Go to Bat for Agriculture

Steve and Bonnie Wenger with children Brad (17), Brandon (14) and Nicholas (8)

Steve and Bonnie Wenger of Lebanon County have been helping Farm Bureau "go to bat" for agriculture since they were young farmers. Raising a family and starting their farm operation which includes 300 beef cattle, 1,000 laying hens and 1,000 acres of cropland, Steve has served as Farm Bureau leader at the county, state and national level. Serving on his county's legislative committee, Steve played a first-hand role in Farm Bureau's "going to bat" for farmers ever illegal restrictive local ordinances. Although it wasn't a problem here, I thought what Farm Bureau did in supporting agriculture was good," he said.

After several years of hard work, legislation allowing farmers to request a review of troublesome ordinances by the state Attorney General was enacted last year. Wenger feels he's received as much as he's given from Farm Bureau. "What I really like about Farm Bureau is that it gives you confidence to work with your legislators," he said.

For Bonnie Wenger, Farm Bureau's activities to tell the farmer's story to the public, such as the Mobile Ag Education Science Lab, that most excite her. She has helped bring the Ag Lab, which uses science experiments to teach elementary students about agriculture, to her school district. "Farm Bureau has taught me to believe in the farmer, can make a difference, and that every voice counts," she said.

At a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau depends on members like Bonnie and Steve Wenger to help "go to bat" to solve the problems confronting agriculture.

Special Member Benefit

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Recent Achievements For Our Members Include:

- Won enactment of a law to challenge and repeal illegal local farm ordinances.
- Restored limits on eminent domain to prevent the taking of property for private economic development.
- Secured continuation of deer management practices to reduce damage to farm crops.
- Helped restore state funding for conservation districts and agricultural research.
- Achieved passage of "locavore" law raising the penalties for unlawful conduct against agricultural enterprises.
- Secured extension of the federal MILC price safety net program for dairy farmers.
- Worked to promote programs and enterprises for renewable fuels from agricultural products.
- Fought unreasonable regulations for the licensing of commercial manicurists and brokers.
- Achieved passage of Central American free trade agreement to boost Pennsylvania farm exports.

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