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the LEADER



NOT SO BUSINESS AS USUAL



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Last month I commended all of our state's farmers for #stillfarming and gave my assurance that all of us at North Carolina Farm Bureau are still working too. And while it's certainly not business as usual, I'm proud to say that our staff and volunteers are just as focused as ever.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of you who have reached out to say "good job" or "hang in there". One of the many lessons I learned on the farm growing up was that when times get tough, you go to work! Sometimes, that is all you really can do. And while uncertain times may lie ahead, I know the Farm Bureau family will pull together and stay strong through whatever the future holds.

SHAWN HARDING
NC FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

CORONAVIRUS & NC AGRICULTURE

NOT SO BUSINESS AS USUAL



“Business as usual.” Wouldn’t that be nice?

Nothing about the recent pandemic has been usual. In fact, I would venture to say no one has experienced anything like our country’s response to COVID-19. Many of us probably think back to 9/11 for comparison, and while both tragic events are watershed moments for our world, the widespread disruption to daily life feels so surreal and disorienting this time around.

But it’s the difficult times that show true character, and I’ve been impressed by the resolve and can-do attitude shown by our staff. From Legal, Public Policy, and Legislative, to Communications, Field Services, and everything in between, our staff are busy doing vital work for farmers and Farm Bureau. Our Women’s, Young Farmer & Rancher, and LEAD programs have adapted to virtual meetings and continue to look for ways to serve and grow in leadership. And think for a

moment about how helpful our Ag in the Classroom program has been to parents and teachers struggling to teach in a completely different way.

For the past several weeks we’ve been conducting Federation staff meetings via video conference calls. It’s been a great way for our staff to stay connected to one another both personally and professionally as we all find our way through this stay-at-home order. In my short time as president, I’ve come to enjoy dropping in and chatting with our staff at the office or spending the day working with field staff. So having a chance to see how everyone is getting on through this has been a big bonus for me, and I think it has been a bonding experience for staff to share common struggles and little victories as we all cope with quarantine.

These calls are not just social hours though – they are important meetings that help share critical information throughout the organization. They have also provided

an interesting snapshot of all of the hard work that is still going on within Farm Bureau. On our most recent call we discussed the disappointing news that North Carolina has joined a lawsuit opposing the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which Farm Bureau supports, and our Legal and Public Policy Teams outlined steps we’ll be taking in response to that news. Our Public Policy Team also talked about recent cases of COVID-19 on farming operations and at food processing facilities and what we can learn from these situations to help support farmers down the road. We got a state legislative update on emergency relief funds allocated by the General Assembly and what the legislature might do next. The Communications Team shared their efforts at setting up interviews with reporters and spreading positive news about farmers on social media. We were updated on plans for Women’s Conference in 2021, learned the exciting news that Ty Meyer advanced to the Sweet Sixteen of the AFBF Collegiate YF&R Discussion Meet, and heard from Field Staff about county activities and challenges doing business during these difficult times. And we spent a good deal of time talking about how we’re going to do business in the future, because we’re grappling with the same uncertainty you are.



Here for You Promise

COVID-19 SUPPORT

On April 21st, I announced that North Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be providing a twenty percent dividend payment to its automobile policyholders for April and May 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The twenty percent dividend was approved by the Board of Directors and amounts to approximately \$22 million in savings for policyholders – savings rightfully due to Farm Bureau insureds as a result of stay-at-home guidelines that have been in place in North Carolina.

The dividends will cover two months of voluntary premiums in for the months of April and May, on both Personal Automobile and Business Automobile policies. Dividend checks will be mailed in mid-June directly to policyholders. No policyholder action is required.

Additionally, we have temporarily delayed the cancellation and expiration of policies due to nonpayment of premiums or member dues.

Helping our customers during these difficult times is our top priority. I believe these efforts, together with the hard work and personal service being carried out every day by our staff and agents across the state, demonstrate our commitment to our members, and that’s why we’ve decided to call this our Here For You Promise.

At Farm Bureau, we’re in the people business. And I want our customers to know that we are here for them, we are listening, and we are committed to helping any way we can. That’s our promise.