

# ACCENT ON AGRICULTURE

## Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau

(also serving western Philadelphia County)

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation

March 2009



**YOU**  
**ARE INVITED**  
to the

## **ANNUAL** **SPRING BANQUET** on

**Thursday, April 16, 2009**  
**6:45 p.m.**  
at the

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

Speaker: PFB President Carl Shaffer

Cost: \$10 per person



Send reservations to: Donald H. Hannum  
or telephone: 574 Wagontown Rd., Box 81  
610-384-2249 Wagontown, Pa., 19376

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



Reservations deadline: April 10

### **MESSAGE FROM** **PRESIDENT DAN MILLER:**



Did you know that your  
County Farm Bureau Board of

Directors focuses on the youth of the  
farming community?

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

One way it does this is by giving scholarships  
to farm-oriented youth. Eleven scholarships of  
\$1,000 each were awarded to students going off  
to college in the Fall of 2008.

#### **MOBILE AG LAB**

Also, Chester/Delaware Farm Bureau recently  
donated \$5,000 to the Mobile Ag Lab Program.  
These Ag Labs are built in box trailers that can be  
moved from school to school. There are four of  
these labs in the state now, soon to be five.

A teacher trained specifically for the Ag Lab  
goes with the lab to the school for a week. In  
these labs, students do experiments that famil-  
iarize them with different aspects of agriculture.

[See related photo on page 4]

#### **AG IN THE CLASSROOM**

Your county Farm Bureau also supports the  
“Ag in the Classroom” (AIRC) program. This  
program sends teachers from Chester/Delaware  
County to Penn State for a week each summer.

AIRC gives teachers a chance to visit operating  
farms to see what farming is really like. They  
also receive training on how to incorporate  
agriculture into their curriculum at their schools.

[See related story on page two from Laura James,  
one of our 2008 AIRC teachers.]

We in the agricultural community need youth  
to continue with the work of keeping agriculture  
strong and viable.

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau is  
dedicated to getting the word out to the youth of  
our communities that agriculture is important to  
their lives and to their family's lives.



## AGRICULTURE INTEGRATED INTO OXFORD SCHOOL

Laura James, an elementary teacher at Oxford School District, incorporates ideas gained from attending the “Ag in the Classroom” (AITC) seminar at Penn State in July 2008.

“An activity that I initiated with my class was to have two students read *Farm Facts* over the Public Address system once a week,” Laura said. “Many teachers and staff members commented on how much they are learning from these one-minute ag-related statements every week.”

“Several students wish to be farmers when they grow up. Since we are also learning about space, one student says he wants to be the first farmer on Mars. Each week several students check out ag-related books from our library.”

“My students also did the ‘curds and whey’ experiment that I learned at AITC. We heated milk, then added vinegar and watched as the milk solids separated from the liquid.”

“We are now referring to that experiment when we separate other things. One student even commented, when the class separated on a rug for an activity, that it was like the vinegar separating the ‘curds and the whey.’ Powerful statement!”

“I introduced my class to KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner’s CD on ‘Farms, Food and Fun,’ relating to agriculture and where foods come from. The students have KJ’s song lyrics in their poetry folders and you can often hear them singing quietly during poetry time.”

“I have scheduled the Mobile Ag Lab for January 2010; I am trying to write a grant to help us fund the Ag Lab.”

“I am looking forward to attending the AITC II seminar in April. Thank you again Farm Bureau for introducing me to the Ag in the Classroom experience.”  
-Laura James

### 2009 Ag in the Classroom I Seminar

The 2009 Ag in the Classroom Teacher’s (AITC) Workshop will be held at Penn State July 12-17. AITC prepares teachers to bring agriculture to life in their classroom and across their curriculums. Interested in participating? Call Howard Robinson at 717-529-2508 or e-mail: [jrob@epix.net](mailto:jrob@epix.net).

## AGRICULTURAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Chester/Delaware Farm Bureau is pleased to offer scholarship grants of up to \$1000.00 each toward higher education.

High school seniors in Chester County, Delaware County, and/or Philadelphia County planning to pursue a career in agriculture or an agriculture-related field are eligible to apply.

Students must file grant application on or before April 30, 2009.

Contact Robert Hewitt at 610-495-7927 for more information.



## PFB – A NATIONAL WINNER!

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau was a big winner at this year’s American Farm Bureau Federation’s (AFBF) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.

### EIGHT NATIONAL AWARDS

Recognized for its overall achievements in 2008, PFB received eight national awards including: two President’s awards, five program activity awards, and the “Navigator Award” for exceptional membership growth.

Pennsylvania’s own Keith Eckel received the AFBF “Distinguished Service Award” -- AFBF’s highest honor presented to an individual.

PFB President Carl Shaffer had the honor of being re-elected to the AFBF Board of Directors.

Matthew Meals, PFB’s Chairman of the Young Farmer & Ranchers (YF&R), was elected as the 2009 AFBF Chairman of the YF&R Committee. He will serve on the AFBF Board of Directors.

## MILK GETS KUDOS

Milk is “the most misunderstood food in America,” says Anne Mendelson, author of the new book *Milk: the Surprising Story of Milk Through the Ages*.

There are a lot of bad connotations connected with milk, says Mendelson, and her book wants to clear up the misconceptions of one of the world’s healthiest, vitamin-rich foods.





## FFA JACKETS DONATED TO OCTORARA STUDENTS

“On behalf of the Octorara Future Farmers of America (FFA), I wish to thank the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau for their contribution of FFA jackets to ten of our students,” said Charles Graydus, Octorara FFA advisor.

The blue corduroy FFA jacket, adopted as the official dress of FFA members in 1933, is a very recognized symbol of the National FFA organization.

“The new FFA members get a feeling of belonging to the largest youth organization in the world that promotes agriculture, leadership, character, citizenship and service,” Graydus continued.



Some of the Octorara FFA students shown proudly wearing their jackets donated by Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau.

## EDUCATIONAL BOOK ON MUSHROOMS



*Let's Go to a Pennsylvania Mushroom Farm*, a book written by Sue Yocum, is about mushroom farming and outlines the steps involved in mushroom growing and also celebrates the mushroom workers.

This book has been shared with hundreds of teachers in Pennsylvania during attendance at the Ag in the Classroom program at Penn State.

Community Awareness Committee (CAC), a sub-committee of the American Mushroom Institute (AMI), funded the reprint cost; CAC scholarship funds support teachers for AITC.

*Let's Go to a Pennsylvania Mushroom Farm* is available for just \$5. For more information, visit: [www.mushroomfarmcommunity.org](http://www.mushroomfarmcommunity.org).

## CARBON CREDIT TRADING PROGRAM INTRODUCED

In response to Voting Delegate policy recommendations, PFB has partnered with Global Emissions Exchange (GEX) to enable members to register and trade their carbon credits at reduced trading fees.

Under the voluntary program, farmers will be able to enroll environmental practices during the 2009 crop year which replenish carbon levels in the soil, such as no-till farming, grazing and pastureland or reforestation.

The carbon credits will be verified and registered with GEX, which has notable experience and achievement in carbon credit trading, for purchase by industries seeking to reduce the impact of their carbon dioxide emissions.

The PFB program will soon enable farmers across the state who use biodiesel fuel to also register for carbon credit trading.

For more information about the carbon credit trading program, link to PFB's website at [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com).

## HEALING POTENTIAL OF HORSES ON HUMANS



Equine-assisted healing techniques for people diagnosed with autism and cerebral palsy will be scientifically tested in 2009 by two separate professional research teams, with the assistance of \$100,000 in funding from the Horses and Humans Research Foundation.

The foundation, which supports rigorous scientific research that substantiates the healing impact of horses on humans, reported that applications for funding were received from a variety of countries and represented 16 universities.

“One in every 150 kids has autism,” said Molly Sweeney, HHRF board of directors' president. “This pervasive development disorder can have devastating impacts on a family. We are thrilled at the prospect of providing evidence of hope.”

Research teams will evaluate the effects of equine interaction on 7- to 12-year-old children diagnosed with autism. The research will focus on social function, attention and distractibility.

Visit the website: [www.HorsesandHumans.org](http://www.HorsesandHumans.org) for more information.

## CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE

“National Ag Day” -- March 20, 2009 marks the first day of spring.

National Ag Week, March 15-21, is the time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

## EXPANDING AG EDUCATION



CDCFB President Dan Miller, second from right, and Joe Fecondo, CDCFB Vice President, far right, present a \$5,000 donation for the PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation's Mobile Ag Lab fundraising drive to Lou Sallie, far left, Executive Director of the Foundation and Sue Lassi, Assistant Executive Director.



## NEW CHESAPEAKE BAY INITIATIVE

Pennsylvania farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed can now apply for special assistance under the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI).

Authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, CBWI offers technical and financial assistance to producers to install Ag practices to help control erosion, and minimize excess nutrients and sediments.

Conservation practices supported by the program include crop residue management (especially no-till and mulch till systems), crop nutrient management, manure management, cover crops, buffers, riparian forest buffers and streamside fencing.

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications for the new CBWI will be accepted continuously throughout the year to be evaluated, ranked, and prioritized on a monthly basis, beginning with applications received by March 1.

Interested farmers should contact their local NRCS or Conservation District office to request assistance. The application and information about the new Chesapeake Bay initiative and a map of priority watersheds are available on the Pennsylvania NRCS website at:

[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cbwi/index/html](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cbwi/index/html)

## SAFETY COURSE COMING

A Tractor Safety Course is being planned for sometime in May in the Elverson area.

More information will be forthcoming.

## YF&Rers "NETWORK" AT STATE COLLEGE



Nine young farmers from our county attended the YF&R Leadership Conference at State College on Feb. 28 – March 1.

“I found the conference to be well-rounded, addressing personal, as well as financial aspects of farming,” Julianne Harrop said.

“It was a great opportunity for young people to network, and get to know others with similar situations and interests,” Julianne continued.

Attending from our county were: Aaron Maule, Drew and Julianne Harrop, Tim and Sabrena McMichael, Howard and Sandy Reyburn, and Tom Zunino and Lori Bowhall.

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## DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that you can learn about valuable discounts and services by attending our upcoming Spring Banquet on April 16?

. . . that you can receive a special rate for Internet Service: Dial-Up -- \$5.95 and DSL – just \$20.95 per month? Call 866-703-1136.

. . . that Land’s End is giving Farm Bureau members a 10% discount on catalog shopping? Call 800-916-2255 about the discount.

. . . that one million seconds is approximately two weeks?

. . . that if you go back in time one billion seconds, it would be around the time President Kennedy was assassinated?

. . . that to go back in time one trillion seconds, man would just be learning how to make fire?

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Duncan Allison**, Kennett Square

**A. Joseph Armstrong**, West Chester

**R. M. Armstrong, Jr.**, West Chester

**Joseph Barker**, Coatesville

**Stephen Barrar**, Boothwyn

**William Bates**, Glen Mills

**Veronica Brown**, Glen Mills

**Gayle C. Clark**, Downingtown

**Joe C. & Brittany Clark**, Cochranville

**Joseph B. Cordivano, Jr.**, Kennett Square

**Glenn DeHaven**, Coatesville

**Scott & Autumn Estes**, Lincoln University

**John B. “Jeb” Hannum III**, Kennett Square

**John B. “Jock” Hannum, Jr.**, West Grove

**Michaela Kristula**, Nottingham

**Hillary Krummrich**, West Chester

**Craig M. Leto**, Avondale

**David McElhenny**, Honey Brook

**James Meany**, Wilmington

**Fredrick & Maryann Miller**, Cochranville

**Lee Murphy**, Spring City

**Dominic Pileggi**, Media

**Dan & Vicki Robinson**, Oxford

**Vincent Santucci, Jr.**, Avondale

**Jay & Martha Smoker**, Atglen

**Mike Versuk**, Oxford

## FARM BUREAU MEMBERS MEET WITH LEGISLATORS



Joseph Fecondo, CDCFB’s Governmental Relations Director (GRD), accompanied by Donald Hannum, Harold Kulp, Marcia Solda, Howard and Janet Robinson, met with legislators in Washington, DC recently to discuss issues affecting agriculture.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

A State Legislative Conference is planned on March 31 for Farm Bureau members to meet with their legislators in Harrisburg.

Planning to attend are: Joe Fecondo (GRD), Dan Miller, Jack Arrell, Donald Hannum, Robert Hewitt, Harold Kulp, Artie Needham, Janet and Howard Robinson, Marcia Solda, and Robert Yarnall, Jr. Some of the issues they will talk about with their legislators are issues voiced by members at their grassroots meetings.

The FARMER (Farmers Allied for Responsive More Effective Representation) Banquet Meeting will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton Towers on March 30.

## MEMBERSHIP - OVER THE TOP



Our membership team has done it again! Our county was the first in PFB’s Region I to reach our goal of **736** regular “farmer” members. In fact, right now, we are at **760** – 24 over goal.

Thanks to our awesome membership workers who helped reach this goal by encouraging late-paying members to send in their renewals.

Also, even more spectacular is the fact that just eight workers signed up almost 50 brand-new members to push us over the top!

Those “**Special Eight**” were:

Randy Bates, Ed Cannon, Joe Fecondo, Donald Hannum, Harold Kulp, Dan Miller, Howard Robinson and Robert Yarnall, Jr.

Thanks again to a wonderful crew. Once again, Chester/Delaware is the best!

-Howard Robinson & Harold Kulp, Co-chairmen

P.S. Total membership which, includes associate members, is now at **4,400** – only 133 more members needed to reach that lofty goal of **4,533**.

**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  
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**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  
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*Please send any items for the newsletter to:  
Janet Robinson at [jrob@epix.net](mailto:jrob@epix.net)*

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau  
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**NATIONWIDE INSURANCE  
PFB PREFERRED AGENTS:**

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