

PFB To Hold Annual Meeting, Elect Officers

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Up to 165 delegates representing 54 county affiliates of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau are expected to attend the organization's annual meeting set for Nov. 15 through Nov. 17 at the Hershey Convention Center, in Hershey.

All farmers encouraged to attend all sessions, according to PFB spokeswoman Janet Carson. She said that a lack of meal ticket should not deter anyone from attending any of the programs planned. Meanwhile, the deadline for meal reservations is Nov. 4.

For those unfamiliar with the PFB, only recently and without fanfare has the statewide agricultural organization changed its name from the Pennsylvania Farmers Association to the Farm Bureau.

The name change came as a result of members desiring a name in line with the national affiliate, American Farm Bureau Federation.

Originally, when the organization formed, there was already an existing commercial enterprise with the name of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, therefore Pennsylvania organizers adopted the different name, while other states used "farm bureau."

Although Farm Bureau President Keith Eckel had indicated that such a name change would be coming, a date for the actual name change was not set. However, late this summer, news releases began carrying both names. Now, the association has stopped using its previous name.

According to published reports, the annual meeting is to be highlighted by a "meet the candidates" forum set as a luncheon starting 11:45 a.m., Monday, Nov. 15, to which all announced gubernatorial candidates have been invited.

Those invited who are affiliate with the Republican Party include state Sen. Earl Baker, of Chester County; state Sen. Mike Fisher, Allegheny County; Barbara Hafer, current auditor general, who lost against outgoing Casey in last race; Sam Katz, Philadelphia businessman; Ernie Preate Jr, from Scranton, controversial current attorney general; and U.S. Congressman Tom Ridge, of Erie, who was first to announce an intent to serve as governor.

Among the Democratic Party candidates invited were state Rep. Dwight Evans, of Philadelphia; Catherine Baker Knoll, current state treasurer from Allegheny County; state Rep. Robert O'Donnell, from Philadelphia; Lt. Gov. Mark Singel, who has been acting governor since Casey's rare heart and liver transplant; Charles Volpe, insurance businessman; and Lynn Yeakel, of Delaware County who lost in bid against U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter.

Also during the convention an election for the state vice president and eight board members is slated for Nov. 17, along with an official announcement of eight appointees to the PFB Women's Committee.

However, while the schedule of programs is full, there are some other highlights scheduled.

The PFB Board of Directors starts the three-day event with a breakfast meeting Nov. 15 from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Registration is to run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

From 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., two concurrent programs are offered — "The Business of Farming," with speaker Andy Place, president of the Green County Farmers' Association, who is to discuss the opportunities available in niche marketing; and "Animal Issue and You," with speakers Karl Brown, who is president of Pennsylvanians For Responsible Use of Animals, and Norman Wilkinson, executive director of the Pa. Society for Biomedical Research.

In the first afternoon, from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., is to be a "Farm

Financial Planning" seminar with a speaker panel including Fred Dillner, and educator; Bill Hughes, cive president, of ag lending at Meridian Bank; Phillip Kimmel, president of Keystone Farm Credit; and Charles Marshall, state director of farmer programs for PFB Farm Management.

From 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. is to be a PFB marketing cooperative meeting, while almost concurrently is scheduled a discussion meeting lead by Steve Gross, with the Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

From 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. is to be the county presidents' dinner with speaker Louis B. Sallie, PFB administrative secretary. At the same time, a convention buffet dinner is to be held in another room.

From 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., there is an awards program with guest speaker Joachim Werner, who is northeast fieldman for the American Farm Bureau.

From 9:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. is to be a square dance and auction with Chales Benner, president of the Snyder County chapter serving as dance caller.

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., there is to be a breakdown of the delegates into separate district caucuses to discuss policy matters, which are to be voted upon during a session from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For those who are nondelegates, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. there is to be offered a program on the "Health of Farm Families," followed at 10:45 a.m. with an hour-long presentation on "Citizens Against Crime."

From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. is scheduled a president's luncheon with Keith Eckel, president, speaking and presenting the annual Young Farmer and Rancher award.

From 1:45 p.m. to 4 p.m. delegates are to be voting, while several other seminars are to be held for nondelegates on topics such as insurance, agricultural literacy in the classroom and an advisory council seminar.

From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. a PFB member reception is scheduled followed by a member recognition banquet with speaker Ben Burton, a humorist, followed by the presentation of recognition awards, All Star awards, and a distinguished service award.

A president's reception is to follow from 9:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

On Wednesday, Nov. 17, a farmer breakfast is set from 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. followed by delegate voting from 8 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

While the PFB annual business meeting is to run from 11:30 a.m. to noon, followed by a meeting of the PFB board of directors, at 12:30, there are several other activities interspersed.

From 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. the Women's Committee is to hold is business meeting, followed by a program on child safety from 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

For more information, contact a local affiliate representative, or call the state office.

Offices Realigned

BELLEFONTE (Centre Co.) — Farmers Home Administration has recently realigned two county offices with different servicing areas.

In the past, residents of Clinton County contacted the Lycoming County Office for Rural Housing and Farming Loans in Williamsport.

As of October 12, Clinton

County has been formally assigned to the Centre County Office. Any resident of Clinton County seeking assistance with the rural housing and/or farm program divisions should direct their inquiries to Mildred L. Turner, County Supervisor, 414 Holmes Ave., Suite #2, Willowbank Building, Bellefonte, PA 16823, (814) 355-1553.





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