



## Columbia County Farm Bureau

*Affiliated with American Farm Bureau Federation and Pennsylvania*

*Farm Bureau CCFB Newsletter – March 2018*

### **Board of Directors**

Jim Levan, President	570-594-0748	Jake Shuman	570-441-3208
Charlie Porter, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	570-259-4640	Dave Adams	570-854-3406
Steven Chapin, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	570-441-3734	Rob Davidson	717-458-5269
Karen Chapin, Secretary	570-441-3093	Kirk Lehman	570-387-0519
Cliff Miller	570-356-7488	Mark Shultz	570-437-2669
Sandy Robbins, Newsletter	<a href="mailto:srobbins@pahousegop.com">srobbins@pahousegop.com</a>		

We would like to thank Delroy Artman for his many years of service. He has termed out after 9 years of being a director, five years as President. His hard work and dedication is very much appreciated.

Thank you to Mark Rohrbach for serving 2 terms as director. His contributions to the board will be missed.

Welcome Mark Shultz and Cliff Miller to the board. We look forward to working with you both.

### **Up Coming Events**

- Spring meeting is March 28, 2018 in the large meeting room at Sawmill Road at 6:00 pm.
- Picnic is set for September 9, 2018 at Rohrbach Farm Market.
- Annual Meeting will be October 2, 2018 at Pondeuce Farms.

### **Scholarship**

This year we will present a scholarship to one or more students. The requirements for the scholarship, is a student must be going into an Ag related field of study at either a 2 or 4 year college or tech school. For more information contact Karen Chapin at 570-441-3093 or [karrotlee@yahoo.com](mailto:karrotlee@yahoo.com)

### **Nationwide Agents In Columbia County**

Mike Kahl	570-458-6711
Scott Phillips	570-784-8364
Nathan Snavely	570-752-5931

### **STEVE SHANNON TIRE COMPANY**

**920 Millville Rd, Bloomsburg  
570-387-6387**

## **Columbia County Farm Bureau – Ag Literacy Week**

We are looking for readers!

March 19-23 is Ag Literacy Week in Pennsylvania and readers are needed to read and present materials to K-2 classrooms across Columbia County.

This is one of the efforts to promote agriculture to the public. Gone are the days of “assuming” that the public knows about agriculture. PFB has taken a proactive approach to promote farmers and agriculture.

Mainville Ag Services has donated so that 20 books and materials were available for our membership. The Ag Literacy Book this year is titled, “Tyler Makes Pancakes”. It relates the ingredients in pancakes to farm products. Many have volunteered but more are needed.

Volunteers will need to schedule a time with a school of your choice to read to a class K-2. Books are not long and easy to read. The books and materials will remain with the school. Also, the reading date can be flexible; depending on the class schedule and the volunteer’s schedule.

To volunteer please call: Charlies Porter, PFB Ag Promotion Committee 570-672-9894

## **Rural Safety Day**

The Second Columbia County Rural Safety Day was held on March 3 at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds. Many of last year’s exhibitors returned and ten new exhibitors participated in the Rural Safety Day promoting safety for children as well as adults.

New exhibits included a dairy farmer who shared how cows are cared for, food preparation safety, domestic violence/sexual assault, food coordination, honey bees, recycling, snakes, and trapping. Also new this year was a demonstration on safely mixing and applying pesticides. This demonstration was presented by Central Columbia High School FFA members Abby Yoder and Bryndil Kemler, FFA Chapter President and Vice President.

It was great to see a representation of our future Ag leaders, as we witness young adults from FFA and 4-H working together at this Rural Safety Day. I was amazed by the number of children attending this year and how eager the kids were to participate in the demonstrations. For some children, this type of event is the only opportunity they may have to experience agriculture.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped plan and make this Rural Safety Day event a success and I’m looking forward to next year’s Safety Day.

Delroy Artman

**Payroll Services**

- Payroll Check Writing
- Payroll Tax Calculation and/or Deposits
- Payroll Quarterly & Annual Tax Forms
- Payroll Deduction Payments
- New Hire Reporting
- Workmen's Compensation Audits



Peter and Jamie Hicks, partners in Hicks Brothers, LLC, agree that their concerns are under control because of MSC Payroll Services

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## **Building Permits**

Rob Davidson

The construction of a new, or expansion of an existing agricultural facility may require several different Federal, State and local approvals before the project begins. These requirements may be overlapping and in some cases, may require that one approval is secured before another is requested.

Simply putting up a new building to store equipment or hay, may require more approvals than you expected. Before you finalize your plans, it is important to contact your Township to determine what permits you may need. There are some exemptions that apply to agricultural buildings that your local officials may not be aware of.

The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code or UCC, is typically referred to as the building code. This is where we get the requirement for a building permit. The UCC provides a building permit exception for any agricultural building, which it defines as "a structure utilized to store farm implements, hay, feed, grain or other agricultural or horticultural products or to house poultry, livestock or other farm animals, a milk house, a structure used to grow mushrooms, seasonal farm stands, high tunnels, and all other agricultural structures in which crops are grown. This exemption specifically excludes habitable space or spaces in which agricultural products are processed, treated or packaged and places of occupancy by the general-public. However, structures less than 1,000 square feet that are used to process maple sap are exempt. Most Township's in the County have a Zoning Ordinance. Even if your project is exempt from a building permit, it will likely require a zoning permit. Here, the Township will review the building project to make sure it meets setbacks and other ordinance requirements.

If your new building will be greater than 1,700 sq.ft., you will also be required to obtain approval from the Columbia County Planning Commission. They have developed a review process that may exempt some agricultural buildings from this approval. You must submit an exemption request to the Planning Commission.

As you can see, the construction of a simple pole shed may not be that simple. In order to more fully understand what approvals may be required, prior to the start of a project it is important to contact your Township to determine what you may need. If they require approvals and permits that you don't think you need, you should contact a local engineer or surveyor and make sure that you are doing only what is necessary. Starting this permitting process early will ensure that you don't face needless costs and delays.

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## Policy

Farm Bureau is one of, if not the leading agriculture organization, to which legislators and government staff look when setting laws and regulations. PFB provides each member influence and access to the government process. When PFB staff lobbies on behalf of membership, they don't advocate positions based on whims or the latest opinion poll. PFB's stance on issues and the direction given to staff comes from the membership through policy. Most times that work is not publicly evident. More time is spent by PFB at the state level thwarting bad proposals or detrimental regulations than is spent advocating or opposing actual bills. Yet we, the farmers, still benefit from that work.

The policy process culminates at the Annual Meeting in November where PFB delegates vote on policies that originate at the local level. Following are results of the CCFB 2017 Policies.

We encourage you to contact any Policy Committee member for questions or suggestions. If you think that a better way is needed in some area of agriculture, call us so that we can put the weight of PFB behind it.

*Steve Chapin, Rob Davidson, Kirk Lehman, Jim Levan, Cliff Miller, Charlie Porter, Boz Robbins, John Zaginaylo*

## Results of Columbia County Policy

### Submittals to the Pa. PFB Policy Committee

October 26-27, 2017

State:

1. We recommend that farmer-landowner hunting licenses be valid on a state-wide basis. **Passed**
2. We recommend that all county and municipal employees, where applicable, be educated and funded for compliance with biosecurity regulations and practices.

*Amended to read:* We recommend that county and municipal employees that visit farms be educated to comply with biosecurity regulations and practices. **Passed**

3. We recommend that PennDOT establish a no-spray registry for roadside spraying. **Passed**
4. We recommend that utility companies offer the landowner the right of ownership and/or the right of first refusal for saleable timber when clearing right of ways.

*Amended to read:* We recommend utility companies offer the landowner the right of first refusal for saleable timber cleared for right-of-ways. **Deleted.** The sentiment appeared to be that this is a private landowner/utility issue.

5. We recommend that all mandated MS4 implementation be funded by the state. **Passed**
6. We recommend that all Pa. grain dealers be bonded.

*Combined and amended to read:* We recommend legislation to require bonding of Penna. grain brokers and grain dealers. **Passed**

7. We recommend that commercial scales be state certified, yearly. **Passed**
8. We recommend that commercial grain moisture meters be state certified, yearly. **Passed**

National:

1. We recommend that FSA crop reporting for forage crops be permitted during the row crop reporting period. **Deleted.** This is already permitted by FSA offices. It may be a local oversight.

## **Local Accomplishments of the Columbia County Farm Bureau**

Promoted and scheduled the Mobile Ag Science Lab in four local schools in the county.

Provided two \$250 scholarships to a local high school senior in Columbia County who is going to study in an Ag related field.

Legislative Committee members met with their state and national representatives to discuss issues and current legislative initiatives locally in the county as well as in Harrisburg and Washington, DC.

Sponsored 4 high school students to the week-long Youth Conference in Bucknell University.

Continued our monthly column in the Press Enterprise entitle "The State of Agriculture" to promote, educate and defend local agriculture to the general public on behalf of Columbia County Farm Bureau.

Purchased a market animal at the Bloomsburg Fair to benefit the 4-H program.

Board members met with local township officials and offered assistance in writing Nutrient Management Ordinances.

Have developed five local discounts with Knoebel's Lumber (10% off on hardware), General Sales Inc. (20% off labor on truck and trailer repairs), Nescopeck Agway (5% off everything), Stauffer's Glass Co. (15% off materials), and Renco (10% off regular priced items).

### **Some of the significant legislative achievements of the Pa. Farm Bureau**

Fights for the sales tax exemption on feed, seed, and fertilizer every year.

Eliminated the inheritance tax in PA if the farm stays in the family for seven years.

Helped to pass the Acre Law commonly known as the Right to Farm Law.

### **Still working on this important issue:**

Fighting the proposed regulation change to the rules of the Clean Water Act that would include the regulation of ditches, intermittent streams, and ponds on your property.

*Spring Meeting*

*March 28, 2018*

*6:00 PM*

*Sawmill Road -large meeting room*

*Pizza provided and Rick Ebert will be speaking*

**RSPV 570-441-3093 to Karen Chaping**

**Columbia County Farm Bureau Statement of Income and Expense for Sept. 30, 2017**

	<u>INCOME</u>	
<b>Non-County Income</b>		<u>\$31,057.50</u>
PFB Dues, AFBF Dues,		
AD/D ins, The Country Focus		
(\$53.25)   (\$3.50)		
(\$1.75)   (\$3.00)		
<b>Related County Income</b>		
Dues	\$6,777.00	
Dividends and Interest	50.49	
Meetings	2957.43	
Fund Raisers	0	
Other	<u>1279.5</u>	<u>\$11,064.42</u>
<b>Unrelated County Income</b>		
Member Service Incentive	0	
Other: Advertising	<u>0</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$42,121.92</u>
	<b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>	
<b>Non-County Expenses</b>		<u>\$31,057.50</u>
PFB Dues, AFBF Dues,		
AD/D ins, The Country Focus		
(\$53.25)   (\$3.50)		
(\$1.75)   (\$3.00)		
<b>Related County Expenses</b>		
Contracted Services	\$900.00	
Meetings	\$4,328.03	
Fundraisers	0	
Phone-Postage	\$928.26	
Supplies	\$420.14	
Other: Adv, Donation, Ins, Dues,		
Copier exp.	<u>\$3,477.46</u>	<u>\$10,053.89</u>
<b>Unrelated County Expenses</b>		
Contracted Services	0	
Meetings	0	
Phone-Postage	0	
Supplies	0	
Other: advertising	<u>0</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$41,111.39</u>
	<b>Net Income</b>	
Net Non-County Income		\$0.00
Net Related Income		\$1,010.53
Net Unrelated Income		<u>\$0.00</u>
		\$1,010.53
<b>Total Net Income</b>		
	<b>Cash Proof</b>	
Cash on hand at Beg. of Year		\$19,175.37
Following year's dues collected		\$16,125.00
(Deferred Income)		
Deferred Income Reported		
from Prior Year		(\$15,900.00)
Following Year's PFB Paid		(\$13,222.50)
(Prepaid Expense)		
Prepaid Expense Reported		
from Prior Year		\$13,038.00
Total Net Income		\$1,010.53
Capital Purchase		\$0.00
Depreciation and other non-		
cash expenses		\$0.00
Cash on hand at End of Year		\$20,226.40

