KEYSTONE CATTLEMEN

PENNSYLVANIA
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2025

Pennsylvania Cattlemens Association
P.O. Box 261, Nottingham, PA 19362

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On the Cover:

Pennsylvania's cattle industry is extremely diverse, and we celebrate all breeders, cattle and business models that comprise over 12,000 beef cattle farms in the state. Our cover photo this issue is from **Emily Lafaver** of Lafaver Family Farm in Hamburg. Emily says, "we operate a cow/calf grazing operation of about 60 Black Angus mama cows, with five Highlands added to the mix. In this picture, you'll see Millie (due in November) and Paisley (who calved in August). We are a direct-to-consumer retail beef operation. Everything is USDA certified and sold at our two retail locations, as well as multiple other stores and restaurants. My husband, Travis, and I work together to make sure day-to-day operations get done, along with our three daughters, Ellie, Isabella and Lyla."

PENNSYLVANIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Keystone Cattlemen is published quarterly by the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

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'TIS THE SEASON

Karen Wheatley
PCA Executive Director

As we finish up the last days of 2025, we're busy getting ready for winter calving, holiday visits, Christmas Eve services and more! And just like you, it's sometimes hard to stop and just enjoy the beauty of the season around us. But as I write this, we've got snow falling (a rare event in the southeastern part of the state!), and I'm looking at the lit Christmas tree and our cattle in the pasture outside the front window. I don't know about you, but this is a pretty great life we've been gifted!

Keeping in the holiday spirit, I thought it might be appropriate to list my own "12 Days of Christmas" and spell out some of those gifts more clearly! So here are 12 gifts that I'm truly thankful for.

1. Your PCA Board is amazing. Everyone on the board has multiple projects/jobs going on at the same time, and yet their dedication to PA Cattlemen's is second to none. And that's not including their wisdom in problem solving and their great sense of humor!

2. We are working on one of the most exciting annual meetings I can remember! With Mark Gardiner as our featured speaker, and a brand-new PA Junior Cattlemen's Association forming, it's going to be a great event on Feb. 21, 2026.

3. We have two outstanding Jackpot Show judges confirmed for our Spring Spectacular, March 27-29 in Bloomsburg. Randy Mullinix from Illinois and Tyler Atwood from Oklahoma will serve as our officials.

4. In January, we welcome the Pennsylvania Angus Association on board as a new affiliate member. They've got a stellar cast of officers and a robust junior program in their arsenal, as well as some great movers and shakers in the Angus breed!

5. We have a brand-new website that is nearly close to completion (www.pacattlemen.org). It will allow plenty of opportunity for members to get online, create an account, register for events and find other members in an online directory. It's been a long project, and there's still some work to do, but we are thankful for how it's shaping up.

6. We made tremendous lobbying strides this year, solidifying our relationships with many government leaders in Harrisburg and Washington D.C. With every opportunity to talk face-to-face with elected officials, we have more chances to bring the Pennsylvania cattle industry and its issues, front and center.

7. We have maintained a consistent annual dues schedule for producers for several years, but as with the rising costs of everything else, we made the difficult decision to raise our producer dues starting in 2026 to $50. That $50 goes toward junior program funding, educational sessions, lobbying efforts and the cost of producing a quarterly magazine. For about the same money it would cost for a moderate dinner for two, you can support your state cattlemen's association and truly make a difference. Please note – this price increase is for producers who join PCA directly…not for affiliate members (i.e. members of Somerset or Westmoreland or Washington…)

8. We are thankful that the 2026 Stockmanship & Stewardship program kicks off in Pennsylvania this year! It will be a busy weekend with the Jackpot Show and the Bull Test Sale, but this new event will be in State College on March 28. Look for more details in this issue.

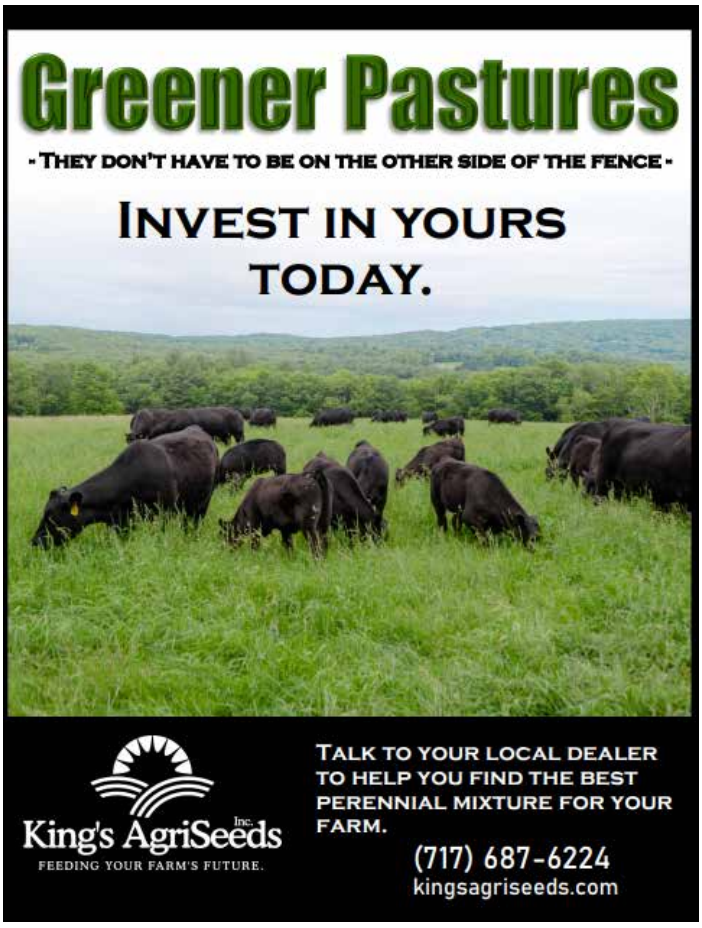
9. We love to serve, and part of our official serving time is at the great Pennsylvania Farm Show! Stop by on Monday, Jan. 12 and see your favorite PCA board members "slinging some hash" at the PA Livestock food booth. We'd love to catch up with you!

10. Inside this issue you will find a list of six outstanding men who are running for the PA Cattlemen's board in February. We are blessed to have such a great lineup of candidates that all can help move the association forward in a positive way!

11. Also in February, we will be bidding farewell to a few board members and our president, as they retire from their positions. "Thank you" doesn't begin to cover how grateful we are for their time and efforts that they have put into PCA and its programs/events. They will be missed very much! Outgoing directors include Frank Stoltzfus, Tom Logan and Wade Vonada. Duff George will be stepping off the board to fulfill more commitments on the Check-off side of the beef industry. And finally, President Darwin Nissley will be handing over the gavel to a new leader. We truly appreciate all of you!

12. Finally, I want to acknowledge the board, the industry partners we get to work with, the fabulous crew at Kentucky Cattlemen's who put our magazine together, and everyone who has helped, supported and attended a PCA event in the past year. I've been in this position since June 2024, and it has been an incredible journey so far. I can't wait to see what 2026 brings!

Thank you for your continued support of PA Cattlemen's! May you and your family/friends be blessed this holiday season!



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❑ New ❑ Renewal

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❑ PCA Membership (includes Keystone Cattlemen).....$35
❑ PCA Junior Membership (21 and under).....$5

Name _____

Date of Birth_____/_____/_____

Scholarship Donation..... $_____

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PCA Affiliate Memberships

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❑ Berks Southeast Cattlemen
❑ PA Simmental Association
❑ Somerset County Beef Producers
❑ Washington County Cattlemen
❑ Westmoreland Cattlemen
❑ PA Hereford Association

I am interested in volunteering for PCA as
❑ Leadership position ❑ Event volunteer
❑ Fund raising ❑ Special projects

Recruited by:_____

NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Please select the option that best describes your primary operation.

Cow/Calf Producer

❑ 1-100	$170	❑ 1,001-1,250	$1,304
❑ 101-250	$340	❑ 1,251-1,500	$1,586
❑ 251-500	$510	❑ 1,501-1,750	$1,870
❑ 501-750	$736	❑ 1,751-2,000	$2,154
❑ 751-1,000	$1,020	❑ >2,001	$2,154 + 43.07¢/head over 2,001

Stocker/Feeder.....$170 + (43.07¢/head x _____ head) = $_____

Unified Feeder Affiliates.....21.53¢/head marketed

Associate Membership *(non-voting, non-cattle owning)*

Individual.....$170
Business.....$226
Student *(24 & Under)*.....$56

TOTAL MEMBER DUES FOR NCBA
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NCBA National Cattlemen's Beef Association

TOTAL REMITTED
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WHY YOU CAN'T MISS CATTLECON 2026

Buck Wehrbein NCBA President

As 2025 winds down, I hope you find time to slow down and enjoy the company of those who matter most. The holiday season is a chance to reconnect with family, honor cherished traditions and savor a great beef meal. It's a meaningful time to reflect on the year, express gratitude and appreciate the many blessings in our lives. We're fortunate to be part of an industry that not only feeds families but does so with the safest, highest quality product in the world.

As I reflect on the year, it's that statement, "safest, highest quality product" that I'm most proud of. I've been fortunate to meet many of you across the country and, if there's one resounding commonality, it's the effort each of you put into the cattle you raise and product you produce. It's not an easy task and one that's finally experiencing its due. Consumers want our product, period. It's the result of decades of innovation and continuous improvement that got us to this point, but we all know this doesn't mean we can take our foot off the gas. Continuing to improve and adapt is what will continue pushing us forward as an industry and focusing on producing the safest, highest quality beef in the world is the North Star.

Constantly improving and adapting is also not a simple task, and it can be difficult to figure out where to go to get the information you need to make sound business decisions and meet the people who can serve as a sounding board for what's next. To me, that's why CattleCon is an event cattlemen and cattlewomen can't miss.

CattleCon is more than a convention. It's a place where your voice matters. Whether you're attending region, policy or Checkoff meetings, your participation helps guide the decisions that move our industry forward. This is your opportunity to be heard, to collaborate and to lead. These meetings are also where you're likely to find producers who are most like you, whose priority is propelling the industry and their operations forward.

Business meetings aren't the only place to network, there's plenty of opportunity for that at various sessions, receptions and evening events. Our general sessions will inspire, inform and spark meaningful conversations. You won't want to miss the NCBA Town Hall, the D.C. Issues Update, or the CattleFax Outlook session. We'll also celebrate excellence with the announcement of the 2026 Beef Quality Assurance award winners, the 2025 Environmental Stewardship Award Program National Winner, and recognize many deserving scholarship recipients.

We're also proud to offer Cattlemen's College sessions and demonstrations as part of your registration this year. These are packed with insights from industry experts who understand the challenges you face and offer solutions to improve your bottom line. If you're looking to sharpen your skills, expand your knowledge, or simply stay ahead of the curve, this is the place to do it.

And of course, the NCBA Trade Show is a highlight. With more than seven acres of exhibits, it's the largest in the business. Whether you're looking for the latest equipment, exploring trending topics or reconnecting with friends, the NCBA Trade Show floor is where it all comes together.

Let's also not forget the next generation. From the Career Crawl in the NCBA Trade Show to welcoming members of 4-H, FFA and Block & Bridle, we're investing in the future of agriculture. Watching young producers engage, learn and grow is one of the most rewarding parts of this event.

The location of this year's CattleCon can't be beat; there's something special about Nashville. Plus, we'll be in the heart of downtown with fantastic music and unmistakable energy around every corner. From the moment you arrive, you'll be surrounded by iconic landmarks just steps away: Lower Broadway, the Ryman Auditorium, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Johnny Cash Museum, to name a few. But while the sights and sounds of Nashville are unforgettable, the real reason we're gathering is to shape the future of the beef industry — together.

So, why should you register for CattleCon 2026? Because it's more than an event — it's where we come together to learn, lead and celebrate the strength of our community. It's where we build a better future for the beef cattle industry. There's something for everyone, no matter the size of operation or region of the country.

Join us in Nashville. Be part of the conversation. Be part of the progress. And most of all, enjoy the experience.

Happy trails and Merry Christmas! I look forward to seeing you in Music City.

PENNSYLVANIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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PART I

CALVING MANAGEMENT IN BEEF CATTLE: WATCH, WAIT, GO!

Adrian Barragan DVM, Penn State Extension Veterinarian

As the beef cattle calving season quickly approaches for most ranchers, this is an ideal time to revisit calving monitoring and assistance guidelines. Whenever I discuss calving in beef herds, I remember my early years as a veterinarian working on ranches, when this season was always one of the busiest and most demanding from a veterinary standpoint. This is often true for producers as well, since more attention has to be placed on the pregnant cows that will transition from a gestational no-lactation stage to a no-gestational lactation one. And, on top of this, there will be newborn calves on the ground that producers have to keep an eye on. As I am primarily a dairy veterinarian these days, I often compare health management in the two industries and attempt to translate practices from one to the other that may be beneficial. In beef cattle, once nutritional needs are properly addressed, the risk of disease is lower compared to dairy cattle. However, during the periparturient period, the most common health issue for both is dystocia.

Dystocia, by definition, is a prolonged calving resulting in the need for personnel assistance in order to deliver the calf. There are several causes of dystocia, with the most common ones being fetal malpresentation and fetal-maternal mismatch. Although when it comes to managing dystocia, the focus should be on prevention, this article will cover how to identify and manage dystocia. A key component of providing proper assistance to a cow experiencing dystocia is timing. Assisting a cow too early or too late can have a negative impact on both the dam and the newborn calf. For instance, if a cow is assisted too early before it is fully dilated, the friable soft tissue of the birth canal can be damaged, resulting in tears, or even worse, the rupture of vessels, which in severe cases can lead to death due to internal hemorrhage. Vaginal and vulvar tears greater than 2 cm have been associated with an increased risk of developing clinical metritis in dairy cattle. On the other hand, assisting a parturient cow too late can compromise the survivability of the calf, leading to weak calves, which subsequently result in low colostrum and IgG intakes, or in severe cases, stillborn calves.

When it comes to calving monitoring in beef cattle operations, the frequency is often lower than in dairy farms, where people are around calving pens most of the day. Furthermore, the common grazing non-confined system in beef cattle operations makes it more difficult (e.g., hard-to-access pens) and time-consuming to monitor cows regularly. A common strategy to monitor prepartum cows is to walk the calving pens twice or three times a day (every 8 or 12 hours). However, in this scenario, personnel may miss the window to provide timing assistance, thereby decreasing the odds of positive outcomes when assisting a dystocic cow and its calf.

While in dairy farms, it is recommended to check prepartum cow pens every hour, my advice for beef operations is to try to check the pens at least every 3 hours. The reason for this regular monitoring is to try to identify cows at the beginning of stage two of labor. Now, you may ask, why do I want to know when a cow starts labor? The short answer is to know if, and when, you may need to assist that cow. The time the cow spends in labor and the frequency of progress are the primary factors used to determine when a cow is experiencing dystocia, and they serve as landmarks to assist cows in a timely manner.

Stage two of parturition or labor starts with the appearance of the water bag (AKA amniotic sac) or calf's hooves through the vulva and lasts on average 30-45 minutes, but it can range from 20 minutes to 4 hours. The key to determining whether a cow will last 20 minutes or 4 hours without requiring assistance is the frequency of progress during the process. Progress during labor is mainly defined by how much of the calf is visible from the vulva of the dam and the change over time. In a normal calving, progress should occur every 15-20 minutes. For instance, if the calf's hooves are visible from the vulva at the beginning of labor, after 15-20 minutes, the forearms or forearms and nose should be visible.

Let's discuss the basis of calving assistance timing. As a general rule, based on research on dairy cows, cows that start calving and do not show any visible progress after 30-40 minutes (two 15–20-minute cycles) should be restrained and checked for dilatation and calf position. If the calf is in the proper position and the cow is pushing normally, more time can be allowed. However, if no progress is observed after 60-70 minutes (three 15–20-minute cycles), the cows should be assisted, regardless. Now, if we apply these research findings to beef operations and make them more practical to fit the management logistics, a protocol where calving progress is monitored after one hour of the beginning of labor, and assistance is provided if there is no progress after that, would be more suitable. With this protocol, practitioners may miss the possibility of early detection of fetal malpresentation when it's not visually obvious, but research suggests that, regardless of the reason for dystocia, calf survivability decreases after 70 minutes of the start of labor. Therefore, assisting at the 60-minute mark would still be adequate to prevent stillbirth. With that being said, there are some instances when cows should be assisted immediately. Those are when the calf is visually mal-positioned or when the calf has clear signs that blood circulation is compromised (swelling of head and/or tongue, purple coloration).

Once the worker or farmer has decided that a cow is experiencing dystocia, it is time to assist the cow. The critical aspects of this process are hygiene, lubrication and patience. Quite often, the focus is on getting a live and healthy calf out of the birth canal, while the health of the reproductive tract of the cow or even the cow's life is put at risk. Having a hygienic technique, applying sufficient lubrication solution, and being patient (by pulling when the cow pushes and allowing time for the cow to recover between hard pulls) will increase the chances of having a healthy dam and newborn calf at the end of the process.

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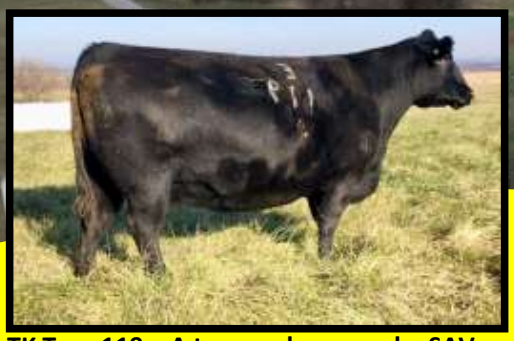

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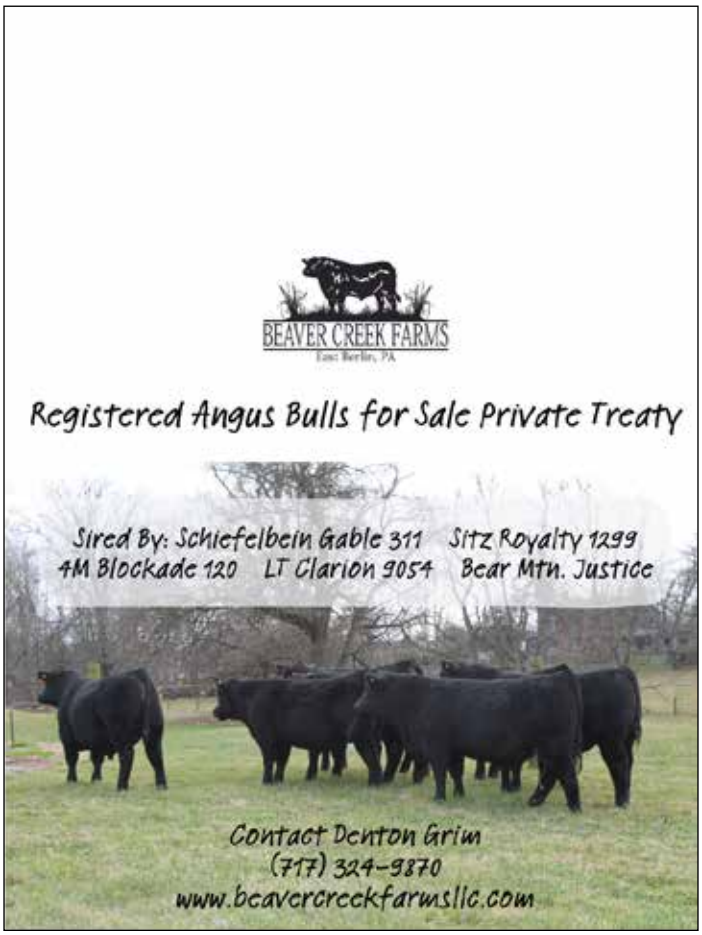
NCBA WELCOMES **ABBY MELNIKOFF**

Abby Melnikoff joins NCBA as manager, membership and affiliate services. Originally from Bertrand, Nebraska, Abby grew up on a small cow-calf operation and was actively involved in 4-H and FFA, where she enjoyed showing both cattle and sheep. She began her college career at Northeastern Junior College, earning an associate degree in agricultural business while competing on the livestock judging team. She then transferred to West Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in agricultural media and communication. While at WT, she was a member of the livestock judging team and earned Academic All-American honors.

Abby will be our new NCBA affiliate rep, and we are as excited to work with her as she is excited to meet all of us! If you have questions about NCBA and producer membership, please don't hesitate to get in touch with her: amelnikoff@beef.org .



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Pennsylvania Center for Beef Excellence

The Center for Beef Excellence seeks to partner with others iin the beef indusry by developing an infrastructure to enhance opportunitiees for all enterprise segments.

CENTER FOR BEEF EXCELLENCE OFFERS GRANT FUNDING TO PA BEEF PRODUCERS

The Center for Beef Excellence (CBE) remains committed to strengthening Pennsylvania's beef industry through its Beef Excellence Initiatives (BEI) and Bull Credit Program (BCP). Both programs are designed to improve profitability and productivity for beef producers across the Commonwealth.

BEEF EXCELLENCE INITIATIVES (BEI)

The BEI program supports infrastructure improvements that enhance the efficiency and functionality of beef operations. Grants may fund projects that increase productivity and profitability, covering up to—but not exceeding—50% of total project costs, with a maximum award of $10,000.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 saw a record number of applications for this program, with over 50 submissions for projects that included new or improved handling systems, fencing, barnyard areas, and cattle barns, among others. After careful review and prioritization, the CBE board awarded $160,000 in grants to 38 producers, representing a significant investment in the future of beef operations across Pennsylvania.

Applications and full details for the BEI program can be found on CBE's website. Applications will be accepted through April 30, 2026.

BULL CREDIT PROGRAM (BCP)

The Bull Credit Program will again provide support to Pennsylvania beef producers purchasing quality bulls that will increase the value of market steers and replacement heifers. This program offers a flat-rate reimbursement for qualifying bull purchases.

Producers purchasing a bull at the Bull Test Sale at the Livestock Evaluation Center in March may apply for pre-approval, allowing them to know in advance whether they will receive funding. Pre-

approval applies only to this sale. If a producer receives pre-approval but does not buy a bull at the Bull Test Sale, approval does not transfer—they must reapply after a purchase elsewhere.

Program details and applications are available on CBE's website. Pre-approval will be accepted through March 20, 2026. All other applications are due to CBE by May 30, 2026.

Both grant programs are offered on a reimbursement basis, meaning the projects must be completed prior to submitting an application. Funding is not guaranteed and depends on available resources and the number of applications received.

CBE is proud to offer these unique opportunities to Pennsylvania beef producers—programs unmatched elsewhere in the Northeast The strong response to both programs underscores how vital these grants are for the growth and long-term sustainability of beef operations in Pennsylvania.

For full details on grant opportunities, visit www.beefexcellence.com, follow the Center for Beef Excellence on Facebook, email cbegrants@gmail.com, or call 570-687-3150.

CBE OFFERS GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTING LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARIANS IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Center for Beef Excellence understands the importance of access to large animal veterinarians for Pennsylvania beef producers. Large animal veterinarians play a critical role in the health and productivity of Pennsylvania's beef cattle industry.

CBE remains committed to investing in the professionals who are essential to the success of Pennsylvania's cattle producers by offering two programs to support large animal veterinarians.

CBE will once again offer their Veterinary Excellence Initiatives grant launched in fiscal year 2024-2025. This grant program is aimed at supporting large animal veterinarians who specialize in beef cattle. The Veterinary Excellence Initiatives was created to help these professionals acquire essential equipment for diagnosing and treating cattle. The program also encourages infrastructure improvements that will enhance clinic capabilities and strengthen the services offered to beef producers throughout Pennsylvania. Applications will be available online and accepted through February 20, 2026.

New for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, CBE will be offering their Veterinary Student Scholarship program. This scholarship will be available to third year veterinary students who plan to practice in Pennsylvania with a focus on cattle. At least one $5,000 scholarship will be awarded. Applications will be available on CBE's website and will be accepted through February 15, 2026.

To learn more about the Veterinary Excellence Initiatives or Veterinary Student Scholarship, visit www.beefexcellence.com, follow CBE on Facebook, email cbegrants@gmail.com, or call 570-687-3150.

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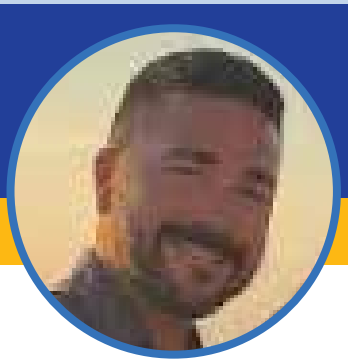
Your Board –

The following six individuals will be running for PA Cattlemen's open board positions in 2026. We'd like to introduce you to them and announce their candidacy. All six will be at the annual meeting Feb. 21 in Altoona and will be wearing a red carnation. Take some time to introduce yourself and ask them questions. Members will be able to vote for the five open positions during the banquet that evening. Good luck to all – we've got a bright future with this exceptional ballot!



Dylan Beam
(up for re-election)

My name is Dylan Beam. I am a 30-year-old cattle producer from Nottingham. My wife, two boys and I live on Herr Angus Farm, where I have worked for the past 8 years and have been the farm manager for the past 3. In 2018, I graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in animal science focusing on reproduction. Growing up in Pennsylvania and going to Oklahoma, it was a truly eye-opening experience, and I quickly fell in love with the cattle industry and knew it was something I wanted to make a career in. I never thought I would be able to make a career out of it back home in Pennsylvania, but I am truly thankful to have gotten the opportunity at Herr Angus Farm. I enjoy being in all sectors of the cattle business, and that is what I get to experience everyday at Herr's. From breeding and calving cows, embryo work, developing bulls, and buying and selling feeder/fat cattle, every day is something new and exciting.

My hobbies include family Gator rides, trying to keep up with our two boys, team roping and running a small cow/calf operation at my family's farm.

Jeff Berry

My name is Jeff Berry, and I am proud to call Port Royal home. Together with my family, I operate Homestead Farming Inc., where we raise cow-calf/feedlot/seedstock, Black Angus cattle with a focus on stewardship, herd health and producing quality beef. Farming has always been more than a livelihood for me — it's a way of life!

Beyond the farm, I have been involved in agricultural leadership, as an active member of the Juniata County Agricultural Society, and also as vice president of the Juniata County Farm Bureau. I am committed to strengthening the voice of Pennsylvania cattle producers, ensuring that policies and programs support both family farms and the broader beef industry. I also believe strongly in giving back and in helping the next generation of cattle producers find their place in agriculture.

Serving on the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association board would allow me to represent producers like myself — families who balance tradition with innovation — and to advocate for policies and programs that strengthen our industry. My goal is to ensure that cattlemen across the commonwealth have a strong voice, and that our association continues to grow as a resource for producers, consumers and communities alike.

Tyler Brown

I am a first-generation cattleman and the owner of Foxknoll Cattle Company, where our program focuses on high-quality, genomically and EPD-driven females, along with commercial feeders and replacement heifers. I operate the business with the help of my father, Scott, and my beautiful wife, Mackenzie, whose support has been instrumental in our growth. My passion for agriculture began in 4-H and continued to deepen as I gained hands-on experience within the industry during high school and college. Working with Dylan Beam at Herr Angus Farms prior to graduating college played a significant role in expanding my knowledge and appreciation for the cattle business and ultimately inspired me to build my own operation. While growing Foxknoll Cattle Company, I also serve as a financial controller for J.P. Morgan, working between the Newark and Wilmington offices. We live on our 70-acre farm, which we have steadily expanded since the beginning. We are committed to continued growth and to building strong, lasting relationships within the cattle industry.

– Your Voice!

Phil Dunn

Phil Dunn was raised on a beef/crop farm in Huntingdon County that is still in the family. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall College, he spent 35 years employed by the Senate of Pennsylvania; retiring in 2019 as the chief of staff to the Senate majority whip. While in the Senate, Phil was involved extensively with state programs that pertained to agriculture and environmental protection. After leaving the Senate, Phil worked for Lancaster Farmland Trust in ag conservation outreach.

Phil is a Master Watershed Steward, as well as on the board of directors of the Chiques Creek Watershed Alliance and the Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education. He is currently serving a term on the Lancaster County Conservation District as an associate director. Phil served one term on the West Donegal Township board of supervisors and two terms on the township planning commission. At present, he is assisting the PA Cattlemen's Association by serving with the Legislative Affairs Committee. Phil also was recently BQA certified by the PA Beef Council.

Glenn Eberly

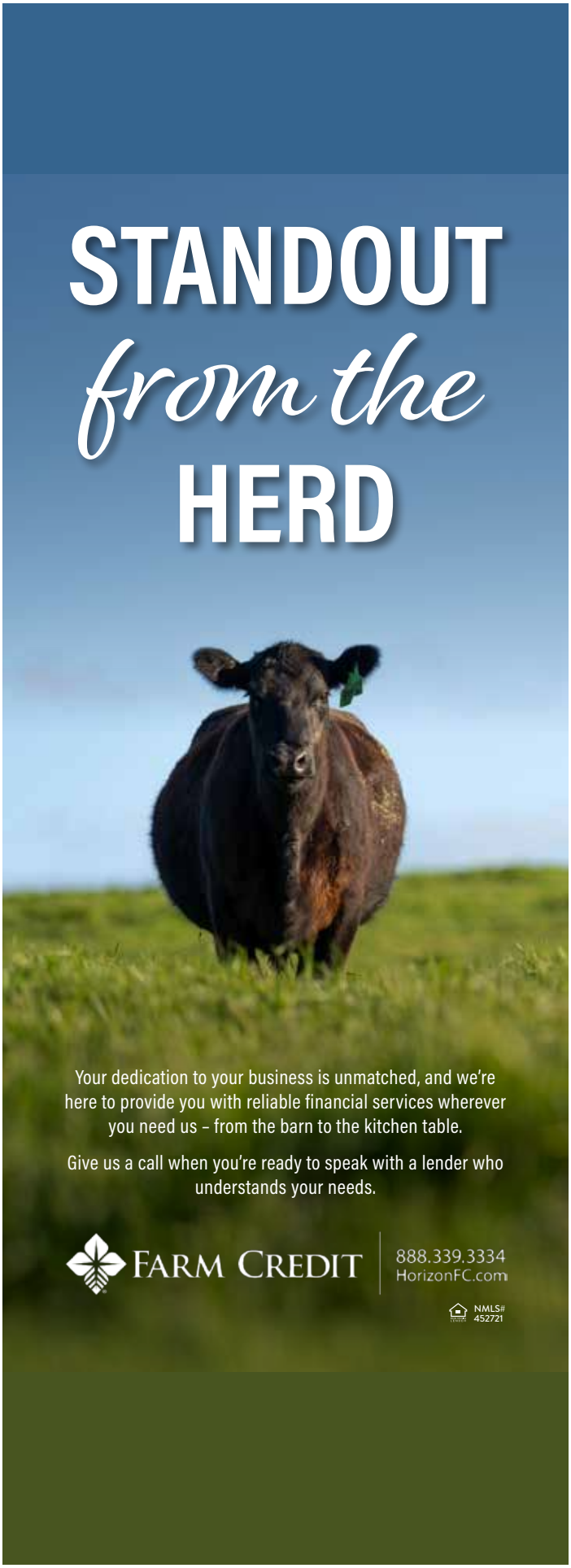
Glenn Eberly and his family own 165 registered Angus. He is married with four children and four grandchildren. He sells about 40 Angus bulls and many Angus females each year and also brokers direct sales of several hundred feeder and finished cattle each year.

"I have been blessed with a very broad career in beef. From having a seat on the faculty in The Department of Dairy and Animal Science at PSU and being in the registered cattle business for 50 years, to the finished product," he said.

After graduating from Penn State, Glenn spent time as the manager of a Polled Hereford farm and also as the head buyer at a slaughterhouse. He was also director of the Livestock Evaluation Center for 25 years, where he was responsible for the annual bull, hog, ram and meat goat testing programs and sales. After that, he worked for United Producers Coop buying and selling cattle. Glenn has been very involved with PCA for over 40 years, serving as vice president and president during that time. During his tenure, the board started the Keystone Cattlemen Magazine and the PA Beef Expo. He has also been a member of NCBA for 38 years, a policy division board member for 12 years and a member of the Top Hand Club for 25 years. He has also served on the board of the PA Beef Council and served on the boards of many other farm organizations, such as Farm Bureau, PA Livestock Association, PA FFA Foundation, PA Angus Association and Central PA Livestock Producers Coop. He served for 3 years on the National Cattlemen's Beef Board and has judged more than 100 county and state fairs. He currently serves as a consultant for several companies and a number of beef producers.

Adam Kauf
(up for re-election)

Adam Kauf is a third-generation seedstock Angus producer, running AJK Ebony Acres with his wife Jennifer (a large animal veterinarian), and his children Adella and Lance. The farm is a regular consignor to the Pennsylvania Performance Bull Test and markets replacement females to commercial producers and freezer beef to individuals. Adam holds a bachelor's of science in animal science from Oklahoma State University, and master's and doctoral degrees in animal science from The Pennsylvania State University. He has previously served 9 years in two stints on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Cattleman's Association, and 6 years on the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Beef Council. He has held multiple leadership roles on each, ultimately serving as chair of the latter. He is currently on the boards of directors for both the PCA and the Pennsylvania Angus Association, as well as serving the beef industry through the Pennsylvania Beef Producers Working Group. In addition to the farm, he is a FARM program certified Animal Care Evaluator in the dairy industry, provides stockmanship education, and is an agricultural fencing contractor. If re-elected, Adam looks forward to continuing to help PCA grow in size and activities serving the state beef industry.



PENNSYLVANIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

2026 PCA Annual Meeting & Banquet
February 21, 2026

Blair County Convention Center – Altoona, PA
10:00am Junior Registration • 12:30pm Adult Registration
Meetings & Banquet through 9:00pm

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Any questions contact PCA at **pca@pacattlemen.org**
or **Karen Wheatley** at 717-825-9824

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*Mark Gardiner, Gardiner Angus Ranch,Ashland, Kansas

*Dr. John Currin, Associate Professor & Production Management Medicine, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

*Levi Guyer, Assistant Field Chief, USDA, New Holland, Pennsylvania

*Gene Copenhaver, newly elected President of NCBA, Meadowview, Virginia

*Colin Woodall, NCBA CEO, Centennial, Colorado

*Kyle Fleener, featured Junior Program Speaker, B&K Cattle Co., and Fleener Club Lambs, Biglerville, Pennsylvania

- **BRAND NEW JUNIOR CATTLEMEN's PROGRAM**
- **hear from Penn State and DelVal Animal Science Progream reps**
- **Kyle Fleener will be talking about getting your animals show-ring ready**
- **Featured speaker Mark Gardiner has a special presentation just for juniors**
- **Election of new officers**
- **and lunch!**

Break-out sessions will include: farm-to table direct consumer marketing, cattle markets, state and legislative updates, scholarship and BQA awards and a dynamic trade show!

Full details will be released this fall

February 21, 2026
Blair County Convention Center
Altoona, PA
local hotel room blocks with discounted rates will be available

Contact Us:

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Somerset County Beef Producers 2025 Recap!

The Somerset County Beef Producers had a busy 2025! In March, we hosted our first Hoof to Rail event, looking at live cattle at the Hunsberger Farm, followed by evaluating carcasses at Hoffer Packing. We would like to thank the PA Beef Working Group, Penn State's Tara Felix and Levi Geyer from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service and our cooperating beef producers for making this event a success.

Our spring banquet was in April with Colin Woodall from NCBA as our speaker. As usual, he did a great job of informing producers about current issues facing the beef industry. We had a great turnout and had PA Department of Agriculture there signing up producers for premise IDs and distributing RFID tags.

August brought our members out to enjoy deep-fried ribeyes and Stahl's fresh-cut fries. We were able to gather as a group, sitting down and enjoying a great meal while chatting with friends. PCA President Darwin Nissley and Executive Director Karen Wheatley were able to make the trip to represent our state cattlemen's organization.

Our Club Calf Show/Sale and Fall Jackpot filled the Somerset County Fairgrounds the last weekend in September. Adam Zurin and Curtis Patton were the judges for a busy weekend.

We finished up a great year with our board of directors' election in November and were honored to give out our first beef scholarship. Congratulations to Gabby Hay on being our first scholarship recipient. Gabby is a senior at Berlin High School and is excited to attend Penn State next year. Thanks to all Somerset County Beef Producers for adding to a great year.

2026 Somerset County Beef Producers board of directors: Annette Knotts - President, Dan Ferko - Vice President, Greta Durst - Treasurer, Scott Rhoads - Secretary, James T. Yoder, Dan Miller, Steve Schmuck, Johnny Speigle, Aaron McKinney, Cody Lynch, Justin VanGilder, Robin Coleman – directors.

Thanks to our 2026 Sponsors: Sperry Well Drilling Inc • Dovan Cattle Co. • White Oak Vet Clinic • Coleman Custom Harvesting • M&R Farm • J.R. Foreman Hoof Trimming • Valley View Vet LLC • Sechler Insurance Group LLC • Mishler Custom Harvesting • Barbera Law • Tri Star • Yachere Feed • K&D Auto Electric • Highlands Chiropractic • Greater Ferndale Sportsmen's' Club • Neff's Angus Farms • Albright's Pizza and more • Roof Garden Market • Somerset Trust Co • Riggs Industries • Breezy Acres Farm • New Enterprise Stone and Lime • Zambo's Tree Service • Hemminger Homes • Rolling Hill Farm • Graceland Meadows Inc • Mark's Harness Shop • Grantsville Truck and Trailer • Shane Shaffer Inc

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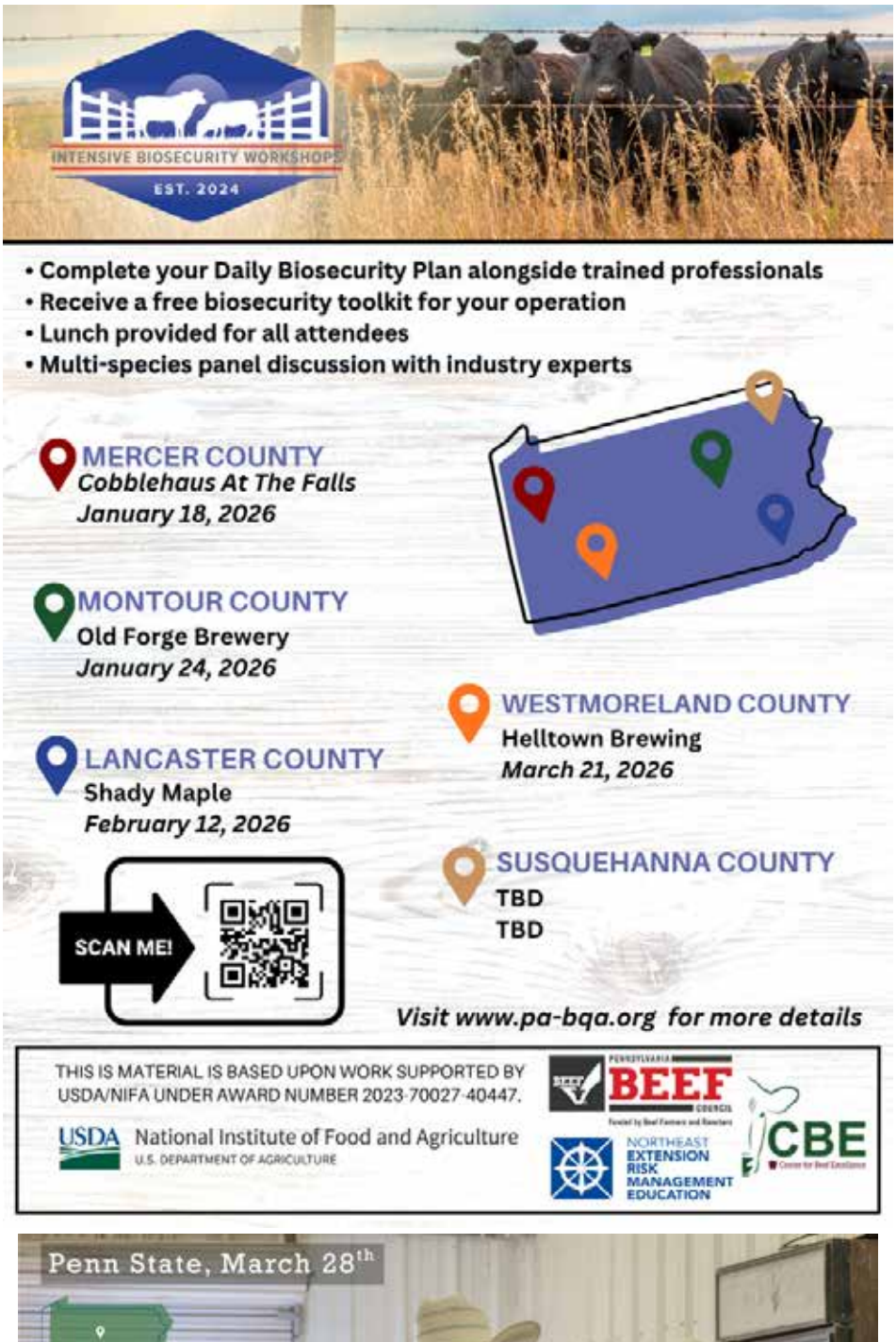
Intensive Biosecurity Workshops Return in 2026

The Intensive Biosecurity Workshops equip producers with the practical skills, resources and confidence needed to strengthen day-to-day disease prevention on their operations. Through hands-on demonstrations, scenario-based discussions and real-world examples from across the livestock sector, participants learn how to design and implement effective biosecurity plans that protect animal health and business continuity. Each attendee receives a biosecurity toolkit and works through the development of a written operational plan using nationally recognized templates. This training not only enhances preparation for routine herd management, but it also positions producers to be ready to submit for a permit to move cattle if animal movement restrictions or permitting requirements are enacted during a foreign or domestic disease emergency. Visit pa-bqa.org for more information.



Stockmanship & Stewardship Comes to Pennsylvania

Join us in State College for a full day of hands-on learning, practical cattle-handling education and producer-focused sessions designed to strengthen skills, improve efficiency and reinforce Beef Quality Assurance principles. This Stockmanship & Stewardship event brings together industry educators, stockmanship specialists and beef professionals to deliver a well-rounded, interactive experience for producers of all experience levels.

The day begins with registration and refreshments, followed by a welcoming session that highlights the value of BQA certification and provides timely insight into consumer expectations and trends influencing today's beef industry. From there, participants experience a live animal handling demonstration led by Ron Gill and Curt Pate, showcasing how low-stress techniques, understanding cattle behavior and thoughtful handler positioning lead to safer, smoother and more effective cattle movement.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, attendees rotate through a series of hands-on cattle work stations guided by nationally respected stockmanship educators. These small-group sessions allow producers to

practice positioning, pressure-and-release techniques, movement strategies and communication skills directly with live cattle. At the same time, classroom breakouts offer focused learning on topics such as calving challenges, emergency decision-making and humane endpoints, carcass disposal considerations, and facility design that promotes low-stress animal flow.

Lunch provides time to network, ask questions and exchange ideas with fellow producers and instructors before the afternoon continues with additional hands-on rotations and a facility design session offering practical guidance for improving workflow and safety—whether participants are planning upgrades or refining existing setups.

Before the evening program, attendees gather for Putting It All Together – Moving Cattle Through Systems, an applied session with Ron Gill and Curt Pate. This demonstration ties together the day's lessons by walking participants through cattle movement in real handling systems—showing how the same low-stress principles used in open pens translate seamlessly into alleyways, chutes and facility setups at home.

Following this capstone demonstration, participants round out the day with a Happy Hour at the Hilton Garden Inn State College, featuring hors d'oeuvres, drinks and an engaging closing program. The evening includes True Value of a Carcass: How BQA Principles Impact Quality, where Culley Kutz of Certified Angus Beef leads a live carcass breakdown highlighting how handling, nutrition and care translate into higher-value cuts and improved consumer satisfaction. The event concludes with the Raised with Respect Dinner, sponsored by Sysco and Certified Angus Beef. For more information and to sign up visit: https://www.stockmanshipandstewardship.org/. Hotel block at: Hilton Garden Inn State College, closes Feb. 9, 2026.

Join Us in Saratoga Springs, NY for the 2026 Northeast Beef Producer Workshop

Make plans now to attend the Northeast Beef Producer Workshop, April 24–25, 2026, in Saratoga Springs, NY. This two-day event brings producers together for hands-on learning and fresh insights. Experience a farm tour, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training, networking dinner and a live butchery demo that bridges the gap from carcass to consumer. You will leave inspired, connected and equipped with new strategies to maximize beef's value and your impact in the Northeast marketplace.

The workshop is hosted in partnership with the national Beef Quality Assurance program, the New York Beef Council, Butcher Solutions LLC and with funding support through the Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement program.

Learn more and RSVP at https://bit.ly/2026Wksp. The hotel block closes on March 23, 2026, and the deadline to RSVP is April 10, 2026.

Celebrate the Craft: 2026 Best Butcher Contest Set for May 14

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Best Butcher Contest will take place Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Penn State Meat Lab located in State College during the Pennsylvania Association of Meat Processors Annual Conference. Hosted in partnership with the PA Pork Producers Council, this exciting competition celebrates the artistry, skill and craftsmanship that define the region's top butchers and meat cutters.

Contestants will showcase their mastery through timed precision cutting of both beef and pork subprimals, testing not only their speed and accuracy but also their knowledge of meat quality, yield and presentation. This dynamic event highlights the technical expertise and pride that keep local meat cases and local economies thriving.

From pasture to plate, these professionals are essential links in our food system, ensuring quality, safety and satisfaction while supporting local farms, family businesses and rural economies. Yet, with a projected decline of nearly 3,000 butchery jobs nationwide by 2033, it is more important than ever to shine a light on this skilled trade and inspire the next generation to step up to the block.

Producers, we need you to help us spread the word! Encourage your local butchers and meat cutters to enter this year's contest for a chance to showcase their craftsmanship and compete for cash prizes awarded to the top three finishers.

See the excitement for yourself! Scan the QR code to watch the 2025 Best Butcher Contest recap video and experience the energy, precision, and pride that define this one-of-a-kind event.

Learn more and apply on NortheastBeef.org

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We are extremely grateful for the businesses that are listed below. With their help, Pennsylvania Cattlemen's is able to provide educational, leadership and legislative opportunities to "beef up" the Pennsylvania cattle industry. Our Industry Partners provide products and services to not only make your cattle better, but make your cattle thrive!

If you're interested in learning more about an Industry Partnership, please contact the office at 717-825-9824 or pca@pacattlemen.org.

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FEATURED SPEAKER

MARK GARDINER

We are excited to introduce our featured speaker for the 2026 PA Cattlemen's Annual Meeting, **Mark Gardiner** of Ashland, Kansas. The 48,000 acre **Gardiner Angus Ranch** is home to 4,500 head of registered and commercial Angus cows. Their program has put more than 125 bulls in A.I., including programs such as ABS, Genex and Select Sires. The Gardiner Angus program also includes a 46-year (and running) production sales series, which has featured (through January 2025), over 12,000 registered females, 20,000 registered bulls, and averaged over $5,700. Mark also serves as the Chairman of the Board for U.S. Premium Beef, a marketing company which provides U.S. beef producers an opportunity to retain ownership of the beef they produce from the ranch to retail. Winner of the Kansas Master Farm Family award, as well as NCBA's Cattle Business of the Century Award and the National Cattlemen's Foundation Vision Award, Mark is excited to join us in Altoona in February to speak at both the junior session and the main banquet. Join us February 21, 2026 in Altoona, PA, for an exciting PA Cattlemen's Annual Meeting!

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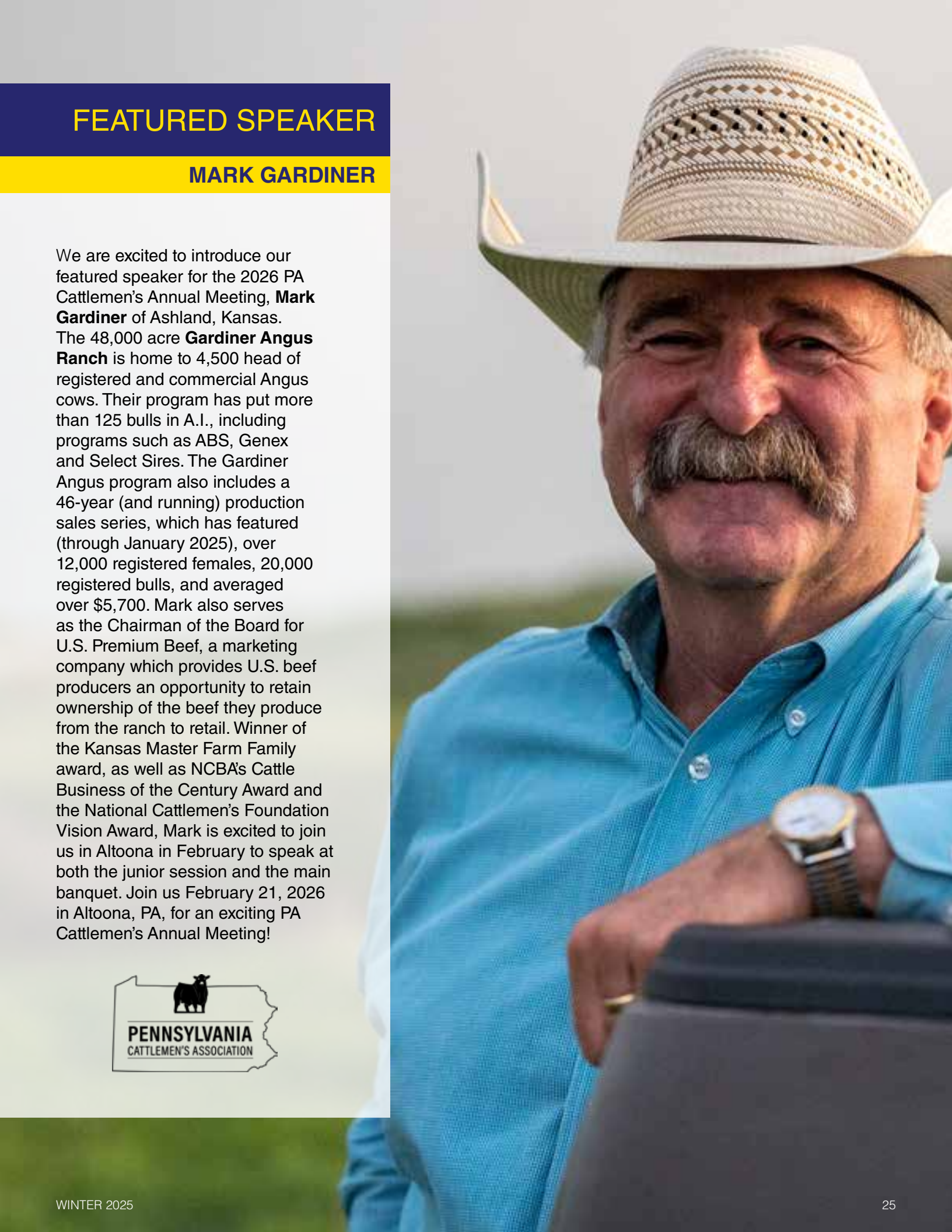

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At the PA Cattlemen's Annual Meeting, Feb. 21, 2026, members will discuss and vote on the following by-law changes. If you have thoughts/opinions on either change, please contact your local PA Cattlemen's representative and show up to the annual meeting to vote!

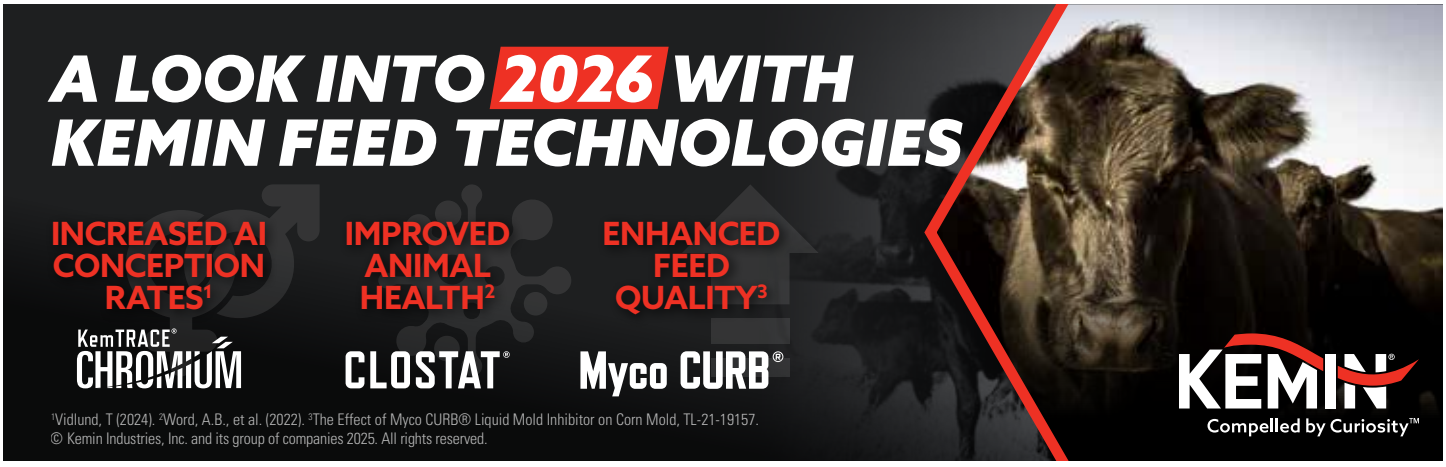
Suggested by-law changes (New wording highlighted in yellow, deletions presented as strikethrough) for presentation at 2026 Annual PCA Meeting.

Article II. Membership and Meetings.

3. Junior Members. Junior members shall be young men and women under twenty-one (21) years of age and under as of January 1 who are interested in the breeding and raising of beef cattle. Junior members shall be entitled to all the privileges of active membership, except they shall not possess the right to vote.

Article III. Directors.

1. Elections. The business and property of the Corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors who shall be Active or Junior Members of the Corporation. One-third (1/3) of the Elected Directors shall be elected each year. Director term of office will begin and end at the adjournment of the annual meeting at which the election for directors occurred. Fifteen (15) Elected Directors shall be elected for a three (3) year term. Any Elected Director may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms or six (6) years total. Any Elected Director following two (2) consecutive terms is eligible to run or may be reappointed to the board after a lapse of one (1) year. This lapse shall also apply after the Ex-officio term of the immediate past president, should it occur after the completion of the president's six (6) year eligibility for directorship. If three (3) meetings in succession are missed by a director, the president of the association shall contact the director to discuss the intentions of the director as to continuing in the position. A fourth (4th) missed meeting without notice will be considered abandonment of the position by the director in question. ~~the post will be considered vacant.~~ The Board of Directors at their discretion may either re-instate the director or the remaining directors shall appoint a person to complete the term remaining.



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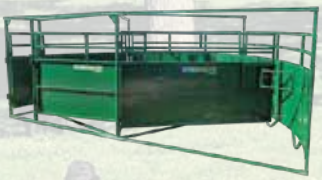

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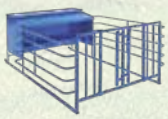

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