

January 7, 2020

Mr. Frank X. Schneider
Director, Nutrient Management & Odor Management Programs
State Conservation Commission
2301 North Cameron Street
Room 310
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

RE: Reappointment of Dave Graybill to the Chesapeake Bay Partnership Agricultural Work Group

Dear Mr. Schneider:

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB), the state's largest general farm organization, recommends the renomination of David Graybill to the Chesapeake Bay Partnership Agricultural Work Group. Dave demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship and water quality and is a leader in agricultural matters that makes him an effective and productive member of this Agricultural Work Group.

Dave operates Red Sunset Farm, a dairy farm in Juniata County, which is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. He milks approximately 60 head of registered Holsteins and raises replacement heifers. In addition to his main feed crops, he grows sunflowers, wheat and buckwheat as cover crops, and all his cropland is no-till. Dave is passionate about conservation efforts, and utilizes buffer strips along waterways, implements contour farming, has 15 acres of trees as wildlife habitat, and 30 colonies of bees as pollinators. Over the years, he has made numerous improvements to the barn, cow walkways, and other features on the farm – all designed to keep water clean and protect the environment. Additionally, he's put in new manure storage, with a leak detection system and a compost system. Dave has also updated all the incandescent light bulbs to LED lights, and captures plate cooler water and uses it as cow drinking water.

A former agricultural educator, Dave was among the first dozen individuals to be certified as a nutrient plan writer in Pennsylvania. Since 2011, he has had a voluntary Act 38 nutrient management plan. For the last four years, he has been participating in the Natural Resources and Conservation Services (NRCS) Conservation Stewardship Program. He is currently a member of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Farmer Advisory Committee. Moreover, he was one of five farmers to sit on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Committee and has served as a member of the Ag Work Group. Dave's farm recently received the Environmental Stewardship Award by the American Dairy Association Northeast.

Within Farm Bureau, Dave is a member of the Executive Committee of PFB's State Board of Directors, and, after eight years on the State Dairy Committee, was recently appointed Chairman. He is the former chair of PFB's Natural and Environmental Resources Committee. At the national level, Dave is an appointed member of American Farm Bureau Federation's Environmental Regulations Issue Advisory Committee. He's also been an active Farm Bureau leader at the county level, including serving on the county board, membership chair, vice president and president to name a few.

Dave is a knowledgeable spokesman on behalf of agricultural producers, and applies the grassroots philosophy of Farm Bureau to committees and work groups outside of PFB advocating for the policy positions supported by the majority of farmers in our organization. His experience has provided an understanding of the important role farmers and organizations share in the regulatory process that impacts agriculture and the environment. Dave will analyze critical environmental issues and make balanced recommendations to help agriculture meet environmental goals.

A résumé for Dave Graybill has been included for your reference.

Please direct any further questions to Bill Neilson, Director, Commodity and Compliance Programs, at 717-731-3542 or waneilson@pfb.com.

Thank-you for your consideration to renominate Dave Graybill to the Chesapeake Bay Partnership Ag Work Group.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Ebert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rick Ebert
President