

Friends of the Farm Show News



June-July 2023

Volume 11 Issue 3



Friends of the PA Farm Show

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



Visit the
Friends of the
PA Farm Show
Ag Progress Days
PDA building.

Ag Progress Days

August 8-10, 2023

Daily Schedule:

August 8, Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. August 9, Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. August 10 Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center 2710 W. Pine Road, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

We are looking for articles and pictures to publish in the Friends of the Farm Show News.

Aug.-Sept.- Due by July 1, 2023

Oct.-Nov. - Due by September 1, 2023 Dec.-Jan. - Due by November 1, 2023

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey Questions? Please call (717)254-9550

Email articles:

fofsnewsletter@gmail.com

Aug. - Sept.
Newsletter
Deadline
is
July 1, 2023

Cover Photo

Brown Swiss being exhibited by Hannah Balthaser. Photo Credit: PA Department of Agriculture



Email: farmshowfriends@gmail.com. **Website:** www.friendsoffarmshow.com **Like us on Facebook:** FriendsofPAFarmShow

Determined Detectives

sylvania agriculture.

Detectives hunted for the

19 stations and then an-

swered questions on the

AgExplorer Map. Stations

included: Edible Nuts, Goats

Want to be a Farmer, Wood

Mobile/ Hardwoods, Bees

and Honey, Apple Produc-

Sheep, PA Preferred, So You

AgExplorer Learning Stations prove to be fun experience for all ages





Farm Show Detectives could be found throughout the complex during the 107th Pennsylvania Farm Show. Sponsored by DFA, Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, Inc. and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the program was designed to teach visitors about Penn-





Friends of Farm Show Funding the Future of Ag tion, Mushrooms, 4-H, Potatoes, Family Living, Vegetables, Rabbits, Dairy, Alpacas, Equine Science, Beef: From Farm to Fork, STEAM/History, Poultry Production, Pork Industry, Sunflowers: Seeds to Consumers and Dairy Farmers of America.

Winners received a gift basket filled with board games, card games, a drawstring bag, mug, stickers, pencils, baseball hat, winter hat and other items that were stuffed in the drawstring bag.

The Friends reached out to each winner with an optional questionnaire. We would like to congratulate all winners of this year's contest! The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. would also like to thank all the AgExplorer station sponsors.





Favorite AgExplorer Station: The Safety Station

Something you learned from being a Farm Show Detective: How they make chicken.

Was this your first time at the Farm Show? No

What is something you look forward to each year: I loved snuggling with goats this year, but, I enjoy seeing the piglets every year!





Name: Felicity Beltz

Parent's names: Jeremy and Christina

Favorite AgExplorer Station: The Aquaponics Trailer/ Tru Moo

Something you learned from being a Farm Show Detective: Cows eat candy!

Was this your first time at the Farm Show? No

What is something you look forward to each year: The milkshakes!





Parent's names: DJ & Stef

Favorite AgExplorer Station: Pennsylvania Apples

Something you learned from being a Farm Show Detective: Apples can get rid of 90% of the germs in

Was this your first time at the Farm Show? No! We've been going every year since she was born.

What is something you look forward to each year: Seeing all the cows!





Name: Carmen Jordan

Parent's Names: Shelton & Alneasa

Favorite AgExplorer Station: Baby cows and Uglies Chips

Something you learned from being a Farm Show Detective: I learned so much. The best part was learning about PA history in farming.

Was this your first time at the Farm Show? Yes

What did you think about your first time at the Farm Show? Seeing all the animals. Oh, and the food. Loved it! Especially the AgExplorer search.



Name: Adalyn Fluke

Parent's Names: Wade and Kim

Favorite AgExplorer Station: My favorite AgExplorer station was the Honeybee Station. It was fun to learn about the uses for their feet and put my finger print on the paper.

Something you learned from being a Farm Show Detective: Mushrooms are the #1 crop in Pennsylvania. I love to eat

Was this your first time at the Farm Show? Yes.

(From Adalyn's parents: "Adayln is home schooled and we found it to be a unique learning opportunity. We own a PA orchard, County Line Orchard in Kempton PA, and think farming is a very important and want to expose our children to all of its aspects.")







The All-American Dairy Show features nearly 2,000 of the top dairy cattle shown by over 1,000 of the best exhibitors in the U.S. and Canada. With 21 dairy shows in five days, including three days dedicated to youth shows, contests, and programs, the All-American Dairy Show is the premier stop on the Tanbark trail!

Information on registration, and schedule, visit the website at: https://allamericandairyshow.com

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center 2300 Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA



America250PA Keystone Classroom Initiative (KCI) was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at Southern Elementary School, Glen Rock, PA.

America250PA has launched the Keystone Classroom Initiative, a storytelling and visitation program for kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms, children's hospitals, and youth camps across

Keystone Class Initiative at Southern Elementary School in York County.

the Commonwealth. Along with an age-appropriate historical reenactor, storyteller, local celebrity, or mascot, America250PA will visit children across Pennsylvania to educate them about our shared Pennsylvania story, as well as distribute our originally-designed America250PA Coloring Book and related materials.

The Pennsylvania Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (America250PA) was established by the legislature and Governor in 2018 to plan, encourage, develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, Pennsylvania's integral role in that event, and the impact of its people on the nation's past, present, and future.

To learn more about America250PA visit their website: https://www.america250pa.org



Nathan Tallman, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania CO-Operative Potato Growers participated in the Keystone Classroom Initiative which was part of the America 250PA held at Southern Elementary in York County. Celebrity readers provided story time and mascots shared in the fun talking about Pennsylvania's rich history.

Pennsylvania CO-Operative Potato Growers Participates in America 250PA







Spudman who is the mascot for the Pennsylvania Potato Growers had a great time posing in pictures with Miss York County, Representative Kate Klunk, and PA State Trooper Tobin. Mascots Big Red, Shippensburg University Raiders; The York Revolution minor league mascot, named Downtown; The Pennsylvania CO-Operative Potato Growers mascot, Spudman.

Nathan shared, "We had fun participating and seeing the smiles on the kids' faces when the mascot walked into the classroom. We also enjoyed teaching them about America's favorite vegetable potatoes!"

PCPG (Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers) is dedicated to increasing growers' ability to market their potatoes, ensuring a high-quality potato product reaches the buyer, and providing reliable delivery through trucking. With a rich history beginning with the first annual meeting of Pennsylvania potato growers in Harrisburg in 1917, the PCPG has grown tremendously while helping a large network of both growers and buyers alike.



Keystone International Livestock Exposition



September 29 - October 8, 2023

"Unlock Your Livestock Potential at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition!"

Information on registration, and schedule, visit the website at:

https://www.keystonelivestockexpo.com

Email: kile@pa.gov

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA





June is Dairy Month

Milk is one of the original farm-to-table foods, and it's one of the freshest products you can find at your local grocery store. Like "in-season" 'local' produce, milk is always in season! Real Dairy Milk comes from dairy farmers who feed, milk, and care for their cows 365 days a year — providing milk for all of us all year long!

97milk.com



A Toast to Dairy Order tickets today!

A Toast to Dairy

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023

Time: 6-9 p.m.

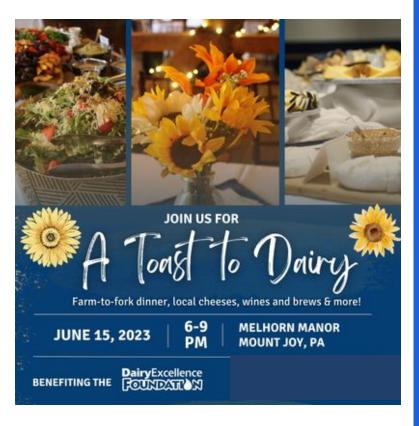
Location: Melhorn Manor Address: 977 W. Main St.

Mount Joy, PA 17552

Tickets: Call Emily Barge @ 717-346-0849

Join us for our annual farm-to-fork event benefiting the Dairy Excellence Foundation! A Toast to Dairy is a great way to celebrate Pennsylvania dairy, network with individuals from the dairy community, and support the next generation of dairy producers.

The event will be held at Melhorn Manor in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania (the same location as last year). The venue includes three historic barns and ample parking. Many of the architectural elements of the original barns remain, including original wood beams, stone walls, and wood flooring.





Did you know?

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association provides financial support to the following:

- The **"Fill a Glass with Hope"** program with Feeding Pennsylvania that has provided over 34 million servings of milk to food challenged families in Pa.
- Dozens of **Scholarships and Internships** are provided to students to help develop their skills to become the next generation of dairy farmers.
- **Grants** to help support dairy farm business planning teams.
- **Grants to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau ag education** lab programs that educate elementary school students about agriculture.
- The **Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Program** that trains young ladies to advocate to consumers the value and nutrition of milk.
- **Grants** to support the "**Adopt a Cow**" program that has reached over 850,000 students about dairy farming.

WTAJ TV Studio 814 Visit "Cooking with Dairy" Natalie Grumbine, Selina Horst, Darcy Heltzel, and studio host Rebecca Petner.



Natalie Grumbine, Selena Horst, and Darcy Heltzel at the Dairy Summit...

PA Dairy Princesses Promotions

If you want the Princesses to attend an event, please contact Carrie Anderson PDPPS Program Coordinator at (814)644-8814 or Carrie@padairy.org.



Magic milk for STEAM day at Eisenhower schools in Camp Hill; Selina Horst, Natalie Grumbine, and Darcy Heltzel.



PA Dairy Princess Selena Horst and PA Dairymen's Association Executive Director, Dave Smith at Blue Ribbon Day -Champions for Kids at the State Capitol.

Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. would like to extend a

Thank You!

to the following 2023 sponsors:

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- · Cellular Sales Management Group
- · Green Mountain Energy
- M&E Sales
- · Sponsor Source

Friends of Farm Show

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- · American Dairy Association, NE
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- · Highlights
- · Homestead Nutrition
- · Instant Shine Cleaners
- Kitchen Craft
- Organic Remedies
- Power Pro Equipment
- PH Rohrer Seeds
- · PA Beef Council
- PA Center for Poultry & Livestock
- · PA Lottery
- · Rolling Acre Farm
- · Shetron Auction & Equipment
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Friends of Farm Show Funding the Future of Ag

Stimulate * Facilitate * Support

The Foundation believes in its mission statement to contribute to educational programs, incentives and events relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Why is the Foundation important?

The Foundation was established in March 2010 and since then it has contributed more than \$1.5 million to the educational programs at the Farm Show.

How can you get involved?

Become a Friend!

\$65/annually • \$500/lifetime
Email farmshowfriends@gmail.com
or call 717-729-7158

Donate to the Friends

Along with the fee of becoming a Friend, donations of any amount are accepted and are tax deductible.

To become a Friend, be sure to scan this code!



Friendship Application:	Contribution:
	\$65/Annual \$500/Lifetime
Address:	a check enclosed
City:State: Zip:	□ I would like more information about the Foundation.
Contact Person:	Please make your check payable to: Friends of the
Email:	Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc.
1200-200	Mail to:
Phone:	c/o PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center
Sponsorship Level:	2300 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110

Who are Our Pollinators?

Approximately three quarters of our major food crops are pollinated. Here we will look at how wild bees provide insurance against ongoing honey bee losses.

Honey bees

Honey bees are the rock star pollinators. Everyone knows about them. There are 2.88 million honey bee hives in the United States alone managed by an estimated 120,000 beekeepers. Many of these colonies are managed by 28,000 commercial beekeepers, who manage anywhere from hundreds to thousands of colonies and move them from one part of the country to another to pollinate multiple crops.

Native bees

With the recent declines in honey bee populations, researchers are looking more closely at wild bees and the work they do in agricultural crops. There are at least 17,000 other species of bees described globally, and 4,000 native bee species in North America. Although honey bees get all the attention, native bees can be efficient and sometimes superior pollinators compared to honey bees. For example, in one study, researchers looking at 600 fields in 41 cropping systems found fruit set can increase twice as much with wild-insect visitation compared to honey bees.

In Pennsylvania, native bees are important pollinators of many of our key crops. Bumble bees, for example, can perform "buzzpollination" (which honey bees



Photo credit Mary Ann Frazier, Penn State Extension.

can't do) which is more efficient for pollinating crops like tomatoes. Bumble bee colonies also do well in greenhouses, while honey bee colonies need to be outdoors. In pumpkins, one of Pennsylvania's largest crops, researchers identified bees from 10.000 pumpkin flower visits. Over 92% of the bees were wild bees. Bumble bees and squash bees were the most abundant. These native bees can do a huge amount of the work. Bumble bees are out earlier in the morning when the pumpkin flowers are first open. They will work even when it is cool and

cloudy. Because of the way they work the flowers, they deposit more pollen at every flower that they visit. Dr. Winfree and colleagues found that 46 species of native bees in Pennsylvania and New Jersey watermelon flowers could fully pollinate crops in 90% of the fields studied. Native bees were responsible for 62% of the pollen grains deposited on watermelon flowers. Wild bees are also important pollinators in Pennsylvania apple orchards where researchers have identified 190 species of native bees. Some, like the hairy footed flower bee and

horn faced bee, are extremely efficient pollinators. Quick flying horn faced bees set about 2,500 flowers every day. In comparison, honey bees may only visit 200 flowers per day. Below is a listing of some of the common native bees you will find on your crops.

Blue orchard mason bees

Shiny metallic blue, small and industrious, these bees are important pollinators in orchards. Mason bees fly fast and visit many flowers. They are active early in the spring and will fly in poor weather conditions, making them good pollinators for early blooming crops. Mason bees are solitary bees. Each female finds a nest in a tube-like cavity, such as a hollow reed or hole. She stores food in the cavity, lays an egg and seals it with mud. Then she repeats this process until the tunnel is filled with eggs.

Japanese orchard bee

Similar to the blue orchard mason bees, this bee is an extremely efficient orchard pollinator, but it is only active in the spring. It can set up to 80% more apple flowers per day compared with flowers set by one honey bee.

Bumble bees

Bumble bees are important pollinators of cucurbits, tomatoes and berries. Most nest underground. When queens emerge in the spring they act like solitary bees at first, collecting pollen and nectar, building a nest and laying eggs. But after the first batch of workers emerge, bumble bees start to divide up labor and the queen concentrates on laying eggs, much like a honey bee queen. For the Common Eastern Bumble Bee, the colony grows to between 100 and 200 bees. But at the end of the season only the new queens overwinter and the rest of the colony dies. Bumble bee colonies can also be purchased commercially for pollination services, but it is, of course, much

cheaper if you have habitat that can support wild bees!

Squash bees

Squash bees are cucurbit specialists. As ground nesters, they burrow in well-drained areas in or near squash or pumpkin fields. They fly about half a mile to a mile between crops or habitat.

Others

Small carpenter bees, southern blueberry bees, sweat bees, and plasterer bees are also common native bees on Pennsylvania and New Jersey Farms. See the Xerces Society "Pennsylvania Citizen Scientist Pollinator Monitoring Guide" for a nice guide to ID your native bee visitors. Rutgers also has a nice publication with color photos of common native pollinators "Native Bee Benefits."

This article is part of a five part series describing pollinators, pollinator threats and on-farm conservation strategies as part of a collaboration between Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research and Penn State Extension Vegetable and Small Fruit Team. Information was summarized from presentations at the 2014 Pollinator In-service.



PennState Extension

Visit the Master Gardener website for tips and suggestions about pollinators plants.

https://extension.psu.edu/ programs/master-gardener



Asclepias tuberosa, or Butterfly Weed, is a wonder plant to attract pollinators.

WORKSHOPS

Home Gardening Pollination and Bees

Information on pollination and bees, including gardening for native pollinators, such as butterflies, hummingbirds and beneficial insects like moths and wasps. Tips on bee health, Beekeeping 101, and pollination requirements...

Vist: https://extension.psu.edu/



Free

A Talk in the Garden: The Science of Butterflies When 06/25/2023

Length 1.5

Bring pollinators to your garden this growing season! Learn about the plants that attract butterflies, the importance of the location of your plantings, and the species of butterflies you can expect to see!



Free A Talk in the Garden: Pollinators of the Night When 09/24/2023

Length 1.5 Learn how to bring night pollinators to your garden and what to plant to attract them!



c/o PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, 2300 North Cameron Street Harrisburg, PA 17110

Email: farmshowfriends@gmail.com Website: www.friendsoffarmshow.com Like us on Facebook: FriendsofPAFarmShow

Visit the PA Farm Show Website for upcoming events! https://tinyurl.com/5y3a85dw



Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

Highlights of Upcoming Events

June 2, 2023 Farmers Market

June 2, 2023 Harrisburg School District

Graduation

June 4, 2023 Flea Market

June 5-9, 2023 Penn Dot Apportioned

Renewal

June 6, 2023 Farmers Markekt

To see the full schedule

