

AG ONE Newsletter

Issue 2018.17 *** December 3, 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. 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:

Please mark February 5, 2019, on your calendar. It will be the PA State Council of Farm Organizations Capitol Hill meeting and will coincide with Governor Tom Wolf's Budget Address to the General Assembly. There, he will present his Administration's State Budget priorities. Agriculture did pretty well in the current budget. On February 5, we will know what funding battles will be fought by the Agriculture Community. Also, although program details are not locked in, we traditionally have the Secretary of Agriculture, Executive Directors of the House and Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committees, and the Ag institutions -- Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Delaware Valley University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. This will be followed by the heralded Cornucopia Legislative Reception in the Capitol's Main Rotunda. . **Sincerely, Vince Phillips**

PSCFO INITIATES DEDICATION TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

The PA State Council of Farm Organizations has initiated the PSCFO Dedication to Agriculture Award to be presented to an individual February 5, 2019. Nominations must be endorsed by a PSCFO member organization. Nomination criteria for the award must be based on one or more of the following:

- Service with a significant economic or social impact on rural Pennsylvania
- Service generally affecting PA Agriculture
- Service making a vital difference in one component of PA Agriculture such as for a specific commodity
- Unheralded accomplishment with limited public awareness
- Public Service performed at the local, state, or national level providing a meaningful contribution/benefit to agriculture
- Service providing a greater awareness of agriculture's importance to the general public

Nominees must be Pennsylvanians by birth or residence. The nomination period runs from December 10, 2018 to January 15, 2019. Details: xenobun@aol.com, 717-232-9665

PDA SEEKS HEMP RESEARCH PROJECTS

On November 27, the PA Department of Agriculture announced that it is taking applications for sixty 2019 industrial hemp research permits. This is the third year for this program authorized by the Farm Bill. As Secretary Redding told the State Council of Farm Organizations at its November meeting, hemp research expanded in PA from 70 acres in 2017 to 720 acres in 2018 with plans for 6,000 acres in 2019. He pointed to industrial hemp's many uses for fiber and food grade oil and expressed hope that the 2018 Farm Bill would remove barriers to wider production. Deadline for applications is December 17, 2018. Details: 717-787-4843, Bureau of Plant Industry.

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/industrial_hemp/Pages/default.aspx

WINE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

PA Wine Board is seeking applications for grants to conduct promotion, marketing, and sale of wines, enhance the wine industry and benefit wine producers in Pennsylvania. Deadline for proposals is January 18, 2019. Details: Patrick Andrews, patriandrew@pa.gov

PSCFO NEWS

Rick Leese has been named to the PSCFO Board, replacing Dan Leese whose family moved to China. Representing the PA Farm Bureau, Rick is a Fulton County farmer raising beef cattle and vegetables as well as hog finishing. Earlier, **Colleen Hershey** was appointed to fill the term of Amy Bradford who had a job change. Colleen represents PennAg Industries Association.

DECEMBER IS A CROWDED MONTH

There are numerous events scheduled in December by various agricultural groups.

- December 11-12, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) is presenting a two-day intensive workshop for experienced growers seeking to enter wholesale or institutional (hospitals/businesses, etc.) markets. Location: Gibsonia, Allegheny County. Details: www.pasafarming.org
- Other PASA vegetable grower meetings are December 11 in Easton, Northampton County on future planning and December 17 in Kintnersville, Bucks County, on Biologic Controls for Better Pest Management
- December 11, PA Farmers Union presents the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Grower Certification Training in Gibsonia. Details: pafarmersunion@gmail.com
- December 12, Penn State Extension Dairy Team offers a free workshop on consistent milking practices that emphasize cleanliness, udder stimulation, etc. in Huntingdon. Details: 877-345-0691
- December 12, Penn State Extension Ag Issues Breakfast in Gettysburg will examine Agriculture Labor Law and the Temporary Agricultural Guest Worker Program (H-2 Program). Details: Daniel Weber 717-334-6271 or Daniel.weber@psu.edu
- Dec. 12 – Dec. 20, Penn State Extension and the PA Soybean Board are presenting soybean production workshops at Delaware Valley University, Pleasant Gap, Beaver, and Dauphin, PA. Details: 877-345-0691

POLITICS: STATE

- Incumbent Republican Senator ‘Tommy’ Tomlinson’s (Bucks) is now the official winner of the 2018 election by 74 votes out of over 100,000 votes cast. Democratic challenger Tina Davis brought legal action to have additional absentee votes counted but was rebuffed by the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas. Davis still retains her seat in the PA House.
- Incumbent Republican Rep. Bud Cook’s (Washington/Fayette) lead shrank to 11 votes after provisional ballots were examined.
- Pa Senate Republicans are seeking proof of residency in PA for Democrat Lindsay Williams who took the seat held by former Allegheny County Senator Randy Vulakovich. At issue is whether Williams met the constitutional requirement of four years residency, possibly having resided in Maryland for part of that time.

IN MEMORIUM...Former PA Representative Vincent Biancucci (D-Beaver) passed away at the age of 78. He succeeded Nick Colafella in that position and served 2002 through 2008.