

December 9, 2021 – *via email transmission to Committee staff*

Hi, I'm told that there is some sort of meeting about fireworks on the 15th, and people are being encouraged to submit comments but it doesn't say how or where. It does list you as being in charge of the committee, so I'm sending you my feelings on it, and hoping if it has nothing to do with you, that you can point me in the right direction or forward this to someone it does concern.

I've been a horse owner for over 20 years and have raised sheep for maybe 7 or 10. We also enjoy fireworks and have set them off on the farm. I don't see any difference between fireworks and a lightning storm. Any animal that has problems with one will have issues with the other. My neighbors put up with sounds and smells that they consider unpleasant. I'm happy to put up with their fireworks and even enjoy them quite a bit. Most horse people will tell you that it's important to desensitize their horses to anything unusual, and I see fireworks as one of those things. In all my years I've never had an animal get more upset than they do if there is a storm.

That being said, I do think something needs to be done about people flouting the rules. They shouldn't be shooting bottle rockets at people's animals, or where sparks can light up hay. Back when fireworks were illegal in PA, one of the ways to get them legally was a permit. You paid \$10 to the fire company, you stated where and when you were going to set them off, and it explained the rules... how many feet from a building, you need sand to put out fires, whatever it was. I think this is a great idea, it supports the local fire company, it explains the rules to people who just don't know, and on the rare occasion you have a jerk who is causing trouble, you can get them for not having the permit and still let everyone else enjoy their freedom.

Thanks for your time
Megon Burkit

To the PA House and Senate
Committees of Agriculture and
Rural Affairs.

My name is Megan Burkitt,
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I have no organization affiliation and
this is my first time trying to voice
my opinion on an issue.

I currently own horses and sheep, and
have for almost 20 years. I am sad
that a few animal owners have spread
hysterical stories of animal injuries
from fireworks. We have set off
fireworks right on our farm and our
neighbors have with no issues. If
used responsibly they are no different
than a bad thunder storm.

I do think something could be done
to address the people not following the
safety rules. When fireworks were illegal
many people got them with a permit
from the local fire company. You paid
\$10 to the fire company, said where + when
you would set them off, and it explained
the rules for safety.

This benefits the local fire
companies. It also lets people know
that you cannot shoot them into
your neighbor's barn. And if someone
is causing a problem you can fine
them for not using a permit.

I enjoy fireworks and I respect
other people's right to enjoy them.

Thank you for your time

Megan Burkitt