

ACCENT ON AGRICULTURE

News from the **Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (CDCFB)**
(also serving western Philadelphia County)

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) and American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF)

March 2007

**YOU ARE
INVITED**



to the

**ANNUAL
SPRING BANQUET**

to be held on

**Thursday, April 19, 2007
6:45 p.m.**

at

**East Brandywine Fire Hall
2096 Bondsville Road
Guthriesville, Pa.**



Cost: \$10 per person

Send reservations to: Janet Robinson
or telephone: 736 Catamount Road
717-529-2508 Oxford, Pa. 19363

Name _____

Number attending ____ Amount enclosed _____

[Reservations deadline: April 15]



Message from the CDCFB President:

Each generation sees more and more regulations, restrictions, and economic burdens placed upon agriculture here at home. Today's agribusinesses are under the greatest pressures history has ever recorded. Amongst the heavy political push from the environmentalists and animal-activists, I am proud to say that Farm Bureau is letting the voice of agriculture be clearly heard!

On the county level, CDCFB has engaged several educational initiatives with the general public and lawmakers. CDCFB sponsors the Mobile Ag-Lab at school districts throughout southeastern Penna. Additionally, our county farm bureau board members have testified at township meetings and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearings in Harrisburg, Pa.

With all of agriculture working and speaking together, Farm Bureau has the ability to protect our agriculture families' businesses and way of life. I thank you for your membership and ask you to encourage others to join Farm Bureau.

I hope and pray this Spring brings your family and you health, happiness, and a plentiful growing season.
—Robert Yarnall, Jr., President



MOBILE AG LAB AT KING'S HIGHWAY SCHOOL

Farm Bureau's Mobile Ag Lab was recently at the King's Highway Elementary School in Coatesville. **Traci Tury**, Kindergarten teacher at the school, sent us this letter and photos:

"I am extremely excited to share with you the amazing discoveries that King's Highway School was able to make recently.

It is because of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau that each class had the opportunity to visit the Mobile Ag Educational Science Lab.

The Mobile Ag Lab increased student awareness of the importance of agriculture in their daily lives, through hands-on science experiments involving agricultural commodities.

During the week each class was slated for a time to go into the van and work on a scientific discovery of their choice.

Kindergarten was able to do the "Farm Charm Walk Through" where they brainstormed about what is on a farm. Children put samples of farm components on a necklace as a reminder.

Other grades discussed plants and their parts; they planted seeds to take back to their classrooms to observe as seeds germinated and grew.

Some students did experiments to see if petroleum or soybean based crayons produce the brightest color with the least flakiness and best-covering power. They ended the session with a crayon-making demonstration where each of the students received a soy-based crayon.

The "Mighty Bean" activity revealed to students as they planted a soybean in plaster of Paris how strong the plant was.

[CONTINUED NEXT COLUMN]

CO. FARM BUREAU MEMBERS MEET LEGISLATORS IN D.C.

Farm Bureau members recently met with their Congressmen in Washington DC. It was an opportunity for members to tell their personal stories about how the legislative proposals will impact their farms.

Topics discussed included the 2007 Farm Bill, the dairy cost-price squeeze, immigration reform, tax relief, horse slaughter issue, permanent repeal of the death tax, global trade, etc.

Those attending from our county Farm Bureau were: **Joseph Fecondo, Donald Hannum, David Hodge, Harold Kulp, Janet and Howard Robinson, Marcia Solda, Robert Yarnall and Lercy Alvarez.**

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Students also had demonstrations of making lip balm from soybean products; they had interesting discussions on changing states of matter that occur while producing a usable product.

Students participating in the "How Well Do You Wash?" activity applied "germs" to their hands and then performed several handwashing tests to determine which method of washing most effectively removes "germs."

I am quite certain that all teachers, staff and students will agree that this hands-on education was simply AMAZING! In addition, each child left with a souvenir that tied into their discovery.

An extra special thank you goes out to the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau for funding this program!"

-Traci Tury, King's Highway School



King's Highway School students in the Ag Lab



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau is pleased to offer scholarship grants of up to \$1,000. toward higher education of Chester County, Delaware County, and/or Philadelphia County High School students planning to pursue a career in agriculture or an agriculture-related field.

Selection criteria:

The applicant must be a high school senior whose parent(s) or guardian(s) reside in Chester Co., Delaware Co. and/or Philadelphia Co.

The applicant must plan to major in the field of agriculture or agriculture-related fields at two or four-year college on a full-time basis.

Selection will be based on the applicant's record of scholastic achievement and extra-curricular activities without regard to race, sex, religion, or financial need.

The scholarship is non-renewable.

The application form must be accompanied by the applicant's transcript showing grades and the applicant's SAT scores.

Two letters of recommendation must accompany the application. High school guidance counselors, high school teachers, and/or community leaders must write the recommendations.

Selection of the recipients will be the responsibility of the Chester/Delaware Farm Bureau board of directors.

Procedures:

Students must file grant application on or before April 15, 2007.

Personal interviews may be conducted.

Selection will be made by May 15, 2007.

Before issuance of the monetary award, the Chester/Delaware Farm Bureau will require a copy of the college letter of acceptance.

Contact Robert Hewitt, Scholarship Chairman, at 460 Ridge Road, Spring City, Pa. 19474 or telephone him at 610-495-7927.

PHILIPS MUSHROOM AWARD

Congratulations to the Phillips Mushroom Farm in Kennett Square! They have become the first mushroom farm in the country to receive a Good Agricultural Practices Award under the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture program.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK March 18 to 24

American agriculture is responsible for providing the necessities of everyday life – food, fiber, clothing and even fuel.

Did you know that Pennsylvania has 58,000 farms that operate on almost eight million acres of farmland? It's true – and our farmers produce nearly four and a half billion dollars of agricultural products. **All of that generates an additional \$44 billion worth of other business and jobs in Pennsylvania's economy.**

YF&R ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Attention young farmers! Why not apply for the 2007 YF&R Achievement Award?

Competitors shall be regular Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 years.

The winner, on the state level, will receive \$500 from Dodge, along with prizes from Choice Hotels, Case IH, Grainger, etc.

If you are interested in applying, contact Howard or Sandy Reyburn at 610-932-5685.

Applications are available on the PFB website at: www.pfb.com/programs/young-farmers-ranchers/. **Applications must be received in the PFB Office, Camp Hill, and postmarked on or prior to May 15, 2007.**



FOOD DONATIONS GIVEN TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSES

County Farm Bureaus delivered donations of food and money totaling \$61,267 to the five Ronald McDonald Houses in Pennsylvania.

This effort was to commemorate Food Check-Out Day on Feb. 6th – the day when the average American earns enough money to pay for their family's annual food bill.

The Ronald McDonald Houses provide a "home away from home" and supportive services to families of seriously ill children receiving medical treatment at area hospitals.

Our county organization contributed \$500 to this very worthy cause.

DID YOU KNOW ...

... that dairy farmers only received one penny per gallon more for milk last year than what they were paid back in 1988?

(In 1988, dairy farmers received an average of \$1.12 per gallon. In 2006, that figure was \$1.13 per gallon of milk).

... that our President, Bob Yarnall, Jr., testified during a recent hearing of the House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee regarding the proposed revisions to the state's dog laws?

A major concern is that the new regulations go beyond standards set forth in the federal Animal Welfare Act.

... that if you haven't had a quote from Nationwide lately, you need to visit your local agent? Many happy members are enjoying huge insurance savings.

... that Farm Bureau Bank is offering outstanding new rates on their CD's?

Call 1-800-492-FARM (3276) for details.

... that Farm Bureau won enactment of a law limiting civil liability against equine operations for injury or death in connection with equine activities?

"SMS" IMPROVES YOUR SOIL

Mushroom compost, also called spent mushroom substrate (SMS), is the leftover growing material after the mushrooms have been harvested. It can be a valuable addition to your soil.

Many farmers spread the SMS over their crop acres. It is spread much like manure, and when tested for analysis, compares favorably with fertilizer. Once you begin applying SMS to your crop fields, you will begin to see the additional benefits after about two years of use.

Mushroom compost, when added to the soil, contributes to the organic content of the soil, which when broken down through time, adds necessary nutrients to the soil for plant growth.

WE HAVE MET GOAL!!!

Congratulations to all membership workers who contributed to this year's successful membership drive.

We are the first county in our region to meet goal – both with over 670 regular farmer members and with over 3,700 total members. And memberships are still coming in!

For everyone who worked membership – men and women – you should be proud of a job well done. **Thank you for your efforts!**

FFA CHAPTERS ARE MEMBERS

On behalf of CDCFB, the Board of Directors has given Farm Bureau memberships to Chester County's local high school chapters of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

The local high school FFA chapters are: **The Center of Art and Technology**, Coatesville; **Octorara High School**, Atglen; **Owen J. Roberts High School**, Pottstown; **Oxford Area High School**, Oxford; and **Twin Valley High School**, Elverson.

It is Farm Bureau's hope to be more actively involved with the local FFA chapters.

RENTAL CAR SAVINGS

Farm Bureau members get exclusive savings when they rent from AVIS and Budget.



Use discount code Avis AWD #A298800. You can visit the website at www.avis.com

Use discount code for Budget BCD #Y775700. The website: www.budget.com

RURAL ROADS SAFETY WEEK

Farming is still considered to be one of the most hazardous occupations in the nation.

During the week of April 21-28 we are celebrating "Rural Roads Safety Week." Please make safety a priority as you travel with equipment, or when encountering equipment, on rural roads this spring.

CHANGE IN DATE

The date has been changed for the **State Legislative Conference in Harrisburg**. The new date is **Tuesday, April 17th**.

The **FARMER Dinner** will be held the night before – **Monday, April 16th**.

Call Joe Fecondo, Gov't. Relations Director, at 484-239-2772 if you would like to attend.



“WINE TIME”

Wine producers are riding a tide of consumer interest in the tasting/collecting of American vintages.

U.S. wine industry is rapidly growing, creating more than a million jobs and billions of dollars in the nation's economy.

The number of wineries soared from 2,688 in 1999 to 4,929 in 2005. There are 935,000 acres of vineyards and grape farms and nearly 5,000 wineries sending an estimated \$162 billion rippling through the U.S. economy each year.

Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the amount of grapes grown (including juice grapes) and eighth in the production of wine.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR TEACHERS

There are scholarships available for teachers to attend the **Ag in the Classroom Teacher Workshop on July 15-20** at Penn State Univ.

Ag in the Classroom is:

- ✓ A great learning experience for Grades K-12 teachers!
- ✓ Busy weeklong experience to learn about the food and fiber system.
- ✓ A place to receive materials and resources to use in the classroom.
- ✓ A place to meet fellow teachers and exchange ideas.

For more information, call Howard Robinson at 717-529-2508, or visit the PFB website at: <http://www.pfb.com/programs/ag-in-the-classroom>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Anibal Alvarez, Morgantown
Katie Bates, Gradyville
Gaye and Stephen Bergstrom, Cochranville
Michael P. Cardile, Sr., Avondale
Dennis and Anecia Delduco, Oxford
David P. Dively, Cochranville
Tina Durborow, Lewisville
William Elkins, M.D., Coatesville
George J. Feister, Wagontown
Cindy and David Gallagher, Oxford
Horace Helm, Honey Brook
Stephen and Barbara Hill, Cochranville
Margaret and Frederick Hoey, Oxford
Aldus R. King, Atglen
Alvin Lapp, Gap
Jesse Lapp, Gordonville
Allen H. Lindsey, Oxford
William J. MacCauley, Atglen
Joseph K. McCammon IV, Lincoln Univ.
Daniel Miller, Chatham
Denise and Scott Rugen, Oxford
Jeremiah Sensenig, Oxford
Martin Skiles, Parkesburg
Benuel S. Stoltzfus, Honey Brook
Daniel L. Stoltzfus, Jr., Lititz
James Townsend, Gradyville
John D. Vanderhoef, Lincoln University
Alicia Vasallo, Royersford
Rogelio Vivero, Oxford
Karen Vollmecke, Coatesville

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FORMER FARM BUREAU LEADER

Albert A. Bartels, West Grove, recently passed away at home after a lengthy illness.

Albert will be remembered as an active Farm Bureau leader having served as director and president of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau for many years. He leaves behind his wife, Dorothy, four sons, two daughters, grandchildren and great-children.

Albert had a keen sense of humor; he was the author of several short stories about his life experiences.

**CHESTER-DELAWARE COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

President:	Robert Yarnall, Jr.	610-935-2302
Vice Pres:	Robert Hewitt	610-495-7927
Sec/Treas:	Janet Robinson	717-529-2508
	Randy Bates	610-459-0647
	Dennis Breckbill	610-932-9567
	Edgar Cannon	610-444-1176
	Joseph Fecondo	610-358-0330
	Donald H. Hannum	610-384-2249
	James Kirkpatrick	610-869-4412
	Anna Magazzeni	610-754-6442
	Arthur Needham	610-869-9735
	Robert Ray	610-942-2539
	Howard Reyburn	717-529-2269
	Marcia Solda	610-935-2545

County Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Government Services Building, West Chester. **You are welcome to attend.**

FARM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT SUPERVISORS

Tim Ard, Lancaster, 717-392-6626
Christopher Bessette, Hershey, 717-534-2519
Tracy L. Garofalo, Brogue, 717-927-9109
Robert Lathrop, Landisville, 717-892-3771

PFB PREFERRED NATIONWIDE AGENTS

Jeffrey L. Bartlett, Downingtown, 610-269-5887
Lynn Conner, Parkesburg, 610-857-3343
John R. Ferullo, West Chester, 215-468-4116
David Gosselin, West Chester, 610-696-3894
Melba King, Lincoln University, 610-932-3260
Susan M. Lambert, Coatesville, 610-384-3844
Tom Simpser, Jr., Kennett Square, 610-444-2610
Kurt A. Thompson, Downingtown, 610-269-1544
Konstantinos Andreadis, Springfield, 610-328-2480
Daniel K. Burke, Drexel Hill, 610-449-4800
Robert J. Cellucci, Drexel Hill, 610-449-5900
Lawrence A. Cellucci, Jr., Drexel Hill, 610-449-5900
Charles E. Courtney, Media, 610-891-7900
John L. Dimeglio, Aston, 610-485-5858
James P. Falls, Media, 610-565-6522
Gene J. Giello, Springfield, 610-544-8585
Earl W. Hagerty, Jr., Glen Mills, 610-358-9111
Brenda E. Hurley, Concordville, 610-358-9422
Christopher Lamoureux, Morton, 610-544-8070
Anthony G. Naab, Drexel Hill, 610-789-6250
Diane L. Pluff, Newtown Square, 610-353-6116
Margaret R. Smith, Gradyville, 610-358-2200
Dean D. Young, Jr., Newtown Square, 610-353-6116

Chester/Delaware Co. Farm Bureau
Janet E. Robinson
736 Catamount Road
Oxford, Pa. 19363