

## Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

### Indoor Humidity in Winter

Nobody looks forward to the dryness that goes along with winter. Dry air seems to steal the moisture from your skin and everything else in the house. At a certain level it allows static electricity to build and you get that annoying shock when you touch something. So why then is there water dripping from the air conditioning duct in the ceiling and why is water running down the windows? It's really about the amount of moisture that the air can hold at lower temperatures. Warm air can hold more moisture than cold air and if you don't control how much moisture is allowed inside your home, you may find out the hard way that you should have. Moisture inside is generated by cooking, bathing, plants, and even breathing. Most homes are pretty leaky with respect to air and new outside air is usually infiltrating at the bottom of the house while warm moist air is being pushed out the top. It's ok that moist air leaves but when the warm air carrying it leaves, your heating system has to condition the air that came in from below and that costs a fortune in weather like we have been experiencing. If you had an energy retrofit project done to stop the leakage, you definitely need a good bath fan and a delay switch to keep it running 45 minutes after the last shower. Homeowners often ask me why that is a part of an energy retrofit and why that fan needs a hood on the exterior of the house to carry the air all the way out. If you allow moisture to build inside the house, it will manifest itself in several ways. Mildew and mold is probably the first and possibly the worst way you will realize there is a problem. The second is that water will destroy the window sashes and/or window sills if water is allowed to condense on the cold glass and run down constantly. Blinds and drapes make this problem occur more often and make it worse in any home. The window pane is a good conductor of temperature and even though there are 2 panes, it is still less efficient than an insulated exterior wall at keeping the cold out. When warm moist air from inside the house comes in contact with the cold glass, it immediately drops most of the water it was holding because the air temperature is lowered by several degrees. The cooler you keep your home, the more moisture you will see on surfaces. Keep your eyes open for condensation inside and prevent it before damage occurs.

Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com

## Push on Vaccines Prompts Creation of Joint Task Force

By Rep. Joe Emrick

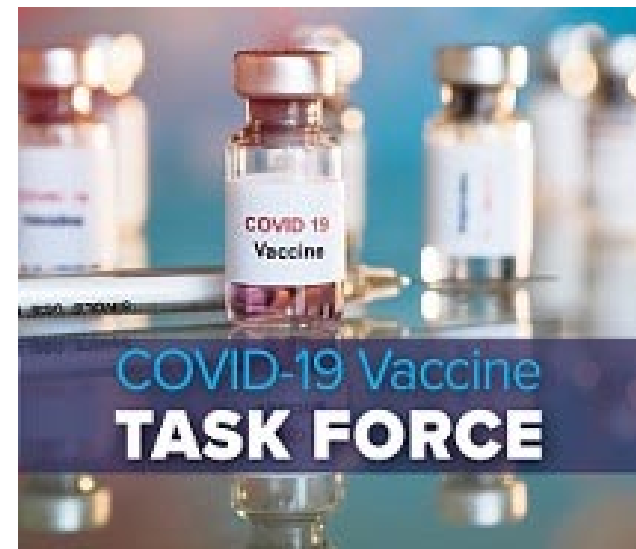
NAZARETH - After pressing hard for improvements in the state's poor performance rolling out the coronavirus vaccine, the Wolf administration responded by creating a COVID-19 Vaccine Joint Task Force with the Legislature.

The goal of the task force is to improve communications regarding what we, as lawmakers, are seeing and hearing in our own communities about vaccine issues, getting answers about those issues and ultimately making improvements as a result.

Rep. Tim O'Neal (R-Washington) will be our caucus' representative on the task force. Rep. O'Neal is the prime sponsor of a measure (House Bill 326) that would get the National Guard involved in the distribution and administration of the vaccine so more people who are clamoring for the shots can get them as soon as possible. The bill was approved unanimously in the House and is awaiting consideration in the Senate.

In addition to the four representatives – one from each caucus in the General Assembly – the task force will be made up of administration officials, including co-chairs Department of Health Acting Secretary Alison Beam and Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Randy Padfield.

Pennsylvania is lagging behind the vast majority of states in its administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, ranking 44th in the nation for the percentage of vaccines administered compared to the amount received according to Becker's Hospital Review.



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## House OKs Bill to Help Farmers, Support Agritourism

By Rep. Joe Emrick  
NAZARETH -

With Pennsylvania farmers facing ongoing challenges keeping their farms up and running to put food on our tables, the House has approved a bill that would remove barriers to agritourism and help farmers diversify.

House Bill 101 creates the Agritourism Activity Protection Act to provide limited civil liability protections to people who offer agritourism activities on their farms, such as tourism or entertainment activities that allow people to tour, explore, observe, learn about, participate in or be entertained by an aspect of agricultural production, harvesting, husbandry or rural lifestyle that occurs on the farm.

The bill would require the farmer or other activity provider to post specific warning signs and have a signed, written agreement with a participant that they have acknowledged the risk of participating in the activity.

The protections would not apply if the farmer or provider acts in a grossly negligent manner, purposefully causes the participant injury, commits an action or inaction that constitutes criminal conduct and causes the participant injury, or recklessly fails to warn or guard against a dangerous condition that causes injury or damages to a participant.

The bill is now before the state Senate for approval.

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