



Accent on Agriculture

Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau

(also serving western Philadelphia County)

Affiliated with Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation

March 2018

YOU are invited to the

Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau

Annual Spring Banquet

Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the

Chester County Intermediate Unit Center

455 Boot Road, Downingtown

6 p.m. – Dinner

Cost: \$20.

Menu includes two meats, vegetable, mushrooms, salad, desserts and beverages



Entertainment: Charles Zahm – Celtic musician, singer, songwriter, musical historian . . . born with a kilt and dreams of being a cowboy

For reservations, contact: Julie Brady
425 Conner Road
Oxford, PA 19363

Phone: 610-932-7363
or email: chestercountyfarmbureau@gmail.com

Reservations deadline: April 4

Name(s) _____

Number attending ____ Amount enclosed _____

Checks made payable to: CDCFB

Note: The FFA students will be collecting food items or monetary gifts for the “Farmers Care Program” at the banquet (see Farmers Care info on page 2).

If you would like to contribute to that program, you may bring food items or monetary gifts to the banquet. Contributions will be given to local food banks.



Message from CDCFB President Daniel Miller

I am writing this column on Super Bowl Sunday. I guess I am safe in saying – Go Eagles! At the current time, I don’t have a favorite professional football team so I go with the two Pennsylvania teams to watch their efforts.

I am guessing many of you are either Eagles or Steelers fans although I’m sure some of you have other teams for favorites and some others don’t watch football at all.

So what does that have to do with Farm Bureau? Really nothing, except to point out that we’re all different in our perspectives. Everyone that is a member of Farm Bureau is interested in agriculture from some standpoint. Either as a grower, a worker in some facet of agriculture, or as a consumer concerned about where his/her food comes from.

I approach agriculture from a dairy and crop perspective since that is the area that I spent most of my life working in. I also now look at it from a conservation standpoint since I have been working in that area of agriculture for some years. I have realized often as I have written this President’s column over the past few years that some members may feel that I don’t understand agriculture from their point of view.

[President’s Message continued on next page]

Ag Profitability Workshop to be held at the Dutchway Restaurant



Penn State Extension and Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau have teamed up to sponsor a workshop – “Ag Profitability: Get Familiar with the Latest Precision Practices” on Monday, March 19, from 6–9 p.m., at the Dutchway Restaurant, along Route 41, near Gap.

This workshop is for farm and agriculture producers and anyone interested in gaining farm business skills and knowledge. Come join Penn State Extension Educators and Nathan Hyles of GROWMARK FS, LLC. for an overview of precision agriculture technologies.

Penn State Extension will provide production and business information on cost-reduction strategies and the expected profits of precision technologies. Plus, you will learn about the 4-Rs of investing in precision technologies for nutrient management.

Reduced cost for attendees (including the all-you-can-eat buffet) is just \$10. Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau is underwriting costs of the event. To register on the website, visit: <https://extension.psu.edu/shopby> or call 610-696-3500.



Volunteers Read to Students During Ag Literacy Week

Several CDCFB members will be reading to students during the second annual ‘Ag Literacy Week’ being held March 19 to 23.

More than 7,000 students were read to during last year’s program, learning more about agriculture and “where their food comes.” The Ag Literacy program will reach more than double that number of readers and students this year.

Agriculture Scholarships Available



The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is pleased to announce that college scholarship grants of up to \$1,000 each toward higher education will be awarded in 2018.

High school seniors from Chester, Delaware and western Philadelphia County may apply for scholarships if pursuing a career in agriculture or an ag-related field.

and

Undergraduate college students from Chester, Delaware or western Philadelphia Counties who are pursuing a career in agriculture or an ag-related field may apply. Please note: previous CDCFB scholarship award winners are not eligible to apply.

Applications are available on request by emailing ChesterCountyFarmBureau@gmail.com or on webpage <https://www.pfb.com/county-fb/county-fb-webpages/556-chester-delaware>.

Students must file their grant application on or before April 15, 2018. Applications should be sent to:

Robert Hewitt
460 Ridge Road
Spring City, Pa. 19475.

“Farmers Care” – By Helping Others

The Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau Women’s Committee is proud once again to organize the “Farmers Care” program. This program celebrates the time of year when the average family in America has earned enough money to pay for their annual food supply.

The “Farmers Care” program was established as a means for Farm Bureau members, young and old, to partner with their community and also build a stronger relationship between agriculture and the non-farm public by showing that commitment in helping those in need.

Various groups, including FFA chapters, 4-H clubs and school groups will be conducting Food Drives and also shopping for food. CDCFB will contribute \$100 to each of five groups who will be competing to see who gets the “most bang for their bucks” in collecting and purchasing food that they will distribute to local food banks. CDCFB will provide a pizza party for the winning group.

Farm Bureau members are invited to participate in the “Farmers Care” program by contributing non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations. The deadline to receive donations is May 1.

For anyone attending the CDCFB Spring Banquet on April 12 (see info on front page), you can bring food items or money to the banquet. FFA and 4-H students will have a collection table for any items that you wish to contribute.

The Women’s Committee would like to thank you in advance for your generosity to this worthy endeavor. Our overall goal is to demonstrate to the public that farmers care about helping their communities, and they show that commitment by gathering donations for those in need.

For more information, contact Liz Ward at 610-656-4898 or Sandy Reyburn at 717-572-1999.

President’s Message . . . continued from Page 1

Why do I say that? I say that because I understand that the comments I often make about the weather in relation to crops or things I notice from my perspective may not be the same things that some other members are concerned about.

However, we are all concerned about the future of agriculture in Chester and Delaware Counties and beyond. Your perspective does count! That’s the reason that Farm Bureau is set up the way it is so that the organization’s policies come directly from members.

You have a voice in where this organization is headed. You are always welcome to attend the board of directors’ monthly meetings, policy development meetings or call one of the directors listed on the back page of this newsletter if you have a concern or need help with an issue.

Please know that I understand we all have different perspectives on agriculture but we share the love of working in an industry that is the most necessary one on earth. I often say that the politicians, professors, lawyers and everyone else on earth can’t do anything productive unless they eat. It’s just a simple fact of life that we farmers all understand and sometimes others forget.

We can’t help with everything, however there are a lot of things that we can help with regarding agriculture. Many times I get calls that I may not know the answer to, but I usually know who does have the answers. Contact any of our board of directors any time, we may be able to help you.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we’ll all be thinking spring! Enjoy the warmer weather and I hope your spring and summer are safe and productive.

Sincerely,



CDCFB Members to Visit their Legislators

Farmers from across Pennsylvania will once again be meeting at the Capitol in Harrisburg with their state legislators on Tuesday, April 17.

The FARMER (Farmers Allied for Responsive More Effective Representation) Banquet will be held on Monday, April 16, at the Harrisburg Hilton with a reception at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will be the speaker.

Decisions made in the State Capitol don’t just affect Harrisburg. They can have sweeping effects—both good and bad—on family farms across the state.

That’s why, as Lehigh County farmer Brian Dietrich, chairman of the FARMER Committee, says, “It’s so critical that farmers build close relationships with decision-makers in Harrisburg and make the effort to keep allies of agriculture in positions where they can continue to make a difference.”

If you would like to get involved with Farm Bureau’s Legislative activity, contact Howard Reyburn, CDCFB’s Governmental Relations Director, at 717-572-7957



Attention Children and Youth: It's Time for 2018 Safety Contests

The theme for the 2018 Safety Contests is "Think Safe, Be Safe." The Safety Contests are sponsored by the PA Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee. All the winners at the county level will then be submitted to the state contest.

The **Safety Coloring Contest** is for children ages 4–6. (Only the provided coloring page will be accepted). Entries will be judged on neatness, appropriateness of coloring, appearance and coloring within the lines. You can download the page at: www.pfb.com/safetycontests. First prize award: \$25; second prize: \$15.

The **Safety Poster Drawing Contest** will have prizes awarded in two age categories: ages 7–9 and ages 10–12. Award for first prizes: \$40; second prizes: \$25.

The **Safety Photo Contest** will have prizes awarded in two categories: ages 13–15 and ages 16–18. Awards granted will be: first prizes: \$50; second prizes: \$25. (A signed photo release should be attached.)

The following information needs to be included on back of all entries for each contest to be considered eligible: 1. child's name, 2. address, 3. phone number, 4. home county, 5. age category, and 6. parent's name(s).

You can download information, including rules for contests, at: www.pfb.com/safetycontests. If you have any questions, call Betty Sharon at 610-255-5418.

Deadline is May 15. Please send entries to: Betty Sharon, 1733 Flint Hill Road, Landenberg, PA 19350.



"Sheep and Wool Day" at Springton Manor

Chester County's annual Sheep & Wool Day will be held Saturday, April 28 from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at Springton Manor Farm, 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore. This popular event features sheep shearing, farm animals, wagon rides, artisan demonstrations, plant sale, craft & food vendors, entertainment, tractor display, kid's activities and more!

Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau sponsors the Mobile Ag Lab at the event. The Ag Lab actually has hands-on science experiments for participants during their introduction to the Ag Science Lab.

Farm Bureau volunteers will also have a Food Wheel that children can spin and learn more about where their food comes from, and then receive a prize. There will also be an information booth regarding Lyme disease awareness and a Farm Bureau information booth at the event.

Springton Manor Farm has 300 acres showcasing century-old sugar maples, open pastures, vegetable gardens and inter-twining trails. Tour the historic Great Barn and Family Farm Museum.

Bring the entire family for a fun-filled day!



Educators' Ag Institute – July 8–12

The PA Farm Bureau's 'Educators Ag Institute' will be held July 8–12 at State College again this year. The Ag Institute includes hands-on classroom sessions and tours. The instructors are classroom teachers, industry professionals and university professors.

We are looking for teachers, pre-service teachers and community educators who work with youth Pre-K to 12th grade who are interested in learning more about agriculture and incorporating it into their teaching.

Online registration and payment are not open yet for 2018. Participants will be able to select sessions and tours after registration is complete (first-come, first-serve basis).

Participants will gain an increased knowledge of agriculture; lesson ideas and plans that are applicable to many subject areas; resources to take as well as a network of people who can assist you in bringing agriculture to your classroom; and Act 48 and Continuing Education credits are available.

If interested in attending, please contact one of the Ag coordinators – Deb Ellis at dellis@highspirehillsfarm.com or Howard Robinson at jrob@epix.net.

Kudos to our Members . . .

. . . The Thorncroft Equestrian Center (Saunders Dixon) for providing a program – the Women's Re-entry Assessment and Programming initiative – which helps Chester County Prison inmates deal with trauma and addiction. During their visits, the inmates (under the supervision of therapists, as well as a probation officer) engage the horses in narrative exercises to help them deal with the obstacles that can cause them to re-offend.

. . . Chester County farmers and producers received awards during the Pennsylvania Farm Show which is the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation, hosting nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits, and 300 commercial exhibits every year in Harrisburg.



. . . The Farm at Doe Run (Sam Kennedy and Matt Hettlinger) took home "Best of Show" for the fourth year in a row. September Farms (David Rotelle family) and Yellow Springs Farm (Al and Catherine Renzi) also received awards for their cheeses, a testament to the county's value-added dairy excellence.



. . . Chester County mushroom growers received multiple ribbons in the mushroom competition:

Country Fresh Mushrooms (Toughkenamon) won "Best Overall Display," To-Jo Mushrooms (Avondale), Phillips Mushroom Farm (Kennett Square) and Needhams Mushroom Farms (West Grove) also earned ribbons.



. . . Younger competitors were winners at this year's Farm Show also: Kaitlin Bell (Nottingham) and Emilie Howe (Downingtown) took home ribbons for their cattle. Gavra Goldie (Oxford FFA student) was awarded best of its class for her Silver Marten rabbit.

Congratulations to all the winners! You make us all "Farm Bureau Proud!"



Kaitlin Bell Crowned 2018 Angus Queen

Congratulations to Kaitlin Bell who was named 2018 Pennsylvania Angus Queen at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Kaitlin attends Oxford Area High School where she is a member of the Future Farmers of America organization; she is also very much involved with Chester County 4-H. Kaitlin is the daughter of David and Tiffany Bell of Nottingham.



Help Shape the Future of Penn State Extension Programs

Penn State Extension is seeking input from the agricultural community as it begins a strategic planning process that will set priorities and help determine what types of programs and services will be offered.

Participating in that process will help Penn State Extension identify needs that programs should meet and gauge interest in different types of services. College officials are looking for agriculture industry representatives with a wide range of backgrounds and areas of expertise to provide input during the planning process

Penn State has set up an online survey to determine who is available to provide input on a variety of topics. Complete the survey at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WND6XRF



The Cost of Lyme Disease

A recent article in *Healthcare*, a medical journal, says that there will likely be an additional one million people infected with Lyme disease in 2018. Pennsylvania has about 30-40% of all the cases in the United States, so that would be as many as 400,000 new cases in Pennsylvania in 2018.

The cost to treat those new infections is estimated to be at 4.8 billion dollars. At the current rate of infection, the article estimates that by 2050 up to 20% of the U.S. population will be suffering from chronic Lyme disease.

Researchers are working on better tests and better treatment, but there is nothing new to report at this time. The best approach is prevention.

Clothing permanently treated with Permethrin is our best defense. Insect Shield, one of the manufacturers of treated clothing, offers a 20% discount to CDCFB members; go to: customerservice@insectshield.com. This is a proven technology, very safe and very effective.

– by Doug Fearn, Lyme Disease Association of SE PA

Lyme Disease Awareness Meeting

will be held at the Kennett Friends Meeting House
125 West Sickle Street, Kennett Square, PA
(located along Route #82, one mile south of Route #1)

March 21: Doug Fearn – “Lyme Disease Overview”

Reserve June 2: OABEST Expo



The Octorara Area High School will be hosting the annual Octorara Agriculture, Business, Science, and Technology Expo, known as the OABEST Expo on June 2, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Last year, approximately 1,500 people attended the OABEST Expo. We are expecting a bigger audience this year with even more activities and exhibitors planned.

This Community Day Fair showcases what Octorara students do and promotes Career Pathways in Agriculture, Engineering, Industrial Technology, Human Services, Science, and the Arts.

OABEST Expo is a collaborative community event. Local industry partners including: the Chester/Delaware County Farm Bureau (with their Mobile Ag Lab giving children and youth the opportunity for hands-on scientific experiments), AgConnect, Wawa and Null’s Towing.

Community colleges including: The Delaware County Community College, Thaddeus Stevens School of Technology, and Delaware Valley University are joining the Expo with a variety of interesting and fun-filled demonstrations guaranteed to pique the interest of all members of the community.

This year a special presentation will be given by the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, to thank Dr. Thomas Newcome, Octorara Area School District Superintendent, for his dedication in supporting and promoting the Agriculture Industry. Since Dr. Newcome will be retiring soon, this will be his last OABEST Expo.

Food vendors, student demonstrations, science fair exhibits, K-12 art show, First Responder demonstrations, crafts, music, games, animals, hayrides and many more fun-filled activities will take place.

This year OABEST will be adding more agriculture exhibits and demonstrations, and a tractor show. We will continue with the 5K Octorara Angels Rainbow Run in memory of Carly Imbierowicz and Daulton Pointek.

For more information, visit the OABEST website at www.oabestexpo.com.



CDCFB Members
Receive Discount

Don’t forget your 10% discount when renewing your *Lancaster Farming* subscription! Farm Bureau members receive a 10% discount on their annual *Lancaster Farming* subscriptions. Discounts available by using the code: PAFB.

“*Lancaster Farming* is a go-to-resource for farm families,” said PFB President Rick Ebert. “Their staff do a tremendous job reporting agriculture news in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic region, and their advertising and classifieds ads are essential for anyone in the business of farming,” Ebert added.

*“Teaching kids how to feed themselves
and how to live in a community responsibly
is the center of an education.”*

– Alice Waters



Tractor and Farm Safety Course

A Tractor and Farm Safety Course will be offered at the Octorara High School, Vo-Ag room T-13, from 6–9 p.m. on the following dates: April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17 and 24. The course is sponsored by Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau; there will be no charge.

This six-day Safety Course, taught by Charles Graydus, is designed to give young people 24 hours of training, both during the class and at home, in safe operation of farm tractors as well as some other farm machinery. If you are between the ages of 14 and 16 and wish to work on a farm other than your parents' farm, you are required to have a certification showing that you completed this course.

To sign up for this course, contact Charles Graydus at: cgraydus@octorara.org or phone 717-286-4702.

Avoiding Tractor Tragedy

Carpenters have their hammers; foresters have chain saws; coal miners have their picks; infantry soldiers have their weapons; and farmers have their tractors. All the above are very dangerous careers and can lead to tragedy.

Here are 10 tips to avoid injury when driving that big green or red machine:

1. Match the operator to equipment. Match the operator's size and experience to the tractor.
2. One tractor seat equals one person. There is no safe childcare location on a tractor.
3. Have a rollover protection system. Most newer tractors are equipped with some kind of rollover protection.
4. Stay in the protective zone. Please use the seat belt and stay in the seat.
5. Keep up good maintenance practice. This includes lights, guards, signals and other safety devices.
6. Take preventive measures to avoid slips, trips and falls. Don't be in a hurry, use handhold and steps.
7. Avoid side rollovers. Clearly understand the principles of center of gravity and centrifugal force on slopes and hillsides.
8. Avoid rear overturns. Understand the principles of rear axle torque and how quickly it can happen.
9. Keep PTO guard in place. Never use an implement missing a guard.
10. Limit mixing tractors and vehicular roadway traffic. Travel at off-peak times, use flashing lights, and reflective slow-moving emblems.

Take special care! Remember your family is always looking for you to come home every night.

[Taken from AmericanAgriculturist.com, August 2017]
– Carl D. Ganster EA, MSC Business Account Supervisor

*"I strive to be my best every time I go out,
and that's very stressful.*

*After a while of doing that . . .
it's nice to just take a deep breath,
and sit on a tractor."*

– Bill Goldberg

"Built Ford Tough F-150" Sweepstakes!
As a Farm Bureau member, you are eligible to enter!

THIS TRUCK'S A WINNER. NOW YOU CAN BE, TOO.



As a Pennsylvania Farm Bureau member, you are eligible to enter the Built Ford Tough F-150 Sweepstakes* for a chance to win a 2-year lease on a brand new 2018 F-150! To enter, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps or text the word SWEEPS to 46786.**

 Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

*PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. MUST BE LEGAL RESIDENT OF U.S., 21 YEARS OR OLDER WITH VALID DRIVER LICENSE TO ENTER AND A CURRENT FARM BUREAU MEMBER. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. AND WHERE PROHIBITED. SWEEPSTAKES ENDS 9/30/18. For entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.
**Additional sweepstakes messages will be sent to the number provided. Consent is not a condition of purchase or entry. Message and data rates may apply. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/18. For full rules, alternate means of entry, privacy policy, visit fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps.
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No purchase necessary . . . purchase will NOT increase your chances of winning. Must be legal resident of U.S., 21 years or older with valid driver's license to enter and a current farm bureau member. Additional restrictions may apply. Void where prohibited. Sweepstakes ends 9/30/18.

Visit: fordspecialoffer.com/farmbureau/sweeps or text the word SWEEPS to 46786 for entry and official rules with complete eligibility, prize description and other details. Sponsored by Ford Motor Company, One American Road, Dearborn, MI 48126.

2018 is "Year of the Tractor" at Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC will mark 2018 as the "Year of the Tractor" with two new displays on the past, present and future of agriculture. 'Precision Farming' opened January 19 in the museum's "American Enterprise" exhibition with a contemporary story of disruptive technology in today's agriculture industry.

A green, yellow and red 1918 Waterloo Boy tractor will be on view at the entrance to the "American Enterprise" beginning February 22, marking the 100th anniversary of the Deere and Company's entry into the tractor market with the acquisition of the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Co. in 1918. This display will highlight the introduction of light-weight gasoline-powered tractors, a major revolution in agriculture that moved farming into the realm of commercial production.

The Waterloo Boy will be showcased with historic images and advertisements that marketed the then-new technology to help convince farmers to shift from animal power and labor-intensive production to gasoline-powered tractors. In the mid-1900s, nearly 100 manufacturers were in the tractor market. By the 1930s, only two major companies dominated: Deere and International Harvester.

The display invites the public to consider the uncertainty inherent in adopting new inventions and the considerations that go into investing in machinery versus staying with traditional methods.



President Trump Speaks at AFBF National Convention

More than 7,400 farmers and ranchers from across the United States gathered in Nashville in January to participate in the American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting and to set new federal policies for the nation's largest farm organization.

Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau members Howard and Janet Robinson were among the attendees from Pennsylvania which included members of PFB's State Board of Directors, Young Farmer and Rancher Committee and Women's Leadership Committee.

Trump's speech at the Nashville, TN convention marked the first time a sitting president has addressed a Farm Bureau convention since George H.W. Bush did so in 1992.

Trump spoke about efforts to cut back restrictive regulations, drafting the 2018 Farm Bill and renegotiating trade agreements. He also signed two executive orders that aim to benefit farms and other businesses by streamlining and expanding broadband access to rural communities.

Learn Basics of Local Government Involvement with New Online Course

Thinking about joining a local board, running for elected office or even advocating for issues in your community? A new online course offered by Penn State Extension aims to give students the information they need to get more involved with local government.

The self-paced course is available from the comfort of your home and includes a series of videos and readings. It takes only about six hours to complete and covers topics such as the structure and function of local government, tips for getting involved and the basics of running for elected office.

"There are so many local government organizations within Pennsylvania, from school boards to townships and more," said Judy Chambers, course instructor and economic and community development educator for Penn State Extension. "There's a constant need for people to get involved, either as volunteers or elected officials, and a real opportunity to make a significant difference within your own community," Chambers added.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau encourages its members to be involved in their local governments as that is where many decisions are made that affect agriculture. Farmers who are part of or involved with local government can provide their perspective when decisions makers are considering ordinances or regulations that could affect agriculture.

The cost to register for the course is \$69. To learn more or register, visit <https://extension.psu.edu/getting-involved-in-your-pennsylvania-local-government>.

March 27, 2018 is National Agriculture Day

This day is a day for all to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture across the U.S.

Economic Impact from Equine Industry

Have you heard enough about the equine survey? Our recent report was basically an economic impact analysis and so focused on the basic economics providing solid data on the economic value that horse owners bring to our local communities.

A recent (1/25/18) panel discussion organized by the Chester County Agricultural Development Council brought together five speakers representing different facets of the horse industry in Chester County.

Each speaker highlighted the very special relationship that horse owners develop with their horses. It was clear that horses are individual with a very high level of sensitivity so that riding, whether a trail or on the racecourse, involves a delicate interaction that is hugely different from driving a car.

Examples included how to judge when a race horse is ready for a particular event, working together with your horse for dressage and jumping event and even simply riding a trail. This sense of personal connection was made clear and of great mental and physical satisfaction. Other topics included the critical role of municipalities and the value of the therapeutic use of horses.

Pressure on our land in Chester County continues as more people desire to live here. A further 28.4% or 146,344 people are forecast to live in Chester County by 2045 from the 2015 base according to DVRPC County and Municipal forecasts.

Some of the highest growth is expected in municipalities with significant equine populations today such as London Grove with 52.4% increase and others ranging from 5.5% in West Marlborough to 43.3% in New London and 40.5% in East Marlborough.

Land prices are already high in many of these areas and so make traditional farming operations largely impossible. Municipalities such as East Marlborough already consider equine operations to be equated with traditional farming.

Our report shows that equine operations are valuable contributors to the local economy and ensure the land is maintained as productive open space and offer recreational opportunities to the general public.

– by Duncan Allison

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Did You Know . . .

. . . that the United States is the world's largest exporter of farm products, with agriculture exports accounting for 33% of U.S. farm income in 2016?



. . . that nearly two-thirds of the white button mushrooms consumed in the U.S. come from 57 PA mushroom farms? Last year, those 57 farms produced more than 577 million pounds of white button mushrooms, which accounted for nearly \$560 million in sales.

. . . that PA Farm Bureau received Excellence Awards from American Farm Bureau in all four categories – Advocacy, Engagement and Outreach, Membership Value and Leadership and Business Development?

. . . that net farm income is forecast to fall 6.7 percent, or \$4.3 billion, this year? Adjusted for inflation, that would mean this year's earnings of \$91.9 billion will be the lowest since 2002. – according to USDA forecast

. . . that wind energy is booming, making maintenance work on turbines one of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S.?

. . . that AFBF President Zippy Duvall has been appointed to the White House's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations which advises the president on the potential effects of proposed and current trade agreements?

. . . that Americans consume more than three billion pizzas annually (the average family eats pizza at home 30 times each year)?

. . . that Americans now have more than \$1.5 trillion in college debt; Americans also have more than \$1 trillion in credit card debt, and more than \$1 trillion in auto loan debt – all record highs? It's gotten so bad, 73% of Americans now die with debt with an average total of more than \$60,000.

. . . that 'to err is human,' however a human error is nothing compared to what a computer can do if it tries?

Dates to Remember:

- March 7: CDCFB Board of Directors meeting, At 7 p.m., at Romano 4-H Center
- March 19: Ag Profitability Workshop, 6 p.m., at Dutchway Restaurant, near Gap
- March 19-23: Ag Literacy Week
- April 16: FARMER dinner, Harrisburg Hilton
- April 17: State Legislative Conference at the Capitol in Harrisburg
- April 12: CDCFB Fall Banquet at 6 p.m. at the CCIU Ctr., 455 Boot Rd. Downingtown
- April 28: Sheep & Wood Day at Springton Manor Park, 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore

“Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.”

— N.T. Wright

Welcome, New CDCFB Members

David Burt, Spring City
 Fernando Castano-Bernal, Avondale
 Debra Corcoran, Chester Springs
 Wayne DiFrancesco, West Grove
 Philip Dutton (True Prospect Farm), West Grove
 Lewis R. Frame III, Honey Brook
 Robb Frees, Phoenixville
 Joseph Fullerton, Phoenixville
 Nathan Heim (Yippee Farms), Cochranville
 Taryn McCaffrey, Phoenixville
 Diane Miller (Chesapeake Gold Farms), North East, MD
 Mary Ann Ost (Ost Ridge Farm), West Chester
 Carol Palmaccio, Malvern
 Brendan Ratigan, Berwyn
 William Ream, Elverson
 Randy Ridgely (Wicked R Western), Wyoming, DE
 Dave Rodgers (DJR Cattle Co.), Honey Brook
 Nancy Ware Sapp, Oxford
 Jesse Sherman, Coatesville
 Rachel Shoemaker (Willisbrook Farm), Malvern
 Frank Tipton (Tipton Trucking), Oxford
 Andrew Turner (Kimberton CSA), Phoenixville

CDCFB Has Reached Membership Goal! Thank You All for Your Memberships!

We don't like to brag . . . but it's hard not to when you are Number One (in the Region and the State)!

Yes, Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau has reached their 2018 membership goal. Not only were we the only county in our region to meet our goal, we did it by February 7 – one and a half weeks before the deadline. Our total membership should reach over 8,000 members this year.

One might ask, “How was this possible? The answer is evident – because of all you members who renewed your 2018 membership in a timely manner. We thank you!

And because we have a terrific Board of Directors who worked, not only in getting renewals, but also signing up new members as well.

There were four members who signed up three or more new CDCFB members – Donald Hannum, Dan Miller, Harold Hallman and Howard Robinson. Other membership workers signing new members were Steve Barr, Julie Brady, Harold Hallman, Karl Herr, Keith Kanara, Art Needham, Howard Reyburn and Janet Robinson.

We had brand-new membership workers who also signed up new members for the very first time: Michael Katch signed three new members; Doug Fearn, Robert Hodge and Richard Jones each signed one member for the first time!

Currently, CDCFB has 70 new regular members – that is absolutely awesome! It has been said that – “an organization that is not growing is slowing dying.” CDCFB is definitely Alive and Well! Thanks to all of you!

Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau

President: Daniel Miller	484-880-6431
1 st Vice Pres.: Howard Reyburn	610-932-5685
2 nd Vice Pres.: Harold Hallman III	610-827-7808
Treasurer: Janet Robinson	717-529-2508
Steven Barr	484-883-4051
Dennis Breckbill	610-932-9567
Deborah Ellis	610-256-7483
Joseph Fecondo	717-798-6467
Charles Graydus	610-286-0128
Donald Hannum	610-384-2249
Melissa Harrop	484-252-1342
Keith Kanara	610-513-4435
Arthur Needham	610-869-9735
Jeff Stoltzfus	610-593-5656
Secretary to the Board: Julie Brady	610-932-7363

County Board Meetings are held
the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.
You are welcome to attend.

Farm Management Account Supervisors

Tim Ard, Oxford	610-467-0016
Connie Flowers, Lancaster	717-397-1021
Carl D. Ganster, Wyomissing	610-678-1816
Tracy L. Garofalo, Dover, DE	717-927-9109
Vance Getz, Lancaster	717-945-6645
John Haggerty, New Cumberland	717-774-2986
Devon Smoker, Conestoga	717-517-6957

Safemark Dealers

Atlantic Tractor, Oxford (Top quality batteries, tires and other vehicle/farm supplies)	610-932-8858
Breck-A-De Farms, Oxford (Safemark twine)	484-239-2657



Please send any items for the newsletter to:
Janet Robinson at jrob@epix.net

Nationwide Insurance PFB Agents:

Jeffrey L. Bartlett, Downingtown	610-269-5887
Steven W. Bates, West Chester	610-429-9640
John R. Ferullo, West Chester	610-431-4005
*John Fiorelli, West Chester	610-430-0644
*Maggie Garcia-Taylor, Oxford	610-932-4935
David Gosselin, West Chester	610-696-3894
*Jack Henderson, Kennett Square	610-444-2610
Susan M. Lambert, Coatesville	610-384-3844
Teresa Ledezma, Kennett Square	610-444-2610
*P. Thomas Simperts, Jr., Kennett Square	610-444-2610
*Christopher Sniscak, West Chester	610-696-5130
Kurt A. Thompson, Downingtown	610-269-1544
*Roger Boatwright, Newtown Square	610-359-9270
Daniel K. Burke, Havertown	610-449-4800
Robert J. Cellucci, Drexel Hill	610-449-5900
Charles E. Courtney, Media	610-891-7900
Mark A. Cox, West Chester	610-430-7955
Michele Deery-Thomas, West Chester	610-696-6560
David J. DiMeglio, Havertown	610-789-6131
John L. Dimeglio, Aston	610-485-5858
Diane and Sean Doherty, Aston	610-874-2500
Robert J. Dollfus, Jr., Phoenixville	610-933-6070
*Michael Fiorelli, Jr., Upper Chichester	610-485-2543
Matthew Giello, Drexel Hill	610-623-8880
Earl W. Hagerty, Jr., Glen Mills	610-358-9111
Elaine C. Hanscom, Thorndale	610-384-2884
Brenda E. Hurley, Concordville	610-358-9422
Walter McClelland, Newtown Square	610-353-3000
Brian P. McKendry, Media	610-566-6129
Stephen K. Miller, Woodlyn	610-874-8200
Anthony G. Naab, Havertown	610-789-6250
Jillian O'Brien, Swarthmore	610-534-9229
Lawrence Pellegrino, Folsom	610-237-6550
Rocco J. Polidoro, Springfield	610-544-8900
Sean Price, Morton	610-544-8070
Jennifer D. Thomas, Limerick	610-948-8810
Dean D. Young, Jr., Newtown Square	610-353-6116

*Farm Certified Agent

Chester Delaware County Farm Bureau
736 Catamount Road
Oxford, Pa. 19363