



## Building Bridges


We believe in creating connections that allow parties experiencing a conflict to find their common ground and work toward better relationships with each other. We serve state-wide as a liaison to communities for conflict management on issues affecting agriculture, land use, environment and planning.

We help entities move forward despite what was originally perceived as a gap or barrier. The Program works to build bridges between:

- farmers and non-farm neighbors
- farmers and municipal officials
- farmers' understanding of and compliance with agricultural regulations
- Municipality's understanding of agricultural regulations, Right-to-Farm law, and appropriate ordinances.

The Program works to provide a connection between seemingly unrelated organizations or entities.

Examples include:

- the agricultural community and law enforcement or first responders (also known as all-hazards preparedness)
  - agriculture and stormwater issues
  - municipalities and the PA Department of Agriculture
  - linking experts who can address questions or concerns with the person or agency who has the need; covering a wide variety of topics.
- 



[www.paagombudsman.com](http://www.paagombudsman.com)

**Shelly Dehoff Eastern PA • 717-880-0848**  
shellydehoff@lancasterconservation.org

**Beth Futrick Western PA • 814-696-0877 ext. 5**  
bfutrick@blairconservationdistrict.org

June 2015



# The Pennsylvania Agricultural Ombudsman Program

Building Bridges Between

Farmers  
Municipalities  
Citizens  
Conservation Districts  
Agri-business





## We provide:

- Advocacy for agricultural issues and concerns.
- Proactive education about ag issues to promote understanding and minimize conflicts.
- A venue to encourage civil dialogue between concerned or affected parties, such as farmers, neighbors, municipalities and other entities.
- Legislative networking to assist with problem-solving for their constituents, related to agriculture.

01: Purpose  
 ...ing regulations and districts  
 ...ting the health, safety, morals, conve  
 ...e community. They have been designe  
 ...ty from fire, panic, and other dangers, t  
 ...ercrowding of land, to avoid undue co  
 ...ate provision of transportation  
 ... of each district and  
 ... value of bu

## We offer educational resources or programs related to:

- Manure and/or Nutrient Management Regulations
- Right to Farm
- Zoning and land use planning
- Odor management techniques
- Fly minimization techniques
- Mortality composting
- Good neighbor relations
- Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environments Act (ACRE) updates
- Impacts to Ag due to ordinance content



*Available to farmers, municipal officials, partnering agencies and other interested parties.*

## Additional Services:



- Creation of brochures with statewide applicability
- Fly complaint response actions
- Meeting facilitation and moderating discussions
- Educational explanation and 'behind the scenes' research
- Ordinance review (non-legal)

## Specific areas of focus include:

- Equine owners
- ACRE review requests
- Good neighbor relations
- Manure Management
- Odor minimization
- Mortality composting tips
- Stormwater

