

Friends of the Farm Show News



July-August 2024

Volume 12 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



Penn State Ag Progress Days August 13-15, 2024

Be sure to stop by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture building and visit our booth!

2710 W. Pine Grove Rd., Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

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

Sept-Oct: Due by August 1 Nov-Dec: Due by October 1 Jan.-Feb. Due by December 1

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

Questions? Please call (717)254-9550

Email articles: fofsnewsletter@gmail.com

Sept.-Oct. Newsletter Deadline is August 1

Here is a group of honeybees cleaning up burrcomb that was accidentally uncapped. Bees never waste a drop!

Photo Credit: Neena Aiken

Foundation Contact Information



Email: farmshowfriends@gmail.com. **Website:** www.friendsoffarmshow.com

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By Rachel Schlegel

Warm sunshine welcomed attendees to the 9th Annual Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation Picnic held on May 19 at the Lebanon Valley Exposition Center & Fairgrounds. This time together, celebrates all the Foundation has been able to accomplish with the gracious support of its Friends, sponsors and advertisers. Chairman William Piper was proud to share the Foundation has given over \$2 million back to educational programs and events at the Pennsylvania Farm Show since its beginning in 2010. The Foundation extends a sincere thank you to all those who support and continue to support the Foundation and its mission.

Those who shared in the afternoon, certainly did not go home hungry. Former vice-chairman Michael Firestine, manned the grill making mouth-watering steaks, while attendees each brought a delicious dish to share. Plates were full, conversations were lively and smiles were in abundance.

Chairman Piper shared Foundation updates and introduced special guests in attendance. The group heard comments from many of those guests. Chairmain Piper made a special announcement recognizing recently retired vice-chairman Firestine.

Each picnic-goer was able to pick a colored ticket which corresponded with a colored grab bag. These gifts were a small token of thanks to all those who support the Foundation's endeavors.

The Board of Directors would like to thank all those who took the time out of their busy schedules to spend an afternoon with us. For those who could not make it, we appreciate your continued support.

If you would like to learn more about us, or to become a Friend, sponsor or advertiser, please visit www.friendsoffarmshow.com.

(Photos by Rachel Schlegel)



What's in Store for the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show Competitive Exhibits?

As spring turns to summer, our thoughts turn to the hope of planting and harvesting prized commodities, raising the best livestock on luscious summer grasses, and fine-tuning our animal handling techniques. Our thoughts are also turned to our gardens and canning for the winter months and more time for our hobbies. Wherever your excitement lies, we encourage you to showcase the fruits of your labor at our premier agriculture event, the 2025 PA Farm Show.

For 2025, we are thrilled to announce new classes, new processes, an updated schedule, and new premiums to entice you to enter and showcase your commodities, crafts, and prized livestock.

New classes:

Adult Showmanship for Draft Horse

Turkey Showmanship

Jr. Market- Turkeys, PA Proud class and recognizing the top five in each species

Maple Photography

New apple variety- Ambrosia

Agriculture Education Horticulture- Mixed Foliage arrangement, PA Gift Basket, Patio Pot

Agriculture Education Division 14 will be Antique Lawn and Garden Tractor Restoration with a team approach.

Apiary- Four new youth beeswax classes

Beef Cattle: junior show Cow/Calf, Supreme Cow/Calf division, Supreme placings to fifth for Open and Junior, and Supreme Best Bred and Owned

Dairy Cattle- 6-Year-Old Aged Cow

Dairy Goats- Oberhasli breed classes, Does in Milk 4 Years and Under 5

Wine- three mead classes: dry, sweet, and flavor Cider-fruit classes are divided into dry and sweet.

Family Living- Thumbprint cookies, Freeze Dried Fruit Canned Goods, Vegetable Canned Goods, and Decorative Canning

Rabbits- new breed Blue Holicer and varieties: Dutch Golden, Mini Satin Sable, Netherland Dwarf Ruby Eye White, and Netherland Dwarf Fox

Since 2022 and the 2023 Farm Show, poultry, eggs, and poultry products have been prohibited from being exhibited. We are excited at the mere thought that terminal market poultry will be allowed to compete if there are no active HPAI control areas in the state at the time of the event.

New Processes:

- The Junior Market program has changed with an easier, streamlined process for exhibitors.
- Extension Educators and FFA Advisors request tags from the Farm Show office for all Junior Market Animals. Animals that already have a scannable RFID tag will not need another tag. Each educator or advisor must verify the tags in each animal's ear and provide a specific Record Form that can be obtained from our office.
- Each exhibitor interested in participating with their junior market animal will no longer need a hardcopy tag verification form signed and filled out by our Farm Show office. Exhibitors will only need to enter online at www.farmshow.pa.gov by the species deadline.
- Please refer to our website at Rules & Regulations (pa.gov) for more details, schedules, and exact deadlines.

Schedule changes:

• We are excited to continue updating our schedule each year to make it easier for the animals and exhibitors. Junior market sheep and goat showmanship will be held on Monday, January 6. Junior market sheep and goat classes will be held on Saturday, January 4. The Junior Market Grand Drive will be held on Sunday evening, January 5.

Department 5

- The Beef cattle open show will be held on Monday, January 6. The junior and market beef shows will remain on Sunday, January 5.
- Please refer to our website at Rules & Regulations (pa.gov) for more details, schedules, and exact deadlines.

New and Increased Premiums:

- For many competitors, the Farm Show is not just a chance to showcase their skills and prized commodities. It's also a place for those entering to gain a sense of fulfillment from pursuing their passion. If not enough, the event provides ribbons, champion titles, and a hint of premiums to validate hard work and dedication. The Farm Show Commission acknowledges hard work and passion and will increase all premiums in every department by 10 percent for 2025. This is a true testament to the Commission's commitment to the show, our exhibitors, and all they have to showcase.
- The Pennsylvania Farm Show is a testament to the resilience, ingenuity, and passion of the Commonwealth's farmers, producers, and residents. When you enter your competitive exhibits, we hope that you carry with you not just the ribbons and trophies but the validation of your hard work and dedication, as well as the sense of pride you gain in knowing that you were part of the community that gathered at the Farm Show.
- We look forward to your participation in the 2025 PA Farm Show. If you have questions about the upcoming show, you may reach the show office at 717-787-2905 or via email at farmshow@pa.gov.

In their own words... **Sharon Kurtz Whoopie Pies** 2nd Place Winner

Entering the baking contests at the farm show is so much fun. I've been doing it since 2002. It's a lot of work trying recipes out repeatedly until they're right and then driving the 1.5 hours to get it there, but it's worth it. I've made many friends over the years and enjoy seeing them every January.

The volunteers are always so nice. I can tell they enjoy what they're doing. I dropped my whoopie pies off the night before the contest this year. They told me I had nothing to worry about because they would take care of them for me. They said they would make sure my whoopie pies would make it to the contest. The next day, I was thrilled to learn I won 2nd place with them.



2023 State Fair Queen Chloe Bumgardner shows off Sharon Kurtz's 2nd Place winning whoopie pies.

Pennsylvania has some amazing bakers. The entries are always stunning works of art. It's amazing how talented and creative some people are. It's always fun to see how excited people get when they

I'm looking forward to the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show and, of course, the milkshakes!

Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry Sponsorship Opportunity Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025 What are the benefits of this sponsorship?

What is a Feed Scurry?

During this yearly event at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, local celebrities compete in a timed event driving a team of draft horses pulling a sled through an obstacle course. The celebrities have a 4-H or FFA member who will assist with the transfer of straw bales during the obstacle course event. Teams will be placed first through last based on times and penalties.

Why is the Feed Scurry important?

The Feed Scurry is a significant fundraising event for the Friends. The money raised from the event helps secure its mission statement to "facilitate, stimulate and support educational programs, incentives and events at the Farm Show."



Sponsor an Industry or **Public Servant** Celebrity

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Signage & **Promotion for** your Business in the Visitor's Guide

Photograph with Sponsored **Celebrity During** the Event





X The Ever-Expanding Opportunities in 4-H

by Allison Emanuel

Since 1912, the answer to "What is 4-H?" has continued to expand. Some may answer this question stating that, "4-H is an agricultural program where those who live on farms show animals at their local fairs." While even today, the agricultural part of 4-H is still thriving, 4-H now meets the evergrowing needs of Pennsylvanian families. Through breaking down the walls of the typical 4-H'er, 4-H's impact has never been stronger.

One of the new ways 4-H reaches Pennsylvanian families is through County Day Camps. County Day Camps are short-term camps typically lasting one to three days hosted by the local Penn State Extension Office. They cover a variety of project areas from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) to Healthy Living and Wellness such as baking.

Each county offers a different variety of day camps to suit their communities' needs. As a 4-H'er and staff member of Lehigh County 4-H, I have seen first-hand how day camps open the youth up to new thinking and possible hobbies or careers. To suit the families of Lehigh County, we renamed day camps to sunset camps. Sunset camps are camps held from 6-8 p.m. to help give working families a chance to participate in the typical day camp.

This summer we are offering five sunset camps on rocketry, candy making, beginner and intermediate woodworking, and one specifically for Cloverbuds. Through offering camps in STEM, Healthy Living and Wellness, and Communication and Expressive Arts, we cover a variety of interests. Many of our camps are based off 4-H project books, a record book of what the 4-H'er learned and did in a certain project area in 4-H. Through completing the day camp, they could submit their project and project book at their local county fair to compete for first place.

I have been in 4-H since I was eleven years old, starting in a 4-H community club. I didn't know what 4-H was or the many opportunities it would offer me. My mom was the one who signed me up for a cooking day camp for a few hours at our local extension office. At that camp, I not only met the amazing 4-H staff but learned about food safety and knife skills. I met 4-H'ers from many different clubs in my county and learned how to get more involved. My trajectory in 4-H was far from a straight line but small events made a huge difference. After that day camp, I continued to attend more day camps, met more people, and even pushed myself to go to a weeklong overnight camp. Imagine what a county day camp could do for you...









4-H CREED:

I pledge **My Head** to clearer thinking, My Heart to greater loyalty, My Hands to larger service, **My Health** to better living, For my club, my community, and my country.







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

Why not place an ad in the Visitor's Guide

OEADOISES

Advertisement	Rates	& Sizes
AUVELUSEMENT	nates	O 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 reservationFriday, Nov. 1

Camera ready ad submitted to FoundationMonday, Nov.18

Ad submission & assistance
Rachel Schlegel
penguingraphixs@gmail.com or 717.682.2351

35,000 copies printed & handed out!

Be on the lookout in your email or visit www.friendsoffarmshow.com for up-to-date details.

Would you like to volunteer at the Friends' Booth during the 2025 Farm Show?



Contact Rachel Schlegel at 717.682.2351 or email penguingraphixs@gmail.com

Is your organization interested in working the Information Booths at Farm Show?

Contact Gerald Reichard, 717.729.7158 or email farmshowfriends@gmail.com for more information.

Friends Find Friends at Family Farm Days

When you think of Oregon Dairy, does the restaurant or grocery store come to mind? How about Family Farm Days? Yes, no maybe-so?

On June 11 to 13, the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation took part in this event which celebrated agriculture in Pennsylvania and Lancaster County. Guests took a wagon ride from the parking area through the dairy barns to the farmland where the main event took place. Attendees got to experience walking around viewing the sites, smells and views of a working farm. There was something for those of all ages to see, do and touch. From farm equipment displays, pony rides, and stream studies; to "Barnyard Theatre" presentations, and dairy samples. Wednesday featured a Pennsylvania Maker's Market with 15 local, Pennsylvania-made products ad vendors.

At the Foundation's table you could find a lollipop barn, where everyone was a winner, information about the Foundation, and fresh wool to touch. Diane Black, Debby Griffith and Rachel Schlegel, who took part in helping at the table, enjoyed speaking with those who were unfamiliar with the Foundation and seeing the smiles and giggles of the children as they awaited what prize they won.

Sunny, blue skies welcomed visitors each day as they explored the important world of agriculture. One could feel the excitement all around as new facts were learned and the importance of agriculture



The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, for the first time, took part in Family Farm Days at Oregon Dairy.

was shared.

If you stopped by the Friends' table, we are happy you came to see us and we hope you enjoyed your time spent at Family Farm Days!

Article and photos by Rachel Schlegel







Pictured left to right: For this small friend, it didn't matter what the temperature was outside, he proudly wore his prize. Children enjoyed digging with tractors in the corn troff. Pennsylvania and Lancaster-made products were proudly on display.







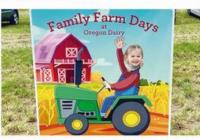


It was a great time to get up close and personal with animals found on the farm and learn all about them.









Pictured left to right: Rachel Schlegel, Friends' marketing; with Debby Griffith, Friends' bookkeeper, take a moment for a picture on Wednesday of the event. Diane Black, Friends of Farm Show supporter with Rachel on the last day of Family Farm Days. Larry Weaver, Friends' treasurer, stopped in to say hello and enjoy the event for a bit. Ruthie Holtzapple, enjoys here time at Family Farm Days. Wouldn't she make the most adorable farmer?



2024-2025 PA FFA State Officers



President: Chloe Bomgardner, Northern Lebanon; Vice-President: Nathan Lesh, Greenwood; Secretary: Sydney Albright, Garden Spot; Treasurer: Emily Kerstetter, East Juniata; Reporter: Evan Espenshade, Elizabethtown, Sentinel: Kennady Laird, Red Lion; Chaplin: Jaclyn Martin, Garden Spot.



The Pennsylvania FFA has announced that Crystal Bomgardner will be the 2024 Pennsylvania FFA National Officer Candidate at the National Convention being held in Indianapolis, Indiana in October 2024.





Congratulations to the 2024 Pennsylvania Golden Owl award State Winner, Mrs. Holly Oberholtzer of the Garden Spot FFA Chapter.



Michael Firestine Retires from Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation, Inc.

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. met on April 17 with present and past board members who gathered to honor and thank Charter Member Michael Firestine for his 14 years of service to the board.

Firestine served as Vice-chairman for the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundaton, Inc. His guidance through the years has helped grow the organization and assist in raising over \$2.1 million since its formation in 2010.

Chairman William L. Piper shared, t "Firestine's expertise and guidance in the formation of the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, were invaluable. His input through the years has helped to create the organization that it has become today."



Photo: Lizzie Bailey



Founding board members of the Friends of Farm Show Foundation (L-R) Larry Weaver, Attorney Marvin Baeshore, Beverly Gruber, William Piper, Michael Firestine, and Don Hoover. Photo: Lizzie Bailey

The board members all agreed with board member Mark Keller when he said, "We are appreciative for all the work that Mike Firestine has done for the organization and agriculture in Pennsylvania. His contributions to The Friends of the Farm Show Foundation have been outstanding."

Beverly Gruber is also a Charter Member and returning member to the board, and she shared, "Mike has been a very valuable asset to the group. His financial advice has helped to make the Foundation the success it is today."

Gregory Hostetter, Executive Deputy Secretary of Agriculture



Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture citation from Secretary Russell Redding congratulating Michael Firestine for his years of service to the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation.

presented Firestine with a citation from Secretary Russell Redding congratulating him for his years of service.

The heart of a volunteer is guided by a passion to help others. Michael Firestine's passion is agriculture. He is a member to many organizations and goes well beyond the Friends of PA Farm Show Foundation. He is part of the PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation, the PA Farm Show Beef Committee, Chairman of the PA Farm Show Committee, the PA Livestock Association and the list could go on and on. He is passionate and loves helping others and making a difference in their lives. Michael Firestine will still be very busy volunteering at the PA Farm Show.



Gregory Hostetter, the PA Executive Deputy Secretary of AG, presents Michael Firestine with a citation for his devoted service to the PA Farm Show.

(L-R) Sharon Myers, PA Farm Show Executive Director, Heidi Svonavec, PA Farm Show Asst. Director Gregory Hostetter, PA Executive Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Michael Firestine, Lisa Graybeal, PA Deputy Secretary of AG, and Morgan Firestine, PA Farm Show Events Director. Photo: Lizzie Bailey



On behalf of the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. Chairman William L. Piper presented commemorative pin collection from past PA Farm Shows.



The Friends of Farm Show Foundation Board members (Front: L-R) Larry Weaver, Treasurer; Michael Firestine, Past Vice-chairman; Chairman William Piper; Lizzie Bailey, Board Member. (Back: L-R) Gerald Reichard, Special Advisor, Mark Keller, Vice Chairman, Gregory Hostetter, PA Exec. Deputy Secretary of AG; Lisa Graybeal, PA; Deputy Secretary of AG; Vicki Varner, Board Member; Galen Kopp, Board Member. Absent in photo: Beverly Gruber, Secretary; Lela Reichart, Board Member; and Nathan Tallman, Board Member.



The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. exists to stimulate, facilitate, and support educational programs, events, and incentives relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc., was incorporated into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2010 as a nonprofit organization. We are recognized as a tax-exempt, charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. We have contributed over \$2.1 million to the Farm Show through our mission!



CABA: Capital Area Beekeepers Association— Curious about, Concerned for, Committed to HONEY BEES by Judy Morello and Vicki Porto

CABA is a great example of a group of curious, conscientious, caring, and committed individuals. We have varied backgrounds, we include young and old, we live in rural and urban areas. Some are hobbyists and some are seriouscommercial honey producers and our interests lead each of us to a personal goal, but one truth unites us all: OUR PASSION IS THE HONEY BEE.

CABA members gather to examine the intricacies in the life of a bee and to be educated on how to best care for these amazing insects who use pollen and nectar and the magic within their bodies to create "the #1 natural sweetener in the world "as described in a MANNLAKE web article. I believe that beekeepers are in awe of this tiny creature and feel a deep responsibility to provide what bees need to flourish: a safe, adequate location to live and gather nectar, pollen and water, appropriate hive space as colonies multiply and bees' honey stores explode. We must also learn ways to deal with diseases, mites, pesticides and habitat erosion. By providing these essentials, beekeepers may benefit from and enjoy the fruits of bees' labor: useful beeswax to mold and delicious "liquid gold" to eat and sell. That is why CABA members gather to learn from each other's experiences, to hear experts impart cutting edge research and methods for better bee management. Lastly, we meet to form friendly bonds with like -minded people. Our purpose is clear; we all want our hives to thrive.

Another equally important CABA purpose is spreading awareness of the honeybees' immeasurable impact on our world. In fact, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, 1 mouthful in 3 of foods people eat depends on pollination by honey bees. Beekeepers are stewards

of a vital piece of the world's ability to feed people; our responsibility is to state this fact every way we can.

Researching our club's history, it appears that education for beekeepers AND educating the public were two reasons beekeepers united as an association, Archived secretarial minutes reveal that our present group began as Dauphin County Beekeepers in April of 1956. In attendance were 41 curious, committed beekeepers; a PA Extension speaker gave a talk, dues were collected, and so began 4 decades of dedicated members promoting the honey bee industry.



Busy nurse bees spend their days caring for developing bees in the brood nest. They feed larvae and seal each pupa with a wax capping for the final step before a new bee chews her way out of the cell.

Great leadership and members fought for programs to educate the public. Stu Mathias, a dedicated beekeeper, remembers a meeting where continuing to offer the Short Course was challenged. He took a stand that "the course must be given even if only 1 person signs up...our job is to educate". Thank goodness the membership voted



Honeybee greeting Lizzie Bailey with the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation at Farm City Days at the PA Farm Show Complex.

to continue to offer the course. By the 1990's, Jim Hoover's thoughtful leadership highlighted community outreach. His relentless support of the Farm-City educational event at the Farm Show building yearly for about 1,300 Harrisburg area students turned the spotlight on this event. The continuation of this event was evidenced last month as members of 2024 CABA volunteered at the Farm Show building to man the Honey Bee station at this same event for about 1,200 Harrisburg students. Without a doubt, CABA continues to reach out to the public.

Back to Nov. 1995 for a worthy note. The club had expanded to include more counties in the area and the Dauphin County Beekeepers was renamed to reflect this greater reach. CABA, Capital Area Beekeepers Association was born!

Since then, CABA has continued to make great strides. We have increased our community outreach as members volunteer to give talks that are about bees and pollinaton. Also, our website continues to add educational for

beekeepers and the public. For instance, we list members who will remove swarms from your property. Joining our club or signing up for the Short Course is now easy with online registration. Check us out at cabapa.org.

This was our 36th consecutive year offering The Short Course to educate perspective beekeepers. For just \$50, each attendee got a course manual detailing what one needs to know and do to try beekeeping, 6 hours of evening classes, a hands-on 4 hour final class in CABA's bee field working bees with experienced club members, a year's membership to CABA, and a year's membership to PSBA.

Also, our desire to partner with HACC's campus on Cameron Street to establish a CABA apiary was graciously granted by the college. Since receiving HACC's gift of space for hands-on education, these hives have become our members' classroom to fine tune their beekeeping skills while inspecting each hive. Our outdoor meetings are filled with questions and answers from new and experienced members about disease, parasites, varroa mites and treatments to mitigate their negative impact on colony survival. Beekeepers watch and take part in demonstrations of creative ways to handle hive issues.

The Apiary is also the place where a Heroes to Hives program for veterans was conducted by Gary Carns for hands-on experience with bees. According to MIFFS, it is designed to train veterans in beginning beekeeping through a free online training program that is coupled with on-ground training. CABA was proud to be one of the clubs in the US to present this program to Veterans.

A related outcome of HACC's generosity has been CABA's wonderful plan to plant a pollinator garden (open to public) surrounding the Apiary. Since one reason for colony and bee decline is the loss of

flowering plant diversity and abundance (the only source of food for bees), CABA hopes that seeing the beauty of native plants will encourage the public to plant when possible and use less pesticides.

For several years our club enjoyed meeting on the second floor of the Farm Show building. Last year, CABA secretary, Debbie Buckfelder contacted HACC about possible meeting space on campus. HACC is generously allowing us to use a 21st century tech equipped classroom for our indoor meeting purposes. Including newbies, we now have 234 members; stadium seating in this room gives all who attend a great view of our programs. Our members possess a great variety of skills; computer/tech skills have enhanced our program possibilities for remote speakers and the use of audio visual equipment. CABA president Gary Carns, chosen in 2022 by PSBA as the PA Beekeeper of the Year, was able to schedule renowned varroa mite specialist, Randy Oliver, as a remote speaker. His remarks were appreciated.



CABA President Gary Carns taling about bees at the Farm-City Days at the PA Farm Show.

Lastly, CABA enjoys a close relationship with the PA Farm Show. Pennsylvania is known as an agricultural state. Honey bees have been recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture as a critical and mutual part of the Agricultural Industry. Farmers and beekeepers work together to produce the crops that pollinated plants create. Honey bees are especially important pollinators for agricultural crops because they can easily be moved into agricultural areas such as orchards and farm fields. USDA states that honey bees pollinate 15 billion dollars worth of crops in the United States each year. And let's not forget that honey bees also contribute their own product to the economy-



Two queen cups show where new queens develop. In the right cell, a partially developed queen is exposed. The empty cup shows where a new egg might be deposited.



The tiny brown specks on these larvae (developing bees) are attached destructive varroa mites, a leading cause of colony loss.

No wonder beekeepers are so committed to the Farm Show! CABA members volunteer in numerous ways to set up sensory experiences for the public's delight and education throughout the Farm Show complex each January. Beekeepers from all over PA enter Honey products to be judged, displayed, sampled, and sold. They also join us to volunteer and provide manpower to set-up, man, and teardown booths that educate and delight Farm Show visitors. We can't wait for the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show





Fun at Farm City Days at the PA Farm Show



Hello! I have had a busy past few weeks with lots of different events. As the Pennsylvania Fair Queen my role is to promote Pennsylvania Fairs as well as the agricultural industry. However, this is a lot more than just attending fairs. Fair season is just beginning in June, but I have already attended lots of events. April and May is a busy time for celebrating agriculture in Washington county, so I have had the opportunity to go home quite a few times. I have also spent several days in Harrisburg attending events such as Blessing of the Balers and a big one, Farm City Days.

One of the events that I have gotten to attend was Farm City Day. This is an event that I didn't even know about until I became the PA Fair Queen, but it is so interesting and I wish I would've known about it sooner. Farm City Day is held at the Farm Show Complex and gives local students a chance to learn and explore the agricultural industry. This included the PA Pork Producers, PA Beekeepers, Friends of Agriculture, and even Goat Snuggling from Farm Show! It is a two-day event that welcomed over 1,300 students this year.

The first day, I helped to escort students around to the various stations. Which also included fielding questions from teachers about my role, and lots of pictures with kids! The second day, I got the opportunity to assist the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation at their booth. There was a small activity for kids that helped to teach them the life cycle of a sunflower and the many uses of sunflower seeds. Students



PA Farm Show Junior Committee members, Caleb Miller and Erica Teagarden, PA State Fair Queen helped at the Friends of the Farm Show foundation booth teaching kids about planting sunflowers at Farm City Days. There were about 1300 kids from local schools who attendted.

began with some soil in a small cup and then got to put their sunflower seed in. We then talked about what would happen with the seed over the next 7, 10, and 100 days. From just a sprout to when they would be able to plant it into the ground, and finally, when they would be able to harvest the seeds. I enjoyed seeing the amazement on their face when they realized just how short, or how long to some, the life cycle was. We finished up the activity by discussing the different products that can be made from the sunflowers seeds such as oil and how even some animals enjoy the seeds.

My favorite part of this activity was how interested each and everyone of the kids were. They were so excited for their little seed in their cup of soil that would hopefully become a sunflower

someday. With any extra time I would ask them what their favorite stop had been that day. To no surprise, most said goat snuggling! I want to give a big thank you to the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation for allowing me to have a piece in the newsletter. I am glad that I am able to share about my journey and especially my next few months that will be filled with traveling many miles all over the state to attend fairs. It is an honor to be able to represent the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) as the State Fair Queen and help to educate people all over the state about the agricultural and agri-tourism industries. I am ready for a busy and exciting summer!

Yours truly,

Erica Teagarden







September 14-18, 2024

https://allamericandairyshow.com/ https://allamericandairyshow.com/schedule/

PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA





Special Show Offers

Visit our interactive show map at agsci.psu.edu/apd/maps to learn more about participating exhibitors and special

Penn State's Ag Progress Days is held at: Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center 2710 West Pine Grove Road Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865 9 miles southwest of Penn State University Park

For detailed driving directions, visit: agsci.psu.edu/apd/driving-directions

Ag Progress Days is sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Ag Progress Days Office 318C Tyson Bldg. University Park, PA 16802 ph: 814-865-2081 fax: 814-865-1677 email: agprogress

Visit us on the web at apd.psu.edu







Don't miss one of the largest outdoor agricultural shows in the East.

With more than 500 exhibitors and vendors showcasing innovations in agricultural equipment and related industries, Ag Progress Days has something for everyone. Our show features Penn State Extension research and offers educational presentations, guided tours and interactive fun for the whole family. Choose to spend your day on our 55-acre exhibit site or join us online as we explore our amazing food and fiber system.

- Pield machinery and crops

- Horse training and teeps
 Horse training and health
 Home and farm safety
 Gardening and beekeeping
 Working drone technology

Educational Presentations and Tours Dairy, livestock and equine Field and forage

- Energy and environmental resources
- Horticulture
- Forest stewardship and wildlife management
 Crop management

- Interactive Events and Activities
 Pasto Agricultural Museum
 Educational exhibits and expert advice in the College Exhibits Building
- the College Exhibits Building
 Health screenings and safety
 Healthy families and cooking demonstrations

Master Gardener flower and vegetable gardens

- Youth and Family Fun

 4-H program opportunities in animal science;
 hobbies, careers and some interesting animals

 A-Maze-N Corn
- · Live butterfly exhibit





HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI): WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DAIRY **CATTLE AND POULTRY**

The highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus affects severel types of animals, primarily migratory birds and domestic poultry. It has also been isolated from seals, recoors, and sluvnic, HPAI has been identified in ruminants such as goets and distry cattle, which has prompted producers to enhance biosecurity and disinfection measures. Below, export information about HPAI and tips to safeguard your animals and business.

- Virus basics

 Animals infected with HPAI shed virus in their mucus, salva, and manure.

 The virus can be stable in organic matter such as manure.
- remails susceptione to most distrections and detergents once the organic matter (manure) is removed. Cleaning boots and farm equipment to remove manure before disinfecting is essential!

Why is HPAI concerning?
Migratory birds spread the HPAI virus to a new region
by leaving behind measure loaded with virus. The virus
can be passed to poultry when they interact with
wild birds, their measure, or thems contaminated with
manure, in poultry, HPAI can cause several clinical signs.

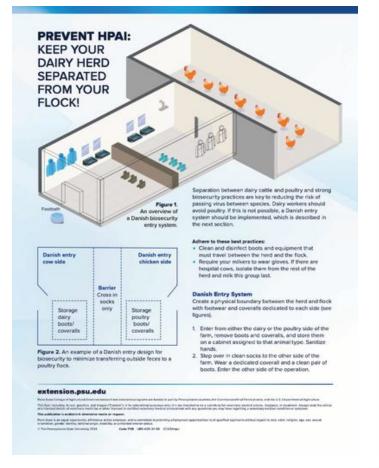
including respiratory distress and sudden unexplained death. Additionally, affected brids must be depopulated according to USDA guidelines.

When dairy cattle are infected with HPAL their symptoms are milder. However, affected heards show decreased feed intake and milk production, with about 10% of cows showing more severe signs. These cows produce thickened, abnormal milk and often have dry, tarker presence.

- Biosecurity on mixed animal farms
 On farms with poultry and dainy cattle, biosecurity practices must be increased.
 Separation is key—use different workers for poultry and dairy, it workers are crossing into both areas, then dedicated footweer for poultry and dedicated footweer for dairy must be used.
 When possible, discourage the presence of migratory birds.

Report suspected HPAI signs
Producers should monitor their poultry and deiry
cattle for clinical signs of disease. If they are present
contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at 717-772-2852.





66th Keystone International **Livestock Exposition**

September 27 - October 6, 2024

PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center Keystone International Livestock Exposition 2300 North Cameron Street • Harrisburg, PA 17110

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ATTENTION! Are you an Annual or Lifetime Friend?

The Foundation would like your feedback

We value each of our Friends, and know with the help of your support, we are able to continue to support educational events and programs at the PA Farm Show.

Facts about Friends:

- · Since 2010, over \$2 million has been given back to the PA Farm Show
- Support FFA, 4-H, Farm Show **Junior Committee & Farm Show Operations Team**
- 29 Annual & 75 Lifetime Friends
- Help to secure funding future youth in agriculture!

To become a Friend or renew your Friendship, visit:

https://bit.ly/FOFSapplication



To our current **Annual &** Lifetime Friends:

Be on the lookout for an email which will include a short survey. We value your participation.

Friends of Farm Show Funding the Future of Ag



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.

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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

Visitor's Guide designed by Rachel Schlegel, Marketing Director



FRIENDS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FARM S HOW

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 \$2 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.

Friend Application:	Annual-\$65 ☐ Lifetime-\$500 ☐
Contact's Name:	Billing: Check Enclosed \square Invoice Me \square
Name as you would like it to appear on signage:	Pay by credit card: Call Debby Griffith, Bookkeeper, 717-497-5660
Address:	Mail checks to: Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation
Phone #:	c/o PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center
Email:	2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
How did you hear about us:	I would like to sign-up for Friends' Emails
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Visit the PA Farm Show Website for upcoming events!

https://tinyurl.com/5y3a85dw





Is Hiring!

apply at:

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Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

Highlights of Upcoming Events

Every Tuesday & Friday Opening Day - PA Open Air

9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Farmers Market

Aug. 9-11 Jurassic Quest

Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 Harrisburg Gun & Knife

Show

To see the full schedule

