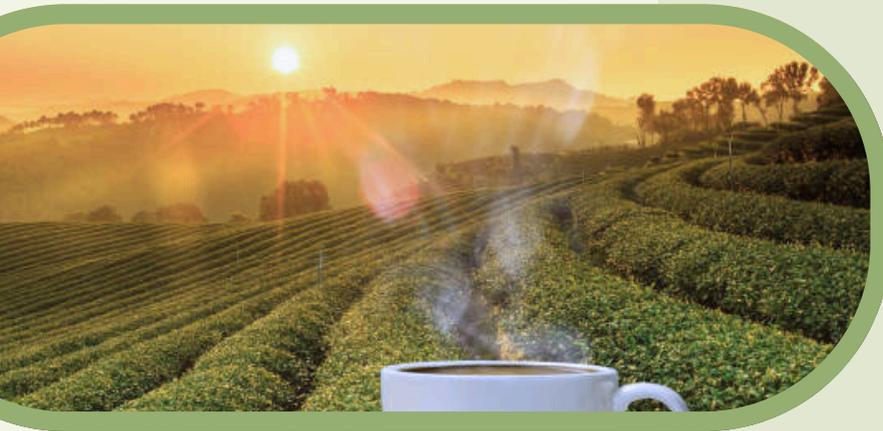




CHESTER/DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2026

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



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.

A grassroots organization that helps to lead Pennsylvania agriculture in our community and our legislation. Supporting agriculture across Chester and Delaware Counties



[CDCFB Website](#)



cdfbmanager@gmail.com

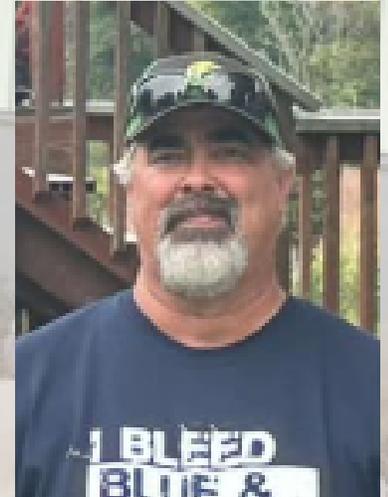


123 Anywhere St., Any City

President's Letter

Hello to the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau,

I wanted to share a quick update following the 75th Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting this past November. Our county delegates were proud to represent you as member-driven policies were reviewed and updated to guide our advocacy efforts in 2026. Key discussions included animal health protections, farmland preservation, regulatory reform, water quality, infrastructure impacts on agriculture, and protecting property rights. These policies come directly from grassroots input and ensure our local farm voices are heard at the state and federal levels.



As we look ahead to the upcoming PFB Legislative Conference, we will be meeting with lawmakers to discuss many of these priorities – especially strengthening animal health response programs, preserving farmland, easing regulatory burdens, and ensuring agriculture remains a strong and viable part of our region's economy.

With new HPAI outbreaks reported in neighboring Lancaster County and Chester County currently in a surveillance area, I also encourage everyone to remain vigilant with farm biosecurity practices. Limiting visitors, cleaning equipment, monitoring flock and herd health, and reporting concerns quickly are all simple but important steps we can take to protect one another.

Thank you for your continued involvement and commitment to agriculture in our counties. Working together, we will continue to advocate effectively and keep our farms safe and strong.

Howard Reyburn

CDCFB Committee Reports

Women's Leadership Committee

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee will host the 2026 GRACE Leadership Conference on Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, at the Holiday Inn Williamsport. Friday's agenda will include a tour, a hands-on craft activity and dinner. The conference will continue Saturday morning with breakfast, followed by a keynote address from Coach Kiah, a California cattle rancher and motivational speaker.

Register by March 17, by clicking [here](#).

Respectfully,

Anna Brown, CDCFB Women's Leadership Committee Chair

reyburnan18@gmail.com

P&E Committee

After 10 years of proudly serving as the District 3 Representative on the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee, I have officially termed out of my role. It has truly been an honor to support and work alongside the counties in our district whenever needed. I am grateful to Liz Ward for graciously stepping forward to serve in this role for the next two years. I look forward to seeing everyone soon at the annual meetings and Farm Bureau Days!



Moving forward, Liz Ward will be the District 3 Representative for the Promotion & Education Committee. Liz lives in the southern end of Chester County and has a passion for promoting and educating about agriculture! Liz can be reached at eward1@zoominternet.net

Government Relations

As Government Relations Director for the County Farm Bureau, I'm pleased to share that the upcoming Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Legislative Conference is right around the corner. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity for our members to engage directly with state lawmakers and advocate for the issues that matter most to agriculture and our rural communities. In this newsletter, you'll find a brief overview of PFB's 2026 Priority Issues List, highlighting the key policy areas we will be advancing during our time in Harrisburg. If you have any questions, please contact Mel Harrop at melharrop4482@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.

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.



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

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.

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



CDCFB Committee Reports

YAP Committee

District 3 Young Ag Professionals Representative Needed

The District 3 seat on the State Young Ag Professionals Committee is currently vacant, and we are seeking a dedicated volunteer (ages 18–35) with a passion for agriculture to step into this leadership role. The committee meets monthly via Zoom, with two in-person meetings each year.

If you are interested in representing District 3 and helping shape the future of agriculture, please contact Maddie Buzzeo at mabuzzeo@pfb.com for more information.



Government Relations

As Government Relations Director for the County Farm Bureau, I'm pleased to share that the upcoming Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Legislative Conference is right around the corner. This annual event provides a valuable opportunity for our members to engage directly with state lawmakers and advocate for the issues that matter most to agriculture and our rural communities. In this newsletter, you'll find a brief overview of PFB's 2026 Priority Issues List, highlighting the key policy areas we will be advancing during our time in Harrisburg. If you have any questions, please contact Mel Harrop at melharrop4482@gmail.com.

2026 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Priority Issues

Contact: Bailey Fisher, Director of Government Affairs, bmfisher@pfb.com

Each year, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's County Farm Bureaus identify the most pressing legislative priorities impacting agriculture across the Commonwealth. As the state's leading voice for farmers, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is committed to advancing practical, science-based policies that protect and strengthen our diverse agricultural industry—ensuring future generations can continue to provide food, fiber, and energy to a growing world.

For 2026, priority efforts focus on securing meaningful agricultural labor reform, including improvements to the H-2A program, fair wage structures, tax alignment, and opposition to policies that would destabilize farm operations. Animal health remains critical, with continued support for veterinary workforce development, enhanced diagnostic capabilities, biosecurity improvements, and proactive responses to emerging disease threats.

In dairy policy, PFB supports modernizing milk pricing structures, encouraging participation in federal risk management programs, and preserving clear standards of identity for dairy products. Energy priorities emphasize a balanced, market-neutral portfolio while protecting prime farmland, upholding local land-use authority, and ensuring landowner protections related to solar and wind development.

Farm policy efforts call for passage of remaining Farm Bill provisions, equitable supplemental support for livestock and specialty crop producers, preservation of key USDA research facilities, and strong state investments in agricultural research, veterinary medicine, conservation, and young farmer programs.

Regulatory and sustainability initiatives promote science-driven environmental standards, streamlined permitting, voluntary carbon markets, responsible management of food processing residuals, and clear liability protections for farmers. Technology priorities address broadband expansion, precision agriculture, drone access, and responsible siting and regulation of data centers to protect farmland and existing ratepayers.

Transportation initiatives focus on infrastructure improvements that accommodate modern farm equipment, elimination of unnecessary emissions requirements, protection of existing road exemptions, and support for industry-led right-to-repair solutions. Wildlife management priorities include expanding hunter engagement programs, mitigating crop damage, strengthening landowner protections, and pursuing research and funding solutions to address wildlife impacts on agriculture.

Together, these priorities reflect Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's commitment to advocating for policies that are economically viable, environmentally responsible, and rooted in the real-world needs of farm families across the Commonwealth.

75th Anniversary Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau was well represented during the annual meeting from November 16-18, 2025. Held at the Hershey Lodge, the gathering not only connected farmers across the Commonwealth but also allowed the members to vote on important policies from each county. All of the county policies brought forth on the delegate floor, except for 2. All of the state policies taken to AFBF were accepted on the delegate floor at the AFBF Annual Convention. The members also got to hear from some special guest speakers, including Congressman G.T. Thompson, Governor Shapiro, Penn State University President Neeli Bendapudi, and even the American Farm Bureau Federation President, Zippy Duvall, who all came to help celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau!

Enjoy some photos from the Annual Meeting!



Governor Josh Shapiro



AFBF President Zippy Duvall



Congressman G.T. Thompson



**Penn State University President
Neeli Bendapudi**

75th Anniversary Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Photos (cont.)



Andy Engle speaking on a policy on the delegate floor



The Chester/Delaware delegates on the floor



The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau members at the Celebration Banquet

2026 Farm Bureau Events

Amplify Convention

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Amplify Convention was recently held at the The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, bringing together farmers and agricultural leaders for a weekend focused on education, innovation, and business growth. The convention featured an opening and closing general session along with a variety of breakout sessions led by industry partners, including Nationwide Insurance, American Farm Bureau Federation, Pennsylvania Beef Council, and First Citizens Community Bank, covering topics such as AI in agriculture, social media and marketing, and farm financial management. A highlight of the weekend was the keynote presentation by Bar 7 Ranch, who shared how they built a strong online following by telling the story of their Central Texas beef cattle operation. The event provided valuable insights and networking opportunities for Chester/Delaware County members and other attendees, while helping farmers strengthen their operations for success in an evolving agricultural landscape.



The Reyburn, Ward, and Harrop families all had their photos taken with Cody and Erika Archie of Bar 7 Ranch.

2026 Farm Bureau Events

Region 1 Farm Bureau Day

By Maddie Buzzeo,
Region 1 ROD

On March 5th, Region 1 Farm Bureau Day was held at Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company in Kulpsville. Members gathered from across the region to get legislative and game commission updates, listen to sessions on thermal imaging, data centers, and more. Members even got the opportunity to earn pesticide credits for their applicators license. In one of the pictures, we have three of the four top membership signers of the year, with one being our very own Melissa Harrop. We are looking forward to seeing what topics and fun next year brings!



Farm Bill 2.0 News

Early in the morning on March 5th, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act (Farm Bill 2.0) was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee. It was a bipartisan vote of 34-17 with 7 Democrats voting with Republican committee members. While part of the 'usual' Farm Bill investments were already made in the One, Big, Beautiful Bill, this bill covers the rest of those critical investments. Provisions in the bill include:

- Expanded access to risk management tools for farmers and ranchers;
- Trade promotion and facilitation programs to secure new markets for farmers and ranchers;
- Enhanced voluntary and incentive-based conservation programs;
- Expanded programs to support specialty crop growers;
- Improved access to essential credit and loan programs;
- Access to nutrition for families facing hunger;
- Stronger support for rural communities through development initiatives;
- Robust research and extension programs to place American agriculture at the forefront of innovation;
- Promotion of forest management and health;
- Increased access to energy programs for farmers and rural businesses; and
- Regulatory reform that supports farmers and protects interstate commerce

This is a great step, but the job is not done! The next step for the bill is to head to the house floor for a vote. Your engagement with your legislator is the only way we can get this done. Please be on the lookout for any Action Alerts that are sent out from PFB or AFBF. If you are not signed up for action alerts here are the instructions to do so.

PFB: <https://pfb.com/advocate-for-policies/actnow/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and look to the right. There is a section that says Sign Up for Alerts. Put in your email and zip code and select the arrow. Another page will come up and you will need to enter your name, address, phone number, and membership number. Select your preferences of how you would like to be contacted.

Then select Save or Sign Up. You should receive an email

AFBF: <https://www.fb.org/advocacy/grassroots-and-political-advocacy/sign-up-for-action-alerts>

Scroll down a little and fill out the box that asks for your name, email, phone number, and address. Select your communication preferences and then hit save. You should receive an email.

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](https://www.nationwide.com/ATVsafety)



Scan code to get safety tips for your young riders.



¹ U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Nationwide and the Nationwide N and Eagle and Let's champion rider safety are service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. The Farm Bureau, FB and the FB National logo are trademarks of the American Farm Bureau Federation and are used with permission under license by Nationwide. © 2024 Nationwide FBO-0221PA-2 (10/24)

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.

Home and Auto

www.pfb.com/lead to download certificate. Must be a member for 30+ days; rebate not always available; some exclusions may apply.

Ford
\$500.00 off exclusive Ford trucks

jiffylube
Code: 11361045
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Sherwin-Williams
Must show membership card. Exceptions may apply.

nrg
Code: PFB-7555-024
855.692.8330
www.pfb.com/nrg/en/ea/ty/digital/pfb_7555

STAPLES Business Advantage
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855.763.8213
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30-day waiting period

JOHN DEERE
www.pfb.com/jd
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30-day waiting period

Shiplay Energy
855.626.4088
www.pfb.com/shiplay-energy
Membership number required

PFB Member Service

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/localdiscounts. Local discounts not offered in all counties.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Member | Deals Plus

pfb.com/mydeals

Health and Wellness

ScriptSave WellRx
Code: Group 946
www.scriptsave.com

My PFB Pharmacy
800.974.7036
www.mypfbpharmacy.com/pennsylvania

Travel

CHOICE HOTELS
Special Rate ID: 00209780
800.258.2847

WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS
Corporate Rate: 8000002041
877.670.7088

AVIS
A/R Code: A2098838
800.331.1212
www.avis.com/pfb/

Budget
800 Offer Code: Y775738
800.527.0700
www.budget.com/pfb/

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.

A total \$200,000 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.

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

FSA State Committee Appointed: On January 13, USDA announced the appointment of PA's State FSA Committee. To learn more about the State FSA Committee members and their operations, go to <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-events/news/01-13-2026/usda-names-trump-administration-appointees-pennsylvania-farm-service>. The following individuals were appointed to serve on the committee:

- o Bonnie Wenger, Chair (Lebanon)
- o Cheryl Ann Fairbairn (Chester)
- o Abe Harpster (Huntingdon)
- o Steven Hykes (Franklin)
- o Tommy Nagle (Cambria)

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

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County - Vacant**

**Promotion & Education District 3 Rep and
County - Liz Ward**

Ag Safety / Rural Road Safety - Darryl King

Government Relations Director - Mel Harrop

Ag Lab / Ag in the Classroom - Deb Ellis

Next Meeting Dates: April 1, 2026; May 6, 2026; & June 3, 2026.

Visit Us at our website: <https://chesterdelawarecountyfarmbureau.org/>

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

**To keep up to date with the happenings in Chester and
Delaware County Farm Bureau, visit our new website:**

www.ChesterDelawareCountyFarmBureau.com

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