

# 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)**

June 2007



## CDCFB AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors have awarded scholarships of \$1,000 each to the following students:

- **Ryan M. Crossman**, graduating from Unionville High School and entering Penn State Altoona this fall to study Turf Management. Ryan is the son of Kim and Mike Crossman of Coatesville.
- **Ryan Fairbairn**, graduate of Bishop Shanahan High School, Downingtown, and headed for Penn State Main to major in Animal Science Biotechnology. Ryan is the son of Cheryl and William Fairbairn of Coatesville.
- **Kortne V. Hudick**, from Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, going to Delaware Valley College to study Veterinary Science. Kortne is the daughter of Jill and Karl Hudick of Pottstown.
- **Giovanni A. Thomas**, from Owen J. Roberts High School, Pottstown, and headed for Delaware Valley College to major in Environmental Science Horticulture. Giovanni is the son of John and Elaine Thomas of Spring City.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners! We wish you the best of luck in your future education endeavors.

## 2007 SAFETY POSTER CONTEST

The theme for this year's Safety Poster and Essay Contests is: "*Safety...Just Live By It.*"

Here are the contest rules:



### Poster:

- \* The contest is open to any youth ages 15 and under, and is **not** limited to children or grandchildren of Farm Bureau members.
- \* The drawings **must** be 8 ½" x 11" in size, **no larger**.
- \* The drawings **must** be in color.
- \* Drawing should include a slogan of 10 words or less which addresses the theme, "*Safety... Just Live by It.*"
- \* Drawings are to be originals. Tracing is not allowed. No collages or three-dimensional items.

[Awards will be given in each of the following age categories: 8 years old and under; 9 through 12 years old; and 13 through 15 years old.]

### Essay:

- \* The contest is open to any youth ages 16 to 18, and is **not** limited to children or grandchildren of Farm Bureau members.
- \* A minimum of two hundred (200) words; a maximum of three hundred (300) words.

**Deadline: July 15.** Please send your entries to the County Women's Leadership Chairperson: Marcia Solda, 4037 Merlin Road, Chester Springs, Pa. 19425

For further information, call Marcia at 610-935-2545.

## “LANDOWNER LIABILITY” -- NEW CONTEST FOR WOMEN

The PFB Women’s Committee is sponsoring a letter-writing contest between state districts.

The focus of the letters is “Landowner Liability” -- a hot topic for farmers today. Prizes will be awarded to the winning district. The rules for the contest are as follows:

- \* Any woman writing a letter regarding Landowner Liability to their legislator(s) must send a copy to Marcia Solda, 4037 Merlin Road, Chester Springs, Pa. 19425, or send by e-mail to: [marciasolda@msn.com](mailto:marciasolda@msn.com).
- \* All entries must be received by Marcia by Friday, August 31, 2007.
- \* All letters to the legislators need to refer to House Bill #13, House Bill #74 or Senate Bill #735. It would be helpful if the letters reflect a personal situation and reason for taking a stand on the issue.
- \* The district writing the most letters will have the women’s names placed in a drawing. Three names will be drawn to determine the winners of three \$25 gift cards to a business of the winner’s choosing.

### **Pertinent talking points on Landowner Liability to include in your letter are:**

- \* Due to the recent Lehigh County Court decision, farmers no longer have sufficient liability protection from accidents that may occur on their land as a result of allowing recreational use, such as hunting. Farmers cannot afford to expose themselves to the financial liability lawsuits, such as this.
- \* Private landowners provide the majority of land available for hunting in the state. If liability protection is not provided, landowners could likely prevent hunting, which could further compound problems with wildlife management in the state.
- \* Legislation needs to be acted upon quickly to close the loophole in current law that allows a farmer to be held responsible for injuries that occur on his property as a result of activity such as hunting. Protect farmers, other landowners and wildlife management in the state by acting quickly to pass H.B. #13, H.B. #74, or S.B. #735.



## CDCFB MEMBERS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS IN HARRISBURG

Area Farm Bureau members met with their legislators in Harrisburg recently to talk about key issues impacting agriculture.

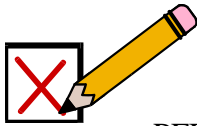
Pictured above, first row L-R: Rep. Chris Ross, Joseph Fecondo, Robert Hewitt, Rep. Arthur Hershey, Robert Yarnall; second row L-R: James Kirkpatrick, Duane Hershey, Harold Kulp, Arthur Needham; third row, L-R: Howard Robinson, Jay Howes, Donald Hannum and Rep. Tim Hennessey.

Joseph Fecondo, Governmental Relations Director for CDCFB, arranged meetings with Sen. Dominic Pileggi, Sen. Andrew Dinniman, Rep. Arthur Hershey, Rep. Chris Ross, Rep. Carole Rubley, Rep. Tim Hennessey, Rep. Curt Schroeder, and Rep. Stephen Barrar.

Members requested action to achieve a number of vital goals including property tax relief that includes farmland, adequate funding in state budget for agriculture, and health care and health insurance reform.

Also discussed was the need for uniformity in dog law standards, stronger landowner liability protection, criminal penalties for trespassers in ag biosecurity areas, vehicle code changes to accommodate modern farm machinery, and prevention of Sunday deer hunting.

*“The full use of today is the best preparation for tomorrow”*



## FARM LABOR SURVEY

PFB is inviting farmers who employ immigrant labor to take part in a confidential survey in an effort to find out whether they are experiencing a shortage in farm labor.

The survey is also open to dairy farmers and other producers who employ immigrant labor.

Farm Bureau continues to press for enactment of immigration reform, which must include a reliable and practical guest worker program for agriculture. Meanwhile, the immigrant farm worker situation remains unstable and labor shortages may increase. "Through the survey, we hope to obtain a picture of how uncertainty surrounding immigration reform is impacting the number of foreign workers on Pennsylvania farms," said PFB labor specialist Jeff Grove.

Information provided will be kept confidential. PFB may choose to use the information from the survey to portray an overall farm labor picture to be shared with policymakers in Washington, DC and Harrisburg, but it will not include references to specific farms.

The survey was mailed recently to more than 2000 Farm Bureau members, although non-members who employ immigrant workers are also welcome to fill out the survey. Farm employers who did not receive a copy of the survey in the mail, can complete the survey through PFB's website at [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com) or get a copy by calling 717-761-2740.

## YF&R ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Dennis Koehler, District 2 YF&R Committee Representative, and family invite you to the YF&R Annual Summer Picnic.

The picnic will be held on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at Bethlehem Township Municipal Park in Northampton County.

Games and activities for the children to follow the Pork Bar-B-Q luncheon!

Make reservations by calling Dennis at 610-868-3742.



## WANT TO PRESERVE YOUR FARM?

**Owners of eligible farms may remain owners of their land, receive compensation, and preserve their farm by selling an agricultural conservation easement.**

The Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board administers two competitive programs that are funded by the County Commissioners.

One, **the Commonwealth/County Program**, is funded primarily by a partnership with the Commonwealth.

The other, **"Chester County Challenge Grant Program for Farmland Preservation"**, is funded by the County in partnership with the township where the farm is located, the owners of the farm and private partners.

These voluntary programs pay farm owners for selling a permanent agricultural conservation easement on their land. The easement allows agricultural uses, but not development.

The programs are open to all Chester County landowners whose farms are located within an Agricultural Security Area and meet the minimum criteria. Farms with 10-acres or more are eligible to apply for both programs if they are adjacent to other permanently preserved land. If they are not adjacent to permanently preserved land, the acreage minimums are 50-acres for the Commonwealth/County Program and 25-acres for the Challenge Grant Program.

Farms applying to the programs will be ranked based on soil quality and other factors that are described online and in the program manuals. For more information, including applications and program guidelines, please contact Diana Hoopes or Kim Gordon at 610-344-6285; 601 Westtown Road, Government Services Building, Suite 270, P.O. Box 2747, West Chester, Pa., 19380 or visit [www.chesco.org/agriculture](http://www.chesco.org/agriculture).

As of March 2007, 235 Chester County farms totaling 22,141 acres have been preserved through these two programs. **The application deadline for both programs is August 1.**

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that **Pennsylvania set a national record** last month, reaching 350,000 acres of preserved farmland ?

. . . that **18% of the U.S. corn crop was used for ethanol production in 2006?** Corn, a key crop for food aid, will increasingly be used to make ethanol, thus further reducing the amount of food shipped.

. . . that **Keith Eckel**, a Lackawanna County vegetable grower and former PFB president, and **Samuel Hayes, Jr.**, a past legislative leader and former state Agriculture Secretary, have been re-elected to three-year terms as agricultural representatives on Penn State's Board of Trustees?

. . . the **2007 update to the Chester County Farm Market brochure is available?** This popular publication lists and maps over 40 Chester County locations where the public can buy farm fresh produce. Receive a copy by phone at 610-344-6285 or e-mail at [openspace@chesco.org](mailto:openspace@chesco.org).

. . . that **MSC's Payroll Services makes your job as an employer easier?** Call 717-731-3574 for the details.



## MUSHROOMS ON THE MENU

Specialty mushrooms are eking out a larger share of fast casual menu mentions and edging into more diverse territories.

Fast casual restaurants are discovering that putting more mushrooms on the menu is smart business because the tasty morsels inject creativity, health and flavor.

Mushrooms are rich with fiber, potassium and selenium and low in fat, sodium and carbohydrate.

## HONEY BEE RESEARCH NEEDED



There is a buzz among the nation's beekeepers, but it's not the result of the annual spring awakening of their bee colonies.

Farm Bureau urged support for more research during a U.S. House subcommittee hearing recently. They stressed the need for immediate funding for research into what is causing a "colony collapse disorder" that is decimating honeybees around the nation, threatening the pollination of specialty crops.

In Pennsylvania, 90% of the apple crop is dependent on pollination from honeybees.

## COMPOSTING GRANTS AVAILABLE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Gov. Ed Rendell recently announced the availability of \$400,000 in grants that will help businesses increase the use of composted materials in finished products and reduce the disposal of organic waste in landfills.

The Composting Infrastructure Development Grant Program aims to increase the volume of organic materials being diverted from landfills and helps businesses increase the use of organic materials in the production of finished products.

The grant program award for-profit business entities and non-profit organizations in Pennsylvania up to \$100,000 for projects that incorporate recovered organic materials into their products or increase the amount of organic material processed at composting facilities.

This year, the program is open to start-up operations as well as existing compost facilities.

Applications will be accepted until June 28.

For more information on the Composting Infrastructure Development Grant Program, or to obtain a grant application, visit the Department of Environmental Protection's website at [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), Keyword: "Compost."

*"Success is determined by  
how determined you are to succeed."*



## FEED PRICES TAKE A BITE OUT OF MILK PRICE BOOST

Dairy producers across the U.S. are reeling from the one-two punch of high and rising corn costs and milk prices that, while up slightly, can't keep pace with production expenses.

Using more than half of the nation's corn crop, the livestock industry is the U.S.' largest corn consumer. However, the ethanol boom is eating up more and more of the corn crop, despite a significant boost to corn acreage.

This demand for corn has translated to considerable increases in feed costs, which are 30-60% higher this year than in previous years, for those involved in animal agriculture.

According to USDA, farmers intend to plant 15% more corn this year compared to 2006.

The additional corn acres will likely affect the availability and cost of soybeans and hay. Prices in other commodities are rising as dairy producers look for feed alternatives.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said that it could be two years before corn supply and demand evens out.

-Article taken from FBNews, May 14, 2007



## HORSE RECREATION -- A \$32 BILLION INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

The recreational segment of the horse industry, including the average pleasure rider on their "backyard horse," generates quite a bit of economic impact and employment opportunities, according to a press release from the American Horse Council.

The number of horses used primarily for recreational purposes is by far the largest segment of the horse population by more than one million.

According to the study, there are more than 1.4 million Quarter horses used specifically for recreational activities. Another 228,290 Thoroughbreds and 2.3 million horses listed as "other breeds" are involved in equestrian recreation.

The resulting effect on the gross domestic product for the recreation industry is \$32 billion -- \$11.9 billion in direct effects, and \$20 billion in indirect and induced effects.

While recreational events and activities may not always be as flashy as their racing and competition counterparts, recreation events require thousands of employees to keep all of the money flowing and these events running.

The national and each individual state study are available for purchase from the American Horse Council at [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) or by phone at 202-296-4031.

-Taken from *Lancaster Farming*, May 2007

Accidents  
Happen ...



Choose the right PFB health care plan for you!

For over 30 years, PA Farm Bureau and BlueCross have teamed up to provide quality health care at competitive group rates with the personalized service you would expect from a Farm Bureau membership.

- PPO Plans
- Medicare Plans
- Comprehensive Plans
- Dental/Vision Plans
- HSA Plans

No matter what your needs . . .  
individual coverage for you - your family or employees  
- we have the right plan for you!



**BlueCross**



For more information call:

PFB Health Service 1-800-522-2375

\* Any Pennsylvania Farm Bureau member who meets the Blue Cross Association guidelines may apply for coverage

### NATIONWIDE – ON YOUR SIDE

Estate planning is an important part of your overall financial plan. It allows you to make decisions about taking care of the people who mean the most to you.

It also lets you decide how everything you own will be distributed to your loved ones. Your estate plan makes it easier for those who will settle your affairs after you're gone.

For more information on estate plans, contact a Nationwide Insurance agent (listed on back page) or visit [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com).

-Steve Uhlman, Nationwide

**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
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	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 Simperts, 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  
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**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

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