

# AG ONE Newsletter

## Issue 2018.5 \*\*\*April 16, 2018

*AG ONE is a periodic newsletter on legislation, regulations and agricultural topics produced by Phillips Associates expressly for the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations (PSCFO), an organization of over 60 organizations sharing an interest in promoting Pennsylvania's Number One industry, Agriculture. Questions or comments should go to PSCFO leadership or to 717/232-9665 or email to [xenobun@aol.com](mailto:xenobun@aol.com). AG ONE Newsletter, PA State Council of Farm Organizations, 26 North Ninth Street, Lemoyne, PA 17043. Material may be cited as long as PSCFO is given appropriate credit.*

### Dear Reader:

Let the fun begin! Text of the 2018 Farm Bill was released on April 12. This is the most important topic on which various agricultural and nutrition groups will be lobbying Congress this year. Following are links from the U.S. House Agriculture Committee that will help your examination of the bill:

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full legislative text of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the section-by-section summary of the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read policy highlights in the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Regards, *Vince Phillips*

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**REDDING'S STATEMENT ON THE FARM BILL:** *"The importance of the federal Farm Bill to Pennsylvania's agriculture industry cannot be overstated," said Redding. "Farm Bill programs are investments in production agriculture, our environment, our economy and our people. I appreciate the work of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture to get us to this point, including the members of our own delegation who serve on the committee, Congressmen Glenn Thompson and Dwight Evans. Passing a final bill is never an easy task, but we look forward to working with our U.S. representatives and stakeholders to ensure the best interests of our food and agriculture industries, as well as rural Pennsylvania, are considered throughout the process." (April 13, 2018)*

### **MULTIPLE FARM GROUPS URGE REAUTHORIZATION OF STRESS PROGRAM**

An April 6 letter to the Majority Chairs and Ranking Members (Minority Chairs) of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees urged reauthorization of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) within the Farm Bill. It makes the point that FRSAN was established by the 2008 Farm Bill but was never funded. It says that the need is imperative given the prolonged downturn in the farm economy. Those signing the letter with PA State Council of Farm Organization affiliates were: American Soybean Association, National Grange, National Corn Growers Association, National Farmers Union, National Milk Producers Federation, and U.S. Cattlemen's Association.

### **DAIRY ROUNDTABLES SCHEDULED IN APRIL**

PA Center for Dairy Excellence is convening a series of roundtables for those involved in dairy production to discuss ways to strengthen the industry. Scheduled are sessions in Bedford and Grove City April 17, Lancaster April 20, State College and Mansfield April 24. The purpose is to discuss how the industry has been weakened and how to repair the damage. Details: Heidi Zimmerman 717-346-0849 [hzimmerman@centerfordairyexcellence.org](mailto:hzimmerman@centerfordairyexcellence.org)

## **GOVERNOR HAS HIGH TUNNEL BILL**

On April 9, **House Bill 1486** was presented to Governor Wolf for his signature. Sponsored by Rep. Dave Zimmerman (R-Lancaster), HB 1486 would exempt high tunnel agricultural buildings from storm water management requirements as long as that building:

- Does not have an impervious area exceeding 25%
- Is located at least 100 feet from any perennial stream, watercourse, public road, or neighboring property line
- Is located at least 35 feet from any perennial stream, watercourse, public road or neighboring property line and located on land which has a slope not greater than seven percent
- Has a buffer or diversion system that does not directly drain into a stream

HB 1486 pre-empts any local ordinance differing from the state exemption and the Governor's action appears imminent.

## **BROADBAND BILLS GAIN TRACTION**

The package of bills introduced by Rep. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R-York) and Pam Snyder (D-Fayette/Greene/Washington) designed to expand rural access to Broadband is receiving attention by the House. On April 9, the House Education Committee moved **House Resolution 431** urging the Auditor General to conduct an audit of a specialized fund run by the PA Department of Education which facilitates Broadband access. On April 10, the House State Government Committee voted **House Resolution 429** out of committee. It directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish a Broadband access advisory committee. On April 17, the House State Government Committee plans to vote on **House Bill 1642** mandating the Department of General Services inventory state properties that could be used to expand Broadband availability.

A fourth bill in the Broadband package is **House Resolution 430** in the House Consumer Affairs Committee. No date for consideration has been set. HR 430 directs the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee and the Joint State Government Commission to jointly conduct an audit and study of nonrural telecommunication company compliance with existing mandates.

## **DATES AND DEADLINES**

- Those wishing to apply for funding by the PA Wine Marketing & Research Program Board have until April 20 to submit applications. These should go to: PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Market Development, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. Grant details appeared in the March 24, 2018 PA Bulletin ([www.pabulletin.com](http://www.pabulletin.com))
- Beginning April 9 and ending June 1 is the new sign-up period for the revamped Dairy Margin Protection Program. Coverage will be retroactive to January 1, 2018. Applicants must use form CCC-782. Details: [www.fsa.usda.gov/mptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mptool)
- April 26 is the date of the Agricultural Bankers Conference in State College. Some of the workshops include the Future of Hemp, Cyber Security, Farm Succession and an address by PDA Secretary Russell Redding. Details: PA Bankers Association, 717-255-6927

## **AG LIME BILL MOVES THROUGH HOUSE**

On April 9, the House voted 195-0 to forward **House Bill 2034** (Marshall-R-Beaver/Butler) to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee. Among other things, it specifies labeling requirements (brand name, type of agricultural liming material, net weight, and minimum percentage of calcium oxide, molybdenum percentage, and calcium carbonate).