

## AGRICULTURAL *Updates*



On October 29, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed into law House Bill 995, which increases the width of agricultural vehicles allowed on the road. House Bill 995 increases the width of multipurpose agricultural vehicles that are “used exclusively for agricultural operations” from sixty-two to sixty-six inches as long as the vehicle is “only incidentally operated or moved upon the highways.” This bill amends Title 75 by modifying the definition of “multipurpose agricultural vehicle,” and better reflects the type of farm equipment that is now being manufactured.

*Have You*



### FOURTH EDITION 2020

#### *President's* Message

**Randy Black** - Thank you to the people that make a difference.

#### *Customer* SPOTLIGHT

Amanda Miller and her pursuit of opportunities.

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Ian Weaver and Benjamin Landis

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It's Farm Show season!

#### AGRICULTURAL *Updates*

PA makes it easier to move equipment.



### *President's* Message

As we look back on the year that turned many lives upside down, identifying the good in life is empowering. It's important to stop and say thank you to the people that make a difference.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our Ag Banking Team. This year, they watched our Ag friends deal with the uncertainty associated with the pandemic and its impact on the industry. They didn't idly sit by, but instead reached out to help with genuine concern.

Your First Citizens Ag Banking team is a great resource to talk through your

situation and explore options.

Hopefully this will give you peace of mind knowing that you're working with industry experts who truly care about the success of your operation and the welfare of your family.

From our family to yours, we are wishing every American peace and good health for the new year.

*Randy*

### *Customer* SPOTLIGHT

**“If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade.” – Tom Peters**

Amanda Miller and her husband Rob have spent years pursuing opportunities that make the most of their lives in agriculture. Together, they operate **Sopertown Seeds**, where they channel seed development for soybeans and corn. Amanda is also the co-owner of **Sugar Branch Farms** in Columbia Crossroads, PA where she manages public relations for the 2,100 acre, 500-cow dairy farm. By sending regular newsletters to neighbors and community members, operating their Facebook page, and answering questions posed by visitors, she stays connected to the community.

Most recently, she's augmented the farm with the addition of **Miller's Maze**. In the autumn, Sugar Branch Farms is packed with locals who visit the dairy farm to enjoy a two-acre corn maze, live music, a pumpkin patch, wagon rides, and games. Amanda invites local vendors to sell their goods at the event, and homemade donuts and cider are available to visitors. We wish them continued success in their ventures!







## Fresh IDEAS

### Slow-Cooker Chicken with Mushrooms over Linguine

This chicken recipe is perfect for those cold winter days ahead.

- 1 c. chicken stock
- 2 ½ tbsp. flour
- 1 c. shallots, sliced
- 12 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1/3 c. dry Marsala wine
- 2 tsp. rosemary, chopped
- 1 ½ lbs. chicken thighs
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- 8 oz. linguine

**1** Whisk flour and stock in slow-cooker until blended. Place shallots, mushrooms, Marsala, and rosemary in slow-cooker. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and place in slow-cooker. Cover and cook on low 4 hours.

**2** Transfer chicken to serving tray and thicken sauce on stove (about 5 minutes).

**3** Serve over cooked linguine and garnish with fresh chopped parsley.



## Meet the TEAM

### Ian Weaver, Jr. Business Development Officer

Ian joined FCCB as an intern during his senior year at PSU, where he studied Ag Business Management and Agronomy. He's an 8<sup>th</sup> generation poultry farmer, and has a special place in his heart for farming. "It brings me joy knowing I am helping the community of farmers. I'm a people person so I enjoy meeting clients on their farms." When he isn't on the farm, Ian is a volunteer baseball coach for Selinsgrove High School.



### Benjamin Landis, Business Development Associate

After graduating from PSU with a degree in Animal Science and Animal Business, Ben became a herdsman at Furnace Hill Holsteins. "The best part of my job is sitting down with farmers, talking about their future financial and production goals and then helping them find a way to get there." Ben grew up on his family dairy farm, and continues to help his family by working the farm on weekends.



## Young Producers Choose *Pennsylvania!*



**ACCORDING TO 2017 AGRICULTURAL CENSUS DATA, NEARLY 1 IN 10 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE UNDER THE AGE OF 35, AND PENNSYLVANIA TOPS THE LIST AS THE STATE WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF YOUNG AG PRODUCERS IN THE NATION.**

In 2017, "young producers," (those under the age of 35) accounted for 9% of the United States 3.4 million total producers. That number has increased to 14% according to a USDA report released in October of this year which remains the highest for any state in the nation.

More young families are going back to their roots, working the land and raising livestock or crops. Perhaps they are attracted to farming because of the pride that comes from feeding the community and continuing family traditions. Despite the challenges the agricultural industry faces, it's refreshing to see that farming remains an esteemed way of life for many young men and women in Pennsylvania!

Pennsylvania officials have been working to help young farmers succeed. Last year, the state created a beginning farmer tax credit, which provides incentives for landowners to

sell or rent to young producers who are early in their careers. Additionally, the PA Farm Bill created several provisions to aid farmers across the state and support agricultural education. For example, the Agriculture and Youth Development Grant Program invests in workforce development initiatives for agriculture and youth organizations such as FFA and 4-H. And the PA Farm to School Grant Program increases nutrition and agriculture education opportunities for student's pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

Becoming a farmer isn't easy given the cost of land and equipment, the need for specialized knowledge, and making the right connections. But our Ag Banking Team, with over 350 years of experience in farming and banking, is a great resource for farmers young and old and are committed to keeping agriculture alive and well in Pennsylvania, New York and Delaware.



While agriculture is Pennsylvania's leading industry, many of today's students don't make the connection between agriculture and the food on their table. So, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau has developed a series of Mobile Science Labs that travel to elementary and middle schools throughout the state each week. Each lab contains all the equipment and supplies students need to form a hypothesis, conduct an experiment, collect data, and draw conclusions about agriculture. Each experiment emphasizes a different aspect of agriculture, including Pennsylvania's primary commodities, the environment, biotechnology, nutrition, food and fiber.

## MOBILE AG EDUCATION SCIENCE LAB

Increasing Awareness  
About Agriculture

This hands-on program is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and gives students the opportunity to better understand agriculture, learn about the scientific process, and become excited about agriculture. For years, we have been proud sponsors of this program, and appreciate the way it increases awareness about the importance of agriculture in our lives. To learn more, or to share the program with your local school, visit [pfb.com/aglab](http://pfb.com/aglab).

## Employee HIGHLIGHTS



### Key Member of Ag Banking Team Retires

After 44 years in Agriculture, **Francis Strause**, a member of our Ag Banking Team, retired in November. Since joining our Team in 2016, Francis has been an integral part of our growth in central Pennsylvania. He's built strong relationships with the Ag Community and graciously shared his wisdom with his co-workers.

Francis and his wife operate a broiler house where Francis says he'll now dedicate more time. He may be leaving Ag Banking, but he's not leaving Ag.

Those who were close to Francis will miss his guidance, his "dry" sense of humor and his unpredictable pranks. From all of us at First Citizens, we wish Francis a long, healthy and happy retirement! Congratulations!

## EVENTS & STUFF YOU'LL WANT TO DO

**You won't want to miss the largest commercial farm equipment and service provider trade show in the state of Pennsylvania!**

Keystone Farm Show, York, PA – January 5, 6, & 7  
York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Avenue

**Visit our team in the Horticulture Hall (Building #5) at booth 532!**

The PA Farm Show will be a virtual event in 2021 and will take place January 9-16, 2021. For more information and a schedule, please visit [farmshow.pa.gov](http://farmshow.pa.gov).