

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)

January 2007

WE NEED TEACHERS!

We all know teachers. They instruct our children, our grandchildren, and our neighbors' children. Let's do these teachers a favor. Let's invite them to participate in Farm Bureau's "Ag in the Classroom" program.

For a week (July 15-20) during the summer, "Ag in the Classroom" provides learning experiences that teachers cannot get anywhere else. Teachers visit farms, food production facilities, processing and distribution plants to learn how food moves from the source to the consumer.

"Ag in the Classroom" emphasizes the relationship between the food we eat and our environment. Field trips and in-class seminars instruct teachers on such topics as nutrition, ecology, food uses, etc.

So, once again, let's do some deserving classroom teacher a favor and introduce them to "Ag in the Classroom." Their way will be paid for a week at Penn State University (University Park), State College, where they will receive Act 48 hours and/or Penn State graduate credits.

Call 717-529-2508 for more details.

AMERIGAS DISCOUNT

PFB has teamed up with Amerigas, the nation's leading marketer of propane, to offer members a **savings of 5 cents per gallon on their propane purchases.** There is also a \$25 discount off of your first bill! (Those already receiving volume discounts are not eligible for additional discounts.)

To locate the AmeriGas location nearest you, visit www.amerigas.com or call 1-800-554-6365, ext. 3114.

"FARM BUREAU DAY"

"Farm Bureau Day" will be held on Monday, Feb. 19 at the Days Inn, Allentown. This meeting will update committee leaders and volunteers on issues affecting agriculture to be discussed at the upcoming legislative conferences.

If you haven't experienced the satisfaction and benefits that come from volunteering for a meaningful role with a Farm Bureau team, this is your invitation to get involved.

Also, this is the day we hope to celebrate reaching our membership goal!

Contact Steven Stettner at 610-533-2558 to make reservations.

"CHANGES ON THE HORIZON"

"Changes on the Horizon" is the theme of the 2007 Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference being held on Feb. 3-4 at the Days Inn, State College.

Young farmers will meet for a great weekend of fun, fellowship and enrichment. Agenda topics include: Nutrition and Healthy Eating, Political Education featuring representatives from AFBF and PFB, Bio-Diesel Energy, Alternative Farm Income, Decorating on a Budget, and much more.

For more information, contact Howard or Sandy Reyburn at 610-932-5685.

<p>March 7-8 - National Legislative Conference, Washington DC</p>
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<p>March 28 - State Legislative Tour, Harrisburg</p>

MEMBERSHIP PAYS

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (CDCFB) wants to thank those members who have renewed their membership – **we are only 55 members short of our regular member goal!**

We want to remind those of you who have not yet renewed your 2007 membership that we value your association with Farm Bureau and need your support to keep our organization strong.

The \$80 you spend for membership is money well spent! **Farm Bureau is the state's strongest advocate for agriculture.** 2006 was a year filled with legislative victories, continued growth in member services, and new programs.

Your membership supports the Ag in the Classroom program, the Mobile Ag Education Science Lab, 4-H programs, ag scholarships, etc.

If you have a neighbor or friend who does not belong to Farm Bureau, please give them information about joining, or contact the membership co-chairmen: Howard Robinson at 717-529-2508 or Harold Kulp at 610-323-2409.

JACK ARRELL – “DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE”

John “Jack” Arrell, New London, was recently awarded the “Distinguished Service to Agriculture” award from the Chester County Board of Commissioners and the Chester County Agricultural Development Council.

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau was most proud to nominate Jack Arrell for this prestigious award. He has been a constant advocate for agriculture in Chester County.

For many years, Jack held a senior and responsible position in Bell Atlantic. Jack and his wife, Sally, continue to raise beef cattle and sheep, as well as crops on their New London farm.

Jack is General Manager of Hy-Tech in West Grove; Public Director on the Chester County Conservation Board of Directors; Roadmaster for New London Township; and a member of Chester County Emergency Drought Board.

He has served on the New London Township Board of Supervisors, on the Avon Grove School Board, and on the Chester County Association of Township Officials.

Congratulations on a well-deserved award!

“KEEP FARMING FIRST”

The “Keep Farming First” seminar will be held on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Great Valley Corporate Center in Malvern.

“Keep Farming First” is a day to share ideas and make new friends. The seminar offers a unique opportunity for farmers to learn from experts in their specialty areas and to participate in breakout sessions featuring peer panels and input from economically viable operations.

Presenters at the seminars include Senator Mike Brubaker, Cheryl Cook, Rob Davidson and others. Jolene Brown is the keynote speaker.

For more information, contact Nancy Mohr at 610-696-3180 or nmohr2020@chescocf.org

SHAFFER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT

PFB members have unanimously re-elected Carl T. Shaffer as president of Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm organization.

Looking ahead to his new term in office, Shaffer noted that membership is at an all-time high, and that volunteer leaders are a leading source of strength to Farm Bureau endeavors.

“I am proud to continue to serve the more than 40,000 members of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. The strength of our policies and the caliber of our members make me believe that the future is indeed bright for agriculture,” President Schaffer said.

“High property taxes and out-of-control health insurance costs are just two of the many issues still frustrating family farmers. We must continue to work with the public, lawmakers and the private sector to resolve the problems facing agriculture and the rural community,” Shaffer added.

PFB PRESIDENT CARL SHAFFER ELECTED TO AFBF BOARD

PFB President Carl T. Shaffer has been elected to the Board of Directors of the American Farm Bureau Federation. The election took place during AFBF's 88th annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

A Columbia County vegetable and crop farmer, Shaffer will represent the Northeast area on the AFBF Board. (Shaffer attended the meeting as one of PFB's three voting delegates.)

AFBF DELEGATES SET POLICY

Delegates from PFB, plus 49 other state Farm Bureaus and Puerto Rico set policy on a wide range of agricultural issues at the AFBF Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, recently.

Of interest to Pennsylvania producers was the adoption of policy supporting consideration of a specialty crop program in the next farm bill.

Delegates reaffirmed their support for comprehensive immigration reform and also voiced support for a program to provide tax credits for conservation improvements by farmers.

Policy on the Conservation Reserve Program was amended to favor targeted acreage sign-ups, rather than whole farm enrollments.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau was recognized for its overall achievements in 2006 with seven national awards, including two President's Awards and five Awards for Excellence, during AFBF's Annual Meeting. (Only three states won more awards than Pennsylvania.)

Janet and Howard Robinson from Chester County attended the AFBF annual meeting.

GETTING TO THE "FINAL FOUR"

For the first time ever, Pennsylvania had a contestant – Charlene Shupp Esbenshade -- who made it past the semifinal round and on to the "Final Four" in the national competition.

Espenshade represented Pennsylvania Farm Bureau after winning the statewide "Discussion Meet" competition.

In Salt Lake City at the AFBF competition, she advanced through several rounds to make it to the "Final Four." (Amy Christensen of California was named the winner of the contest winning a new Dodge truck.)

The topic Esbenshade and the other finalists addressed during the final round of the national contest was "How can American agriculture increase the opportunities for new uses of agricultural products."

"The Discussion Meet is what Farm Bureau is all about, exploring ways to come up with solutions to problems facing agriculture," Esbenshade said.

Congratulations, Charlene, you have made Pennsylvania proud!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are excited to welcome the following new regular members to our organization:

Teresa B. Berry, West Chester

Robert Campbell, Media

Andy Growney, Landenberg

Daniel Heckler, Pottstown

Charles Hocking, Jr., Galena, Md.

John Lapp, Ronks

John Murray, Spring City

Gary Schroeder, Kennett Square

Amanda and Paul Sloan, Oxford

Daniel Stoltzfus, Jr., Lititz

Margaret Walton, Coatesville

EQUIP SIGNUP UNDERWAY

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently taking applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Two new programs are being offered.

The Winter Cover Crop program allows an annual incentive payment on eligible acres at \$20/acre/year on up to 100 acres per year for up to three years.

Under the Nutrient Management-Use Efficiency program, NRCS will reward producers who implement nutrient management techniques that go beyond minimum requirements of the nutrient management standard. Livestock and agricultural producers are eligible to apply for EQIP.

If interested, you should apply by Feb. 2, 2007. For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center or link to www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

NATIONWIDE INSURANCE – OFFERS TRAVEL INSURANCE

Nationwide is now offering Trip Medical and Trip Cancellation insurance for PFB members. The insurance helps you recover your expenses if a trip is cancelled or you become ill or injured during your vacation.

For more information on this benefit and other programs, contact a Nationwide Insurance agent (listed on back page of this newsletter or visit www.nationwide.com -Steve Uhlman

CAITLIN FAIRBAIRN A WINNER

Caitlin Fairbairn, Coatesville, recently received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation.

Caitlin also received the following awards with her Angus heifer at the Pennsylvania Farm Show: the Champion Angus heifer in the Junior Show, the champion female in the Open Show, and the Supreme Champion Beef Heifer over all Breeds.

A freshman at Penn State, Caitlin is studying food science and plans to become a food scientist specializing in the area of food safety. Caitlin is the daughter of William and Cheryl Fairbairn.

Congratulations, Caitlin!

DAIRY PREMIUM EXPANDED

PFB praised the PA Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) for its decision to increase the Class I (fluid) over-order premium by 25 cents per hundredweight (to \$1.85) of milk for the six-month period beginning Jan. 1.

“The increase will help dairy farmers who are struggling with historically low milk prices and high production costs. The impact on milk prices to consumers will be minor, raising the cost by about two cents per gallon,” said PFB President Carl Shaffer.

Pennsylvania dairy farmers are eligible for the over-order premium and fuel adjuster premium if their Class I milk is produced, processed and sold in Pennsylvania.

U.S. AQUACULTURE: A BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

Aquaculture production is a billion-dollar industry, with sales of fish, shellfish and related products growing by 11.7% over the past seven years, according to 2005 Census of Aquaculture.

Results show that between 1998 and 2005, U.S. sales of aquaculture products grew from \$978 million to nearly \$1.1 billion.

Pennsylvania was a significant contributor to that growth, with aquaculture sales increasing 17%, to \$8.95 million. Trout is the most popular species of fish farmed in Pennsylvania.

FMS – WORKING TO IMPROVE YOUR BOTTOM LINE

Members who have MSC’s Farm Management Service (FMS) Accounting and Tax Services receive at least three visits annually to their places of business from their FMS account supervisor.

With the service, clients receive comprehensive business analysis, tax planning and professional income tax preparation.

FMS offers an opportunity to increase profits through budgeting and financial management advice. The accountants give accounting and tax services with a “long term” view.

For more information, contact one of the account supervisors listed on back page.

THE MIGHTY MUSHROOM

Don’t judge a veggie by its color! White button mushrooms have a greater antioxidant capacity (meaning they may have more disease-fighting ability) than tomatoes, green peppers or carrots.

These small fungi are also less expensive than the more exotic shitake and oyster varieties. Make button mushrooms a salad staple, slice them thin for a sandwich topper or add them to pasta sauce.

Pennsylvania ranks first in mushroom production nationally, producing 495 million pounds annually and contributing more than \$391 million to the state’s economy.

MINIMUM WAGE CHANGES

The Pennsylvania minimum wage changed from \$5.15 to \$6.25 per hour for most employers on Jan. 1. (In general, nearly all farm labor is exempt from state and federal minimum wage requirements).

Employers are reminded to update bulletin boards with the newest Minimum Wage Posters from PA Labor & Industry.

Posters are free and may be printed directly from their website at: <http://www.dli.state.pa.us/> then click on the direct link to minimum wage posters on “Minimum Wage Information” to find printable posters.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the average American will have earned enough income to pay for their family's entire 2007 food supply by February 6th?

Farm Bureau celebrates Food Check-Out Day to celebrate this special day. The event will be observed through the donation of food and money to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

. . . that the movie *Charlotte's Web* is helping 4-H programs? 4-H has developed a fundraising opportunity in conjunction with the live-action movie *Charlotte's Web*. For every ticket purchased through <http://www.fourhcouncil.edu/> a donation of \$1 will be made by Hollywood Movie Money to 4-H to support state 4-H programs.

. . . that Hershey's Kisses Brand Chocolates turn 100 years old this year?

The Hershey Company is inviting consumers nationwide to "Kiss Someone" as part of the year-long celebration. You can visit the website at www.hersheys-kisses.com for more information.

. . . that Pennsylvania grows 50% of the nation's supply of mushrooms?

. . . that the Childhood Agricultural Safety Network is launching a campaign to keep children off tractors – and safe? Their message to agriculture communities is: **Children younger than 12 years old should NEVER be on or near a tractor?** Tractors are the leading cause of fatal injuries to children on farms.

. . . that a bee must visit two million flowers to make one pound of honey?

. . . that Avis and Budget rent-a-cars are offering a discount to all PFB members?

. . . that PFB just signed a 3-year agreement with Dodge for a \$500 rebate to PFB members? Check out the new models and SAVE money!

"THE BIGGEST LOSER" PROMOTES 3-A-DAY

Dr. Jeff Levine turned his life around when he went on the NBC's hit reality series "The Biggest Loser, Season Two."

Dr. Levine, a father of four, a family physician and an associate professor, started the weight-loss show weighing over 400 pounds.

Since that time, **through eating a healthy diet including 3 servings of low-fat or non-fat dairy products each day and exercise, Dr. Levine has lost over 180 pounds!**

After losing the weight and keeping it off by consuming 3-A-Day of Dairy, Dr. Levine has teamed up with American Dairy Association and Dairy Council and registered dietitians to help others battling the bulge by creating nutritional advice for families focusing on family meals as a way to combat obesity, increase nutrition, and reduce substance abuse.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

The Chester County Agricultural Development Council is accepting applications for the 2007 Chester County Agricultural Scholarship.

The scholarship is offered to one high school senior who will begin college 2007 in the field of agriculture, or pursue an agriculture-related major.

The selected recipient receives a \$1,000 grant. Applications must be received on or before March 1, 2007. The applicant's parent(s) or guardian(s) must live in Chester County.

An application, information about selection criteria, and application procedures are available at the Chester Co. Planning Commission Office, Suite 270, Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester or on the Chester County website at www.chesco.org/agriculture under Educational Grants.

For more information, call 610-344-6285.

*"Tell me -- and I'll forget,
Show me -- and I may remember,
Involve me -- and I'll understand"*

-Chinese proverb

**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

FARM MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT SUPERVISORS

Tim Ard 1 Resch Lane Lancaster, Pa. 17602 717-392-6626	Christopher Besette 31 Tice Avenue. Hershey, Pa. 17033 717-534-2519+
Tracy L. Garofalo 1744 Furnace Road Brogue, Pa. 17309 717-927-9109	Jerry Krone 295 S. Dublin Pike Fountainville, Pa. 18923 215-249-8420
Robert Lathrop 1653 Stanley Avenue Landisville, Pa. 17538 717-892-3771	

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.**

PFB PREFERRED NATIONWIDE AGENTS

Lynn Conner P.O. Box 7 Parkesburg, Pa. 19365 610-857-9466	Melba King P.O. Box 195 Lincoln Univ., Pa. 19352 610-932-3260
Tom Simpers, Jr. 224 East Street Road Kennett Square, Pa. 19348 610-444-1486	

PARTICIPATING SAFEMARK DEALERS

Atlantic Tractor 460 Limestone Road Oxford, Pa., 19363 610-932-8858	Dependable Motors Co. 202 East Main Street Honey Brook, Pa. 19344 610-273-3131
W. Evans Hicks Box 127, Kershaw Road Unionville, Pa., 19375 610-347-1493	Stoltzfus Farm Service P.O. Box 99 Cochranville, Pa. 19330 610-593-2407 or 2408

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Janet E. Robinson
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