



Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County

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THE FARM AND HOME CENTER NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

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Yes, I want to help serve our community with the Farm and Home Center in 2025!

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!

FARM & HOME FOUNDATION

Six Seniors Awarded 2024 Farm and Home Foundation Scholarships



(L to R) Emma Oberholtzer, Jeanette Kneisley, Mackenzi Nafziger, Nathan Sauder, Evan Espenshade, Caden Beyer

This spring, the Farm and Home Foundation Board of Directors named six seniors as recipients of Farm and Home Foundation \$1,000 scholarships for 2024. 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.

Caden Beyer graduated from Ephrata High School and is the son of Bryan and Carolyn Beyer, Akron. He has participated in the Future Farmers of America as chapter sentinel. He also served as team captain in E-Sports, section leader in the high school

band, and CDE team leader. Caden is attending Juniata College to study Environmental Science.

Evan Espenshade, a graduate from Elizabethtown Area High School, is the son of Matt and Charlene Espenshade, Bainbridge. Evan served as chapter vice president and sentinel and county sentinel of the Future Farmers of America. He also participated in 4H Dairy Bowl, 4H Livestock Judging, and

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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.

PENN STATE EXTENSION

Introducing Amy Bradford

Amy Bradford is a Client Relationship Manager (CRM) for Penn State Extension serving Area 9, which includes Berks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon and Schuylkill counties. As CRM, Amy will be working within each county to advocate for and promote the value and importance of Extension resources, programming, and science-based education.

While growing up, Amy lived in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio. Her first experience with Extension was as a member of Animals Inc. 4-H club in Delaware County, Ohio where she showed market lambs. A 1997 graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resource Communications, Amy is a passionate advocate with nearly 30 years of service to agriculture and agribusiness.

Amy's introduction to Pennsylvania agriculture was an internship with the Pennsylvania Beef Council after graduation. Her career path then led her to North Carolina and in 2000 a return to Pennsylvania. Most recently Amy was with Lancaster Swine Health Services, a veterinary practice based in Elizabethtown, where she provided customer service and support to swine and poultry producers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Delaware, and Mary-



Amy Bradford

land. Prior to Lancaster Swine Health Services, Amy was Assistant Vice President for PennAg Industries Association providing member services for the Agronomic Products, Manure Haulers, Seed, and Swine Councils. In addition, through contracts with PennAg, she administered the Pennsylvania Certified Crop Adviser program, the Pennsylvania Agronomic Education Society and was the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

Amy, her husband, Andy (Penn State '97 Dairy and Animal Science), their sons Braden and William and dog Teague live in Maytown, Lancaster County. The family enjoys boating and fishing on the Chesapeake Bay, hunting, camping, and cheering on the Philadelphia Phillies.

FARM & HOME FOUNDATION

Scholarships *continued from page 1*

was the Livestock Club vice president. After taking a year off to serve as a state officer for FFA, Evan plans to attend college to study Animal/Dairy Science.

Jeanette Kneisley, daughter of Jay and Amanda Kneisley, Willow Street, is a graduate from Penn Manor High School. Jeanette has participated the Future Farmers of America serving as

chapter president and reporter. She also was part of the 4H Market Goat and 4H Dairy Beef Clubs and participated in Poultry Career Development and Floriculture Career Development. Katelyn is studying Environmental Horticulture at York College.

Mackenzi Nafziger graduated from Penn Manor High School and is the daughter of Jeremy and Nicole Nafziger, Millersville. She

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TENANT NEWS

LICHTY TAX ACCOUNTING

Lichty's Retiring after 18 Years

The office of John Lichty Tax Accounting was part of the Farm and Home Center community since 2006. Not only wonderful tenants, the John Lichty Tax Accounting office helped with bookkeeping for the Farm and Home Foundation of Lancaster County for many years.

We wish John and Shirley Lichty and Jim Strohecker all the best as you enjoy your retirement!



(L to R) John and Shirley Lichty, Jim Strohecker.



Soft Pretzels

2 Tbsp. yeast (3 packs)
3 ¼ cup warm water
2/3 cup brown sugar
9 cups occident flour
2 tsp. salt

Baking Soda Mix:
1 cup hot water
2 Tbsp baking soda (keep warm)

Mix yeast and water. Add sugar. Let rise approximately 5 minutes. Add 4 cups of flour. Mix with mixer or spoon. Add remaining flour and salt and mix by hand. Knead for at least 5 minutes. Cover with wet cloth and let rise for 1 hour.

Punch down and form pretzels. Dip in soda mix and place on pan sprayed with cooking spray. Cover with wet cloth and let rise 4-8 minutes. Bake at 400° for 8 minutes. Cool slightly on cooling racks. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with pretzel salt.

Put in freezer bags, standing them up and placing side-by-side in the bag. Leave bags open until cooled and then close bags and place in freezer. Reheat in oven or microwave before serving. Makes 3 dozen.

DBC Ad Products

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After almost 40 years of existence, you can trust we know the business we are in. We also understand nature changes and we continue to research the animals our products are used in, enabling us to create the best quality products with a perfect balance of premium ingredients. This is how we have built a strong brand in the animal feed industry and animal health market over the years.

As a family-owned business, we are passionate about earning your trust, putting customers first, delivering on your high-quality expectations, supporting our industry and our communities.

Contact us today to discover more about how DBC Ag Products can help you meet your livestock and poultry productivity goals.

www.dbcagproducts.com
717-509-5724

DBC AG PRODUCTS

Inroducing DBC Ag Products

Decades of Experience

DBC Ag Products specializes in innovative biotechnology solutions that utilize practical research and proven technology to meet agribusiness needs using applied microbiology, enzymology, and immunology. The First Arrival® product line is one of many developed by DBC Ag Products to help maintain normal digestive health and support a healthy, functioning immune system.

A Family-Owned Business With Roots In the Sweet Bologna Business

DBC Ag Products was born out of a third-generation family business active in manufacturing fermented sausage products. The discovery of a new process to speed up the fermentation of bologna led to breakthrough product development, which resulted in the founding of DBC Ag Products in 1984. We continue to maintain our ties with the family bologna business while becoming a leader in animal health.

Product Focus

We offer a broad range of biotechnology-based animal health products for many distinct species. Using a very broad range of novel eubiotic and other innovative technologies, including probiotics, organic acids, essential oils, bio-actives, soluble/insoluble fibers and whey protein technologies, our natural products deliver results. Our products are designed to help maintain a normal digestive system and support a functioning immune system in young animals, including calves, lambs, goat kids and poultry. We also offer products to support the same for adult beef, dairy, sheep, and goats, as well as older poultry and waterfowl.

Our products include First Arrival® w/ Encrypt® Calf Powder & Calf Paste, First Arrival w/Encrypt Lamb & Kid Paste, Last Stand® w/ImmWave® Calf

Paste, Last Stand® w/ImmWave® Lamb & Kid Paste, Backyard Chicken® Health Pack, Zyfund® A, HealthyFlock® Tabs and Oxy E-100.

Our Nutri-Core® product line is a vital part of the poultry health programs offered by one of the largest poultry management companies on the east coast. And since we recognize that many of you have unique situations and unique animal health needs which may require a specialized response, we will partner with you to discuss how our products can help or work closely with you to try to identify a product designed to meet your specific needs. We encourage you to explore how our products can provide solutions for health and performance in your animals today.

We have also grown distribution into new geographies and our products are available in an ever-expanding list of new dealers, veterinarians, tack shops, pet stores and online retailers.

We Deliver High-Quality Health and Productivity Solutions for Livestock and Poultry

Our high-quality products are specially formulated to provide solutions for nutritional and health conditions that can be supported through any livestock and poultry diet. We offer solutions for digestive health, immune support, proper digestion and managing during times of stress.

We only use the highest quality ingredients, formulated to deliver results and all products are made in the USA with domestic and foreign ingredients. The manufacturing plant our products have been produced in for over 40 years has no FDA approved products nor banned substances in their ingredient inventory. This eliminates the worry of cross contamination and provides the assurance that our



products are safe and effective.

To maintain the high-quality products that you expect from us, we pay great attention to detail. Everything we do is calculated to provide top level results while adhering to the strictest standards that enables DBC Ag Products brands to exceed customer expectations. This helps us continue to be a market leader in neonatal animal health and a trusted partner for livestock and poultry producers across their entire enterprise.

DBC Ag Products solutions are easy to incorporate into health and productivity protocols via feed, water, milk, milk replacer or individual administered.

A Commitment to Excellence

Based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, DBC Ag Products is led by Dan Baum who combines a degree in agriculture from Penn State University with almost 40 years of experience in microbiology, enzymology, and immunology. Joining Dan is his brother Tom Baum, Vice-President and CFO, who brings several decades of agricultural business and public sector experience to the company.

In addition, our staff has practical expertise in business, agriculture sales and animal health across multiple species. We are ready to answer questions and help with the solutions you need. Partnering with other quality-driven companies has enabled us to grow and increase efficiency while remaining exceedingly responsive to our customers' changing needs. We are most proud of our reputation for top-quality products and outstanding service.

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LANCASTER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation District Plain Sect Outreach Program Update

Lauren Brodbar, Ag Conservation Technician



Greg Heigel, District Ag Conservation Technician had a busy schedule with the Plain Sect community this summer.

Again, he attended the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) training at Elizabethtown College. In addition, Lancaster County was home to this year's Horse Progress Days in Gordonville. Greg attended the event for two days in July, where he hosted a Conservation District display.

At the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) Conference in State College, Greg presented about Plain Sect beliefs, and his experience working with both Amish and Mennonites. He attended two events in Caernarvon Township; a watershed meeting with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and an evening stream walk in conjunction with a buffer meeting.



Greg Heigel hosted a Conservation District display at Horse Progress Days in July. The event was well attended with many demonstrations and displays like this soil pit. Photo provided by Greg Heigel - LCCD.

At a Lancaster Leaf Tobacco meeting and Gap Tobacco meeting, Greg connected with Plain Sect farmers about planting no-till tobacco.

Lastly, Greg hosted a Conservation District display at Family Days on the Farm, with 3,000-4,000 attendees. He spoke with everyone about Erosion and Sedimentation Planning, manure management, and riparian buffers.



FARM & HOME FOUNDATION

Scholarships *continued from page 2*

has served as Cross Country Team Captain and Bible Study Group Leader. She also participated in the Future Farmers of America where she served as chapter chaplain and committee chair. Mackenzi is attending Juniata College where she is studying Wildlife Conservation.

Emma Oberholtzer, a graduate of Garden Spot High School, is the daughter of Burnell and Jennifer Oberholtzer, East Earl. She was a member of the Future Farmers of America and also served as Dairy Royalty and Dairy Ambassador. She also participated in the 4H Woolies Club as the vice president. Emma is studying Plant Sciences at Penn State University.

Nathan Sauder graduated from Manheim Central High School and is the son of Jason and Jessica Sauder, Manheim. He was a part of the Future Farmers of America serving as chapter historian, treasurer, and president at county secretary and vice president. He also lead as class vice president and president at school. Nathan is attending Penn State University and is studying Agricultural and Extension Education.

In fulfillment of its charitable and educational mission goals, the Foundation has awarded annual scholarships for fifty years to deserving Lancaster County graduating seniors.

They are funded from earnings of the Elmer L. Esbshade Charitable Trust Fund and also supplemented by operational funds. Esbshade 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 532 students with scholarships having a value of \$740,000.

For further information, go to the Scholarship Page of our website, www.farmandhomecenter.com, or contact the Farm and Home Foundation at **717-392-4911**.

The Ice Cream Rises to the Top at Fox Meadows Farms

Proactive planning and innovation – a win-win for the family farm and the urban communities they serve

By Kimberly Merlau, County Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency



Fox Meadows Creamery-Ephrata, PA Location

Fox Meadows Farms, located in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, is owned and operated by brothers Chad and Corey Fox, their wives Krista and Andrea and their parents Bob and Ruthie. This generational farm demonstrates the importance of family farms, diversifying farming operations, and recognizing opportunities in urban and suburban communities.

“We are grateful to be close to Lancaster City and other population centers like Leola,” Chad said. “Being close to the consumer gives us access to an available workforce and consumer base, affording us the opportunity to serve more people.”

Diversifying for the Next Generation

The family started farming in the 1950s with the purchase of the Fox family farm. Over the decades they have been recog-

nized as leaders in milk quality, animal husbandry, milk production and land stewardship in Lancaster County, including their conservation efforts through streambank fencing, riparian buffers, and no-till cropping practices.



(L to R) Bob Fox, FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux, Chad Fox and Corey Fox.

The Fox family integrated the next generation into the operation in 2013 when Bob and Ruthie transitioned sole farm ownership to Chad and Corey. This in-

tentional succession plan freed up valuable time for Bob and Ruthie and positioned their family and farm for growth and success for generations to come.

Having no luck purchasing more land for expansion, they embraced the concept of farm-to-table and purchased a used car lot neighboring the home farm to build their first 4,600-square-foot creamery.

According to Heidi Secord, state executive director for the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Pennsylvania, Lancaster County has diverse agricultural roots, in both rural and urban agrarian communities within the county. Secord and FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux both praise Fox Meadows Farms as an outstanding example of generational, family farmers who embrace product innovation and capitalize on their proximity to urban centers.

Reaching Goals with FSA

In 2020, Fox Meadows Farms applied for an FSA direct farm ownership loan, providing the security and financial support the family needed to realize their business and professional goals. Farm ownership loans from FSA are a valuable resource to help farmers and ranchers purchase or enlarge family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

FSA’s loan assistance helped solidify their process, develop their infrastructure, and create new markets for their products while also providing economic opportunities for the local community.

Fox Meadows Farms also participates in other FSA programs, including the Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs and the

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Bob Fox showing the calf facilities to FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux.

Dairy Margin Coverage program. These safety-net programs provide economic assistance when commodity markets fluctuate due to impacts of natural disasters, trade volatilities, world conflicts or other variables outside of the producer’s control.

“Our family is very thankful for FSA’s support and will continue to look to them as a trusted partner as we grow our business,” Chad said.

Expanding Opportunities One Cone at a Time

In July of 2022, the Fox family seized an opportunity to expand, opening a second creamery location in Leola. Both creameries offer 25 flavors of ice cream that change seasonally and are known for their cow-to-cone interactive experience



Fox Meadows Creamery-Ephrata, PA Location

where visitors watch the ice cream being made and served. A supporter of local small businesses, both locations have a country market where they sell a variety of locally crafted items, including baked goods and snacks, and offer a full lunch menu as well.



Fox Meadows Creamery-Leola, PA Location

Fox Meadows Farms is their life’s work, and like all businesses, it’s important to have and execute an operating plan. For the Fox family, it’s equally important to love what you do for a living.

“We are so blessed to be able to transform the milk from our cows into a fun product like ice cream,” Bob said. “It’s humbling to watch how the simple goodness of ice cream can bring our community together as they celebrate and enjoy life, one cone at a time at Fox Meadows Creamery.”

More Information

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is committed to increasing services to producers in urban locations throughout the U.S. Big or small, USDA

works with agricultural operations of all sizes, including small-scale urban farms, and offers various resources to help urban producers start, expand and grow their operations.

For more information about USDA assistance for urban farmers, visit farmers.gov/urban and usda.gov/urban. Need assistance? Local USDA Service Centers connect producers with Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or Rural Development employees. To locate your local USDA Service Center, please visit farmers.gov/service-center-locator. *USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.*

