

Occasionally you may encounter slow moving vehicles traveling at night. The SMV emblem's red border is designed for nighttime visibility. Your car's headlights will reflect off the red border of the SMV emblem, and appear to you to be a glowing red triangle floating in the darkness. It is extremely important to slow down immediately because reduced lighting will make it difficult to judge how rapidly you are closing in on a slow moving vehicle, or what the dimensions of the slow moving vehicle may be.

*According to findings of Penn State researcher Philip M. Garvey, author of "Motorist Comprehension of the Slow-Moving Vehicle Emblem."

It is illegal for any resident of Pennsylvania to display the slow moving vehicle emblem on permanent, stationary objects such as mail box posts, driveway entrances and fences.

Be Patient

A farmer understands that your trip is being delayed, so he or she will pull off the road at the first available safe location to allow you to pass.

Even if you have to slow down to 20 mph and follow a tractor for two miles, it takes only six minutes of your time, which is approximately equivalent to waiting for two stoplights.

Yield to Wide Vehicles

Some farm equipment may be wider than the lane of travel. If you approach a piece of wide farm equipment traveling in the opposite direction and you cannot pass safely, stop. Then pull off the road or safely turn around or back-up to a location that will allow the equipment to pass you.

Don't Assume that the Farmer Knows You're There

Most operators of farm equipment will regularly check to see if there is traffic behind them. However, the farmer must spend most of the time looking ahead to keep the equipment safely on the road, and to watch for oncoming traffic. Also, most farm equipment is very loud, and the farmer will probably not be able to hear your vehicle. Therefore, do not assume that the farmer knows where your vehicle is located. Before you attempt to pass, use your car's horn to signal to the farmer that you are there.

Pass with Caution

If a farmer has pulled off the road to allow you to pass, or if the farmer cannot pull off the road and you feel you must pass, do so with caution.

- Be watchful of vehicles behind you that may also try to pass.
- If you must enter the oncoming lane of traffic, do not pass unless you can see clearly ahead of both you and the vehicle you will pass.
- If there are any curves or hills ahead that may block your view or the view of oncoming vehicles, do not pass.
- Do not pass if you are in a designated "No Passing Zone" or within 100 feet of any intersection, railroad grade crossing, bridge, elevated structure or tunnel.
- Do not assume that a farm vehicle that pulls to the right side of the road is going to turn right or is letting you pass. Due to the size of some farm implements, the farmer must execute wide lefthand turns. If you are unsure, check the operator's hand signals and check the left side of the road for gates, driveways or any place a farm vehicle might turn.

Pennsylvania
PFB
Farm Bureau

By being aware of farm equipment during your travels on rural roads, you can help make the trip safe for both you and Pennsylvania's farmers.

For more information, call 717.761.2740 or email: GovCom@pfb.com

Tips for Farmers

Farmers play a key role in rural road safety too. Here are some tips to alleviate hazards when taking wide equipment onto the road:

- ▲ Pennsylvania law requires you to place a slow moving vehicle reflector on any machine that travels the road slower than 25 mph. Always point the triangle up, keep the SMV emblem clean to maximize reflectivity, and replace the emblem when it fades, normally every 2-3 years.
- ▲ Mark the edges of tractors and machines with reflective tape and reflectors. Consider installing retrofit lighting on older machinery to increase visibility.
- ▲ Turn on your lights, but turn off rear spotlights when going onto the road. From a distance they can be mistaken for headlights.
- ▲ Avoid the highway during rush hours and bad weather. Ensure that you have adequate lighting when driving before sunrise or after sunset.
- ▲ Use pilot cars if you are going a considerable distance. Hang an orange flag out the window of the pilot vehicle.
- ▲ Consider installing mirrors on equipment to enable you to be aware of motorists around you.
- ▲ Follow all transportation laws. To learn more go to PFB's transportation page at:

www.pfb.com/transportation

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

510 S. 31st Street • Box 8736, Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717.761.2740 • www.pfb.com/ruralroadsafety



*It's a matter of
life and death*



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Legislative Update

By Mitchell Kurek, State and Local Affairs Specialist

State Budget Delayed for FY 2025–26

Pennsylvania has entered its fourth consecutive year without an on-time budget, as negotiations between Governor Shapiro, the House, and the Senate remain unresolved. Despite a projected \$11 billion surplus, disagreements over education funding, public transportation, and healthcare spending continue to stall progress. This delay could impact the timing of key program disbursements, including state-funded agricultural grants.

Agriculture Remains a Bipartisan Priority

Governor Shapiro's proposed budget includes a \$15 million increase for the Agricultural Innovation Grant Program, aiming to meet rising demand for conservation, precision agriculture, and on-farm technology projects. Additional proposals include a \$4 million boost to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System (PASS), continued funding for Penn Vet and animal health programs, and a \$2 million investment in a new animal diagnostic lab in western Pennsylvania.

Legislative Highlights

- Wildlife and Crop Protection (SB 518 & HB 1431): Both bills have passed the General Assembly and await the Governor's signature. Key provisions include simplified crop damage reporting, stronger penalties for trespassing, repeal of the Sunday hunting ban, and guaranteed agricultural representation on the Game Commission board.
- Eminent Domain Reform (SB 225): Unanimously passed in the Senate, this bill provides fairer compensation for business owners facing property condemnation, including recognition of goodwill loss.
- Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Update (HB 242): Passed overwhelmingly in the House, this bill refocuses the credit on the sale of agricultural assets, raises the cap to \$50,000, and transfers program administration to the Department of Agriculture.
- Infrastructure & Land Protection:
 - Milk Hauling Flexibility (SB 481): Ensures uninterrupted dairy transport during emergencies and weather restrictions.
 - Solar Facility Standards (SB 349): Establishes statewide rules for decommissioning solar sites, safeguarding farmland and landowner interests.
- Dairy Market Modernization (SB 689): Advances reforms to Pennsylvania's Over-Order Premium, promoting transparency and ensuring benefits go directly to in-state dairy farmers.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau continues to advocate for final budget approval and timely implementation of these legislative initiatives, which are critical to the continued growth and resilience of the state's agriculture sector.

Federal Legislative Update

By Bailey Fisher, Federal Affairs Specialist

Reconciliation: Movement on the One Big Beautiful Act

On May 22, the House narrowly passed H.R.1, the One Big Beautiful Act, by a vote of 215–214. The Senate is expected to begin debate on its version starting June 27, with GOP leaders aiming to finalize and send it to President Trump by the self-imposed July 4 deadline. However, the Congressional recess beginning June 28 may delay final action. Both House and Senate versions include agriculture and tax provisions supported by Farm Bureau. Speaker Johnson and President Trump have emphasized the urgency of passage before the holiday break.

Labor: Uncertainty Around Immigration Enforcement

President Trump recently expressed a commitment to protecting farmworkers from deportation and promised reform of agricultural visa programs. However, following initial guidance exempting farms from ICE raids, the administration reversed course, prompting concern from Farm Bureau. PFB and AFBF continue to urge the administration to ensure border security policies do not undermine food production and farm labor stability.

USDA Updates

- **New World Screwworm Prevention:** Secretary Rollins announced a five-part strategy to prevent the re-emergence of New World Screwworm (NWS), a parasitic fly last eradicated in 1966. A key step includes building a sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base, Texas, to distribute sterile flies in both the U.S. and Mexico.
- **Emergency Livestock Relief Payments Released:** USDA has released \$2 billion in ELRP funds authorized by the American Relief Act of 2025. Payments will go to producers who filed approved LFP applications for 2023–2024 losses, based on 35% of gross LFP payments.

Public Health Policy: MAHA Commission Report

The Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission released its initial report on May 22, examining childhood chronic disease. Unfortunately, the report includes recommendations critical of EPA-approved agricultural practices, prompting strong disappointment from PFB. The final report is expected in August, and PFB is actively calling for farmers to have a voice in the policy process. Stakeholders are encouraged to contact Bailey Fisher for talking points.

Dairy: Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act Advances

A longtime priority for Farm Bureau, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, passed out of the Senate Agriculture Committee on June 3. The legislation would restore the ability to serve 2% and whole milk in schools. With both the House and Senate Ag Committees moving the bill forward, the next step is a floor vote.

FY26 Appropriations: House Ag Bill Moves Forward

On June 23, the House Appropriations Committee advanced the FY26 Agriculture Appropriations Bill by a vote of 35–27. The bill covers USDA, FDA, and related agencies. While Farm Bureau has not taken a formal position, staff continue to monitor developments as the bill moves toward a full House vote.

2025 CDCFB Summer Picnic



PFB President Chris Hoffman gives an update to our members in attendance



Coloring Page Winner Cyrus
Reyburn



Poster Winner Molly Reyburn



Scholarship Winner
Emma Lewis

**Not Pictured, Video Contest
Winner Harvey Reyburn**

Are You Turning 65 This Year and Going on Medicare?



Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Health Services

Choosing your Medicare plan can be overwhelming. It can be hard to figure out what you want, or more important, what you need.

Farm Bureau's experienced and trained staff are ready to help. At no cost to you, we can:

- Answer your questions
- Explain and compare options
- Work within your budget
- Help with informed Medicare coverage decisions

Knowledgeable. Helpful. Dedicated.

To check availability in your county call **800.522.2375**.

Let's talk about

ATV safety



Having the safety talk with your kids isn't just important—it's essential.

In 2023, 19% of deaths in off-highway vehicle (OHV) accidents were children under 16, with only 2% wearing helmets.¹ The **Let's Champion Rider Safety®** campaign, provides tips and resources for effective safety discussions and protection for young riders.



Learn more at
Nationwide.com/ATVsafety



Scan code to get
safety tips for your
young riders.



¹ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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Member Benefits

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau knows you work hard for your money and your membership should too. Visit www.pfb.com/services or scan the QR code to see how to get your share of **\$2.7 million in annual savings**.
To redeem discounts, use the required codes, websites, and/or phone numbers found by logging into the Member Only website at www.pfbmembers.org.
Member benefits are subject to change without notice. Membership Dues Are Non-Refundable.



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Must be a member for 30+ days.
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Exceptions may apply.



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www.staplesbusiness.com
Online purchases



Code: PAFB
855.763.8213
www.affinitycellular.com/pfb

Farm and Business



Account: 855488417
www.grainger.com/farmbusiness



Renewals code: PAFB
New member code: PAFB39
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Renewals 10% off



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to download certificate
10% off



www.pfb.com/caseih
to download certificate
30-day waiting period



www.pfb.com/cat
to download certificate
30-day waiting period



www.johndeere.com/farm-bureau
Farm Membership with John
Deere Rewards Program
30-day waiting period



855.626.4088
www.pfb.com/shipler-energy
Membership number required

PFB Member Service

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Health Services
800.522.2375
www.pfb.com/healthservices

Financial and Insurance

FARM BUREAU BANK www.farmbureaubank.com

Nationwide® offers a variety of insurance and financial services to Farm Bureau members including farm*, auto*, home*, pet*, travel*, powersports, commercial and life insurance.
*Select discounts may apply.

To learn more, contact your local Nationwide agent or visit Nationwide.com/pfb

Additional Benefits

Save even more with County Farm Bureau Local Discounts!
For a complete list of discounts offered by +375 locally-owned businesses in nearly 50 counties visit pfb.com/le-localdiscounts.
Local discounts not offered in all counties.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Deals Plus



pfb.com/dealsplus

Health and Wellness



Code: Group 946
www.scriptsave.com



800.974.7036
www.mypfbpharmacy.com
Pennsylvania

Publication

PFB adds value to membership and keeps members informed through a variety of print and digital publications. Members receive 5% off advertising rates in our print publications. Contact advertising coordinator for details.

At least \$4000 of annual member dues covers subscriptions to *Positively Pennsylvania*. Members receive 3 issues of *Positively Pennsylvania* per year. Publication frequency and details are subject to change.



FUNDING AVAILABLE

GOAL

This program aims to assist landowners with addressing resource concerns by funding the implementation of conservation practices on their land.

CONTACT

Contact Dan Miloser at the Chester County Conservation District for more information and to apply at

(610)-455-1380 or
dmiloser@chesco.org

SCAN QR CODE FOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES



-OR- navigate to <https://tinyurl.com/acapguide>

Potential Project Ideas

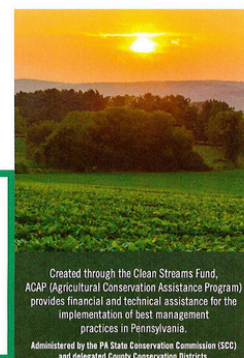
- Stream fencing and buffers
- Cattle crossings protecting stream beds and stream banks
- Watering systems in pastures with reinforced gravel pad
- Manure storage structures
- Mortality composting facilities
- Grassed waterways

\$300,000 DEDICATED TO AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a cooperative effort between the State Conservation Commission, Delaware County Conservation District, and Chester County Conservation District.

Delaware County Conservation District
(610)-892-9484
Chester County Conservation District
(610)-455-1360



Created through the Clean Streams Fund, ACAP (Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program) provides financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices in Pennsylvania.
Administered by the PA State Conservation Commission (SCC) and designated County Conservation Districts.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736
717-761-2740
www.pfb.com

Stay in the Know with PFB Alerts

Be the first to know about major developments in Pennsylvania agriculture, state and federal policy, and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau advocacy and engagement by signing up for PFB text message alerts. PFB members are informed through our print and digital communications. But sometimes there's news you need to know right away. That's why we've developed PFB text message alerts to send important updates right to your phone.

Signing up is easy. Simply text "PFBALERTS" to 833-554-0849. By texting to this number, you agree to receive promotional messages sent via an auto dialer, and this agreement isn't a condition of any purchase. You also agree to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy. Msg&data rates may apply. Up to 5 msg/mo. To unsubscribe, text STOP to 833-554-0849.

How to sign up for PFB Action Alerts

To sign up by email: Visit www.pfb.com/ActNow. Enter your email address and ZIP code under "Sign Up for Alerts" and click the arrow. Enter your information and click "Save." Make sure to keep the box checked next to "Keep me subscribed to email alerts." Start receiving and responding to important Action Alerts from PFB, via email!

To sign up by text message:

Text "PFB" to 50457. You will receive a text message thanking you for signing up. Just click on the link highlighted in blue to complete the registration. The link will send you to a registration page. Fill out the information and click SAVE.

Nationwide Insurance Agents

Garcia-Taylor Insurance Agency

3615 Lincoln Hwy, Thorndale, PA 19372

Chester County

Phone: (610) 384-2884

Simpers Insurance

224 East Street Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348

Chester County

Phone: (610) 444-2610

Joseph Definis Inc

3221 Edgmont Ave, Brookhaven, PA 19015

Delaware County

Phone: (610) 874-7900

Policy Development Meetings

All CDCFB members are invited to attend these Policy development meetings to help shape the future of our agriculture in our area. Your concerns and solutions could help to form new legislation.

Meeting #1: Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Romano 4-H Center

Meeting #2: Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Upper Oxford Township Office

CDCFB Board of Directors

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Julie Brady, 2nd VP/Treas

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Dennis Byrne

Deborah Ellis

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Paul Harrop

Melissa Harrop

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CDCFB Committee Chairs:

County Membership Chair - Harold Hallman

Women's Leadership - Anna Brown

PLDAC - Doug Fearn

Young Ag Professionals District 3 Rep and

County - Paul Harrop

Promotion & Education District 3 Rep and

County - Melissa Harrop

Ag Safety / Rural Road Safety - Darryl King

Government Relations Director - Julie Brady

Ag Lab / Ag in the Classroom - Deb Ellis

Next Meeting Dates: August 13, 2025,.

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Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau>

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Delaware County Farm Bureau, visit our new website:**

www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com

Please send items for the newsletter to: MelHarrop4482@gmail.com