

ACCENT ON AGRICULTURE

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau

(also serving western Philadelphia County)

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation

January 2009



SAYING “GOODBYE” IS HARD TO DO

Art Hershey, a true “friend of agriculture” will be sorely missed as the ag community’s advocate in the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Saying goodbye to Art as a legislator is most difficult for Chester County farmers.

Art grew up on a dairy farm near Cochranville and was a full-time farmer up until he was elected to serve in the 13th Legislative District in 1982. During his tenure, Art served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Active in Farm Bureau, Art served as president of the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (CDCFB), served on numerous committees, and was a director on the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) Board of Directors.

Art was named PFB’s 2004 recipient of Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

At the 2008 PFB Annual Meeting, Hershey received the “Barn Raiser” award, PFB’s highest honor, which recognizes an individual who has spent a lifetime in dedicated leadership to the agricultural community.

“The Farm Bureau and I have worked together on so many issues over the years,” Hershey said. “I believe we have done the farmers a lot of good. The passage of the ACRE law will always be the crowning moment for me in assisting agriculture during my time in the legislature.”

Art credited his experience as a county and state Farm Bureau leader with stimulating his interest in becoming involved in public affairs.

Thank you, Art, for all that you have done on our behalf! We wish you a well-deserved retirement with your wife, Joyce, and family.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAN MILLER:

The one thing that strikes me the most about the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau is the fact that our organization represents **ALL** segments of agriculture in Chester and Delaware Counties.

Consider the fact that the people on your board of directors come from these varied sections of the agricultural industry -- beef, poultry, dairy, equine, canine, mushroom, agri-tainment, and conservation. They are all on your board working for you and the local ag community.

Members of local agriculture historically have been a community where everyone helped each other. Sometimes this occurred by helping with planting, silo filling or possibly helping with barn work when a neighbor was sick or hurt. Today we are all so busy that we find it hard to do these things the way our parents and grandparents did.

[President’s Message Continued on Page 2]



Daniel Miller (right), president of the CDCFB, accepted four President’s Awards and one Overall Achievement Award, for programs carried out by the CDCFB, from PFB President Carl T. Shaffer.

[See related Awards story on page 3]



“FOOD CHECK-OUT DAY” BENEFITS RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

“Food Check-Out Day” will be observed on Tuesday, Feb.10; the presentation will take place at Freddy Hill Farm, Lansdale.

This is the time of year when the average American has earned enough income to pay for their entire year’s food supply.

The collection effort helps Farm Bureau members to celebrate National Food Check Out Week as a means of recognizing that growing and raising wholesome food is a farmer’s top goal.

Local Farm Bureau members will be presenting a donation of food and other needed items for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House in honor of Food Check-Out Day.

In 2008, Food Check-Out Day raised nearly \$59,000 of food and cash contributions for PA’s five Ronald McDonald Houses. Since the inception of this charitable endeavor, the total contributions of Pennsylvania’s Food Check-Out Days has been \$530,000, which is the largest amount of any donations of the 50 states.

Ronald McDonald Houses provide a much-needed home, away from home, for families whose children are receiving medical treatment for serious illness. They provide the comfort, care, food, necessities, and support families need to help get them through such stressful times.

You are invited to share in this worthy endeavor by contributing food or money. Checks should be made payable to:

Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House
and sent to: Marcia Solda
4037 Merlin Road
Chester Springs, Pa. 19425



For more info, contact Marcia at: 610-935-2545
or by e-mail at: marciasolda@msn.com.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE [Continued from Page 1]

Farm Bureau members can, however, still support and care for one another in some very important ways such as Advisory Councils.

INTERACTION THROUGH ADVISORY COUNCILS

Advisory Councils may be a great way for members to bring back some of the interaction and fellowship that our ancestors enjoyed.

An Advisory Council is a group of neighbors or friends who meet on a regular basis at one another’s homes.

These informal meetings can be a fun way to socialize and care for one another through discussing issues that affect our businesses and our lives.

These discussions can lead to resolutions to be discussed at Policy Development meetings in the county. Resolutions, when passed at the county level, go on to the state level, and if a national issue, can go on to the AFBF convention.

If you would like to start an Advisory Council in your area, please call one of your directors listed on the back page. We will help you get an Advisory Council started in your area.

FELLOWSHIP AT FARM BUREAU GATHERINGS

Our organization has banquets in the spring and fall designed to bring members together for fellowship and to inform them about legislation affecting agriculture. (The fall banquet allows members to vote on resolutions that members have brought forward to be voted on.)

Your board of directors is attempting to put together a summer picnic this year. Please plan to attend the picnic and the banquets. We all want to keep our organization healthy and strong. Your attendance will make a difference! Our diversity is our strength.

If you have any concerns or issues that you would like the directors to know about or need assistance with, please call one of the directors listed on the back page of this newsletter.

-Daniel Miller, President



The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors would like to thank the more-than-one-hundred mushroom industry growers and agri-businesses that support Farm Bureau through their membership and volunteer work.

*“Generosity is giving more than you can,
and Pride is taking less than you need”*

-Anonymous

SAM KIEFFER "ON GUARD" IN WASHINGTON D.C. FOR INAUGURATION



Sam Kieffer, National Governmental Relations Director for PFB, has been "on guard" for President-elect Obama's inauguration since November 4.

Captain Sam Kieffer, in the National Guard for eight years and commander of an Army transportation company based in Phoenixville, is now officially called a "credentials officer" and in charge of vetting people who play an official part in the inauguration ceremony and parade.

Kieffer said it was an honor to be selected to work on the inauguration.

[Sam Kieffer was the guest speaker at CDCFB's 2007 Annual Spring Banquet where our organization awarded him a plaque]

"REAP" CREDIT AND TAXES

In 2007 the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program, administered by the State Conservation Commission, came into existence.

REAP allows Pennsylvania farmers to earn tax credits in exchange for best management practices on their agricultural operations.

However, there was a concern over the tax consequences of receiving a tax credit.

Is the credit subject to federal tax? Does the credit affect the depreciation of the qualifying purchase? What happens if you sell the tax credit?

Brief overview of tax issues related to REAP:

1. 100% of the cost of the project is allowed for depreciation.
2. Second, if you use the tax credit yourself, the credit is not subject to federal income tax. However, if you sell the tax credit, the amount of cash you receive is taxable to the IRS and the PA Department of Revenue.
3. Other tax consequences include that the credit can be carried over for 15 years, and in the years you use the credit you must file separate returns if you are a married taxpayer.
4. There are many other issues concerning the REAP credit.

For further information, please contact your local MSC account supervisor listed on the back page of this newsletter. –Tim Ard

MOBILE AG ED SCIENCE LABS



The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation has launched a new fundraising drive to put two more Mobile Ag Education Science Labs into service during the 2010/2011 academic year. Reaching that goal will require at least \$200,000 to be raised.

The CDCFB Board of Directors voted, on behalf of the membership, to contribute \$5,000 toward the purchase of the new Mobile Ag Ed Science Labs.

The Mobile Ag Lab has been a success since it began in 2003. By the end of the current school year, the four existing Ag Labs will have been booked for more than 140 weeks, reaching nearly 90,000 students with science-based hands-on experiments, illustrating lessons about agriculture.

Through the Mobile Ag Lab program, children are being taught that food, fibers and the energies of tomorrow all come from PA farmers.

CDCFB RECEIVES AWARDS [Related photo on Page 1]



Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau (CDCFB) won five awards, including the Overall Achievement Award, during PFB's Annual Meeting in Hershey.

The Overall Achievement Award recognizes outstanding performance in the six program areas.

The other four awards were the President's Awards for: Leadership Development, Policy Development and Implementation, Promotion and Education, and Services.

"CDCFB leadership has done an outstanding job of energizing farmer volunteers to complete tasks in a wide variety of program areas," said PFB President Carl Shaffer.

"These volunteers have demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has created a better environment for farmers to be part of their local communities and for non-farmers to better understand the challenges faced by area farmers," Shaffer continued.

*"The meek shall inherit the earth . . .
If it's okay with the rest of you"*

–Don Ainey

NEEDHAM AND CORDIVANOS RECEIVE AWARDS



Donald "Buster" Needham (center) receives the 2008 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from Ag Development Council representative Hillary Krummrich (right) and the County Commissioners -- Terence Farrell, Carole Aichele and Kathi Cozzone.



Ben and Joseph Cordivano (center) were presented the "Farmer of the Year" award by Hillary Krummrich from Ag Development Council and the Chester County Commissioners.



THIRD-GENERATION OF SIMPERS "ON THE JOB" AT NATIONWIDE

Elizabeth "Liz" Simperts represents the third generation of the Simperts family in the Nationwide Insurance business in our area.

Thomas "Tom" Simperts, father of Liz, joined his father (Paul Simperts) in the Nationwide business more than 44 years ago.

In October, the Simperts Agency expanded, taking over the Melba King Nationwide Agency, and opened a new office, near Avondale, in the old Farm Credit building at Route 41, just off the Route 1 Bypass.

They can be reached at 610-268-2880.

Nationwide Insurance offers Farm Bureau members a 10% discount on their insurance premiums.

"KEEP FARMING FIRST"

The 2009 "Keep Farming First" seminar will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 8:15 a.m.- 5 p.m., at Octorara High School near Atglen.



Topics to be discussed include:

- * Coping with high energy prices on the farm
- * Do you really want to start a commercial horse boarding operation?
- * The economics of organic dairying
- * Starting a Farmers Market
- * Home-based energy conservation
- * USDA-NRCS update
- * Buy Fresh, Buy Local
- * Farmland preservation and Act 319
- * Horse breeding as a profitable PA business
- * Comprehensive view of farm loans, etc.

The fee is \$35 for the day, including breakfast, lunch and closing reception.

Register on-line at www.CC2020.org. If you need additional information, contact Nancy Mohr at 610-925-0900.



"BOUNTIFUL HARVEST ON BORROWED TIME"

Chris Alonzo, local Farm Bureau member and mushroom grower from Kennett Square, was recently featured in a television program, produced by PFB, entitled "Bountiful Harvests on Borrowed Time."

The program related the need for a reliable immigrant guest worker program for agriculture and was broadcast nationally on RFD-TV.

The half-hour show included views and insights from many Pennsylvania farmers about how the failure of Washington to resolve immigration reform can affect agriculture and our nation's food supply.

The video can be viewed on the website www.pfb.com.

*"A man cannot be comfortable
without his own approval"*
-Mark Twain



DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that Chester/Delaware Co. Farm Bureau has almost reached their membership goal -- 736 regular members and 4,533 total members? Thanks to you for your prompt renewals.

. . . Elder Vogel, Jr., a fourth generation dairy farmer and also President of Beaver/ Lawrence County Farm Bureau, was just elected to the State Senate for a four-year term? He will be the only 'actual' farmer in the State Legislature.

. . . Farm Bureau Bank offers credit cards with no annual fees, plus rebates on your purchases? Visit www.farmbureaubank.com.

. . . that Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack was selected to serve as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture?



. . . that one Portabella Mushroom has more potassium than a banana?

. . . that Charles Brosius – a past PA Secretary of Agriculture, business leader and local Farm Bureau member – was inducted into Unionville High School's charter class Hall of Honor?

. . . animal control workers in Kentucky report that stray horses have been turning up in some rural communities? Advocates are blaming the faltering national economy for the problem.

. . . a "rescued" horse named *Jamaica* has been chosen as one of five Horses of Honor for 2008 by the U.S. Equestrian Federation?



Robert Yarnall, Jr. (right) presents the AFBF/PFB award to Congressman Robert Brady who voted favorably 97% of the time on agriculture issues supported by Farm Bureau.

YOUNG FARMERS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Young farmers, aged 18-35, are invited to attend the 2009 Young Farmer and Rancher Leadership Conference -- "Agriculture: Keeping America Grounded" -- to be held on February 28 to March 1 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center, State College.

Participants from across Pennsylvania will hear motivational speakers and attend sessions relating to YF&R opportunities; horticulture and home decorating; farm transition; alternative financing and leadership development.

Ron Hanson, the keynote speaker, specializes in transitioning farms from one generation to the next. You won't want to miss his presentation.

Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of the event. For more information, contact Howard Reyburn at 717-572-7957.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

- Chris Alonzo, Kennett Square
- Samuel Cox, Landenberg
- Steve and Kris Garrett, Garnet Valley
- Laura and Mark James, Oxford
- John W. Lee, Jr., Oxford
- Debra S. Lewis, Nottingham
- Michelle A. McDuff, Oxford
- Peter Paul Pieragostini, Phoenixville
- Timothy Pohlig, Oxford
- Andi Setiawan, Philadelphia
- Rogelio Vivero, Oxford
- Aileen Whitman, Malvern

THANK YOU RECEIVED

"On behalf of the Chester County 2008 Hippology Team, I would like to thank the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau for helping to support our trip to the Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup in Kentucky.

Out of 21 teams, we were pleased to come in: fourth in written test; fourth in stations test, and eighth in overall team.

Again, we thank you for your contribution to our team!" -Deb Schiller, Team Coach

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

President: **Daniel Miller** 610-869-2604
Vice Pres: **Joseph Fecondo** 610-358-0330
Sec/Treas: **Janet Robinson** 717-529-2508
John Arrell 610-255-4646
Randy Bates 610-459-0647
Dennis Breckbill 610-932-9567
Edgar Cannon 610-444-1176
Donald Hannum 610-384-2249
Robert Hewitt 610-495-7927
Arthur Needham 610-869-9735
Robert Ray 610-942-2539
Howard Reyburn 717-572-7957
Marcia Solda 610-935-2545
Robert Yarnall, Jr. 800-651-8332

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
Carl D. Ganster, Wyommising 610-678-1816
Tracy L. Garofalo, Brogue 717-927-9109
Robert Lathrop, Landisville 717-892-3771

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Tom Simpers, Jr., Kennett Square 610-444-2610
Kurt A. Thompson, Downingtown 610-269-1544
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Anthony G. Naab, Drexel Hill 610-789-6250
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