



May-June 2024

# Friends of the Farm Show News



Volume 12 Issue 2

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Farm Show

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Agriculture

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



## 9th Annual Friends of Farm Show Summer Picnic

**Sunday, May 19, 2024-2 p.m.**

Lebanon County Exposition Center & Fairgrounds

You're Invited  
Friends, Gold, Silver & Bronze sponsors;  
Friends, and Feed Scurry Participants

Please bring a covered dish; a side or dessert.  
Mike Firestine will be grilling steaks.

**RSVP:** Rachel Schlegel @ 717-682-2351 by May 10.

Lebanon County Exposition Center & Fairgrounds  
80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon

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

July-Aug: Due by June 1st  
Sept-Oct: Due by August 1st  
Nov-Dec: Due by October 1st

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey  
**Questions?** Please call (717)254-9550  
**Email articles:** [fofsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fofsnewsletter@gmail.com)

July-August  
Newsletter  
**Deadline**  
is  
**June 1st**

River Road Produce and Garden Center (aka Wes Gerber and family) in Marietta set up in the Main Hall at the PA Farm Show. They bring a huge variety of plants that everyone enjoys buying. The front cover highlights their air plants.  
Photo credit cover: PA Dept. of Ag

### Foundation Contact Information

**Email:** [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com) **Website:** [www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com)

**Like us on Facebook:** FriendsofPAFarmShow  
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# Cornucopia through a Friends' lens

*By Rachel Schlegel*

The Friends of Farm Show attended Cornucopia at the State Capital on Monday, March 18. "A Taste of Pennsylvania," which was hosted by Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, was a beautiful representation of the importance of agriculture not only in our backyard, but far beyond.

PSFCO works to promote agriculture in Pennsylvania while working with legislation and farmers' agencies to advance agriculture. The Foundation was proud to take part in this event in support of Pennsylvania's number one industry, as we work to further facilitate, stimulate and support funding youth in agriculture.



The evening included presentations from Tim Wentz, PSFCO president; Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson and Secretary Russell Redding. A Milk Punch Toast was given by PA State Dairy Princess Alexis Butler.

The evening was full of a vast array of food, fellowship and promoting our most valued industry.



Above: The Foundation proudly supports FFA and enjoyed speaking with them during the event.

Bottom, left: Sec. Russell Redding speaks to those in attendance at Cornucopia.



Rachel Schlegel, FOFS marketing, poses with Diane Black, FOFS Friend.



Rachel Schlegel, Lele Reichart, FOFS board member and Rep. Tim Twardzik take a moment for a photo during the event after spending time talking about the Foundation.



# PA Open Air Farmers Market

PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center  
2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA  
Parking Lot



**Opening Day**

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Every Tuesday & Friday**



# Young Detectives Investigate Farm Show

During the 2024 PA Farm Show, you most likely saw Farm Show Detectives investigating 17 different stations located throughout the Complex. The Learning Stations, which are sponsored by **PA Department of Agriculture, Friends of Farm Show** and **Dairy Farmers of America**, is a popular event for those 9 to 99. It is a wonderful way to get a hands-on experience of agriculture at Farm Show.

Stops on the AgExplorer trail this year included: Pork Industry, 4-H Friends, Beef Industry, DFA, Equine Science, Alpacas and Fiber, Dairy Production, Rabbit from Fiber to Meat, Edible Nuts, PA Preferred, Woodmobile, Fruit Production, Bees and Honey, Potato Production, Mushrooms, DEP and Goats



For those who collected stamps from all stations, and handed their map in, were then entered into a daily drawing sponsored by Dairy Farmers of America.

The Foundation reached out to each winner with a few questions about their experience at Farm Show and the AgExplorer. We invite you to learn more about a few of those winners.

**Congratulations to all participants and winners! Thank you to all the sponsors and stations!**



Isaac displays one of the prize baskets sponsored by Dairy Farmers of America. DFA also sponsored an iPad for the grand prize.

## Alexandria

Alexandria isn't a newcomer to the Farm Show. In fact, each year she looks forward to seeing the rodeo, sipping on milkshakes, looking through the 4-H projects and spending time in the Equine Barn. She enjoys the milkshakes and Equine Barn that much, that she encourages other children to enjoy the same when they attend.

This year, her favorite Learning Stations were the bunny (Rabbit from Fiber to Meat) and 4-H (4-H Friends).



**Parents: Jeremy and Autumn**

## Declan

Declan may be young, but he knows the Farm Show is something he looks forward to attending. He explains seeing the animals and doing the AgExplorer are things he places top on his list of things to do at Farm Show each year. He would encourage other children to enjoy their time at the show.

This year, his favorite Learning Station was the one that had the bike that lit up a light bulb (DEP).



**Parents: Shawn and Elizabeth**

## Isaac

Isaac has been attending Farm Show since before he could remember! This was the first year that he could truly enjoy all Farm Show offers. He enjoyed everything, but especially how to be a farmer, because he would like to become one.

Isaac encourages other children to see the tractors and enter to win prizes (he says he got a cool prize!). He also said they should have a milkshake.

His favorite Learning Stations were the cows (Dairy Production) and pigs (Pork Industry) because he liked seeing the babies.

**Parents: Chad & Amy**



## Hope

This year wasn't Hope's first year attending Farm Show. When January rolls around, she begins to get excited to see the animals and the Penn State Extension stand. She encourages other children to make sure they stop and visit the educational stands as she feels it is an interactive way to learn.

Hope couldn't pick just one Learning Station as her favorite! For her, it is a toss up between the bees (Bees & Honey) and the nuts (Edible Nuts). She was fascinated watching the bees work while being safe from getting stung, and also learned that nuts come out of shells.

**Parents: Kim and Bill Jr.**





## 4H Participation Cultivates Camp Leaders

by Allison Emanuel

The beginning of spring welcomes hopeful 4-H'ers to become 4-H Camp Counselors. Although camp may seem far away, 4-H'ers across the state of Pennsylvania have already begun the process of applying, interviewing, and undergoing specialized training. 4-H Camp is just one of many leadership opportunities for our 14 to 18-year-olds. This vital role as a camp counselor offers more than a chance to have fun, but an opportunity to develop crucial life skills.

Even as our hopeful teens apply to be counselors, they practice life skills. In a safe and learning centered environment, they write applications, answer essay questions, and participate in interviews. For those who are not selected, we have a Leader in Training Program to give them the opportunity the following year. We all develop on different timelines and through our camp programs all individuals are given the time they need.

Once our hopeful teens are accepted, training begins. To become camp counselors, our teens must complete a minimum of 16 hours of training over the span of a few months. Extension staff uses those hours to maximize each counselor's potential. Trainings are built around five main goals: to develop leadership ability, improve planning and time management skills, increase knowledge of child development, identify risk issues, and become self-directed and career-oriented individuals.

Many of our camp counselors return year after year till they age out and every year is different. With each new group of counselors, new training sessions are created. As a counselor for the past four years, I have experienced many training sessions and each year is tailored to our counselor strengths and weaknesses. My most memorable trainings sessions have included team building activities. One that stuck out to me is called the Human Knot. In this activity, everyone stands in a circle and takes a hold of a person's hand on the opposite side of the circle. Once everyone has someone else's hand, we are told to try and 'unknot' ourselves returning the circle to its original state. Bursts of laughter and getting well acquainted with everyone's personal space breaks the tension on meeting new people.

Through applying to be a counselor, teens learn many skills needed to secure a job and work with others. With specialized training and attention, they are not only prepared for leadership roles but cultivate essential life skills. Each year brings new challenges and opportunities for growth, demonstrating the longlasting benefit of 4-H in shaping young leaders for the future.



## 4-H IS A COMMUNITY FOR ALL KIDS

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us.



### History of 4-H in Pennsylvania

For over 100 years, 4-H has helped kids develop the self-confidence, leadership ability, and practical skills they need for a successful life.

We trace our lineage to growing and canning clubs that were formed across rural America in the late 1800s. By the turn of the century, 4-H had emerged as the youth education arm of the fledgling state agricultural extension agencies. Pennsylvania welcomed its first club to Mercer County in 1912 with the mission of instructing local rural youth in improved farming and homemaking practices.

In the 1960s, 4-H began to grow beyond a focus on agriculture. Project-based programming in nutrition, robotics, rocketry, civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and more were developed to meet the needs and aspirations of all Pennsylvania families —rural, small-town, and urban.

Today, 4-H is America's largest youth organization. Pennsylvania has robust membership and activities in all 67 counties of the Commonwealth. We work to achieve our mission of empowering young people through myriad hands-on opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and preparation for lifelong learning.



# Pennsylvania FFA



Pennsylvania FFA is proud to partner with Nationwide and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to offer the Golden Owl Award. The Golden Owl Award allows us to also extend our support to agricultural educators who devote countless hours, and often their own resources, to positively impact the lives of their students.

With the Golden Owl Award, students, fellow teachers, and other supporters can nominate their favorite agricultural teacher and summarize what makes him or her the best in their state. Nominees can win the distinction of being their state's Agricultural Educator of the Year and the following prizes:  
\$500 and an engraved plaque to each regional winner  
\$3,000 and the coveted Golden Owl Award trophy to each state's grand prize winner (Agricultural Educator of the Year)

In conjunction with the Golden Owl Award, Nationwide is donating \$5,000 to each participating state's FFA to further support the personal and professional growth of students, teachers, and advisors alike.



L to R: Maggie McAteer - Reporter, Crystal Bomgardner - President, Grace McCarty - Treasurer, Clayton Hetrick - Vice President, Rebecca Lehman - Secretary, Grace Brammer - Sentinel, Madeline Musser - Chaplain



## Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Jacket Program

Over the past 17 years, FFA Alumni have been thrilled to provide over 6,000 FFA members with jackets as the first step into what alumni all know is a life-changing organization. Unfortunately, such growth and success often bring growing pains. In response, the program will be changed beginning next year. The changes are outlined below.

1. Eligibility: Members of FFA Chapters in 7th – 10th grades are eligible to receive a jacket through this program, provided they have not received a jacket through the program previously. There is no longer a requirement for them to be first-year FFA members. Recipients must be entered on an official FFA roster that has been submitted and approved by the State and National levels prior to November 15.
2. The PA FFA Alumni will guarantee that each chartered and active FFA chapter will receive two FFA jackets. Beyond that initial sponsorship, the rest of the jackets awarded to each chapter will be based on sponsorship received for each chapter or county. Additional statewide sponsorship will be utilized to balance the distribution of jackets designed by the jacket campaign committee.
3. The Alumni Jacket Program asks local chapters to help in soliciting sponsors by sending letters to local businesses, parents, supporters, and former FFA members. Different than former years, the donations you solicit may be designated for your chapter, your county, or as a statewide sponsor. The benefit to running these donations through the State Alumni Association is that students receiving jackets from such funds will be recognized and included in the ceremony during the Mid-Winter Convention. The alumni will continue to send jacket letters to individuals who sponsored the program last year.
4. During the first week of November, each chapter will be notified with the number of jackets they will be awarded at the Mid-Winter Convention in January.
5. After notification, teachers will have until November 15 to designate and enter students from their chapter who will receive a jacket through the program. Please note that the selection process is taking place on the local level, and applications will no longer be sent to the state for selection. Local chapters should select their recipients according to chapter needs.
6. After all the information is inputted, the final jacket list will be sent for advisors to review and verify prior to ordering jackets from National FFA.

Please email Krista Pontius for more information @ [kpontius@greenwoodsd.org](mailto:kpontius@greenwoodsd.org) or call (717)589-3116 Ext:1209.



## Beneficial Insects in the Garden

A diverse population of insects is crucial for the health and productivity of vegetable and ornamental gardens.

### Beneficial Insects in the Garden

You can help these beneficial insects find their way to your garden by planting their favorite native pollinator plants. These plants attract insects by producing nectar and pollen. Insects such as bees are responsible for pollinating many of the flowers which become our fruits and vegetables. Other beneficial species of insects like lady beetles eat insects that cause damage to our garden plants.

Bees and butterflies are important pollinators but many wasps, flies and beetles also provide this service. Many wasps, flies, beetles, assassin bugs, ambush bugs and lacewings benefit the garden by eating pests like aphids, stink bugs and Japanese beetles. Many people are fearful of insects and it is wise not to handle them. But even the bees and wasps which possess stingers and venom are docile while feeding at flowers. Only a small percentage of insects are considered to be pests.

The use of insecticides to kill insect pests will also kill beneficial insect species which are providing free and natural pest control. Awareness of the unintended toxicity of pesticides to other forms of wildlife should always be considered. Plants treated with systemic insecticides in the nursery can produce toxic pollen and nectar which may harm pollinating insects. When purchasing seeds and plants, inquire whether they are organic or pesticide-free stock.

The following beneficial insect species should be welcomed in all gardens for the important services which they provide.

### Wasps

Wasps pollinate plants while feeding on nectar. They also prey on many insects and spiders which serve as food for the wasp larvae. The wasps which are most familiar to us are social wasps including the paper wasps, yellowjackets and hornets. These social species nest in colonies and may aggressively protect their nests if they are disturbed. However when feeding on nectar most wasps are docile if they are left alone.

In addition to these social species there are many wasps which are solitary nesters. The nest may be a burrow in the ground, a cavity formed in wood or a plant stem, or constructed with mud. In some species the female wasps paralyze an insect or spider with venom and then place the still living prey in their nest. Here the female lays her eggs on the immobilized prey which will serve as food for the wasp larvae after the eggs hatch. Most kinds of wasps have their own preferred prey, such as stink bugs, beetle larvae, cicadas, or spiders.

Female wasps in the Braconid family inject their eggs inside living caterpillars. The wasp larvae feed inside the growing caterpillar eventually chewing through the caterpillar's skin to spin their silken cocoons on its body. These tiny wasps are termed parasitoids, since they ultimately kill their host.

### Flies

Flies pollinate plants while feeding on nectar and pollen. Some adult flies such as robber flies capture other insects in flight and many fly larvae feed on garden pests. Horse flies, deer flies and house flies have bad reputations due to their painful bites or unsanitary habits. However flies in the Syrphid family, known as hover or

flower flies, are frequent garden visitors relying on pollen and nectar for food. The larvae of many Syrphid fly species are important predators of aphids.

Most members of the Tachinid fly family are parasitoids. The adult flies feed on nectar while the females deposit eggs or larvae on or inside their target insect host. The larvae feed upon and eventually kill the host. The species of insects among their victims include grasshoppers, gypsy moth caterpillars, Colorado potato beetle larvae, Japanese beetles, squash bugs and stink bugs.

An interesting note is that some plants take advantage of flies' attraction to unpleasant odors by producing flowers that smell badly. Flies are important pollinators of such plants as our native carrion-flower *Smilax herbacea* and purple trillium *Trillium erectum*.

### Beetles

The beetles form a very large and diverse insect order. Some species feed upon vegetation while others are predators of insects, slugs and worms. Adult soldier beetles are one of the families of beetles that pollinate flowers while feeding on pollen and nectar. Larval soldier beetles are nocturnal and develop under moist sheltering objects where they feed on insects and slugs or plant materials.

Some beetles can be serious pests in the garden. Adult Japanese beetles feed on vegetation and are very destructive. Larval Mexican bean beetles and Colorado potato beetles damage their namesake crops. However these are only a few of the many species of beetles and any insecticide applied to control them will also kill the other beneficial beetles, wasps, flies and assassin bugs



Photo provided by Penn State Extension York County Master Gardener.

that prey on these pests. Removing the pests by hand may be a solution in small gardens.

One of our favorite insects and most well-known of beetles are the lady beetles or ladybugs. In addition to the familiar red or orange with black spots, other species may be solid red, solid black, black with red spots, pink with black spots plus a variety of other color combinations. Adult lady beetles are great friends of the gardener by eating aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies and other small insect pests. Larval lady beetles resemble tiny alligators and are voracious predators of the same insect pests as the adults.

Ground beetles are a group of mainly nocturnal predators which feed on many insects and slugs in the garden at night.

During the day they remain hidden in nearby vegetation, beneath rocks or in soil crevices. Their larvae are also beneficial by preying on pests at or below the soil surface. Some species may live for two to three years and require sheltered overwintering sites

such as perennial plants or clumps of grasses.

#### **Green Lacewings**

Green lacewings are beneficial and interesting insects with attractive green wings for which the adults are named. Larval lacewings prey on many garden pests such as aphids, mites, mealybugs and scales. In fact the larvae are so voracious that they are known as aphid lions.

Adult green lacewings are nocturnal insects with some species feeding primarily on nectar and pollen while other species are predators of insects. Each female lacewing lays her eggs in small groups with each individual egg placed at the tip of a delicate stalk. This elevated placement helps to protect the eggs from their hungry siblings as they hatch.

#### **Assassin Bugs**

Assassin bugs are true to their name as both nymphs and adults possess a long, sharp beak-like mouth with which they impale their prey. Through this beak they inject enzymes into the insect victim, liquefying its body contents,

which are then sucked back up through the beak. Included on their menu are garden pests such as aphids, leafhoppers, caterpillars and Japanese beetles.

One of the largest and most familiar assassin bugs is the wheel bug, named for the cogwheel shaped structure on the upper back of the adult's body. Observe but do not handle this fierce predator. Its beak can pierce the hard shell of a beetle and can give a painful bite to a human.

Written by  
York County Master Gardener  
Debra Carman,  
February 2017

#### **How to Become a Master Gardener**

The Penn State Extension Master Gardener basic training program is open to individuals, age 18 and older, interested in becoming volunteers and sharing gardening knowledge with the public through community outreach. The intensive horticultural training is taught by Extension educators and University professors.

#### **Course Details**

The Master Gardener Program is administered at the county level where recruitment, training, and volunteer service occur. Master Gardener trainees are required to participate in a minimum of 40 hours of classroom training, score 80 percent on the midterm and final exam, and fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service.

Basic training class schedules vary based on location and include the following topics: botany, plant propagation, soil health and fertilizer management, composting, controlling pests safely, entomology, plant diseases, indoor plants, vegetables, tree and small fruits, lawn care, pruning, woody ornamentals, herbaceous plants, native plants, weeds and invasives, and landscape design. The training fee includes a copy of the Penn State Master Gardener Manual.

**Email:** EZK248@PSU.EDU



## Shapiro Administration Announces 2025 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Finalists

Harrisburg, PA - The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced the names of 12 educators nominated to be the 2025 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year.

"The Shapiro Administration commends these educators for their excellence in the classroom and commitment to their schools, students, and communities," said Secretary of Education Dr. Khalid N. Mumin. "Great educators change the lives of their students each and every day, and leave a lasting impact on them for life. The Commonwealth is proud to have strong, enthusiastic teachers, inspiring their students to reach infinite possibilities of success."

Each year, the Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Program recognizes excellence in teaching by honoring K-12 public education teachers who have made outstanding academic contributions to Pennsylvania's school-aged children.

The 12 finalists are selected from applicants and recognized in Harrisburg each fall. Pennsylvania's Teacher of the Year will be announced at a state awards ceremony later in the year, and represents the Commonwealth at various national, regional, and local functions culminating in the National Teacher of the Year ceremony at the White House.

The finalists are:

Sherry Appleton, Middle Bucks Institute of Technology

Anne Fisher, Downingtown Middle School

Rob Hodgson, McDowell High School

Jill Hyatt, Meadville Area Senior High School

Brooke Nenadal, Curtin Intermediate School

Darla Romberger, Cumberland Valley High School

Bo Shappell, Daniel Boone Area High School

Jennifer Sharek, Patterson Primary School

Leon Smith, Haverford High School

Kevin Tomlinson, Evergreen Elementary School

Jennifer Toney, Sharpsville Area Elementary School

Jessica Waber, Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School

## Looking for a way to promote your business at the 2025 Farm Show?

### Why not place an ad in the Visitor's Guide?

# DEADLINES

#### Advertisement Rates & Sizes

Back .....	\$3,000	Back of Center .....	\$2,000
Inside Front .....	\$2,500	Full .....	\$1,500
Inside Back .....	\$2,500	1/2 Horizontal .....	\$800
Front of Center .....	\$2,000	1/4 Vertical .....	\$500

Prices include color

Ad space reservation .....Friday, Nov. 1

Camera ready ad

submitted to Foundation .....Monday, Nov. 18

Ad submission & assistance

Rachel Schlegel

penguiningraphix@gmail.com or 717.682.2351

**35,000 copies  
printed &  
handed out!**

***By placing an ad, you are helping us secure the ability to continue  
to fund the future of agriculture at the PA Farm Show!***

**Be on the lookout in your email or visit [www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com) for up-to-date details.**



## Organic Transition Initiative Direct Farmer Assistance

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can help you transition to organic through the Organic Transition Initiative (OTI). We'll also have new organic experts to support NRCS staff and host hands-on organic training and fielding organic-related staff questions.

### How It Works

The new organic management standard gives you the flexibility to get the assistance and education you need such as attending workshops or requesting help from experts or mentors.

It supports conservation activities and practices required for organic certification and may provide foregone income reimbursement for dips in production during the transition period.

For example, the National Organic Standards support composting, outdoor access for livestock, and organic nutrient management which are all covered through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program under the new standard.

Flexible education and training activities can include field days, working alongside organic experts and more. You can work with NRCS field staff, approved technical service providers, and other approved organic partners.

### How to Apply

Eligible producers include farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and other producers beginning or in the process of transitioning to organic certification. You can apply through NRCS at your local USDA Service Center.

Higher payment rates and other options are available for underserved producers including socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran, and limited resource farmers and ranchers.

### Other Assistance for Organic Producers

Organic producers are eligible for all USDA programs and assistance, including Farm Service Agency's Organic Certification Cost Share Assistance and NRCS programs and assistance, including the targeted EQIP National Organic Initiative.

Learn more about the ways USDA supports organic agriculture at [www.farmers.gov/organic](http://www.farmers.gov/organic).

## FARM SHOW TRIVIA

1. Honey bees are responsible for what percentage of insect pollination value? Bonus: name 4 crops that honey bees pollinate.
2. During the 2024 PA Farm Show, how many dozen potato donuts were made?
3. True or False: The 4-H clover emblem originally had three leaves.
4. How many teams participated in the 2024 Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry event? Bonus: who was the winner?
5. Which American president won awards for his livestock exhibit at Farm Show? Bonus: did they place?
6. When did PCNTV begin televising Farm Show?



Check in every Friday to test your **Farm Show** knowledge.



- Answers:
1. 80% - apples, blueberries, pumpkins & watermelon
  2. 18,000 dozen
  3. True - The fourth leaf was added in 1911, for health.
  4. 16 teams running in two heats for a total of 32 teams - Rep. Abigail Salisbury
  5. Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower exhibited two Aberdeen Angus cattle in the 1963 Farm Show - grand champion for both
  6. 1994



## Queen Erica Teagarden on track to visit PA Fairs

Hello! My name is Erica Teagarden and I am the 20-year-old daughter of Chad and Bobbie Jo Teagarden of Claysville, Pennsylvania.

Currently, I am finishing up my second year at Penn State studying Agricultural and Extension Education with hopes of becoming a high school ag teacher in the future.

### PASCF Convention

In January at the PASCF Convention and PA State Fair Queen Contest I was crowned as the 2024 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. This is an incredible opportunity to not only represent the 107 county and community fairs around the state but also the agricultural industry as a whole.

### PA Farm Show Jr. Committee

My first year attending the PA Farm Show was in 2018 when I attended the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-winter Convention as a First-Year Jacket Recipient. The next year, I told my mom I wanted to go back but this time show an animal. In 2019 and 2020, I had the opportunity to exhibit market animals. In 2022, I knew I wanted to be more involved and I decided to apply to be on the PA Farm Show Jr. Committee. I had the opportunity to serve on the Jr. Committee in 2022, 2023, and 2024. During those three years, I spent about 10 days each year planning and running events, greeting the many visitors that attend the Farm Show each year, and so many other odds and ends jobs. The limit to serve on the Jr. Committee is three years, so I knew that 2024 was going to be my last year unless I became the PA State Fair Queen. As the PA Fair Queen, I am given an honorary spot on the Jr. Committee,

meaning that I will be the first person to ever serve four years on the committee.

### First Official Event

My first official event as the PA State Fair Queen was on March 18th. I traveled to Harrisburg to the Capitol Building to attend Cornucopia: A Taste of Pennsylvania. At this event I had the opportunity to speak with legislators as well as others within the agricultural industry while enjoying some delicious PA Preferred foods.



**Would you like to invite the  
PA State Fair Queen Erica  
Teagarden to attend your fair or  
event?**

### Visit

**[www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)** (Complete a  
Queen request form)

### Contact

Bryndil Kemler

**Call:** (570) 594-4742

**Email:** [brynk03@gmail.com](mailto:brynk03@gmail.com)

### Fair Season

Over the course of the next year I will attend different events all over the state including, of course, some of the many county and community fairs. The official fair season doesn't begin for a few more weeks but the event requests are beginning to roll in.

I am gearing up for the start of fair season as the many requests are flowing in. I am excited to travel all over the state to attend many different events and visit the county and community fairs. If you would like me to attend your fair, or any other event, please fill out the request form on the PA Fair Queen website or contact Bryndil Kemler (570) 594-4742 or [brynk03@gmail.com](mailto:brynk03@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing everyone at their local fair.

Erica Teagarden  
2024 PA State Fair Queen

### 2024 Fair Bucket List

1. Visit 3 fairs.
2. Snuggle a goat
3. Drink a milkshake
4. Enter an exhibit



### 2024 PA Fair Guide

<https://tinyurl.com/27ct6p6a>



## The PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation

### 3rd Annual Sporting Clays Fundraiser

**Team Reservations & Sponsors can**  
**Call:** Kyle Heffner (570)617-8240  
**Email:** farmshowscholar@gmail.com



#### Native Species Day is May 16, 2024!

The Pennsylvania Governor's Invasive Species Council and partners around the state will celebrate the third annual Pennsylvania Native Species Day on Thursday, May 16.

This year, the council held a press event to highlight the actions that state agencies are taking to help counter the proliferation of invasive species and their increasing ecological, economic, and public health impacts in Pennsylvania.

**Learn more:** <https://bit.ly/3UHJSpW>



**Become a member:**  
<https://bit.ly/40rOEaG>



## PA Department of General Services



DGS is proud to support the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture with the restoration of the large relief mural inlays depicting farm life that span the exterior roof lines of numerous buildings throughout the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Crews are pictured completing restoration work on the north side of the complex's large arena.



FRIENDS OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
FARM SHOW  
FOUNDATION, INC.

# Friends of Farm Show *Funding the Future of Ag*

**About us:** The Foundation exists in order to **stimulate**, **facilitate** and **support** educational programs, incentives and events relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

**We invite you to partner with us to produce this truly stellar event.**

Participation at all levels is welcome. Becoming a Farm Show Friend is open to any person or family. Organizations, businesses and individuals are welcome to explore varied sponsorship levels.

**Sign-Up for our Newsletter • Become a Friend • Stay Connected**



## Board Members

**William L. Piper**, Chairman

**Mark Keller**, Vice-Chairman

**Beverly Gruber**, Secretary  
**Larry Weaver**, Treasurer

## Contact Information:

**Gerry Reichard**, Special Advisor  
farmshowfriends@gmail.com  
717-729-7158

**Elizabeth Bailey**, Member

**Galen R. Kopp**, Member

**Lela Reichart**, Member

**Nathan Tallman**, Member

**Vicki Varner**, Member

"The **Trust** that our **Annual Friends** and our **Lifetime Friends** has placed in the hands of our 9-member Board of Directors of our Foundation is staggering in fulfillment of our **Mission Statement! What a Success Story!**"

-William L. Piper, Chairman

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



FRIENDS OF THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA  
FARM SHOW**  
FOUNDATION, INC.

# 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 August 2010 and since then it has contributed more than \$1.8 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](mailto: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.

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#### **FRIENDSHIP APPLICATION:**

**Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship Level:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Logo Trademark:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation :** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$65/Annual ☐ \$500/Lifetime ☐

☐ Check enclosed

☐ I would like more information about the Foundation

#### **Please make your check payable to:**

Friends of the  
Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc.

#### **Mail to:**

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

#### **FOLLOW US!**

FriendsofPAFarmShow friendsofpafarmshow FriendsofFS



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

Email: [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)

Insta: [friendsofpfarmshow](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofpfarmshow)

Twitter: [@FriendsofFS](https://twitter.com/FriendsofFS)

**Visit the PA Farm Show Website for upcoming events!**

<https://tinyurl.com/5y3a85dw>



**Is Hiring!**

apply at:

[employment.pa.gov](https://employment.pa.gov)

## Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

### Highlights of Upcoming Events

May 7, 2024

9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Every Tuesday & Friday

Opening Day - PA Open Air

Farmers Market

June 6-9, 2024

Eastern Regional Angus

Show

To see the full schedule

