



## Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County

1383 Arcadia Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601-3149  
www.farmandhomecenter.com

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## Yes, I want to help serve our community with the Farm and Home Center in 20120-2021!

*I want to be a part of supporting agriculture and the greater community of Lancaster County.*



Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks payable to the **Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The official registration and financial information of the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

### ADDRESS CHANGE?

If you have moved, changed your name, or prefer to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us by mail, email (info@farmandhomecenter.com), or phone (717-392-4911). Thank you!



## THE FARM AND HOME CENTER NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2020-2021

VOLUME XIII, NO. I

## Seven Seniors Awarded Farm and Home Foundation Scholarships

In May, the Farm and Home Foundation Board of Directors named seven seniors as recipients of the Farm and Home Foundation Scholarship each receiving \$1,000 for the 2020-2021 school year. To be eligible, applicants must enroll in a program of study in some aspect of agriculture, consumer science, or family living. Applications are rated on the basis of academic achievement, financial need, community service, and demonstrated leadership skills. By maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade average and continuing full time studies in a qualifying major, each recipient is eligible to receive up to \$4,000 over a four year period.

• **Caroline Arrowsmith**, daughter of Thomas and Amanda Arrowsmith, is a graduate of Solanco High School. She is currently studying Animal Science (the Business Option) at Penn State University.



• **Clara Bollinger**, daughter of Andy Bollinger, is a graduate of Ephrata High School. She is currently studying Industrial and Labor Relations with a minor in Agribusiness Management at Cornell University.



• **Nathan Brubaker**, son of Tony and Rebecca Brubaker, is a graduate of Donegal High School. He is currently studying Biological and Agricultural Engineering at Cornell University.



• **Austin Kolb**, son of Matthew and Shanean Kolb, is a graduate of Penn Manor High School. He is currently studying Agribusiness Finance at Penn State University.



• **Emma Musser**, daughter of Greg and Jodi Musser, is a graduate of Elizabethtown Area High School. After taking a year off to serve as a FFA state officer, she will be studying Agricultural Science at Penn State University.



• **Katelyn Sauder**, daughter of Brian and Lynette Sauder, is a graduate of Ephrata High School. She is currently studying Equine Science at Delaware Valley University.



• **Abigail Zorrilla**, daughter of Andres and Amy Zorrilla, is a graduate of Ephrata High School. She is currently studying Biology with an Environmental Science Concentration at Gordon College.



In fulfillment of its charitable and educational mission goals, the Foundation has awarded annual scholarships for over fifty years to deserving Lancaster County graduating seniors. They are funded from earnings of the Elmer L. Esbenschade Charitable Trust Fund and also supplemented by operational funds. Esbenschade was one of the founders of the Farm and Home Foundation who desired to assist youth who intended to study some aspect of agriculture, consumer science, or family living. Since 1966, the Farm and Home Foundation has presented 503 students with scholarships having a value of \$650,000.

For more info, go to the Scholarship Page of our website, [www.farmandhomecenter.com](http://www.farmandhomecenter.com) or contact the Scholarship Committee Chairperson, **Leon Ressler**, at 717-394-6851.





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Leon J. Ressler  
Deanna Grager, Manager

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County strives to sustain and preserve our agrarian heritage by supporting, strengthening and promoting the advancement of agriculture and family living in local communities through education, leadership development and conservation.

### MANAGER'S DESK

## The Farm and Home Center Out of the Ordinary

As with everything else in the year 2020, the Farm and Home Center is seeing a very abnormal year. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of the facility from canceled events to reduced staff in the offices. What was once a bustling center of activity is now a "ghost town". Most of the events that were scheduled for the Farm and Home Center have been cancelled. This includes fundraising bingos, various shows, monthly club meetings, and the weekly Rotary Club meeting. There are no 4H meetings or LIFT exercise classes.

The PA governor has lifted some restrictions allowing up to 20% of the capacity for indoor events. This has given a little leeway for some of our smaller shows and groups to meet. The groups who are able to meet look quite different from the normal due to the need to social distance from one another. As we slowly begin have groups at the facility, the Farm and Home Center is working to create a safe and healthy environment following the guidelines set forth by the governor and the Center for Disease Control.

The agencies housed in the Farm and Home Center are also looking quite different from normal. Here are the ways you are able to stay in contact with them:

- **DBC Ag Products**

Staff are available by appointment. Please call 717-509-5724 to schedule an appointment.

- **Lancaster Co Conservation District**

Staff available by phone. Please call 717-299-5361 x5 or see department phone numbers on their website at [www.lancasterconservation.org](http://www.lancasterconservation.org).

- **Lichty Tax Accounting**

Staff are available by appointment. Please call 717-735-2027 to schedule an appointment.

- **Penn State Cooperative Extension**

Staff are working remotely and available by phone. Please call 717-394-6851 for assistance. Inquiries for the Master Gardeners may be sent to [lancastermg@psu.edu](mailto:lancastermg@psu.edu).

- **USDA, Farm Service Agency**

Staff are available by phone. Please call 717-874-2556 for assistance.

- **USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Staff available by phone. Please call 717-874-2558 for assistance.



Since we have not been able to have most events since mid-March, we have not had the revenue we usually receive to keep the Farm and Home Center operating in the same fashion we usually do. Please see the contribution form on the back cover of this newsletter to submit any donations to allow the Farm and Home Center to continue to serve the community and promote agriculture in the county. We join with the rest of Lancaster County in waiting for the time when we are able to meet again. We have missed you!

- Deanna Grager

## TENANT NEWS

### LICHTY TAX ACCOUNTING

### Preventing Identity Theft

There are steps that you can do to keep your personal and financial information safe. These are very simple things, but they can make a difference. It is important to think about what personal information we express in our everyday conversation. Keep your sharing circle tight. While having more open conversations with your loved ones about money can be beneficial, only share specific personal and financial information with a trusted few. Be cautious about who you provide your Social Security Number and/or account numbers. Never give your Social Security Number over the phone unless you are absolutely confident in the professional or institution.

Shredding financial statements and other personal information is another easy step to take. Once you read your credit-card bill or account statement put them through the shredder. A small shredder for your home can cost less than \$50—far less than the potential cost of time and money to preventing identity theft.

Taking a trip to your mailbox can also be important. A mailbox full of statements from your bank, credit-card companies, and other financial information are a treasure trove of personal and account data for thieves.

Technology can be a wonderful financial tool, but it is important to protect yourself online. Use passwords that are unique or strong. Most sites require you to use a combination of upper and lower-case letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid the most popular password: 123456.

Think before you click. Email "phishing" for your data often include infected attachments or links. Don't click on either one.

When filing your tax return be sure to provide your tax practitioner with your identity authentication, for example your driver license. If possible, have your tax

practitioner file your return electronically. Request for the tax practitioner to mask your tax payer identification. Use a reputable service provider to complete your tax return.

### Avoid Getting Scammed

There is a way to reduce bothersome scam calls. You can sign up for the Federal Trade Commission's **Do Not Call Registry**. While it will not block every robo-call, it will screen out many telemarketing calls.

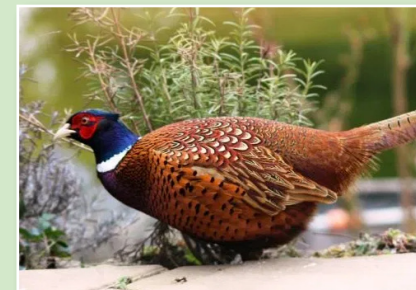
Stop and pause before you respond to "urgent" messages. Fraudsters count on that moment when you feel a need to respond. Before you respond to a pop-up alert, call, or email demanding that you act immediately, take a breath first. Do not click on anything.

Here are some common fake-urgent alerts. (1). A call from a grandchild asking to send money to help with a dire situation. (2). A call or email from "the IRS" saying you committed tax fraud and face arrest if you do not respond immediately. It is important to remember that the IRS will not call you on the phone. They will send you a letter. (3). A call, email, or pop-up message from a hardware or software company you know such as Microsoft indicating you need technical support.

Following these general guidelines will help protect you and your loved ones from possible fraudulent activity.

*Some of the information in this article are recommendations from Janney Montgomery Scott.*

*For more information on other tax matters visit my tax and accounting services website at [www.lichty.us](http://www.lichty.us). Go to the (Tools Menu) and to (More)Links-Broadridge Financial for up-to-date financial information.*



Pheasants continued from page 5

not great, although in central Pennsylvania numbers have severely declined and stocking is now the only way to see once common pheasant populations.

Auto accidents kill huge numbers of pheasants, and farm machinery also poses a threat. Contemporary farming practices have degraded most prime pheasant habitats in the U.S.—by replacing small, diversified farms with large monocultures; eliminating edge habitat; draining wetlands; burning, spraying weeds, and mowing roadsides; applying chemical fertilizers and herbicides; overgrazing; and moving up hay-mowing dates, which can destroy late nests. Later summer do not mow hay after August 30th, create and maintain field borders, and plant cover crops as soon as possible for winter protection.

The Conservation Reserve Program, funded by the Farm Bill, has helped conserve and restore habitat for Ring-necked Pheasants.

-Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
-<https://www.pheasantsforever.org/Habitat/Pheasant-Facts.aspx>

- Greg Heigel,  
Lancaster County  
Conservation District





## TENANT NEWS

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

#### Hello from the Lancaster/Lebanon Farm Service Agency!

A few things have changed since we have last seen you all, including our staff. We would like to welcome back Kimberly Merlau as the new County Executive Director for the Lancaster/Lebanon Farm Service Agency. She was previously a Program Technician for our office, and we are all excited to have her back. She has educational experience in agriculture as well as background in dairy farming growing up on her family dairy farm in Western NY.

Our Program Technicians in the office include Cynthia Snedden, Victoria Gesford, M. Brooke Payne and Loren Gochnauer. Cyndi is local to Lancaster County and has worked with our agency for 27 years and handles the Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) and Crop Reporting programs. Vicki, originally from the Philadelphia area, now residing in Lebanon County, has an educational background in agriculture and handles the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) program in our office. Brooke is from Frederick County MD, also having an educational background in agriculture. She handles the Price Support programs some including Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) and the Coronavirus Food Assistance program (CFAP). And finally, Loren is a native to Lancaster County and will be handling the eligibility paperwork side of our program areas. We also have Tiffany Lutz our Farm Loan Manager and Allison Froelich our Farm Loan Officer ready to serve you with any of your loan needs or questions.

We have missed seeing all our producers, but our office is still currently closed to the public following agency COVID-19 protocols. Our office is open Monday-Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm so please give us a call so that we may assist you.

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

#### FSA Encourages Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections

The 2020 Farm Service Agency County Committee Elections will begin on Nov. 2, 2020, when ballots are mailed to eligible voters. The deadline to return ballots to local FSA offices, or to be postmarked, is Dec. 7, 2020.

County committee members are an important component of the operations of FSA and provide a link between the agricultural community and USDA. Farmers and ranchers elected to county committees help deliver FSA programs at the local level, applying their knowledge and judgment to make decisions on commodity price support programs, conservation programs, incentive indemnity and disaster programs for some commodities, emergency programs and eligibility. FSA committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws.

To be an eligible voter, farmers and ranchers must participate or cooperate in an FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm, may also be eligible to vote.

Eligible voters in local administrative area three and four, who do not receive

a ballot can obtain one from their local USDA Service Center.

Newly elected committee members will take office Jan. 1, 2021.

The candidates in this year's election are:

**Leroy Welk** is nominated in LAA 3, Lancaster County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. Leroy Welk resides in Quarryville and has produced crops and livestock for over 30 years. He is currently an active member of the Lancaster/Lebanon FSA County Committee and serves as Chairman.

**David Ziegler** is nominated in LAA 4, Lebanon County, to serve as a committee member for a 3-year term. David Ziegler resides in Lebanon on his family farm as a dairy and crop farmer for the past 11 years and is hopeful of joining our County Committee working with both FSA staff and our producers to serve our agriculture community.

More information on county committees, such as the new 2020 fact sheet, can be found on the FSA website at [fsa.usda.gov/elections](https://fsa.usda.gov/elections) or at a local USDA Service Center.

#### Soil Health *continued from page 4*

Following these four basic Soil Health Principles can help grow your soil, which can increase yields, and reduce input expenses. Whether you are managing a small garden, acres of cropland, hay fields or pastures, the four basic principles of feeding your soil with biodiversity of plants and year round living roots while protecting the soil by maximizing soil cover and minimizing soil disturbance are key to build soil structure, organic matter, microorganism commu-

nities and increase nutrient cycling for biological hotspot of roots and microorganism communities for a healthy, living soil.

If you have questions about Soil Health or interested in assistance, contact Lancaster County USDA-NRCS office at 717-874-2558. NRCS staff are still working while following strict COVID-19 guidance to keep staff and clients safe.

## TENANT NEWS

### PENN STATE EXTENSION

#### Hemp Harvest in New Holland



Industrial Hemp continues to be a crop of great interest, but of unknown potential here in the county. Last year the PA Department of Agriculture issued 185 permits to grow hemp to farmers here in the county, which was a total of about 850 across the state. While some of the hemp was grown for fiber in 2019, most was grown for CBD oil extraction. This year, only 85 permits were issued in the county and essentially all of the hemp is for CBD oil and other products containing CBD.

Cannabidiol (CBD) is a family of biologically active compounds which may have many health benefits. There is much interest across the United States in CBD, but currently with little proven health benefits. CBD can be found in foods, oils, creams, tinctures and more.

Hemp for CBD is typically grown on black plastic with drip irrigation just like much of the county's vegetable production. The mature plants can then be harvested whole, with the entire plant dried and processed for CBD extraction. Currently we have two commercial extractors up and running in the county. The other option farmers have is to harvest the best tip buds, these can be dried and sold as CBD buds. The buds in these photos (called Colas) are destined for smokers who will roll their own cigarettes.

We look forward to learning more about the benefits of using hemp and CBD products and how best to harvest them in Lancaster County.

- Jeff Graybill  
Agronomy Educator  
Penn State Cooperative Extension



Hemp field



Harvesting hemp



Drying Colas



## TENANT NEWS

### USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

#### Soil Health Perspective in 2020

As we navigate through 2020, we must change the way we think about our new normal routines, protective measures such as wearing face coverings and social distancing, and preventative care such as healthy diets, drinking water and taking vitamins. As humans are facing challenges in 2020, so is our Soil. Just as we must change the way we manage our health in 2020, we must think about ways to change our soil's health, it's our foundation to life. In the 21st century, we are abusing the soil as we try to produce higher yields to feed the growing population on less land each year.

Since the development of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in 1935 as a response to the Dust Bowl, the mission has been "Help the People Help the Land." Despite the change to Natural Resource's Conservation Service (NRCS), the mission remains the same. NRCS is focused on providing technical and financial assistance to private landowners to conserve our natural resources. NRCS staff recently received extensive training on Soil Health to better assist local clients. Soil Health is the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that

sustains plants, animals, and humans. Understanding the complex ecosystem within the soil can be confusing. However, following four simple Soil Health Principles can improve and protect soil in any land use from cropland to pastureland to backyard gardens or forests. Basic needs for humans are air, food, water, and shelter. Similarly, soil needs air, organic matter, water, microorganisms.

We feed our bodies food and water to keep us healthy. But, how do you feed your soil to keep it healthy? Feed the soil with Conservation Practices that maximize living roots and biodiversity which include: Conservation Cover, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, Forage and Biomass Planting, and Prescribed Grazing. **Maximizing Continuous Living Roots** is key for soil health. Not only do roots provide uptake of water and nutrients for the plant, the roots create biological hot spots that release organic carbon to feed soil organisms, provide habitat and preserve soil structure. **Maximize Biodiversity** by growing diverse crop rotations or multispecies plantings that will improve soil biology. Different plant species affect the kinds

and abundance of soil organism because of their association with microorganism communities. Thus, provide nutrient cycling, organic matter, food for diverse soil communities and soil stability.

We are protecting our bodies from COVID-19 by wearing face coverings and implementing social distancing measures. So, how do you protect your soil? Conservation Practices to protect your soil by minimizing disturbance and/or maximizing soil cover include: Conservation Cover, Cover Crop, Forage and Biomass Planting, Pest Management Conservation System, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulching, Nutrient Management and Prescribed Grazing. **Minimize Disturbance** this includes physical, chemical and biological disturbances which can reduce carbon loss, protect soil structure and reduce habitat loss for microorganisms. **Maximize Soil Cover** on the surface includes crop residue, growing crop or other organic materials to provide a protective barrier between the soil and destructive energy from raindrops. Keeping a protective cover on the surface all year long improves soil structure, habitat for microorganisms and food source for microorganism communities.

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Looking at the soil from two locations in the same pasture. On the left, the pasture was overgrazed providing minimal cover, lacked biodiversity of species and lots of disturbance from livestock created poor roots and soil structure. The picture on the right, the pasture is not overgrazed providing adequate cover, increased biodiversity in plant community, less disturbance from livestock allow for good roots, soil structure and organic matter.

## TENANT NEWS

### USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

#### NRCS Assistance for 2021

Through everything that 2020 has brought, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) staff would like to remind everyone that NRCS is here to provide educational, technical and financial resources to farmers and private landowners to aid them with conservation efforts on their land. We continue to provide one-one, voluntary assistance to protect natural resources and ensure productive lands. Our meetings may be more socially distanced, increased phone conversations and e-mails, but we continue to find ways to aid customers. Recently, the Lancaster County NRCS team signed 25 contracts for fiscal year 2020 totaling over two million dollars in conservation practices to be implemented over the next several years.

NRCS wrapped up contracting in 2020 just in time to begin the process for

next year. The Lancaster County NRCS office continues to make changes to meet challenges in order to continue serving our customers. You may not find us all in the office any time soon, but we are working remotely with limited office time and meeting our customers in the field.

#### What types of assistance can NRCS provide?

- **Conservation Planning**
- **Conservation Practice Survey, Design & Implementation**
  - ~ Cropland erosion practices (Waterways, Diversions, Terraces, Contour Strips)
  - ~ Grazing system practices (Paddock Fencing, Watering Systems, Livestock Trails)
  - ~ Ag Waste handling systems (Manure Storages, Manure Transfers, Barnyard Improvements, Silage Leachate Collection, Mortality Composting)



- **Soil Health Improvements**
  - ~ Transition to No-Till, Cover Crops
- **Stream Restoration & Management**
  - ~ Riparian Buffer Plantings, Stream-bank Stabilization, Fencing & Livestock Crossings
- **Forest Management Assistance**
  - ~ Invasive Weed Control, Tree Planting, Forest Stand Improvement
- **Vegetable & Fruit Production**
  - ~ High Tunnels, Irrigation System Improvements, Pollinator Plantings
- **Financial Assistance Programs** to assist with conservation practice implementation

If you are interested in technical or financial assistance, please contact the **Lancaster County USDA-NRCS office** at **717-874-2558**.

### LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Ring-Necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

#### HABITAT

Most kinds of pheasants are shy forest birds of Asia. The ring-neck, better adapted to open country, has been introduced as a game bird to several parts of the world, including North America. Ring-necked pheasants are found on agricultural land and old fields—especially fields that are interspersed with grass ditches, hedges, marshes, woodland borders, and brushy groves. Typically, they roost in trees or dense shrubs in spring and summer and in forested wetlands, farm fields and weedy areas in fall. For early season nesting, they seek cover along grassy roadsides, fence lines, ditches, and wetlands. As the season progresses and vegetation grows taller and denser, they shift their nesting activity to fields of hay, particularly alfalfa.



#### FOOD

Ring-necked pheasants eat seeds—especially grain from farm fields—as well as grasses, leaves, roots, wild fruits and nuts, and insects, such as grasshoppers, beetles, caterpillars, crickets, and ants, as well as snails and earthworms.

#### NESTING

The female ring-necked pheasant chooses her nest site, which is usually less than half a mile from her wintering range. Nests are usually surrounded by tall vegetation and built on the ground, often in a natural depression or a hole.



low that the female scoops out herself, about a third of an inch to 3 inches deep. Clutch size is 7-15 eggs. 1-2 broods per year. Incubation 23-28 days. Average first hatch is mid-June. Pheasant chicks hatch completely covered with down, eyes open. They leave the nest immediately, following the female and feeding for themselves.

#### CONSERVATION

Pheasant numbers have declined since a peak in the mid-twentieth century. The North American Breeding Bird Survey noted that despite increases in some areas, overall there was been a population decline of about 32% between 1966 and 2014. Pheasants are popular game birds, and in some places game managers stock pheasants on land. Hunters kill large numbers of male pheasants—nationally several million in a single season—but the overall effect of hunting is probably

*Continued on page 7*