



Accent on Agriculture

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau
Also serving Western Philadelphia County

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PA House Passes Bills to Ask Schools, Got Whole Milk?

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives recently voted on a package of bills sponsored by Rep. John Lawrence designed to help Pennsylvania's struggling dairy farmers. The Farm Bureau provided key support and advocacy for the bills, all of which passed the House with strong bipartisan support.

A federal regulation, adopted in the Obama administration, prohibited whole and reduced-fat milk in the schools under the assumption that it would reduce childhood obesity. Twelve years later, parents,

farmers, educators, and students are looking for options to bring whole milk back into schools.

"This regulation has been detrimental to Pennsylvania school children and the state's dairy industry," said Lawrence. "The fat-free and skim milk varieties lack the flavor of whole milk and are therefore less appealing. In fact, a lot of the milk served up in the school lunch program ends up in the trash, depriving children of its health and nutritional benefits."

Continued on Page 3



Rep. John Lawrence joins PFB President Rick Ebert and others at a Capitol Press Conference in support of his dairy legislation.

What's Inside

- Tick Safety, Pg 2
- Chester County Ag Development Plan Enacted, Pg 3
- 2022 Scholarship Winners, Pg 4
- Ag Literacy Week Success, Pg 5

Dates to Remember:

June 26: Membership Picnic and Business Meeting

July 10: Young Ag Professionals Summer Picnic

July 10-15: Chester County 4-H Camp Shehaqua

Message from CDCFB President Douglas B. Lapp

It's been a strange planting season for those of us who rely on the weather to cooperate. As I sit to write this it's around May 10th and most of the corn in our region is yet to be planted. When you read this hopefully we all have gotten our crops in the ground and the good Lord has blessed us with a great start to the growing season.

We all love what we do. Whether it's the dairy industry, row crop farming, equine, or mushrooms, if you spend any amount of time on someone's farm you can always sense the pride that comes with the responsibility and the hard work. Sometimes we have to take time away from the jobs that we like to do in order to do the hard things.

Everyone likes to run a tractor, plant a crop, and reap the harvest. But do we put the same passion into the hard parts of the operation? Do we take the time we should to make sure our financial house is in order? What about maintenance? Or do we spend enough time making sure that everyone in our organization feels fulfilled with their rolls and responsibilities?

Part of the job of the Farm Bureau is to take one of those hard things off of your plate. That hard thing is the government. What if every farming operation had to fight for our needs on our own at the county, state and federal level? It would be a mess,

Continued on Page 5



New Deadly Tick-Borne Disease Reported in PA

Recent studies have shown that 90% of ticks in some parts of north-central PA are carrying a deadly viral disease. It's called Powassan Fever, or sometimes Deer Tick Fever. It is a viral infection that you can get as soon as 15 minutes after a tick attaches to you.

About 10-20% of people infected will die within a few days, and there is no treatment. Even for those who recover from Powassan virus, over half will have permanent, serious neurological damage.

The actual number of cases is still low, but the danger of this disease makes it imperative that we all take the proper precautions when we are in tick habitat.

Only a few areas were surveyed, so we do not know how widespread

this disease is. The PA Lyme Disease Awareness Committee (a CDCFB committee) is working with the Chester County Health Department to get a survey done in our area.

Lyme, and the other 15 or so tick-borne diseases in our area, are still a major threat, so preventing tick bites is vital to your health. Ticks are in great abundance this year and they are typically found in tall grass or underbrush. The nymph stage ticks are most prevalent at this time of the year. They are very small and you usually cannot feel them crawling on you. Most people never know they were bitten.

We recommend wearing permethrin-treated clothing any time you are exposed to ticks. You can



treat your own clothing (good for a couple of months and through 2-3 washings), or you can buy permanently-treated clothing that will last through at least 70 washings from Insect Shield and other companies. Insect shield (www.insectshield.com) can also permanently treat your own clothing if you prefer.

For more information, including symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and more prevention advice, see www.lymebasics.com. They can also help you find a knowledgeable doctor if you need one.

Doug Fearn - PA Lyme Disease Awareness Chairman

Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau

Membership Picnic



Sunday, June 26th 2022

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Penn Township Park

260 Lewis Rd, West Grove, PA 19390

RSVP is REQUIRED by June 19th

ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com

610-932-7363

No charge - just bring your appetite

Successful Legislative Day

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. Every year, members of our Legislative Committee travel to Harrisburg to meet with legislators to discuss some current issues and bills that are being considered within the House and Senate.

On March 30th, seven CDCFB members met with ten legislators, or their staff members, to discuss these issues. Topics included Funding for On-farm Conservation Measures, State Budget Priorities, Creation of a Grain Indemnity Fund, Whole Milk in Schools, Relief from Excessive Stormwater Management Fees, and Lyme Disease. Thank you to everyone that took time to join in this discussion! If you have an interest in joining our Legislative Committee, contact Julie Brady 610-932-7363 or ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com.



Chester County Commissioners Adopt County's First Ag Economic Development Plan

Chester County Commissioners Marian Moskowitz, Josh Maxwell and Michelle Kichline voted to adopt the county's first agriculture economic strategic development plan at a public meeting at Henrietta Hankin Library on March 22, celebrating the county's commitment to farming for National Agriculture Day.

"Together Chester County agriculture is stronger than any one individual farm business or farmer," says Chester County Ag Board Chair Gary Westlake of Westlake Tree Farms. "Our unique microclimate, world class soils and community of farm entrepreneurs put us in a unique position to not just endure the pandemic but to learn from it and build back stronger."

The Ag plan is a result of a long-standing collaboration between organizations including the

Chester County Ag Council (the administering agency), Chester Delaware Farm Bureau, Chester County Economic Development Council, Western Chester County Chamber of Business,

Penn State Extension, American Mushroom Institute, University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center and the Chester County Visitors Bureau. The group hired ACDS, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in economic development based in Maryland, to guide the planning process. The initiative was funded through a combination of county and partner support.

The consultants interviewed a wide cross section of Chester Coun-



ty farmers and agriculture service professionals to determine the six focus areas: Agricultural Markets, Business & Financing, Education & Outreach, Labor & Workforce, Land Access, and Zoning & Land Use. Now that the plan has been adopted, the next phase will involve seeking funding and encouraging partner-led efforts to pursue the opportunities highlighted in the plan.

Learn more at www.chesco-farming.org

GOT WHOLE MILK?

Continued from page 1

House Bill 2397 would permit school boards or other governing authorities of a school to purchase whole or reduced-fat Pennsylvania milk and make it available to Pennsylvania students.

Another Lawrence bill, **House Bill 223**, also aims to help farmers by establishing Keystone Opportunity Dairy Zones (KODZ), which would provide tax incentives to locate new dairy processing plants in Pennsylvania and encourage new or additional processing capacity for Pennsylvania milk.

"Increasingly, people are drinking less milk while eating more yogurt, cheese, butter, ice cream, and the like," Lawrence said. "At-

tracting milk processing plants to Pennsylvania would provide new and expanded markets for Pennsylvania milk and enhance opportunities for Pennsylvania farmers to ship milk-based products around the country and worldwide."

Qualifying processing facilities would be required to create new jobs and use primarily Pennsylvania milk in exchange for tax relief.

The House also passed Lawrence's bill to help struggling dairy farmers be more competitive. **House Bill 224** would enable the state Milk Marketing Board to ensure the Commonwealth's dairy farmers receive their state-mandated milk premiums.

All 3 bills now go to the state Senate for consideration.

Serving most of Southwestern

Chester County in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Rep. Lawrence is the Vice-Chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee. He is well known in the Capitol as an advocate for dairy, equine, and mushroom farmers.



Rep. John Lawrence and lawmakers raise a glass of cold milk to celebrate the passage of his whole milk bill.

Scenic Property in Charlestown Township Protected From Future Subdivisions

On March 7, 2022, French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust preserved 71.6 acres in Charlestown Township, northern Chester County, through a conservation easement on property owned by Robert Berry. The property, which is highly visible to the public from Merlin Road, Pikeland Road and Church Road, would be able to have 23 more residences on it under current zoning ordinances. The easement, funded through the township's Open Space Initiative dedicated tax dollars, limits the property to a total of four additional residences.

"Thanks to the Mr. Berry's generosity, his property will continue to provide the beautiful vistas the public has come to enjoy, as well as protect wildlife habitat and water quality," noted Pam Brown, French & Pickering Conservation Director.

Consisting of an assemblage of five contiguous farmland parcels with rolling topography, the property includes 12.6 acres of mixed aged woodlands that provide habitat to numerous plant and animal species, as well as 50.7 acres of soils considered to be "Prime Agricultural Soils" by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Property also includes nearly a half mile of an unnamed tributary to the Pickering Creek. The Pickering Creek and its tributaries are designated as having High Quality water by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust is grateful for Mr. Berry's generosity and for the

opportunity to protect this biologically valuable and beautiful property with the support of Charlestown Township.

Since its establishment in 1967, French & Pickering has protected more than 13,000 acres in northern Chester County through purchases, conservation easements and public/private partnerships. The non-profit organization works with landowners, townships, foundations and the state and county to purchase and monitor conservation easements, create parkland and preserve environmentally sensitive land.

Now more than ever, outside recreational opportunities are im-



portant to our mental and physical health. French & Pickering properties are open to the public and contain miles of marked hiking trails and scenic views.

For more information, contact Pam Brown, Conservation Director & Hopewell Big Woods Coordinator at pbrown@frenchandpickering.org or (610) 933-7577 ext. 115.

Congratulations to the 2022 Scholarship Winners

The Board of Directors of the Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau proudly announces the recipients of the 2022 Janet and Howard Robinson Scholarship Awards.

- **David Bell** - Attending Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology for Diesel Mechanics
- **Anna Mannix** - Attending Penn State University for Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences
- **Halle O'Keefe** - Attending Delaware Valley University for Equine Management
- **Olivia Summerill** - Attending Delaware Valley University for Biology
- **Charles Colvin** - Attending Penn State University for Plant Sciences
- **Kathleen McGeoy** - Attending Delaware Valley University for Zoo Science
- **Drake Rohrer** - Attending Liberty University for Criminal Justice- Conservation Officer for Rural Affairs



Thanks for a Successful Ag Literacy Week



This year's event was absolutely one for the story books. For the first time in my seven years at Farm Bureau, we finally got to have an Ag Literacy event in Philadelphia!

Volunteers from Montgomery County Farm Bureau, Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau, Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, and students and staff from Lankenau High School all came together to read "My Family's Soybean Farm" to students at Shawmont Elementary school.

The students learned about how modern soybeans are grown, harvested, and used in everyday consumer products! We were also able to use real soybean seed and other field crops as visual

aids gathered from nearby Montgomery County, PA.

Special thanks to Lankenau High School principal Jessica Naugle McAtamney for making this happen! Thanks to our farmer readers Melissa Harrop, Deborah Ellis, Andrew Frankenfield, and Wendy Freed for taking time out of your busy schedules to teach and read today. Absolutely fantastic work, folks. Couldn't have done it without you!

We're all very excited for the next time we can do this!

Ethan Howard - Region 1 Organization Director



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

ineffective, and would leave regulations affecting agriculture unchecked.

That's why we do the government stuff together. So you don't have to do it on your own.

On March 15th I was able to spend time with some of the leadership from PSU Extension touring Basciani Foods. That was followed by the State Legislative Conference on March 30th where a delegation of our volunteers went to Harrisburg and spent the day with lawmakers expressing to them our organizations interest and the bills that we would like to see movement on. That was quickly followed by an April 6th meeting between the Chester County Commissioners and a large group of our members. We spoke with the commissioners for over an hour about many issues with a focus on how we can work together to keep open space in Chester County.

What is the purpose of all of these meetings? It's the hard things. Keeping open space in Chester County is going to be difficult for years to come. Keeping state and federal regulations from becoming too intrusive on production agriculture will always be a challenge. Making sure that the public relations between the rural urban divide that we all straddle is a daily challenge. These challenges cannot be overcome by each of us on our own. This is the reason for Farm Bureau.

There are enough difficult things to deal with on the farm. We take pride in taking as much of this task off your plate as possible and doing it together in unity. Thank you for being a member of this organization. If you would like to join us for any of our meetings with policy makers please reach out. We can always use more volunteers.

Welcome New Members

Bernabe D. Beltran, *Nottingham*
 Jeffrey D. Bennett, *Landenberg*
 Winter Brown, *Oxford*
 Daniel Campbell, *West Chester*
 Heather Craig, *Phoenixville*
 Neil Curran, *Media*
 Rudolph Digiaco, *Spring City*
 Ann Dyer, *Chester Springs*
 David B. Earwood, *West Chester*
 Linda S. Fishman, *Pottstown*
 Edward Floyd, *Glenolden*
 Todd Giosa, *Lansdowne*
 Margaret Hoey, *Oxford*
 Eric Hostetter, *Oxford*
 Jason Hostetter, *Oxford*
 Harold Hutchison, *West Grove*
 Harry H. King, *Chadds Ford*
 William Kloss, *Oxford*
 Joseph W. Laskas, *Media*
 David Lytle, *Lincoln University*
 Sandy McGarvey, *Morton*
 Nicole Ramsey, *Downingtown*
 Amanda M. Riddle, *Pottstown*
 John Russo, *West Grove*
 Kyle Sollenberger, *Pottstown*
 Andrew C. Stamm, *Downingtown*
 Joshua Stoltzfus, *Coatesville*
 Frederick Striedeick, *Phoenixville*
 Kevin N. Turner, *Elverson*
 Jose P. Vithayathil, *Broomall*
 Christine Whitehouse, *Philadelphia*

Special thanks to our new CDCFB Farm Bureau members listed above! Also, thanks to all you members who faithfully renew your membership each year!

Hope to see many of you at our CDCFB Picnic on Sunday, June 26th at Penn Township Park near Jennersville.

A Tale of Two Drivers

Last week as I was moving a tractor and vertical tillage implement to the home farm, I encountered two drivers on the highway. The way these two drivers shared the road with me will stick in my memory for quite a while.

The first driver displayed the utmost care and courtesy while she followed me, whereas the second driver displayed the exact opposite.

I first met the courteous driver when I saw her pull up to an intersection about a hundred yards ahead of me. I saw her head turn twice to check traffic and then I saw her recognize my large tractor and implement with all the warning lights. To my amazement she decided not to hurry out in front of me and be on her way. She waited until I had passed and then she began to follow

me at just the right distance that I could see her in my tractor cab mirrors. I like to think she was doing this on purpose to ease my mind (at times all farmers struggle to keep tabs on tailgating vehicles).

As we both cleared a winding stretch of the highway, she dropped back and gently moved over to see around me. The coast was clear so she smoothly made her move around me and as she passed she gave a friendly wave.

Moments later I entered a series of curves around the Peifer Farm and the second driver appeared behind me out of nowhere. I tried to find him in my mirrors and as I looked forward again, he shot past me in the oncoming lane and darted back in front of me to miss the trash truck that was about to smash into



him.

The sad reality I have come to accept is that the world is full of poor drivers like this. Some precautions I use to reduce the risk of an accident include: limiting my exposure to drivers by not moving machinery at rush hour, adding extra warning lights to machinery to be sure traffic can identify my outer edges, installing larger mirrors to all my tractors, and being aware of my surroundings. As I hold true to these principles of safe driving, I hope those who share the road with me will do the same.

D. M. King - CDCFB Safety Chair

Starting Farm Safety Early

CDCFB offers the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations Certification Program Training every year. The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program (NSTMOP) is an instructional curriculum that meets the requirements of the US Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupations Order for Agriculture (HOOA). The HOOA regulations require that youth 14 and 15 years of age, who wish to work as a hired employee for someone other than a parent or legal guardian, and operate a farm tractor that is 20 horsepower or greater, must successfully pass a prescribed tractor safety training program and a prescribed machinery safety training program. The NSTMOP combines these two required training programs into a single curriculum.

This year there are 6 students enrolled in the class.



Caleb Frank (Lititz), Ben Webb (West Grove), Louis Pontillo (West Grove), Isabella Pontillo (West Grove) and Jacob Sharp (Lincoln University).

Penn State Extension Tours Chester County Farms

On March 15th, some of Penn State Extension's leadership visited southeastern PA. Their stops included Basciani Foods of Avondale, the Chester County Economic Development Council, and the Boys & Girls Club of Chester PA.

CDCFB President Doug Lapp was able to join the group for the tour of Basciani Foods. The group's tour was led by Fred Recchiuti the General Manager of Basciani.

Two members of the group were the PSU Extension scientists that

have been working with the mushroom industry on controlling the phorid flies that have plagued the region. The mushroom houses that have implemented the phorid fly control techniques have seen a drastic reduction in these pest.

We are thankful to have so many great resources and relationships with Penn State Extension. Come back to the southeast anytime!



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Women's Committee Chair: Frances Sharon	484-732-7089
Equiene Committee Chair: Andrea Collins	610-220-3742
PFB Regional Organization Director: Ethan Howard	610-533-2558
PFB Board: Howard Robinson	717-529-2508

County Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend. For the location, contact Secretary Julie Brady.

Farm Management Account Supervisors

Chester B. Holmes	717-562-2807
Graham D. Rumsey	717-908-7129
Tracy L. Garofalo	717-927-9109
David W Mory	717-908-0552
Allie Rauhauser	

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:
Doug Lapp at CDCFBnews@gmail.com

Nationwide Insurance PFB Agents:

Andrew Harris, Coatesville	484-288-8628
Margarita Garcia-Turner, Oxford	610-932-4935
Jillian Obrien, West Chester	610-696-5130
Jack Henderson, Kennett Square	610-444-2610
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