



# Friends of Farm Show *Tails & Trails*



*The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. is pleased to share information and updates with friends, sponsors and anyone interested in the enhancement of one of our state's greatest treasures, the Pennsylvania Farm Show.*

**6/1**

**Winter 2018**



## New Celebrity Event

For the past seven years the Mike Waugh Celebrity Draft Horse Driving Contest was held on Tuesday evening at the show. It was a very successful venture, raising nearly \$18,000 per year. Well, for 2019 we are still holding a celebrity event but it will be a Celebrity Feed Scurry Competition. Celebrities, including local news personalities, legislators and a few prominent government officials, will be challenged to drive a team of draft horses pulling a feed scurry through an obstacle course with selected stations for loading and unloading straw bales. The bale handlers will be our 4-H & FFA Youth. Sounds like a lot of action and fun!

Each celebrity is sponsored by an association or corporate entity which pays \$850 each. The sponsors receive signage on the scurry and recognition at the event. For safety reasons an experienced horseman accompanies each celebrity in the race.

Participating at the event this year will be the 2018 Miss Pennsylvania, Kayla Repasky, from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Also participating will be the Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, Liz Bight, from Fredricksburg, Pennsylvania.

Here is a list of our 2018 Sponsors. If you too would like to become a sponsor or know of a company that would benefit from supporting this great show, please reach out to Larry Weaver. 717-571-1351.

Adams Electric Cooperative Inc.  
Allan Myers LP.  
Bell & Evans  
Cohick & Associates  
Dauphin County Commissioners  
EMM Sales and Services Inc.  
Fulton Bank  
Hanover Shoe Farms  
H R Ewell Inc.  
Kreider Farms  
Mark Hershey Farms  
Orrstown Bank  
PA Equine Council  
PA Livestock Association  
PA Milk Dealers Association  
Penn Waste Inc.  
PennAg Industries Association  
Pennsylvania State  
Association of County Fairs  
People's Bank  
Williams Companies





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The Friends of Farm Show Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that was developed to stimulate, facilitate, and support educational programs, incentives and events relating to the annual Farm Show event.

Friends of the Pennsylvania  
Farm Show Foundation Inc.  
2300 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

## Farm Show Impacts Harrisburg Region

by Beverly Gruber

The Pennsylvania Farm Show, held for 102 years in Harrisburg, is the showplace of Pennsylvania Agriculture. It is Pennsylvania's State Fair, a living monument to our past, present and future and certainly a family tradition. Many of the visitors each year are repeat visitors, coming since their parents brought them in strollers. Ask nearly anyone you happen to meet at the show and they will have a "remember when" story to share. They will say, "Remember the great subs we purchased from those church groups located where Family Living is today?" or "Remember the cattlecave, the egg judging and chicken dance?" How times have changed! The Farm Show brings up many nostalgic memories.

But have you ever thought about what the Farm Show means to the economy of the Harrisburg area? With attendance at over 500,000 in 2017, nearly 3,500 room nights were purchased. Fortunately, there are now enough rooms in the area to accommodate this influx of people. This was not always true. In the late '50s when I first attended the show, we always purchased our rooms through the Harrisburg Housing Bureau because there were not enough hotel rooms to house everyone. This bureau found rooms for you to stay in private Harrisburg homes. My dad was the one that brought y sister and me to the show. We lived in western Pennsylvania and always came to the show for three days, thus needing two lodging nights. All the places we stayed were large, stately "old" homes owned by "Grandma" type ladies and very clean. Talk about a "fun experience," not much different than the bed and breakfast facilities we have today.

For breakfast we would go to the Camp Curtain Diner on Maclay Street. I remember one morning when the diner was jammed and the waitress overwhelmed. My dad said to her, "Don't you like it when the farmers come to town?" Again, another memory.

The Harrisburg Hershey Regional Visitors Bureau conducted an economic impact study in 2015, which states that the eight-day Pennsylvania Farm Show generates more than \$60 million in direct spending to the Harrisburg area. Pretty impressive numbers. Gregg Cooke, the Executive Director of the Hershey Harrisburg Sports and Events Authority had this to say about the show:

*There is no more fitting "first event" of the year in the state capital than one that features so much of the best that Pennsylvania has to offer, the best food. The best agricultural minds. The best multi-use event space. The best attendees who travel from all reaches of the Commonwealth. Each year, the Farm Show sets a high bar and an excellent organizational standard for what events should be; dynamic, inclusive, vibrant and accessible. Instead of bracing against January's cold, the Hershey Harrisburg region proudly hangs an "open for business" sign to kick off the year as hundreds of thousands of visitors converge on one of the oldest and best traditions not just in the region, but in the state, The Pennsylvania Farm Show.*

Let's hope our show will continue to thrive and bring the public to see the celebration of Pennsylvania Agriculture.



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please send a request to [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com)



## Non-traditional Agricultural Sponsors Help Farm Show Thrive with Education

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation appreciate the extensive list of non-traditional agricultural sponsors for their understanding of the importance support Farm Show.

Organizations like Barbazon, Bath Fitters, etc, have supported Farm Show for years. While at first glance it doesn't appear to have a direct Agriculture relationship but in many ways the show wouldn't exist as we know it without them.

The FOFS have raised over 800,000 since a few guys sitting around a table had the idea.

We greatly appreciate our sponsors and look forward to another successful year for all those involved.



## Upcoming Events at the Farm Show Complex

### January 2019

Jan 5-12	PA Farm Show
Jan 25-16	PA Draft Horse Sale, Mid Atlantic Breeders Sale and Keystone Draft Horse Sale
Jan 24-27	PA Auto Show

### February 2019

Feb 1-10	Great American Outdoor Show
Feb 14-17	Motorama
Feb 21-24	Harrisburg RV Show
Feb 22-24	KRVA Volleyball
Feb 28-Mar 3	PA Home and Garden Design Show
Feb 28-Mar 3	Horse World Expo

### March 2019

Mar 8-9	Eastern Bison Association Show
Mar 9-10	Harrisburg Gun & Knife Show
Mar 9	Monster Truck
Mar 14-16	Keystone Truck and Tractor Pull
Mar 23-24	KRVA Volleyball
Mar 23-24	Mid Atlantic Antique Tractor Pull
Mar 23-24	PA Cattlemen Show
Mar 23	Mid Atlantic Antique Tractor Pull

For more information on these and other Farm Show Complex events, go to <http://pafarmshowcomplex.pa.gov/events>

## Capture the Spirit of Farm Show

As has been done for the past few years, the PA Department of Ag invites visitors at the Farm Show to participate in the 2019 Farm Show Photo Contest.

Anyone visiting the show is eligible to enter. The winner will receive \$100 and a VIP parking space for the 2020 show. Photos must be in color and be at least 300 dpi. Deadline for entries is February 15, 2019. They may be printed or digital.



The top 40 entries will be posted on the Farm Show Facebook page from Monday, February 25 to March 1, 2019. The three photos with the most reactions (likes, loves, wows, etc.) will win. Winners will be notified by March 1, 2019.

### Foundation Contact Information

Email Address: [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com)

Website: [www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com)

Like us on Facebook: [FriendsofPAFarmShow](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPAFarmShow)

## Farm Show Establishes Youth Committee

We all know that getting young people involved in our events is very important. 4-H and FFA have always been an integral part of the show and they add that shot of excitement needed at the show. Through the efforts of Heidi Svonavec, Assistant Farm Show Director, a Junior Committee has been set up. The purpose of the committee is twofold: to provide better opportunities to more youth, and to act as a feeder to the many other farm show committees. They are striving to give the members a robust experience of "all things Farm Show."

Some of their duties will include emceeing on stages, planning and hosting events, assisting the committees with check-in, handing out swag on behalf of sponsors, helping with crowd control, being available for other youth exhibitors and interacting with commercial exhibitors, to name of few.

The goal is that this committee will continue their involvement once they are out of the 4-H and FFA programs. Students between 16-21 as of January 1, 2019 were asked to submit an application. Letters were sent to previous exhibitors and suggestions given by department heads. A group of eight students were chosen.

This inaugural youth committee includes:

Amanda Pennington, Cherry Tree  
Grant Itle, Loretto  
Carrie Rutledge, Red Lion  
Daniel Rohrbaugh, Seven Valleys  
Ben Miskin, Mechanicsburg  
Macy Walason, Alum Bank  
Abby Ross, York  
Wesley Fitzgerald, Seven Valleys

The eight students are making Farm Show history and will certainly get an education in event management at the 2019 show.



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## Supreme Master Showman to be Named

This new Round Robin contest, open to Junior Market Animal Showmen, will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 7 in the small arena at the 2019 Farm Show.

As for the round robin: This contest is open to Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Master Showmen from the divisions of beef cattle, market lambs, market goats, market swine, and rabbits. An individual may only qualify for this contest with one species in each year. In the event an individual qualifies with more than one species they will be entered in the contest with the first species they qualified with. In subsequent species, the next highest ranking individual will be eligible to enter the contest. If an individual who has qualified has a conflict or otherwise wished to not participate in the contest, then the next highest ranking individual in that species will be eligible to compete through 3rd place. Should the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners not be eligible or decline to compete in the contest no other exhibitors will be considered. Each contestant will rotate through a series of classes while being judged on their showmanship skills and knowledge with each species of animal (beef cattle, market lambs, market goats, market swine, and rabbits) brought into the ring. The judges will use a numerical scoring system to evaluate each individual with the winner determined by the total score. Prior show placings will not be counted toward overall score.

This round robin event is held at many livestock shows and fairs across the country. Winning this contest is "big time" and the youth really enjoy the competition.

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**Consider Joining the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc.**  
**[www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com)**

In 2010, the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. was established to stimulate, facilitate and support educational programs, incentives and events relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

We encourage you to become a friend. Contributions are \$50.00 annually or \$500.00 to become a lifetime friend. An association contribution is \$500.00 annually and corporate/business is \$1,000.00. For a membership application, contact Larry Weaver, 2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110 or call 717-443-0142 or email [weaverland.lw@gmail.com](mailto:weaverland.lw@gmail.com).

