

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)**

November 2007

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND PFB'S ANNUAL MEETING

"Join us for the **Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on Nov. 12-14,**" urged Carl T. Shaffer, PFB President.

"A lot of activity is packed into the event – recognition of the outstanding work by Farm Bureau volunteers, discussion and policy decisions on vital issues, entertainment, fellowship and idea-sharing with folks from all across Pennsylvania," added Shaffer.

Many issues important to agriculture's future will be discussed and adopted when hundreds of farmers from across Pennsylvania gather to vote on policy recommendations.

Representing CDCFB as delegates/alternates will be: President **Robert Yarnall, Jr.**, Vice-President **Robert Hewitt, Ed** and **Ann Cannon, Joe Fecondo, Donald Hannum, Dan Miller, Arty Needham, Lercy Alvarez, Howard** and **Sandy Reyburn, Howard** and **Janet Robinson** and **Marcia Solda**.

The Annual Meeting will feature informative seminars, entertainment, individual awards and county Farm Bureau program recognition, and an expanded Health Fair.

[See the October issue of the *Country Focus* for details and registration].

Fall Harvest Time is a great time to visit farm markets and support other segments of our industry by taking home some of the "Pennsylvania Preferred," homegrown food.

MESSAGE FROM CDCFB PRESIDENT ROBERT YARNALL, JR.:



Dear CDCFB Members,

The CDCFB 2007 "grassroots" policy development has now concluded. However, the process shall now continue forward for the entire state of Pennsylvania and federal levels.

Policies from all of Pennsylvania's county farm bureaus were assembled in preparation for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's (PFB) annual meeting in Hershey

At PFB's annual meeting delegates from every farm bureau will debate and vote on each "grassroots" policy for the state of Pennsylvania and for those that will inevitably go on to the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) annual meeting. AFBF's annual meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in January.

You should be proud to know that your CDCFB delegates will be fervently supporting and working towards the adoption of our county's "grassroots" policies at both the PFB and AFBF conventions!

I wish to thank all of our members who have submitted policies. I wish to especially thank all of you who have in the past and continue to volunteer your time and efforts on behalf of our agricultural families.

Sincerely,





TIM ARD RECEIVES “MASTER AWARD”

Tim Ard, Regional Manager with PFB’s MSC Business Services, has received their Master Award -- the top honor presented to a supervisor who excels in all areas of performance.

Tim has 29 years service in Chester County providing tax planning, professional tax preparation and financial analysis service to clients.

Similar to the saying that “it takes a village to raise a child,” Tim said, “The same is true of the Master Award. It takes the entire roster of MSC programs along with a dedicated staff and the commitment of the management, to make these programs all that they can be.”

Tim and his wife, Eileen, live near Lancaster and have two children, Ryan and Leah.

Congratulations, Tim!

2008 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN OFF TO A GREAT START

On the heels of a record-breaking 2007 membership campaign, the 2008 campaign is already off to a great start!

Our goal for 2008 is 4227 total members with 694 of those regular farmer members. Thanks to the quick renewal responses, we are already over halfway there!

I was amazed, however, to find out recently that there are almost 1400 farms in Chester County. All of these farm families need to be enrolled in Farm Bureau.

We have so much to offer in the way of services, discounts and savings. Let’s get out there and tell our story! -Howard Robinson

The following are new regular members:

- Donald Byrne**, Kennett Square
- Eloy Candelaria**, Phoenixville
- Dante Diubaldo**, Avondale
- Gail Emerson**, Cochranville
- Joan Fanelli**, Phoenixville
- Gail Pippin**, Wagontown
- Linda Morrison**, Downingtown
- Robert Shoff**, Lincoln University
- Frederick Weaver**, West Chester
- Earl Wells, Jr.** Glenmoore

DIRECTORS NAMED TO BOARD

Four directors were named to the CDCFB Board at the Annual Fall Meeting on Sept. 20.

Newly elected was **Daniel Miller**. Dan is employed by the Chester County Conservation District. Prior to that he worked at Walmoore Holsteins for 36 years as Herd Manager. Dan and his wife, Sharyn, live near Chatham.

Randy Bates, from Gradyville, Delaware County, **Marcia Solda** from Chester Springs and **Janet Robinson** from Oxford were re-elected to the board.

Officers for the 2007-08 year are:

- President: **Robert Yarnall, Jr.**
- Vice-President: **Robert Hewitt**
- Secretary/Treasurer: **Janet Robinson**

NEW LAW PROVIDES LANDOWNERS MORE PROTECTION



This hunting season, Pennsylvania landowners will be glad to know that if they allow hunters to hunt on their land, they now have protection from possible civil liability, should an accident occur.

“Farmers now can be more confident that their livelihood won’t be at risk when they open their land to hunters. We have wanted our good relationships with hunters to continue because they help us control wildlife damage to our crops while we provide them a place to enjoy recreational activities,” said PFB President Carl T. Shaffer.

The new law balances the rights of landowners with the rights of potential victims. “While the law provides reasonable liability safeguards for farmers and other landowners, the law does not prevent an injured party from recovering damages from the individual who caused the injury.

For more information, contact the PA Game Commission website at pgc.state.pa.us.

BE SURE TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6
*“Bad public officials are elected
by good citizens who do not vote”*

PRES. STALLMAN SPEAKS OUT

“Agriculture is on the front lines of the immigration debate in America,” AFBF President Bob Stallman told members of Congress recently.

“Farmers, ranchers and growers desperately need a solution to the labor challenges they face. No where is the problem more acute than in agriculture,” Stallman testified to the legislators.

“Sustaining our current level of productivity is contingent on the reliable and legal work-force that we have,” he reiterated.

“Otherwise, Americans will find more foreign-grown food on their supermarket shelves.”



“CAMPAIGN CLASSROOM”

In order to support the candidacy of people who know and understand rural concerns, PFB will be offering members the opportunity to enroll in a “Campaign Classroom” on the components of a successful political campaign.

The two-day seminar, scheduled for Feb. 13-14 in Camp Hill, will provide participants with “insider knowledge” that unlocks the secrets of a successful political campaign.

Topics covered include: Evaluating the candidate and electorate, Selecting campaign issues, Handling aggressive interviewers, Campaign fundraising, Organizing a campaign, and Campaign strategy.

Registration fees, which covers all course materials plus meals, are \$175 per person. Farm Bureau members receive a \$50 discount.

For more information and to receive a reservation form, call (717) 761-2740, ext. 540.



FEED PRICES UP

Horse owners across the country are worried about the soaring costs of feed as more and more corn is funneled into biofuel rather than feed troughs, reports Horse.com.

“Right now, we’re awfully dependent on corn,” said Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University. “We need to follow the rest of the world and look to oats, barley and even wheat to feed livestock,” he added.

CDCFB SETS POLICIES AND PRESENTS AWARDS



Policy resolutions on issues important to agriculture and rural living were adopted at the CDCFB Annual Fall Banquet on Sept. 20.

John “Jack” Arrell, from New London, received the county “Distinguished Service to Agriculture” award for his years of dedicated service and contributions to the agricultural and rural community.

William Zollers, from Mertztown, received the “Distinguished Service to Agriculture” award as the county nominee for his contributions and years of service at the state level.

Farm Bureau members voted on a wide range of grass-roots policy recommendations. Among the 29 adopted policies were recommendations that:

- * Agricultural storage facilities of propane, fuel and fertilizer not be assessed any fees due to security plans required by Office of Homeland Security.
- * Federal law concerning the use of H2A visa relating to seasonal farm labor be clarified to include mushroom farming
- * PFB assist in the creation of a statewide agricultural organization to enable and assist in acquiring legal employment of immigrant workers for our farms
- * Support a \$2 million PA-budget line-item for a PA wine-marketing and research program
- * Non-rBST milk premiums be reflected in the farm price of milk
- * Prohibit the sale or lease of PA turnpike
- * If a farm on agricultural zoned land adds a USDA or state licensed and inspected kennel-breeding operation, that this activity be fully viewed as part of the agribusiness on the farm helping to keep the farm agriculturally and economically viable
- * Support providing bio-diesel to agricultural producers through local distributor system
- * Buildings used in an operational agricultural enterprise be assessed at a lower rate than non-agricultural buildings.

“The person who talks without thinking runs more risks than the person who thinks without talking”

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

As of January 1, 2007 it is now required that taxpayers have one of the following to substantiate every charitable contribution:

- 1) Written bank record of the transaction (i.e., cancelled check) **OR**
- 2) Written statement from the charitable organization that shows the name of the organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.

This applies to ALL contributions made after Jan.1, 2007. This means that any cash contributions made after this date that do not follow the guidelines in #2 will **NOT** be eligible to claim as a charitable contribution to include in Itemized Deductions on Schedule A of your Federal Tax Return.



Religious organizations that use the “envelope method” will need to reflect each of the requirements in #2 above on the year-end statements if they are not already doing so. According to the new IRS regulations any of these statements that only show the total annual amount of the contributions will **NOT** be eligible for deduction on Schedule A.

Due to increased IRS scrutiny of charitable contributions it should again be pointed out that contributions to the following are NOT eligible for deductions:

- * Political organizations and/or candidates
- * Contributions that entitle you to merchandise, goods, or services, including admission to charity balls, banquets, or theatrical events (you can only deduct the amount that exceeds the fair market value of the benefit received)
- * Games of chance
- * Individuals

These are merely a sample of ineligible contributions. The first three are fairly well known, but the last is often forgotten.

If contributions are made directly to an individual (i.e., mission trips, family financial hardship) they are NOT deductible. In order to be deductible, it needs to be made to the charitable organization and it can NOT specify that it is earmarked for any specific individual (this includes writing the name of the individual on the memo of the check).

-Christopher Bessette, MSC Account Supervisor

“EARLY BIRD” WINNER

Donald “Buster” Needham was the winner in the “Early Bird” Membership Drawing at the Annual Fall Meeting on September 20.

Buster donated his \$50 earnings to the Chester County 4-H Program.

FEDERAL JUDGE BARS

“NO-MATCH” LETTERS

A federal judge has granted a preliminary injunction barring the Department of Homeland Security from mailing Social Security “no-match” letters to employers telling them they must resolve questions about their employees’ identities or fire them within 90 days.

Plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the plan raised serious questions about its legality and the accuracy of Social Security data.

Michael Chertoff, head of the Department of Homeland Security, said the administration is disappointed with the ruling and called on Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

For additional information about no-match letters, visit the U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) website at www.ice.gov or call 800-421-7105.

U.S. EXPORTS CLIMBING

The total world population is 6.5 billion; 300 million people in the U.S.

Obviously, there are more consumers outside our borders than within.

Thanks to trade agreements that bring down tariffs and other trade hurdles, the food and fiber produced by U.S. farmers are reaching more of those global consumers than ever before. **Since 1980, agricultural exports have tripled from \$25 billion to approaching \$81 billion.**

Higher world prices and more demand for cheese and byproducts has led USDA to suggest that U.S. dairy exports might climb to \$2.3 billion for fiscal year 2007, an increase of \$530 million from last year.



YF&R LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BALTIMORE, MD

The American Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Leadership Conference will be held February 16th-18th in Baltimore, MD.

CDCFB is offering scholarships to help defray costs for young farmers interested in attending. Please contact Howard or Sandy Reyburn at 610-932-5685 if you would like to participate.



BORROWED FARM EQUIPMENT

Did you know that Nationwide Insurance covers borrowed farm equipment? If you borrow your neighbor's tractor and it's damaged while you are using it, you'd probably want your insurance to protect your good friend and neighbor.

Many farmowners' policies pay on an excess basis, which means your insurer doesn't pay until the owner has exhausted his coverage first.

Nationwide's farm policy offers \$10,000 for 'Borrowed Farm Equipment' on a primary basis, and it's handled within limitations as if it were your equipment.

For more tips on how to protect your farm personal property, call one of the Nationwide agents listed on back page of newsletter.

-Steve Uhlman, Nationwide

MANURE TRADING WEBSITE AVAILABLE

A website has been established to help Pennsylvania residents sell or give away excess manure. If you need to get excess manure off of your farm, you will want to take a look at the website to see if someone needs it.

The website can also be used to find places where you can buy manure or get manure for free if you have land that needs to be fertilized.

The website is available to the general public for use -- www.manuretrader.org

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that the value of U.S. apple production was estimated at more than \$2.1 billion last year?



Pennsylvania ranks fifth in the nation behind Washington, New York, California and Michigan in the number of apples grown.

. . . Amerigas is offering all members the 5-cent-a-gallon discount? Whether you are drying corn or heating buildings, contact Amerigas and ask about your discount.

. . . that America's Heartland, the weekly public television series that highlights the contributions of America's farmers, is beginning its third season? Farm Bureau is one of the flagship supporters of the series that reached over one million consumers last year.

. . . that tax time will soon be upon us? Trust your business services to the agriculture specialists! Contact one of the MSC account supervisors listed on back page for more information.

. . . that Grainger sales are increasing because PFB members are taking advantage of the free shipping and delivery? When you are busy on the farm, let Grainger do all the work and send you your much-needed supplies.

. . . that there are three Mobile Ag Labs operating in the state (already nearly booked for the 2007-08 school year)?

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



TIMING FOR TREES

When planting trees, timing is everything. And, autumn is the ideal time for transplanting trees, bulbs, shrubs, and other perennials.

Plus if you prefer trees that display rich fall hues, autumn planting allows you to see each tree's color before buying. According to the Department of Agriculture, as long as the ground is soft, it's not too late to plant.

**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
	Daniel Miller	610-869-2604
	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
Russel A. Cording, Jr., Philadelphia, 215-483-4040
Charles E. Courtney, Media, 610-891-7900
John L. Dimeglio, Aston, 610-485-5858
Lois R. Erb, Boothwyn, 610-485-2543
James P. Falls, Media, 610-565-6522
Gene J. Giello, Springfield, 610-544-8585
Earl W. Hagerty, Jr., Glen Mills, 610-358-9111
Elaine C. Hanscom, Thorndale, 610-384-2884
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

*Please send any items for the newsletter to:
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