



# Friends of the Farm Show News *Powering Pennsylvania*



January-February 2025

Volume 13 Issue 1



**Dr. Temple Grandin  
at PA Farm Show**

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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.



**Mary Klaus  
hosting children's storytime  
at the PA Farm Show**



Children see the Pennsylvania Farm Show quite differently than adults do.

So Mary Klaus, writes a children's story each year, explaining the show to young visitors in terms they can understand. Christina D. Walker illustrates the booklet, which Rachel Schlegel designs. The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. sponsors the booklet.

This year's story, "Little Liz and the Big Pennsylvania Farm Show," looks at the show through the eyes of Liz Dailey, a 5-year-old girl who visits the show with her family. Little Liz sees the extravaganza in terms of small, medium, large, yummy, and fun.

Klaus will read the story to children during the 2025 Farm Show. After the readings, the story will be available for families to take home. The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show booth in the Giant Expo Hall will also have copies, along with Klaus's Farm Show history books, "Hold Your Horses! The Pennsylvania Farm Show at 100" and "Blue Ribbon Patriotism: How the Pennsylvania Farm Show Helped the World War II Effort."

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

March-April Due by February 1

May-June Due by April 1

July-August Due by June 1

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

**Questions?** Please call (717)254-9550

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

**March-April 2025  
Newsletter  
Deadline  
is  
February 1**

Cover: A little goat at the 2024 PA Farm Show sticking its tongue out at the photographer.  
Credit: PA Department of Agriculture.

**Foundation Contact Information**

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# Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry

*New Time & Location:*

- Wednesday, Jan. 8
- 3 p.m.
- New Holland Arena

## New Staging Area for this Year:

- Enter through the Upper Spine near Section 19 in the New Holland Arena.  
Seating will be available in the Governor's Box. (Follow signs)
- You will be called down when it is time for your race.

## Why Attend the Feed Scurry Event?



### Audience Participation

Think you can "do it better?" Fill the participation ticket out (given at the event) and cross your fingers in hopes to have your name drawn!



### Children's Stick Horse Race

Bring your kiddos (ages 2-12) to show off their horse riding skills — stick horse skills that is! You might even get a chance to race against a PA State Trooper!



### Yogurt Break

Driving a team of horses and racing down the New Holland Arena is hard work. Enjoy a Yogurt Break provided by Painterland Sisters.

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2024 Celebrity Feed Scurry

The Friends' Foundation would like to extend a thank you to Landpro Equipment for the use of their Gator during the week of the PA Farm Show.

# Pennsylvania Requires Precautionary Bulk Milk Testing at Processing Plants to Protect Dairy, Poultry Industries from Avian Influenza

At no cost to farmers, collective samples from milk tankers will aid in early virus detection.

Surveillance testing will help prevent the spread of HPAI. No cases have been detected in Pennsylvania cattle to this point.

Harrisburg, PA – Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announced that Pennsylvania will now require precautionary bulk testing of milk for HPAI from Pennsylvania farms as an added measure to prevent the spread of avian influenza. No virus has been detected in Pennsylvania cattle, but cases continue to rise in other states.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is taking this preventative measure, at no cost to farmers, to pinpoint and contain the source of viral infections and prevent the spread of Influenza A, including highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Procedures are detailed in a quarantine order effective today. Several other states have implemented mandatory bulk testing of milk to reduce the spread of HPAI, including California, Colorado, Michigan, and Oklahoma.

This testing plan was developed in close consultation with dairy and poultry farmers to minimize the impact on their operations. The measure is announced as more than 217 new cases in three states have been confirmed in dairy cattle in the last 30 days. Not typically fatal in dairy cattle, HPAI can severely affect milk production, lead to serious illness in some cows, and substantially strain farm operations. The virus is fatal in poultry.

“Taking this proactive step will ensure that we can protect our cattle, poultry, and farmworkers,” Secretary Redding said. “We are taking this step after careful consideration, in consultation with dairy and poultry farmers, and after voluntary testing was not adequate to get samples necessary for detection and prevention. Pennsylvania’s large number of farms with both dairy cattle and poultry present unique risks that demand extra vigilance.”

Milk samples will be collected from bulk milk tank trucks transporting milk from Pennsylvania farms to processing plants. If the receiving processing plant is in Pennsylvania, the sample will be collected at the plant by the processor. If the processing plant is outside Pennsylvania, the sample will be collected by the shipper, whether the shipper is an individual farmer or milk cooperative handling milk on behalf of farmers. Samples must have been taken by trained, certified personnel and

submitted to a Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System lab within 48 hours of collection.

Samples will be tested for HPAI. If the virus is detected, it will trigger further investigation to identify the source. Special quarantine measures will be established to contain and eliminate the virus at the source.

Pennsylvania joins only three states without an active HPAI outbreak – Arkansas, Massachusetts, and Oklahoma – in requiring precautionary testing at the processor level. Milk that has been pasteurized is safe to drink. Pasteurization destroys the virus. This measure will help ensure an adequate supply of milk in the marketplace.

This new measure adds to requirements already in place to help prevent the spread of HPAI. In April 2024, Pennsylvania led the nation in issuing a Quarantine Order requiring testing of dairy cattle entering the state when HPAI was first detected in herds in other states. Pennsylvania’s strategic move was soon followed by USDA and other states.

Poultry and dairy are the two largest sectors among Pennsylvania’s \$132.5 billion agriculture industry, which supports more than 593,000 jobs statewide.

“For the past 20 weeks, Turner’s has been voluntarily participating in bulk milk testing to ensure we are doing our part to limit the spread of HPAI,” said Turner Dairy Farms President Chuck Turner. “Without that knowledge we cannot take appropriate action to prevent the spread to neighboring farms. We feel we have a responsibility to our family dairy partners, employees, and consumers to do the right thing to ensure safety and mitigate negative impacts to the industry. I appreciate the leadership of the PA Department of Ag to prevent the spread of avian flu, and believe they are making the right decision to require bulk milk testing.”

Turner Dairy is a major milk producer and processor in Penn Hills, in Allegheny County.

“Increased, proactive testing is the only way to confirm that we don’t have the virus in Pennsylvania dairy cows or catch it early and stamp it out if we do, so farms can quickly get back to normal,” said State Veterinarian Dr. Alex Hamberg. “We’ve seen in other states that the virus shows up in milk before cows show clinical signs of illness. The virus has spread in other states by moving dairy cows from one farm to another, then it has spread among cows. It can be carried on contaminated equipment, trucks, and farmworkers’ footwear and clothing moving between farms and buildings. Rigorous biosecurity, including disinfecting boots, equipment, and vehicles, and using footbaths at barn entryways is critical.”

In addition to the nation-leading quarantine order and this precautionary testing, the Shapiro Administration continues to work with federal, state, local, and industry partners to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from animal diseases, including HPAI. The PA Centers for Dairy Excellence, and Poultry & Livestock Excellence, along with the PA Departments of Agriculture and Health, and Penn State Extension partner for regular monthly updates for the dairy and poultry farmers and processors to keep the industry and their workforce and consumers safe.

The Administration has also made key investments in bolstering agriculture’s infrastructure and workforce to protect the industry from future disease outbreaks and recover losses from avian influenza. Those investments include the nation’s only special fund to improve biosecurity and help poultry farmers recover losses not covered by the federal government, the expansion of veterinary lab services in Western PA to speed diagnosis and response to disease outbreaks, and funding to research and implement cutting-edge technology that can help detect and prevent future outbreaks.

Detailed information on avian influenza biosecurity, quarantines, and other measures to protect Pennsylvania agriculture can be found at

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pda/animals/diseases/avian-influenza.html>



## What's New at 2025 PA Farm Show...

Whether it's a new, demure & mindful Oberholtsi dairy goats, Cow & Calf mama-baby teams, Dry and Sweet Fruit Ciders, Fall Harvest-themed Quilt Creations, Garden Tractors, or new Home Veggie Canning categories competing for honors, or even a demo keeping your family and farm safe around power generation, there is something new in every barn, on every stage, and in every arena.

Youth will be strutting their gobblers' stuff and showing off how well they've raised their birds during Turkey Showmanship for the first time in 2025. Market turkeys will be shown and included in the Jr. Market Livestock Sale that helps fund the animals the students raise over the next year. Ornamental eggs, feathers, and market birds are back for 2025, while other poultry classes are still limited to photos to protect our \$7.1 billion poultry industry from the spread of avian influenza.



Snuggle up to some furry bovine cuteness from Swartz Farm in Mohnton and Friends of Farm Show Foundation. Snap a priceless pic and pet a mini highland cow – that's "coo" to you, Scotts – and help support future Farm Show fun and youth scholarships.



Power your culinary imagination at the PA Preferred® Culinary Connection every day, every hour, for an all-star line-up of celebrity chefs led by Philadelphia's Food Network star, author, and Guinness World Record-holder Chef Jet Tila. Visit Culinary Connection to power your day with local flavors and inspiration, sample celebrity recipes prepped by future stars from PA culinary schools, grab a cookbook, and begin your own PA farm-to-table culinary adventures!



Learn how to protect your farm, yourself, and your family from accidents around power lines and other electrical and power-generating equipment. Thursday morning in the Equine Arena, check out PPL's Live Line Electrical Safety demonstration.



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

## **AMERICA250PA QUILT PROJECT**

**Visit us in the Main Hall booth #1132**

**Learn to hand-quilt**

**Be part of the history and hand stitch the quilt**

**Learn about the Pennsylvania Founding Fathers**

**Sign our registry book**

*Quilt will be raffled as a fundraiser for*

*Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation, Inc.*

*The winner will be drawn at the 2026 PA Farm Show. Raffle tickets \$5*

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Second Annual

# PA Farm Show Mullet Contest!

Brought to you by: 

**Heavy Metal Hair Salon**

**When: Monday, January 6th 2025**  
 Sign up starts at 10:00 am  
 Contest starts around 11:30 am

**Where: The PA State Farm Show Complex**  
**PSECU Stage**

**Contest Categories**

**Under 5:      6 - 12:      13-18:**  
 For all you youngins with style!

**19 and Older:**      Adults with business in the front,  
                                  party in the back!

**Throw back!**      Had a mullet back in the day?  
 "Pre 2010" and "Post 2010":      Submit a picture!  
 Submit Throwback Mullet Photos by scanning the code below

A "Best in Grow" will be awarded to  
 the overall winner of all categories  
**For Pre Registration, scan QR Code** 

For any questions or concerns, please email Madi Shaw at  
[madishaw@comcast.net](mailto:madishaw@comcast.net)







## 2025 PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CLASS

**HOSTED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANGE**

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**RSVP is requested: email [publicrelations@pagrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@pagrange.org) or  
[carrie@sallc.com](mailto:carrie@sallc.com)**





# Dr. Temple Grandin to speak at the PA Farm Show

Celebrate Women Powering Agriculture on Thursday, January 9, at 9 a.m. in the Small Arena, when featured speaker Dr. Temple Grandin, innovative professor, and best-selling author, will bring her unique perspective on problem-solving and understanding animals to anchor the day, courtesy of Friends of Farm Show Foundation. Her speech and a fireside chat will kick off a half-day series of conversations, interactive demos, and networking opportunities, celebrating some of the powerful women leading Pennsylvania agriculture today and shaping the industry tomorrow.

## **Bio written by Dr. Temple Grandin**

Dr. Grandin is a designer of livestock handling facilities and a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. Facilities she has designed are located in the United States, Canada, Europe, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. Almost half of North America's cattle are handled in a center track restrainer system she designed for meat plants. Curved chute and race systems she designed for cattle are used worldwide, and her writings on the flight zone and other principles of grazing animal behavior have helped many people reduce stress on their animals during handling.

She has also developed an objective scoring system for



**Dr. Temple Grandin**

assessing the handling of cattle and pigs at meat plants. Many large corporations are using this scoring system to improve animal welfare. Other research areas are cattle temperament, environmental enrichment for pigs, reducing dark cutters and bruises, bull fertility, training procedures, horse perception of novel objects, and effective stunning methods for cattle and pigs at meat plants.

She obtained her B.A. at Franklin Pierce College and her M.S. in Animal Science at Arizona State University. Dr. Grandin received her Ph.D in Animal Science from the University of Illinois in 1989.

Today, she teaches courses on livestock behavior and facility design at Colorado State University and consults with the livestock industry on facility design, livestock handling, and animal welfare.

She has appeared on television shows such as 20/20, 48 Hours, CNN Larry King Live, PrimeTime Live, 60 Minutes, the Today Show, and many shows in other countries. She has been featured in People Magazine, the New York Times, Forbes, U.S. News and World Report, Time Magazine, the New York Times book review, and Discover magazine.

In 2010, Time Magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people. Interviews with Dr. Grandin have been broadcast on National Public Radio, and she has a 2010 TED Lecture titled "The World Needs ALL Kinds of Minds."

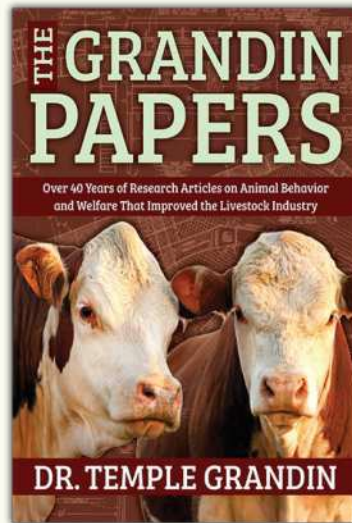
She has also authored over 400 articles in both scientific journals and livestock periodicals on handling, welfare, and facility design. She is the author of "Thinking in Pictures," "Livestock



Handling and Transport," "Genetics and Behavior of Domestic "Animals," "Guide to Working with Farm Animals," and "Humane Livestock Handling." Her books "Animals in Translation" and "Animals Make Us Human" were on the New York Times bestseller list. "Animals Make Us Human" was also on the Canadian bestseller list. Her latest book, *Calling All Minds*, was a New York Times bestseller for middle school students.



Her life story has also been made into an HBO movie titled "Temple Grandin," starring Claire Danes, which won seven Emmy Awards and a Golden Globe. The film shows her life as a teenager and how she started her career. In 2017, she was inducted into The Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2018, she was made a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was named one of the top 10 Best College Professors in 2020 by CEO Magazine. In 2022, she was awarded the University Distinguished Professor degree at Colorado State University. Her latest book, "Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions," was also on the New York Times bestseller list.

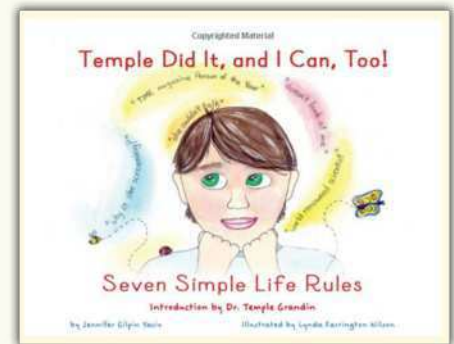


### **The Grandin Papers** By Dr. Temple Grandin

"The Grandin Papers is a compilation of some of my most important scientific papers with an emphasis on livestock facility design, the development of animal welfare auditing programs, and the behavior of cattle and horses during handling. They are in chronological order. I chose the papers and book chapters that would most likely be of interest to the general public, policymakers, and people interested in farm animal welfare and behavior. This anthology will show how my thinking has evolved over a fifty-year career."  
—Temple Grandin

**For more books visit Dr. Temple Grandin's website at:**

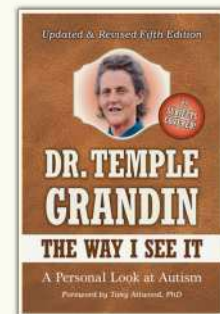
**<https://www.templegrandin.com>**



### **Temple Did It, I Can, Too!**

By Jennifer Gilpin-Yacio with the guidance of Temple Grandin.

This is the first children's book I have participated in. This book is written with easy rules for the child to follow to be a good person. There is practical advice to enable children on the autism spectrum to reach their full potential.



### **The Way I See It - (5th Edition)** By Dr. Temple Grandin

This is my most comprehensive book for parents and teachers who work with young children.

It contains everything from early intervention and inclusion in the class room to video games. There is also information on medication and sensory problems. The book consists of many short chapters which are indexed by subject. It is ideal for busy parents, teachers, and the extended family.



As the Earth's climate changes, so will our Pennsylvania gardens. What has changed so far, and what is likely to change in the future?

By Michael Shepard, Master Gardener, Columbia County

Most climate scientists agree that climate change is upon us. The 2023 year was the hottest on record, and many parts of the world saw record-breaking heat waves. Commercial agriculture will certainly see significant challenges, but what about gardeners? What can we expect as Pennsylvania gardeners, and how should we prepare?

Let's first quickly review what we know of the causes. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are components of the Earth's atmosphere that allow sunlight to enter but trap the heat it generates after reaching and warming the surface. The most important are carbon dioxide and methane gas, which naturally cycle through the growth and decay of vegetation. For thousands of years, their concentration in the atmosphere remained steady. Two centuries ago, humans tapped the power of coal and oil to build our current civilization. Because of this, we live longer and better than our ancestors, but in the past 70 years, it has become increasingly clear that using these "fossil" fuels has changed the balance of GHGs in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide has risen from 280 ppm around the year 1800 to 420 ppm this year, and methane concentrations have more than doubled. Consequently, the Earth has warmed a bit more than 2°F since 1850—more in some parts of the world, less in others. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



2023 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of Pennsylvania

(NOAA), average temperatures in Pennsylvania have risen 2°F since 1900, and most of that rise is due to warmer winters.

Gardeners rely upon the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plant Hardiness Zone Map to estimate which plants could flourish and which will likely not survive in their area. The map is straightforward. It is an estimate of the average lowest temperature in an area for the past 30 years and broken into thirteen 10°F zones: 1 being the coldest (-60° to -50°F found in some parts of Alaska) and 13 the warmest (60° to 70°F, found in some parts of Hawaii and Puerto Rico). These zones are further broken down into colder "a" and warmer "b" half-zones spanning 5°F each.

Although the USDA cautions that changes in an area's mapped zone are not necessarily the result of climate change, changes over the last three map releases (1990, 2012, and 2023) are suggestive. Between 1990 and today, the warmest areas of Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, moved from zone 6b (-5° to 0°F) to 7b (5° to 10°F), and the coldest areas, around McKean County, moved from 4b (-25° to -20°F) to 5b (-15° to -10°F). It would not be surprising to see another half-zone shift in many places within the next 20 years.

Warming temperatures will likely benefit many gardeners with longer growing seasons and a wider range of potential cultivars but may harm others. An example



would be fruit trees requiring a certain number of winter chill hours – the hours exposed to low temperatures – to blossom and fruit. Warmer temperatures also provide opportunities for invasives or pests that otherwise would not survive colder winters.

As the Earth warms, the atmosphere holds more moisture. For Pennsylvania and, more generally, the northeastern United States, this has led to a significant increase in the number of extreme rainfall events over the past few decades. The definition of "extreme" varies from place to place, but in Pennsylvania, it's two or more inches of rain in 24 hours. Annual precipitation hasn't changed significantly, so this suggests precipitation is less evenly distributed. For gardeners, the main takeaway is to ensure

gardens can absorb heavy rains without flooding or erosion. Ideally, we would also find ways to store runoff from these excess events for irrigation during dry periods.

The final piece of advice for gardeners as we adapt to a rapidly changing climate is to "plan for the unexpected." A warming atmosphere is more volatile and more likely to subject us to extremes in temperature, rainfall, drought duration, and even cold snaps. There is some evidence that the polar vortex is weakening so that, while winters are generally warmer, the occasional tongue of Arctic air can dip into the lower 48 and bring exceptional cold as it did in Texas in 2021 and again just recently. Only time will tell if events like these are rare anomalies or a growing trend.



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**PennState Law**

## **Understanding the Basics of Pesticide Drift**

**February 28, 2025 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**

On Friday, February 28, 2025, from 12 noon–1:00 ET, the Penn State Center for Agricultural and Shale Law, alongside the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's (PDA) Agricultural Business Development Center (ABDC), will present the next webinar in the Understanding Agricultural Law educational series:

"Understanding the Basics of Pesticide Drift"

### **REGISTER at:**

**[https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/1817322910631/WN\\_GkUlmXiESqG28tKMueqSA#/registration](https://psu.zoom.us/webinar/register/1817322910631/WN_GkUlmXiESqG28tKMueqSA#/registration)**

1 hour of substantive CLE credit is available for Pennsylvania-licensed attorneys at no charge.



# Pennsylvania FFA



**Chapter Visits** The state officers have been busy visiting chapters across the state. While at the chapters, the state officers facilitate workshops on topics anywhere from leadership, to public speaking and even goal setting. With over 60 chapters visited, the state officers are just a little bit over halfway through the chapters visits scheduled for the this year.



## Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Meeting



In addition to chapter visits and conference planning, the state officers participate in numerous conventions and meetings to grow their understanding of the agricultural sector. This past fall, they attended the annual Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Meeting, where they spent the week advocating for the industry and networking with farmers and agriculturalists from throughout the state. They acquired invaluable insights to bring back to Pennsylvania FFA, supporting both the members and the industry.



## Together We Can CELEBRATE: FFA Milestones and New Beginnings

This year, the 96th Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention will be held during the 109th Pennsylvania Farm Show. This event shines a spotlight on first-year members who have received their jackets, as well as those reaching significant milestones with their Keystone Degrees and newly chartered chapters. Additionally, it honors members who have excelled in their SAE projects by receiving state star awards in various categories. With the Pennsylvania FFA Association achieving record numbers for jacket recipients (1,369), Keystone Degree recipients (516), and new chartered chapters, we are excited to theme this year's Mid-Winter Convention "Together We Can Celebrate: FFA Milestones and New Beginnings" as we are beyond excited to Celebrate these accomplishments with the nearly 10,000 attendees.





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*Funding the Future of Ag*

### We are proud to support the following events during Farm Show:

- Sheep to Shawl & Fleece to Shawl
- Draft Horse Pulling Competition
- AgExplorer Stations
- Antique Tractor Restoration
- Horse Power!
- Children's Pedal Tractor Pull
- Cumberland 4-H Drill Team
- PA High School Rodeo
- PSECU Stage
- Lancaster Farming Stage
- Horseshoe Pitching
- Horse Shoeing & Sheep Shearing Demo
- Coloring Contest
- FFA Mid-Winter Convention
- Speedhorse Demonstration
- Mike Waugh Celebrity Draft Horse Feed Scurry Competition
- Calving Corner
- Truck and Tractor Pull Demonstration
- Conservation Display
- PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab
- Canine Extravaganza – Meet the Breeds
- Draft Horse Hitch & Drive Demos
- Lumberjack Demonstration
- Mini Horse Extravaganza
- Ag Mechanics
- FFA Window Displays



# 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*





## 4-H'ers prepare for Potato Judging Competition by Allison Emanuel



As the Pennsylvania Farm Show approaches, our 4-H'ers prepare for a competition. The combination of observation skills, quick thinking, and decision-making is crucial. Our 4-H'ers gather from across Pennsylvania to participate in the Farm Show's annual potato judging competition. Participants evaluate potatoes on criteria such as size, shape, and defects.



The competition is broken down into three sections: defects, plates, and grading. In the defects section, 4-H'ers examine forty potatoes and classify the type of defect. Examples of defects include sprouts, sunburn, rodents, and growth cracks. The next section, plates, is further divided into two sets of plates. Each set includes four plates, with five potatoes on each plate. These plates are ranked First to Fourth based on uniformity and defects. In the final section, grading, 4-H'ers evaluate one hundred potatoes, determining whether each is A or B grade. For the potato to qualify as A grade, it must be at least 2-inches in diameter and have less than



**4-H participants with their leaders gather from across Pennsylvania to compete in the PA Farm Show's annual potato judging competition.**

5% defects. In this timed section, accuracy and speed are essential.

As a potato judge with five years of experience, I have witnessed this competition expand significantly, now reaching participants across all corners of Pennsylvania. The event has evolved to provide opportunities for everyone to learn by participating in various team categories. Each county enters A and B teams, which compete for the title of the best potato judging team. To increase accessibility, C teams were introduced as non-competing groups, allowing participants to practice their potato judging skills without the pressure of competition.

This event is more than a simple contest; it serves as an entry point into agricultural education. Participants gain hands-on experience with potato defects and USDA grading standards hands-on, embodying 4-H's slogan:

"Learn by Doing." The excitement begins long before competition day, as 4-H'ers practice under the guidance of 4-H leaders, farmers, and alumni.



Win or lose, the potato judging program reinforces 4-H's missions: fostering leadership, education, and an appreciation for agriculture. 4-H'ers develop the ability to make decisions under pressure and collaborate as a team. Participants leave with more than the results of the day, taking away life lessons that will serve them both on and off the farm.





## PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden is excited for the Pennsylvania Farm Show



Hello! The past few months have been quieter in terms of events but have become busier with preparations for the Farm Show. As a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee, there is a lot of work that my fellow committee members and myself must do to get ready for the big event in January.

We have monthly meetings in different parts of the state where we not only get to gather to discuss Farm Show business but also to tour different agricultural operations. The October meeting took us to Mifflin County. We got to visit a local creamery and a hydroponic lettuce operation.

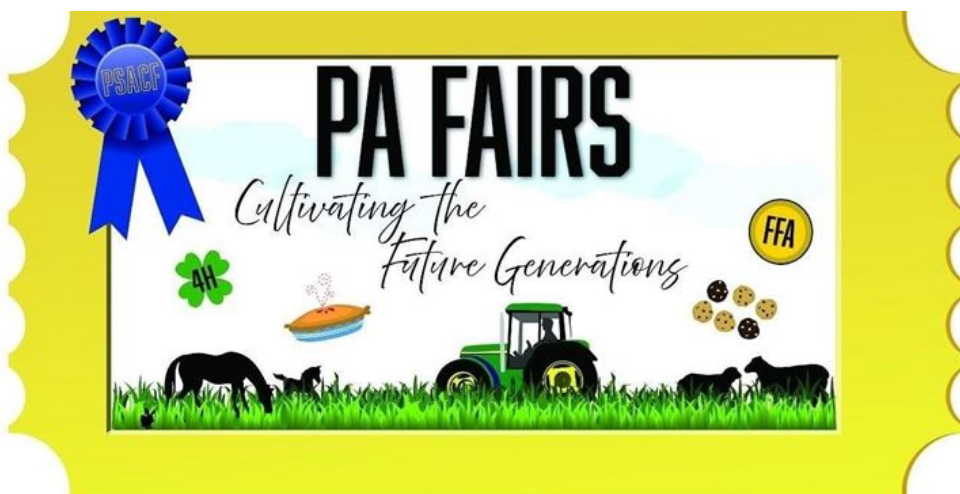
During the past month I have done a lot of reflecting on my last three years, and of course on this fourth year that I have been a part of the Junior Committee. My first year was in 2022 and we were just trying to adjust to life after the pandemic and the first in-person Farm Show after a year off. In 2023 I was

unsure of whether I was going to apply to the committee again as I was just about to begin my first year at Penn State but I am so glad I did. And last year, I was struggling with the possibility of it being my last year. I knew that the only way I would get another year on the committee was if I became the PA Fair Queen and there was about a 1 in 60 percent chance that would happen. Shortly after I was crowned in January, when I finally had the opportunity to look at my phone, I saw 100s of messages from friends and family and so many from my Farm Show people. One of the first phone calls that I made was to Carleen, one of the Junior Committee advisors, and we shared some tears and a lot of excitement.

With all of that being said, I could not be more ready for the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show. I have my schedule of events laid out and I cannot wait. One of the events that I am most excited for is the Celebrity Feed Scurry. I have watched for the past few years but this year I get to participate. I will also be a part of the Celebrity Honey Extraction. This is something totally new to me as I have never been a part of it or even watched before. This year is going to be a little different with a crown on my head, but I am excited. If you

If you are interested in having the state fair queen attend an event, please visit the PA Fair Queen program webpage, or contact Bryndil, PA Fair Queen Coordinator, at [brynk03@gmail.com](mailto:brynk03@gmail.com) or 570-594-4742

Yours truly,  
Erica Teagarden





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](mailto: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 \$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](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. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

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#### **Friend Application:**

**Contact's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name as you would like it to appear on signage:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**How did you hear about us:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to receive Friends' emails:**  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual-**\$65 ☐

**Lifetime-**\$500 ☐

**Billing:** Check Enclosed ☐

#### **Pay by credit card:**

Call Debby Griffith, Bookkeeper, 717-497-5660

#### **Mail checks to:**

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

#### **I would like to sign-up for Friends' Emails**

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

#### **FOLLOW US!**

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

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

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

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



**Is Hiring!**

apply at:

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

## Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

### Highlights of Upcoming Events

Jan. 4-11, 2025	2025 PA Farm Show
Jan. 23-26, 2025	PA Auto Show
Feb. 1-9, 2025	Great American Outdoor Show
Feb. 15-16, 2025	Motorama
Feb. 20-23, 2025	Pennsylvania RV Show

To see the full schedule

