



March-April 2025

Friends of the Farm Show News



Volume 13 Issue 2



Friends of the 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.



Thank you
William Piper
for your dedication
and service to the
Friends of the
Pennsylvania Farm Show.

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

May-June Due by April 1
July-August Due by June 1
Sept.-Oct. Due by August 1

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

Questions? Please call (717)254-9550

Email articles: fofsnewsletter@gmail.com

May-June 2025
Newsletter
Deadline
is
April 1

Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry: William Piper, Chairman of the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation Inc.
driving the sled in the scurry. His mucker Clayton Hetrick and team owner Wyatt Carbaugh are in intense
competition.

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Energy, Excitement, Entertainment at Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry

The Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry was held during the PA Farm Show on Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the New Holland Arena. The event was opened by Chairman Bill Piper welcoming all sponsors, drivers, muckers and attendees. A surprise presentation was given to Chairman Piper from Vice-Chairman Mark Keller, Rep. Barb Gleim and Sen. Greg Rothman. The microphone was then handed over to emcee Eric Thomas whose energy and excitement entertained the arena.

As in year's past, the children's stick horse race was held in between heats. This part of the evening puts a smile on everyone's face as they watch

little legs race to the finish line! Congratulations to all our age group winners!

For the first time since the event began, four audience members were chosen to test their luck at driving the team of horses through the obstacle course. Each participant expressed how much they enjoyed the chance to participate. Painterland Sisters also sponsored yogurt for all Feed Scurry attendees.

A special thank you is extended to all the sponsors, drivers, muckers, horse teams and their owners for continuing to make the Feed Scurry a significant fundraising event for the Foundation.

To see the full list of sponsors & drivers visit:
<https://friendsoffarmshow.com/fofs-sponsors/> or scan me.

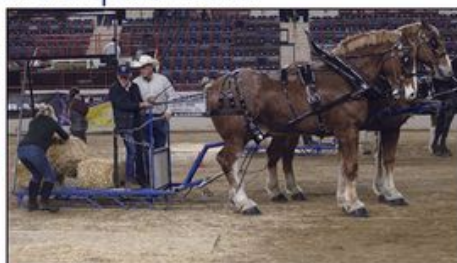


Photos by Rachel Schlegel



Audience Participation Winner

Congratulations to Chairman Bill Piper on His First Place Win!



2025 Sponsors & Drivers



2025 PENNSYLVANIA DAIRY INDUSTRY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Painter, Paxton, and Sattazahn Were Recognized at the 2025 PA Dairy Summit

Harrisburg, Pa. – At this year's Pennsylvania Dairy Summit, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, Center for Dairy Excellence, and Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association awarded three dairy professionals with the 2025 Pennsylvania Dairy Industry Awards. The annual awards program recognizes dairy professionals who showcase leadership, service, and excellence across the state's dairy industry.

All applications were reviewed by an awards committee of dairy producers and industry professionals. Nominees were evaluated for their contributions to the industry and letters of support from their peers and fellow dairy producers.

"There was an excellent pool of nominees for this year's Dairy Industry Awards, but these individuals stood out for the impact they're making in both their local communities and the dairy industry at large," said Emily Barge, Communications and Marketing Manager at the Center, who oversees the award program. "These are hard-working, passionate and forward-thinking dairy professionals, and their accomplishments are impressive. They are true examples of the Pennsylvania dairy industry's commitment to service, innovation, and excellence."

Congratulations to the following dairy professionals who were honored at the 2025 PA Dairy Summit:

The Paxton Family of Irishtown Acres in Grove City, PA received the Pennsylvania Distinguished Dairy Producer Award.

Irishtown Acres has been a staple of the dairy industry in Mercer County, Pennsylvania for at least six generations. The Paxton family, with 535 cows in their herd, exemplifies service and leadership within the Pennsylvania dairy industry and Mercer County agricultural community. The Paxton family is dedicated to safety on their farm and passionately shares this message with other farmers. In 2019, Irishtown Acres hosted a farm safety twilight meeting that more than 125 people attended. Several family members, including Jennifer and Sue, have been involved with farm safety days and served on the Mercer County Farm Safety committee. Additionally, at least three family members have served on the Mercer County Extension board in recent years. Their presence on that board was a voice for farm safety programming across the dairy industry.

Several generations of the family have also been involved with 4-H dairy clubs, with Steve previously serving as a 4-H leader. Irishtown Acres frequently welcomes students, college groups, and community groups to visit their farm, including the Mercer County Farm Bureau Legislative Tour. The family is very active in outreach to the public and posts videos and shares stories on social media. Laura has been involved with dairy education for urban youth at Farm Day in the Shenango Valley and is a member of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program's Board of Directors.

More recently, the family has represented Mercer County dairy producers through the "Tractors & Tinsel Drive Thru" parade. Beyond their dedication to outreach and community service, Irishtown Acres has a reputation for strong production. They have been called upon by other Jersey producers looking to build their own herds or for improvement as a source for breeding stock and heifers. The Paxton family demonstrates a true desire to promote and grow the dairy industry through learning and serving.

"If you take care of the little things, the big things take care of themselves. My brother and I grew the farm very slowly, so I think we really had the chance to learn as we grew. When we were little, there were 35 cows. Today, we have 535 cows," shared Steve Paxton. "My grandmother always said, 'Find a job you love to do and you'll never work a day in your life.' That's the philosophy I live by. I really enjoy what I do. There are bad days, but overall, it's exciting and challenging. I look forward to it every day."

Raechel Sattazahn, Director of Industry and Membership Relations at Horizon Farm Credit, received the Pennsylvania Dairy Service Award.

Raechel Sattazahn is a local, state, and national dairy industry leader who enthusiastically advocates and serves young and beginning farmers across many organizations and platforms – including in her role as Director of Industry and Membership Relations at Horizon Farm Credit and her family's dairy farm, Zahncroft Dairy. She is committed to Pennsylvania agriculture, investing her time and talents to develop the next generation of dairy leaders. In 2010, Raechel collaborated with 18 agribusinesses and organization stakeholders to brainstorm the needs of young and beginning farmers and ideate solutions to address those needs.

Through her leadership, that group of Farm Credit "partners" developed the framework for the award-winning Ag Biz Masters program. The two-year program focuses on providing participants with the tools needed to help them as they launch or grow their business.

Raechel has also served in leadership for both the Northeast and North American Dairy Challenge Competitions, developing social media intern opportunities during the contest to expose college students to marketing. She has also been a key leader in the Pennsylvania Ag & Food Careers website, a project coordinated by a coalition of agribusinesses who support the growth of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry. Raechel regularly uses her passion and communication skills to tell the industry's story and develop dairy youth. She is a guest writer with Hoard's Dairyman and in 2024, spoke to the U.S. Senate Ag Subcommittee Hearing, sharing about her dairy farm and Farm Credit's young and beginning farmer mission. A previous state dairy princess and national dairy judging champion, she also volunteers with local dairy promotion and coaches the judging team.

With her family's dairy farm located in Berks County, Pennsylvania, Raechel is actively involved in the Berks County agricultural community working with youth. She and her husband chaired the dairy cattle show at the Berks County Fair for over 10 years. She is a long-time dairy cattle judging coach of Berks County 4H and FFA youth, and her expertise and training has led to numerous state and national winners.

"The dairy industry has always been a part of my life, and I honestly can't imagine my life without a connection to dairy. I desire to support this great industry so that others can have similar opportunities that I've been blessed with over the years," Sattazahn said. "After graduating from Penn State with a degree in Animal Science and marrying my college sweetheart, my path took me back into dairy on his family dairy farm in Berks County. Nothing is better than seeing the excitement in my children when working with dairy cattle and learning about other aspects of the farm. My greatest hope is that my contributions to the dairy industry have made a positive impact on others' lives."

Stephanie and Hayley Painter of The Painterland Sisters received the Pennsylvania Dairy Innovator Award. Stephanie and Hayley Painter

demonstrate exceptional innovation in the dairy industry. They have built a strong, values-driven brand, The Painterland Sisters, that incorporates regenerative agriculture and delivers high-quality products. Their organic Skyr yogurt, available in all 50 states, is a testament to their product excellence, backed by a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and their vision for a better agricultural system. The Painterland Sisters began business planning in 2018 and sold their first yogurt in March of 2022. Fast forward to today, they have a nationally distributed yogurt line and produce approximately 270,000 units of yogurt each week. They use milk sourced from 25 PA dairy farms, including their own family's fourth-generation dairy farm in Tioga County, Pa.

The Painterland Sisters consistently leverage partnerships, marketing strategies, and leadership development to grow their business. Through their focus on continuous improvement and collaborations with organizations like the Center for Dairy Excellence, Pasa, PA Preferred, and more, their story is one of young female entrepreneurs who are succeeding and reshaping the industry landscape for generations to come. The sisters have had the distinguished opportunity to serve on the board of Team PA and be part of the new Pennsylvania Organic Center of Excellence Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture. They have prioritized their products being certified as "Pennsylvania Preferred," ensuring their yogurts are produced and processed in Pennsylvania to reinforce their commitment to supporting Pennsylvania farmers. The Painterland Sisters are the first brand to be PA Preferred Organic.

They are also actively involved in various dairy industry initiatives – from engaging with grade-school students and speaking to the PA Dairy Princesses to engaging with the community at events like the Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting, Ag Progress Days, and local county fairs. The sisters work to communicate directly with youth and spread awareness of the various opportunities available in the agricultural sector through platforms like the PA Friends of Agriculture's Mobile Agriculture Immersion Lab. They have also hosted over 45 tours of their family's farm, Painterland Farms, to FFA, 4-H, Youth Leadership groups, and more. In 2023, Stephanie and Hayley were named Forbes' "30 Under 30 for Food & Drink," and they have been recognized on the Congress Floor twice for their work in agriculture.



(From left) Laura Paxton, Steve Paxton, Hayley Painter, and Raechel Sattazahn were recognized as the 2025 PA Dairy Industry Award winners at the Dairy Summit.

"We began our brand for the future of our family's dairy farm, but now our 'why' continues to grow. We recognize that the challenges facing dairy farmers today—such as fluctuating market prices, environmental concerns, and changing consumer preferences—require innovative solutions and a supportive community," shared Hayley Painter. "We aim to connect with consumers on a personal level, sharing not just our yogurt but also our story behind it. By doing so, we hope to foster a genuine appreciation for the hard work and dedication that goes into farming."

The Dairy Industry Awards are offered annually to Pennsylvania residents. Qualified applicants stay in the

nomination pool for three years after being submitted for consideration. Nominators can update the nomination each of the two years following their original submission. Once a candidate is honored as a winner in an award category, they or individuals representing them are not eligible to win in any other category for two subsequent years. Nominations for next year's award program will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout the year, closing in November of 2025.

To submit a nomination and for more information about the awards program, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/awards or call the Center at 717-346-0849.

Little Acts Of Kindness at the PA Farm Show



As the America250PA Quilt booth had opened a police officer stop by, he was invited to come put a few stitches on the quilt. He replied, "Ma'am I have a favor to ask, as I was dressing to come here to work my button came off my shirt sleeve. Upon closer look, it was discovered he had cleverly used a paperclip to keep his shirt sleeve together. The ladies jumped into action with needle and thread to reattach the officer's button.

The staff at the Almeyers Western Wear booth go above and beyond in tending to our officers at the Farm Show. A line of officers at Almeyers were waiting their turn to have their hat brims pressed with an antique iron. When they were finished ironing they gave a good brushing to spruce up the hats.

Friends Support and Sponsor Events at the 109th PA Farm Show

Take a journey through photographs taken by Rachel Schlegel, of some of the events the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation support through the generous giving of their sponsors.



SHEEP-TO-SHAWL/FLEECE-TO-SHAWL • DRAFT HORSE PULLING COMPETITION • AGEXPLORER LEARNING STATIONS
 • AG MECHANICS COMPETITION • HORSE POWER! • CHILDREN'S PEDAL TRACTOR PULL • CUMBERLAND 4-H DRILL TEAM
 • PA HIGH SCHOOL RODEO • PSECU STAGE • HORSESHOE PITCHING • HORSE SHOEING/SHEEP SHEARING DEMONSTRATION
 • 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 AND
 DRIVE DEMONSTRATIONS • LANCASTER FARMING STAGE • MINI HORSE EXTRAVAGANZA • FFA WINDOW DISPLAYS



Farm Succession Workshop

 *March 18th, 2025*

 *9:30am - 3:00pm*

Register by Mar. 10th

Plan for the Future: Farm Succession Workshop

When: March 18, 2025 |  9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Where: 625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA

Cost: \$10 (refunded at the workshop)

Farm succession planning is key to securing your farm's legacy. Join industry experts as they guide you through essential topics:

Financial Strategies – Phil Taylor, Horizon Farm Credit

Farm Family Communication & Long-Term Care Risks – Darlene Livingston, PA Farm Link

Legal Considerations – Attorney Rob Clark

Registration includes:

-  **Lunch** 
-  **Farm Succession Planning Workbook** 
-  **"Long-Term Care and the Farm" Booklet**

 **Register by March 10 to secure your spot!**
<https://pafarmlink.org/farm-succession-workshop-march-2025/>

Artisan Alley



John Paul Warren

Farm Show visitors may not expect to find artistry in something as simple as a broom. Local artisan and broom maker, John Paul Warren from Gilbertsville, PA, utilizes a unique crop called broomcorn, to create his hand-made brooms.

His journey as a broom artisan began nearly 50 years ago with his Eagle Scout project. Since then, he has spent 48 years honing his craft and gaining a wealth of knowledge to share with others. Warren utilizes the broomcorn crop to weave his brooms together. Broomcorn is similar to other corn crops but does not have ears on the stalk.

Warren has been an artisan at the Farm Show for 3 years. From hand brooms to cobwebbers and floor brooms, Warren's creations are not only versatile and functional, they utilize a crop that may be easily overlooked.

Warren shares his skill and passion beyond the Farm Show, bringing his artistry to other local events like the Bloomsburg Fair, the Covered Bridge Festival, and the Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival.

To connect with Warren and view more of his artistry follow him on Facebook.
 @countrybrooms
 #PoweringPennsylvania
 #FacesofAgriculture #PAFarmShow

PA Farm Show Junior Committee Raises Record Sales at Auction

Mikayla O'Brien

The fifth annual Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee Auction was a great success, raising a record amount of \$6,925. The proceeds of the auction go to the Friends of Farm Show Foundation, which supports programming initiatives at the Farm Show as well as the Junior Committee.

Held on the closing Saturday of the Farm Show, the Junior Committee Auction is planned and executed by the Special Events Auction Subcommittee, of which last year's State Fair Queen and four-year member, Erica Teagarden has been at the helm for the past four years. For each of the years she has been the point person. Erica - with the help and support of her fellow members - has exceeded the previous year's total. This year was certainly no exception.

Remarkably, 95 percent of the items auctioned off were donated directly from vendors at the Farm Show. Each Junior Committee member also brings a special item from their home county to be auctioned off as well. Another remarkable feat was this year's auction also marked the highest single-item purchase at \$610. This year's auctioneer was the Friends of Farm Show Foundation Vice Chairman, Mark Keller, who did a wonderful job encouraging bids for a great cause!

The Junior Committee would like to thank the Friends of Farm Show Foundation, Mark Keller, the Farm Show vendors, and our generous buyers and bidders for making this year's auction successful. We hope you will join us next year!



Thank You!

Thank you to the Junior Committee who hosted an auction for the Friends of Farm Show, and two exhibitor parties, volunteered with set-up and trash collection, assisted at the rodeo, met government and agricultural representatives and officials, ran a merchandise booth, scheduled and ran the Lancaster Farming Stage as well as gave their own presentations, helped with Feed Scurry and so much more!

Piper's Passion Celebrated

Chairman Bill Piper is a founding member of the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation, Inc. In order to follow the bylaws the Foundation created, Mr. Piper will meet his term limit March 2025. This year's Farm Show is sure to hold a special place in his heart as he was surprised throughout the week with special moments. *On behalf of the board of directors, we would like to thank Chairman Piper for his dedication to the Foundation, youth and the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Your passion is unmatched.*



Chairman Piper represented the Friends Foundation at the FFA Mid-Winter Convention on Jan. 6.



Photos by Rachel Schlegel

The unexpected presentations during the Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry on Jan. 8, left Chairman Piper speechless. He was presented citations from Rep. Barb Gleim and Sen. Greg Rothman on behalf of the House and Senate, followed by a photo collage from the board of directors presented by Vice-Chairman Mark Keller with board members surrounding him.

To round the night out, much to Chairman Piper's shock, he took home the first place blue ribbon at the Feed Scurry!



Chairman Piper was able to personally meet Dr. Temple Grandin on Jan. 9.



Chairman Piper left his mark on history as he helped stitch the America250 quilt.



Secretary Russell Redding delivers a citation to Chairman Piper on behalf of Gov. Josh Shapiro on Jan. 11.

Bill Piper Keeps Pennsylvania Farm Show in Heart As He Leaves Friends Board

By Mary Klaus

When Bill Piper was a little boy, he loved going to the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

After milking their cows, he and his parents would drive to the Farm Show to check out the new farm equipment, look over the livestock, and avidly watch the horse pulling contest.

He's still at it these days in his role as Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. chairman.

Although the Friends bylaws require that he come off the board this March after serving three five-year appointments, Piper said that the Farm Show will remain an integral part of his life and heart.

Born and raised on a farm in West Pennsboro Twp. in Cumberland County, Piper earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Shippensburg University. He enjoyed teaching fifth grade at Plainfield Elementary School for a year but found that he didn't like being in a classroom all day.

So in 1982, Piper became an administrative officer in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Markets. "I was the mushroom marketing specialist for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," Piper said. "I got to know the mushroom growers pretty well." After a

short time in that job, he learned that the Farm Show Complex deputy director left to take another job. Piper went to see then-state Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell, a fellow dairy farmer and a friend, about the position.

After some friendly chat and a discussion about the job, Hallowell said "Bill, plan on moving over Monday morning." Piper did just that and held the deputy director job for 23 years until he retired in 2007.

Piper said that he loved that job, even when faced with such challenges as the blizzard of Jan. 7, 1996, which dumped 19.8 inches of snow on the area and another two inches the next day – all during the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Suddenly, Piper and Dennis Grumbine, then Farm Show Complex director, were playing host to 1,800 people who slept in the Farm Show Complex when they couldn't leave. Piper slept at the complex for three nights during that time.

"We cleaned out all the refrigerators and freezers in the complex to feed the people stranded there," he recalled. "We used draft horses to bring in hay for the livestock. The Susquehanna River backed up due to ice and it and Wildwood Lake flooded the complex. We had flooding in parking lots, the North Hall, the Main Exhibition

Hall, and other places." Piper said that livestock was moved to the Large Arena.

"Back then, we burned coal to heat the building," he recalled. "We almost lost our ability to make heat. We had to put big vacuum pumps in the lower level of the utility plant to suck water out." The Farm Show activities went on during this time, although with smaller than usual crowds.



William Piper at the PA Farm Show.

During Piper's years working at the complex, the Farm Show Complex underwent upgrading, renovations and a huge expansion. The expansion included the addition of the Northeast Building, Equine Arena, Equine Barn, new administrative offices, the now Giant Expo Hall and a corridor connecting the new facility with the older parts of the complex.

"The Farm Show Complex grew to 24 acres during my years," Piper said. "I was there for nearly a billion dollars of construction and improvement work."

Three years after his retirement, Piper, Beverly Gruber, Michael Firestine, Donald Hoover and the late Mike Waugh met with Department of Agriculture officials to discuss their idea of creating a foundation to pay for educational activities and events at the annual Farm Show. The officials liked the idea, so the new group hired attorney Marvin Bashore, wrote bylaws and applied to the Internal Revenue Service for 501(c)(3) status, which allows nonprofit organizations who meet the IRS code requirements to be exempt from federal taxes.

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. was on its way. The charter members had initial appointments of five years, then were eligible for two five-year terms. Piper is the last charter member to come off the board.

When asked about the accomplishments of the Friends group in supporting the Farm Show, Piper had a long list in mind.

“Since our first financial support of the Farm Show in 2011, the Friends have contributed over \$2 million in support of our mission statement,” he said. “We have been very successful in fulfilling our mission statement, way beyond our expectations. Nowhere in our wildest dreams did we expect to be where we are now.”

Over the years, the Friends have sponsored the Farm Show Horse Pulling contests, Calving Corner,

FFA Mid-Winter Convention, Sheep to Shawl contest, Ag Explorers, Lancaster Farming Stage and Pennsylvania High School Rodeo Association Championship. The Friends have supported such popular attractions at the Farm Show as goat snuggling, Kiss-a-Cow, Fishing With Friends, Wish Upon A Butterfly and more.



William Piper, FOFS Inc. Chairman wins the 2025 Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry at the PA Farm Show.

The Friends also sponsor the Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry, named for the late executive director of the Farm Show Complex and charter member of the Friends. In this timed event, local celebrities and legislators compete by driving a team of draft horses pulling a sled through an obstacle course. Piper won the competition this year.

Over the years, Piper has worked tirelessly to preserve Farm Show history. He was very supportive of the Friends sponsoring the writing and publication of two 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.” The Friends also annually sponsor a children’s book about the Farm Show.



Chloe Bumgardner, FFA State president, William and Deb Piper, and daughter Brekan Zeigler, and granddaughter, Sydney.

As he leaves the Friends board – armed with accolades including proclamations from Gov. Josh Shapiro and Sen. Greg Rothman from the Pennsylvania Senate and Rep. Barb Gleim from the House, Piper said that he feels melancholy. Yet, he says, he won’t be a stranger to the Friends board.



William Piper handquilting the America250PA Quilt Project with Barb Gross of Scrubgrass Grange and Quilt Guild.

“I’ll be available as a source of background information for the new chairman and for the Friends board,” he said. “If anyone needs any questions answered, I’m here.”

He also said that he will be busy working on his 60-acre crop farm in West Pennsboro Twp., where he grows wheat and soybeans. “I’ve been involved with production agriculture my whole life,” he said. “I have a lot of farm work to do.”

America250PA Quilt Project

The America250PA Quilt Project Booth at the 2025 PA Farm Show drew much attention from attendees. Grange members from the Cumberland Valley Grange, Scrubgrass Grange, and Scrubgrass Stitchers Guild in Venango County volunteered throughout the week to teach hand quilting at the PA Farm Show.

The hand quilting began on Saturday, January 4, and was completed at 1:07 p.m. on January 11, 2025. There were almost 600 participants who signed our registry book that documented all who stitched the quilt. The youngest participant was around 4 or 5 years of age and we had thousands of spectators throughout the 8-day farm show who stopped to watch the hand quilting process. The quilt received a lot of news media coverage which brought more people by the booth to ask questions, participate, or watch the process of hand quilting.

The quilt highlights the nine Pennsylvanians who signed the Declaration of Independence with their pictures and signatures. There are aspects of Pennsylvania highlighted in the quilt design such as the Liberty Bell, Penns Woods, and agriculture.

The finished quilt has been donated to the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation, Inc. to be used as a fundraiser. Quilt raffle tickets are being sold now through January 17, 2026, when a winner will be selected at the 2026 PA Farm Show.

The quilt will be traveling to select Pennsylvania Fairs and events during the 2025 fair season. If you would like more information about the America250PA Quilt Project or how to purchase raffle tickets, please email: lbailey13@comcast.net or call 717.254.9550. Visit the www.friendsoffarmshow.com and click on the America250PA link.



The America250PA Quilt Project traveled to the PA Fair Convention held at the Hershey Convention Center.



Lizzie Bailey CV Grange, Cathy Weaver Scrubgrass Quilt Guild, Betsy Huber, Goshen Grange, Barb Gross, and Barb Warden Scrubgrass Grange. The hand quilting was officially completed at 1:07 p.m. on Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the PA Farm Show.



Sarah Firestone, Katelyn Stringer, Sec. Russell Redding, and Lindsey Kline at Cornucopia.



Sarah Firestone, and Ava Immel 2025 PA State Fair Queen.

The quilt was on display at the Friends of the PA Farm Show booth at the Cornucopia event held at the PA State Capitol on February 4, 2025.

The 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee members Sarah Firestone and Katelyn Stringer and reigning State Fair Queen Ava Immel who will serve on the 2026 Committee had a great night at Cornucopia at the Capitol.

Sarah and Katelyn had the pleasure of volunteering with the Friends of Farm Show Foundation Booth to talk to legislators about the Farm Show and the Foundation's support of opportunities at the Farm Show.

America250PA Scrapbook



Barb Gross, Gov. Schweiker, Cathy Weaver, Betsy Huber, Cassandra Coleman, and Lizzie Bailey.



Betsy Huber, Goshen Grange and Kim Paley PSCFO President hand quilting the America250PA Quilt Project.



Jessica Krall and Lizzie Bailey handquilting the America250PA Quilt Project.



Senator Elder and Sue Vogel participating in hand quilting..



William Piper, Chairman Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation Inc. and Barb Gross.



Secretary Russell Redding hand quilting.



Cathy Weaver showing Dr. Temple Grandin how to handquilt.



Representative Barb Gleim handquilting.



Morgan Firestone sitting with Barb Gross as they stitch on the quilt.



Senator Judy Schwank working on the America250PA Quilt.



Joyce Dietrich, Cumberland Valley Grange handquilting.



Lizzie Bailey with 44th PA Governor Mark Schweiker.



Pennsylvania State Fair Royalty Chosen

Ava Immel, the West Lampeter Community Fair Queen from Lancaster County, was crowned the 2025 Pennsylvania Fair Queen on Saturday, January 25, during the 112th annual convention of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs and the Pennsylvania State Showmen's Association.

Immel was one of 61 contestants evaluated by a panel of three judges on their written and speaking skills, knowledge of the fair and agricultural industries, and poise and personal presentation in business attire.

Ava is the daughter of Douglas and Angela Immel. She has attended her community fair since she was a little girl, which started her journey in agriculture. She is a senior in high school and plans to pursue a degree in Animal Science after graduation. Ava is a member of the STEM club, High School Heroes, cross country, and both indoor and outdoor track, and she also serves as the Vice President of the local FFA chapter.

Lebanon Area Fair Queen Brooke Beamesderfer of Lebanon County was selected as the 2025 Alternate. The daughter of Justin and Eve Beamesderfer, Brooke grew up on her family's farm. This fostered her love for agriculture, which led her to pursue an interdisciplinary degree in Agricultural Business at the University of Alabama. She has participated in FFA, the National Honor Society, a volunteer club, an entrepreneurship club, and varsity soccer and softball.



2025 PA Fair Queen Ava Immel and Alternate Brooke Beamesderfer.

The other top five finalists were Clearfield County Fair Queen Krya D. Henry, Elizabethtown Fair Queen Alexandria Neff, and Shippensburg Community Fair Queen Abby Bucher. Cadence Brown, from Cumberland County and representing the Cumberland Ag Expo, was chosen as Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

"This program is not about a 'title'," said the PA Secretary of Agriculture

Russell Redding. "It's a powerful platform for young women. The PA Fair Queen is an ambassador, a spokesperson, and somebody who is always willing to tell the story of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania agriculture. This program offers our young women leaders a stage to build the skills, the knowledge, and the confidence to lead. They are the power of the future."

Each of the 61 contestants prepared

a brief speech highlighting why people should come to her county or community fair and wrote an essay about the fair's significance in her local community. They were each interviewed by the panel of three judges and gave a stage introduction during the PA Fairs' annual banquet. The top five finalists were chosen, and impromptu answers were given on communicating the economic impact of their fair to the community. Immel answered that she would tell how her small community is the backbone of the fair. "Our fair is small, and the community knows who we are," said Immel. "For the economic impact, we know that what we bring in is what comes out of us. The community sees the impact it has. Every handshake, smile, and shared laugh truly makes a difference."



L-R: Miss Congeniality, Cadence Brown, representing the Cumberland Ag Expo; 2025 PA Fair Queen Ava Immel representing the West Lampeter Community Fair; 2025 Alternate PA Fair Queen Brooke Beamederfer representing the Lebanon Area Fair; Kyra D. Henry, Finalist representing the Clearfield County Fair; Abby Bucher, Finalist representing the Shippensburg Community Fair, and Alexandria Neff, Finalist representing the Elizabethtown Fair. Photos courtesy of Tim McGowan Studios

Ava and Brooke will now travel across the Commonwealth to advocate for fairs and share the story of fairs' impact on Pennsylvania. During her time as the 2025 PA Fair Queen, Ava will also serve on the Pennsylvania Farm Show Junior Committee and contribute to the newsletters of the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation and the PA State Association of County Fairs.

Ava and Brooke will receive scholarships from the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs at the end of their reigns in January 2026. Outgoing Alternate Elise Honeycutt was crowned at the Albion Area Fair, and the 2024 PA Fair Queen Erica Teagarden was crowned at the Washington County Agricultural Fair.



If you would like to request the PA Fair Queen or Alternate PA Fair Queen for your event please contact:

Lizzie Bailey, 717-254-9550
pafairqueenscheduler@gmail.com

Third Times a Charm

By Rachel Schlegel
FOFS Marketing Director

It is no secret that plans and preparations for the PA Farm Show is an entire year endeavor. Each year the months between one Farm Show and the next seems to move faster and faster. I distinctly recall adults telling me as a child how quickly time passes as you grow older. Naturally, like most kids do, I would giggle and roll my eyes thinking that could not be possible. Let's be honest, as kids all we wanted was the school year to pass and to get to those dog days of summer.

Now, I find myself echoing that same sentiment to my younger cousins, nieces and nephews, only to be met with the same playful eye roll and laughter that I once gave.

As the 109th Farm Show quickly approached, I decided to heed the advice from my childhood and embrace what each day held at Pennsylvania's largest celebration of agriculture.

2025 marks year three of being part of the Friends of the PA Farm Show



Foundation and I knew there were events, displays and presentations I had yet been able to see. This was the year I was going to make time to engage myself further into the show.

For me, it is easy to get wrapped up in the events that need attending, photographs that need taken, items at the booth that need restocking, crowd navigating and the additional stresses Farm Show week can bring with it, that before you know it, the week is over and so much was missed. I made a conscious decision to allow myself to be fully immersed in the smells, treats, sounds and sites that the complex held and I'm not the least bit sorry I did.

If you would have told me five years ago that I would be fortunate enough to have a front row, camera-lens view at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, I wouldn't have believed you. But, here I am, camera in hand, documenting the week in pictures. I invite you to take a journey with me through the eight days of showcasing why agriculture **Powers Pennsylvania!**



Drum Roll Please

Over the last couple months the Foundation collected agricultural pictures submitted by our social media viewers for the "Have You 'Herd'" photo campaign. Photos were on display during Farm Show at the Friends' booth where Farm Show attendees could vote on their favorite. The collage was then placed on social media for our followers to also vote. *Congratulations to the Schmitts on their photo of Penny. She was welcomed into her loving home six years ago on Jan. 15 and will turn 21 in April.*



Follow us stay-up-to-date on all Foundation news and contests.



Thank You, Friends!

The Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation would like to extend its gratitude to all those who took time to volunteer at our booth during the PA Farm Show. You answered questions, handed out prizes and were a smiling face to Farm Show goers, and we thank you!





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

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Lela Reichart, Member

Nathan Tallman, Member

Vicki Varner, Member

Contact Information:

Gerry Reichard, Special Advisor

farmshowfriends@gmail.com

717-729-7158

"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



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
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.

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

Email: farmshowfriends@gmail.com

Website: www.friendsoffarmshow.com

Like us on Facebook: Friends of PA Farm Show

Insta: friendsofpafarmshow

Twitter: @FriendsofFS

Visit the PA Farm Show Website for upcoming events!

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



Is Hiring!

apply at:

employment.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

Highlights of Upcoming Events

March 13-15, 2025	Keystone Nationals Championship Truck & Tractor Pull
March 14-16, 2025	Mid Atlantic Beef Classic
March 21-22, 2025	Antique Tractor Pull
March 29-30, 2025	Harrisburg Gun+Knife Show
Jan. 10-17, 2026	PA Farm Show 2026

To see the full schedule

