

Friends of the Farm Show News



May-June 2025



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.



Dates to Remember!

AG Progress Days August 12-14, 2025

All-American Dairy Show September 13 - 17, 2025

KILE

September 26 - October 5, 2025

PA Farm Show January 10 - 17, 2026

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

Sept.-Oct. Due by Aug. 1 Nov.-Dec. Due by Oct. 1 Jan.-Feb. Due by Dec. 1

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

Questions? Please call (717)254-9550

Email articles: fofsnewsletter@gmail.com

Sept.-Oct. 2025 Newsletter Deadline is August 1

Cover Picture: Ag Progress Days Logo. Ag Progress Days is August 12 - 14, 2025 at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center, 2710 W. Pine Grove Road, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865. Photo: Rachel Schlegel

Foundation Contact Information



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

Like us on Facebook: FriendsofPAFarmShow **Insta**: friendsofpafarmshow

Farm, Fun and Sun

Friends Make Memories at Family Farm Days

By Rachel Schlegel

Pennsylvania is home to over 52,000 farms, and each June, Oregon Dairy in Lancaster County opens their fields to the public, offering a firsthand look at life on a working farm. Visitors begin their experience with a wagon ride which takes them from the parking area around the property and through the dairy barn. Facts about their operation are shared while on the wagon. Once they step off the wagon, more fun and memory-making continues!

Bright sun and high temps couldn't keep youngsters from taking part in the Scavenger Hunt which navigated children around the farm while learning all about the importance of agriculture. Adults and children alike get the chance to step through the Woodmobile, drive a tractor in a 3D stimulator at the PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab, pet a rabbit while hearing from 4-H members, discover the benefits of no-till gardening with the PA No-Till Alliance, and much more!

The Foundation sponsored what should have been a three day event, but due to heavy rains on Tuesday, June 10, the farm had to close, and reopened June 11 and 12. The Foundation sponsored a table to promote the

Pennsylvania Farm Show and share the Foundation's role in it.

One of the favorite pieces at our booth was the farm animal board. Children — and adults — could choose their favorite farm animal to win a prize. Each animal was linked to a certain surprise. Their answers brought plenty of laughter as we heard animals such as, "cheetah, lion, cat, dog, dinosaur, panda and ant." We also heard responses like, "All of them, I can't pick just one!" Over the two days we found horse, pig and cow were top choices.

Savvy siblings would at times plan their choice based on which animal their brother or sister picked and what prize they received. From toddlers to adults, the prizes were a big hit, bringing smiles to many faces and making the summer heat a bit more tolerable. The sunglasses helped with the bright sunshine with one little boy telling us, "Wow, they really do block the sun!"

The cow ice packs — or boo-boo pouches as many called them — were well received in the over 90 degree heat.

To all those who came out to support Lancaster County agriculture, we hope you learned something new and will continue to also support the Foundation as we help youth in agriculture at the Pennsylvania Farm Show!



A special, thank you, to Diane Black for volunteering both days of the event and engaging with the youth as they stopped by!







Some of the stops on the Scavenger Hunt.









The Foundation supports youth in agriculture and during Family Farm Days, there were ample opportunities for the youngsters to see, touch, hear and experience ag at their fingertips.



The shades were fun for all ages!







Rachel Schlegel stands behind the Friends' table prior to the event opening.

America 250 APRON CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE PSACF

SHOW OFF YOUR STAR-SPANGLED STITCHING! Create a patriotic Red, White & Blue apron and enter for a chance to WIN CASH PRIZES and represent your fair at the 2026 PA Farm Show!

ENTRY RULES

- Open to Pennsylvania Residents Only
- · One Entry Per Person
- Apron must be made in 2025
- · Acceptable Apron Types:
 - o Bib Apron
 - o Half Apron
 - o Printed Apron
- · Colors: Red, White & Blue ONLY

WINNER ADVANCEMENT

The First Place Winner from each fair will be eligible to enter their apron in the 2026 PA State Farm Show! Exhibitor may only represent one PA Fair at the state level

ENTER YOUR LOCAL FAIR TO PARTICIPATE





PA FARM SHOW JANUARY 10-17, 2026

FARM SHOW

What's New at the 2026 PA Farm Show!

The 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show is gearing up to be again a milestone celebration complete with new and updated contests, exciting changes, and even increased premiums for participants across every department. The Commonwealth's proudest tradition will shine a spotlight on exhibitor's creativity, talent, and agricultural excellence, with the highlight of America's 250th anniversary and the state's unmatched agriculture heritage.

America250-Themed Classes

Across every department, special America250-themed classes will commemorate the nation's semiquincentennial, offering a unique way for exhibitors to earn celebratory rosette ribbons.

A Toast to the New Spirits Department

A brand-new Spirits Department is debuting with 12 competitive classes. Entries will compete for Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals, with special recognition for PA Preferred and Best of Show selections. Cheers to that!

Tastier Than Ever

Food lovers, rejoice! The Vegetable Department is expanding with delicious new classes including bread, pie, cookies, and cakes.

Meanwhile, the Peach Jelly Canned Good class has joined the Family Living section.

Livestock & Poultry Get a Major Upgrade

There are new opportunities for junior and adult exhibitors alike, including:

- * Junior Market Turkey Hen and Tom
- * Live Poultry Classes (depending on industry for 2026)
- * New Pennsylvania-Bred Divisions in Junior Market
- * Master Showmanship Reserve Champion Awards
- * Adult Showmanship Classes for Draft Horse

- * New Rabbit Varieties, including Silver Tipped Steel for Netherland Dwarfs and Smoke Pearl for Mini Satins
- * Youth Rabbit Poster Classes for both beginners and advanced levels

Creativity and Culture on Display

From upcycled fashion to global food traditions, the Family Living Department is going global:

- * New classes for Upcycled Garments, Chef's Aprons, Dresses, Pants, and Skirts
- * Global Gourmet classes in Advanced 4-H Foods
- * 4-H posters and notebooks focused on Textile Science & Cultural Clothing
- * New quilt categories for Bed Size and Throw/Crib creations

Horse Pulling with a Side of Learning

In a new twist, this year's Horse Pulling events will include Barn Talks throughout the week, giving visitors a chance to learn more about the animals, techniques, and traditions behind this thrilling competition.

New Rules for a Safer, Fairer Show

To ensure safety and transparency, the following changes will take effect:

- * All exhibitors must sign and upload a Show Ring Code of Ethics with entries.
- * Barn watch reporting will be available for livestock exhibitors
- * Jr Market barns will close from 8 PM to 4 AM
- * Testing for beta agonists in Jr Market animals
- * New sourcing rules for Jr Market turkeys but intent form still needed
- * Top 5 Jr Market Turkeys will advance to the sale
- * \$20 fitting stand sticker required for sheep and goat exhibitors
- * Specific guidelines and fees for Beef Cattle tie-out gated areas

Spotlight on Pennsylvania Commodities

The Beer Contest will now recommend but not require that entries highlight Pennsylvania-grown or processed agricultural products—a great way to show off the state's bounty, one pint at a time

Increased Premiums Across the Board

As a show of appreciation for the passion and effort that goes into every exhibit, the Farm Show Commission is increasing premiums in every department again for 2026. This is a testament to the Farm Show Commission's commitment to the exhibitors, and everything they contribute to the Commonwealth.

Whether you're a baker, breeder, brewer, or budding designer, the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show is your stage. From ribbons to recognition, this is your year to shine. So start planning your entries, perfect your craft, and get ready to showcase your hard work and pride in front of the entire Commonwealth.

For full contest details, rules, and registration info, visit Rules & Regulations | Pennsylvania Farm Show | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/farmshow/pa-farm-show/exhibit/rules-regulations.html>. Entries will be open mid-July. For questions, you may reach out to the show office at 717-787-2905 or email farmshow@pa.gov.





Meet PA 4-H State Council

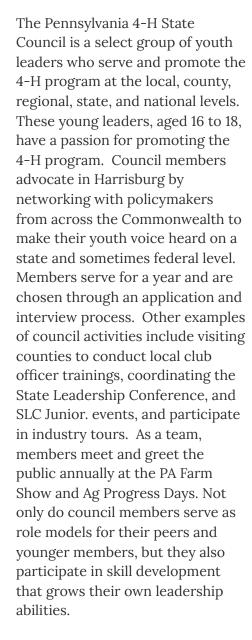


Pictured left to right: Sami Jo Hayman, Giuseppe Schiano Di Cola, Secretary Russell Redding, Alyssa Bergenstock, Kaylee Baker.

During May, the PA 4-H State Council had the wonderful opportunity to attend Farm City Days. This event was organized to promote agriculture to urban/suburban youth through a full day of activities featuring vendors and agricultural leaders from organizations like 4-H and Penn State Extension. The council was thrilled to attend and see how amazed the kids were with our activity. Council members did the "bean in a bag" experiment, where we explained the process of plant growth using a plastic bag, a cotton ball, a seed, water, and their body heat to start

germination. The Council was also excited to see Secretary Redding in

attendance. He helped promote agriculture and took time to visit each





The 4H booth at Farm-City Days, which was held at the PA Farm Show Complex.

table. We even gave him a little homework—his very own bean to grow!

Overall, it was a fun and rewarding event, and it was great to see how engaged and enthusiastic all the kids were.

In June, the PA 4-H State Council held an in-person business meeting and had the opportunity to represent the 4-H program at Pennsylvania's Capitol in Harrisburg, PA. Council members engaged with representatives and senators from across the Commonwealth to advocate for the 4-H program during Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences' Capitol Day. A fun way for Council members to connect on a more personal level with legislators was by enjoying social time together with Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream.

Stay tuned for more about Pennsylvania 4-H State Council's adventures in the next issue of the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation newsletter.



Council Members with Associate Dean and Director of Penn State Extension Dr. Jeffrey Hyde, District 47 Senator Elder A. Vogel Jr., as well as Penn State Extension associate director for programs Chris Houser, Dean of Agricultural Sciences Troy Ott, and Director of College Relations and Communications Tara Mondock.



Council members with Dean of Agricultural Sciences Troy Ott and Director of College Relations and Communications Tara Mondock.



4-H Prepares Young People to be Beyond Ready

4-H empowers young people with skills the classroom doesn't always teach. Confidence, the know-how to work well with others, the ability to push through challenges, and stick with a job until it gets done. In 4-H, we don't just prepare youth with the knowledge to get through life's obstacles; we teach them how to conquer them.

4-H programs' hands-on approach gives young people guidance, tools, and encouragement, and then puts them in the driver's seat to make great things happen. Independent research proves the unparalleled impact of the 4-H experience.



By Rachel Schlegel

Windy weather ushered in the 10th annual Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation's Annual Picnic. Held at the Lebanon Valley Expo & Fairgrounds on Sunday, May 18, this event celebrates what the Foundation has been able to accomplish due it its steadfast support of its Friends.

Chairman Mark Keller shared with those in attendance that the Foundation has given over \$2.3 million back to educational programs and events at the Pennsylvania Farm Show since its inception in 2010. The Foundation extends a sincere thank you to all those who support our mission statement. It is through the generosity of our Friends, sponsors and advertisers that we can continue to "Fund the Future of Ag."

Former vice-chairman Mike Firestine manned the grill with help of Special Adviser Gerry Reichard and Brinton Schlegel, serving up

mouthwatering, made-to-order steaks that were a crowd-pleaser. Guests brought an array of side dishes and desserts that filled plates and fueled conversations. Memories were made and friendships were strengthened.

Picnic goers were given a Friends of Farm Show lunchbox as a small token of appreciation as they continue to support the Foundation's endeavors.

To all those who extended a helping hand to make this year's event special, thank you. To our Friends who enable us to support the youth at Farm Show each year, we are deeply grateful! For those who were unable to attend, but celebrated from afar, we appreciate you, tool

If you would like to become a Friend, visit bit.ly/3DxHNXx. To learn more about us, visit www.friendsoffarmshow.com/.

(Photos by Rachel Schlegel)

























Updates on ag-happenings and presentations from special guests.

Heidi Secord to Serve as the Deputy Secretary for Farm, Food, and Market Access



Secretary Redding appointed Heidi Secord in May to serve as the Deputy Secretary for Farm, Food, and Market Access.

Heidi is an experienced leader on state and national agricultural issues and has over 30 years of direct market farming and regenerative agriculture experience. She and her husband, Gary Bloss, own and operate a diversified vegetable operation with a Community Supported Agriculture membership and farmer-led local food hub at the Josie Porter Farm in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Before this role, the Biden-Harris Administration appointed Heidi as the State Executive Director of the USDA Pennsylvania Farm Service Agency (FSA), where she served for three years. She is the past President of Pennsylvania Farmers Union and served on the National Farmers Union Board of Directors. She has been actively engaged in agricultural education and policy work in Pennsylvania, having served on the Pasa Sustainable Agriculture Board, Pennsylvania State

Council of Farm Organizations, Monroe County Conservation District Board, and All Together Now Pennsylvania. Heidi is a Pennsylvania Rural-Urban Leadership Program (RULE) graduate, Class XII, and an Oxfam America Sisters on the Planet Ambassador.

Heidi earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Rhode Island and served as a Peace Corps volunteer for three years in Mali and Lesotho, concentrating on subsistence agriculture projects and women's cooperative programs.



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR JAN HARDING RUSLAVAGE MEMORIAL SERVICE & PROMOTION AWARD TO RECOGNIZE A YOUNG INDIVIDUAL WITH EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO PA DAIRY

The Award Is Intended to Recognize a Young Individual Who Is Committed to Dairy Service

Harrisburg, PA. – The Jan Harding Ruslavage Memorial Service & Promotion Award program is once again open to recognize an individual between the ages of 18 and 30 who has demonstrated exceptional service to and promotion of Pennsylvania's dairy industry. The award program was established in 2024 to honor the memory and distinguished service of Janet Harding Ruslavage to Pennsylvania's dairy industry. The award will provide recognition and financial support to an outstanding young individual who has demonstrated a commitment to dairy service and promotion through the contributions they are making to enrich the future of Pennsylvania's dairy industry.

Nominations can be submitted online at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/janet-harding-ruslavage-award and are due by August 4, 2025. The winning individual will receive a \$3,000 cash award and recognition at the annual Pennsylvania Dairy Princess State Pageant in September.

To qualify for this award, individuals must be a Pennsylvania resident, between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, a high school graduate, and pursuing a career in or related to the dairy industry.

Qualities of someone recognized through this award could include:

Servant leadership attitude
High level of integrity
Helpful, friendly disposition
Conscientious, tireless work ethic
Compassionate, giving nature
Strong passion for the dairy industry or a specific aspect of dairy
A demonstrated commitment to contributing to the industry in a positive way

Examples of ways the individual could be serving the industry include being actively involved in dairy promotion; serving in a leadership position in a dairy service or breed organization; building dairy awareness in their local community; serving in an advisory role for a dairy youth organization; contributing to research or education advancing the future of dairy; or in many other capacities. The committee will be looking for individuals who model the identified qualities.

Nominations for the Jan Harding Ruslavage Memorial Service & Promotion Award must be submitted by August 4, 2025. Individuals can be nominated through a self-nomination or by another individual who wishes to recognize their achievements in the industry.

To nominate an individual for this award, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/janet-harding-ruslavage-award to submit it with up to three letters of support for the nominee. Contact Jayne Sebright at jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 717-346-0849 with questions about the award.



Family Living - Red, White & Blue Theme

- Jazzy Jar
- Bookmark
- America250 Apron
- · Canned Goods: 3 Jar Display
- Florals (Centerpiece or Fairy Garden)
- America250 Ornament Youth Contest

Apiary

Class 34 and 35: Honey Production/
 Processing Over 250 Years

Mushrooms - America 250 Theme

Centerpiece Arrangement

Edible Nuts - America 250 Theme

- Art Sculpture/Carving using PA nuts/nut shells, etc. in a shadow box
- Heritage Nut Tree Photography

Christmas Trees - Red, White & Blue Theme

Porch Pots

PA FARM SHOW JANUARY 10-17, 2026

Ag Ed - America 250 Theme

Demonstrations, Window Exhibits,
 Horticulture, and Landscapes

Vegetable - Patriotic Theme

Junior Decorating Classes

Fruit - Red, White & Blue Theme

Roadside Market Class

Potatoes - Red, White & Blue Theme

Potato Basket: 10 red, white and blue potatoes

Swine: America 250 Theme

 Youth Heritage Breeds Poster Contest-Celebrate Historic Breeds

Wool: Patriotic Themes encouraged

 Sheep to Shawl and Fleece to Shawl Contests





Investing in the Future: Supporting the Farm Show Junior Committee

The Friends of the Farm Show Foundation is proud to continue its strong support of the Farm Show Junior Committee - an energetic group of young leaders who play a key role in the success of the annual Farm Show. As interviews for the 2026 Junior Committee are now underway, excitement is high. With 49 passionate applicants this year, it's clear that the next generation is eager to contribute, learn, and lead.

The Junior Committee is more than just a helping hand; it's a vital part of the Farm Show's operation. From supporting event logistics and assisting with educational exhibits to representing the show at public events and learning from agricultural

professionals, these students gain real-world experience that strengthens both their personal growth and the future of Pennsylvania agriculture.

The Friends see the Junior Committee as a valuable investment - one that aligns with our mission to support education, leadership, and agriculture. By funding this program, we are helping to cultivate tomorrow's industry leaders while enhancing the quality and reach of the Farm Show experience for all attendees.

We look forward to welcoming the 2026 Junior Committee and thank all applicants for their enthusiasm and commitment.



Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

Tuesdays & Fridays - Farmers Open Air Market

Sundays - Flea Market (Elmerton Lot)

July 11 - Harrisburg Community Job Fair

July 12 - 13 Downunder Horsemanship Walkabout

July 12, 19, August 9, 16 - Susquehanna SCCA Autocross

July 23 - 26: Mecum Car Auction

Jan. 10-17, 2026 PA Farm Show 2026

Plus hundreds of other entertaining and educational events.
See the full schedule here













Congratulations 2025–2026 PA State FFA Officers!







The Pennsylvania State FFA held their State Convention at Penn State, Eisenhower Auditorium in State College on June 10-13, 2025. Over 2,000 FFA members, advisors, and guests gathered to celebrate a year of growth, service, and unity at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention. With over 25 competitive events, engaging leadership workshops, and nearly 56 delegates representing their chapters, the week was filled with opportunity and impact. More than just a competition, it was a time to connect, collaborate, and build lifelong friendships.

-Chloe Bumgardner Past State FFA President



PA FFA was excited with a new FFA Charter for McCaskey School.



Krista Pontius, of Greenwood, was chosen as the 2025 Pennsylvania Golden Owl.

2024-2025 Statistics

This year was a year of celebration, and we could not have been more proud of each and everyone of our members. Together, as an Association, We broke many records from the number of jacket scholarships, to members, and even chartered chapters. Below are some of our statistics from throughout the year. The state officers also broke records with how many chapter visits and banquet attended. This has truly been a year to remember.

1.369 Jacket Scholarships **511 Keystone Degrees** 16.035 Members 163 chapters total **116 Chapter visits 56 Banquets attended**

A Note From the 2024-2025 State Of

The theme "Together We Can" was chosen this year to highlight the strength and spirit of the over 16,000 members across the Commonwealth. From small towns to large cities. FFA members are united by a shared passion for agriculture, leadership, and service. This year, we believed in the power of working side by side-as chapters, communities, and one organization—to create positive change. When 16,000 students come together with purpose and heart, there's nothing we can't achieve. Together, we can grow leaders, support our communities, and build a brighter future for Pennsylvania agriculture. And as we move forward, let's remember to continue working together-because it's through unity that we make the biggest difference.

for Jak Emily Horstetler Troy Experience from Jan



The America250PA Friends of the PA Farm Show Quilt will be on display on these dates at the following fairs:

Wolf's Corner Fair June 29 - July 5, 2025 www.wolfscornerfair.com

Franklin County Fair July 6 - 9, 2025 franklincofair.org

Lycoming Fair July 11 - 16, 2025 lycomingfair.net

York State Fair July 19 - 27, 2025 yorkstatefair.com

Elk County Fair August 5 - 9, 2025 elkcountyfair.wordpress.com

AG Progress Days August 12 - 14, 2025 agsci.psu.edu

Perry County Fair August 15 -16, 2025 pecofairpa.com

Centre County Grange Fair August 17 - 23, 2025 grangefair.com

The Great Allentown Fair August 27 - September 1, 2025 www.allentownfair.com

Albion Fair September 9 - 13, 2025 albionfair.com

Bloomsburg Fair September 24, 2025 bloomsburgfair.com



Mark Your Calendars

Ag Progress Days 2025



August 12-14

8/12: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

8/13: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

8/14: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center 2710 W. Pine Grove Road Pennsylvania Furnace, PA 16865

- · Free parking and admission.
- Programs, equipment, research & more for all ages.





Come Visit Us

PDA Building, Booth:111



Looking for a Way to Support the Foundation?

Become an Annual or Lifetime Friend

\$65, Annual \$500, Lifetime

bit.ly/3DxHNXx



The Foundation uses the term "Friend" in place of member.

Make a tax-deductible donation

No donation is too small. 回避路區 All donations are appreciated.



https://bit.ly/4iTMFFR 直流的

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc., was incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2010 as a non-profit corporation.

Sponsor an event or program at the 2026 PA Farm Show

Contact Gerry Reichard

farmshowfriends@gmail.com. • 717-729-7158

Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors! https://bit.ly/41Vf9sP



Advertise in the 2026 Visitor's Guide

Promote your business, company or organization.

Contact Rachel Schlegel

penguingraphixs@gmail.com 717-682-2351



2025 Guide! bit.ly/4gY52rf

All monies raised help to facilitate, stimulate and support educational youth programs, events and incentives at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Learn more at www.friendsoffarmshow.com

Blessing of the Balers at the PA State Capitol

PA State Fair Queen Ava Immel, and PA State Fair Queen Alternate Brooke Beamesderfer attended the Blessing of the Balers held on May 6, at the PA State Capitol in Harrisburg.

Rep. Bud Cook (R-Greene/Washington) hosted the third Annual Blessing of the Balers to help draw attention to the state's top industry, agriculture. The Beef Council was on hand with free hamburgers to celebrate May as Beef Month.



PA State Fair Queen Ava, Rep. Bud Cook, and Brooke Beamesderfer, Alternate Queen at the Blessing of the Balers event.

Ava and Brooke were invited to the floor of the Senate for pictures with Senator Martin and Senator Gephard. Ava was recognized with a citation from Senator Martin.



Senator Gephard, Brook Beamesderfer, Ava Immel, and Senator Martin on the Senate floor at the PA State Capitol.



Greetings from Queen Ava

In May, I participated in the Blessing of the Balers, a meaningful tradition where we prayed over hay balers in hopes of a safe and successful hay season. This event was a powerful reminder of the deep roots agriculture has in both faith and community. Following that, I had the distinct honor of being introduced by Senator Scott Martin on the Pennsylvania Senate floor. Standing in that chamber and being recognized for my involvement in agriculture and fair representation was a moment I'll never forget.

To round out an impactful month at the Capitol, I also witnessed Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding officially declare May as Beef Month in Pennsylvania. From educating students to engaging in tradition, to witnessing important state-level agricultural recognition, the month of May reminded me just how vital our agricultural communities are. I'm incredibly thankful for the chance to represent Pennsylvania fairs and continue advocating for the industry that feeds and sustains us all.

I had the wonderful opportunity to attend on May 7 and 8 the Pennsylvania Farm City Days at the PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, where I helped teach young students from the Harrisburg area about agriculture. I focused on the life cycle of a sunflower—explaining everything from planting the seed, to growth, blooming, and harvesting. It was incredible to see how excited the students were to learn about something many of them had never experienced before. Events like this help bridge the gap between rural and urban communities, and I was proud to represent the PA Fair community and share my passion for agriculture.





PA State Fair Queen Ava Immel and Brooke Beamesderfer, Alternate PA State Fair Queen, volunteered to work at the Friends of the PA Farm Show booth at Farm City Days.

Do you have an event you would like to invite the PA State Fair Queen to? Send an email to: pafairqueenscheduler@gmail.com



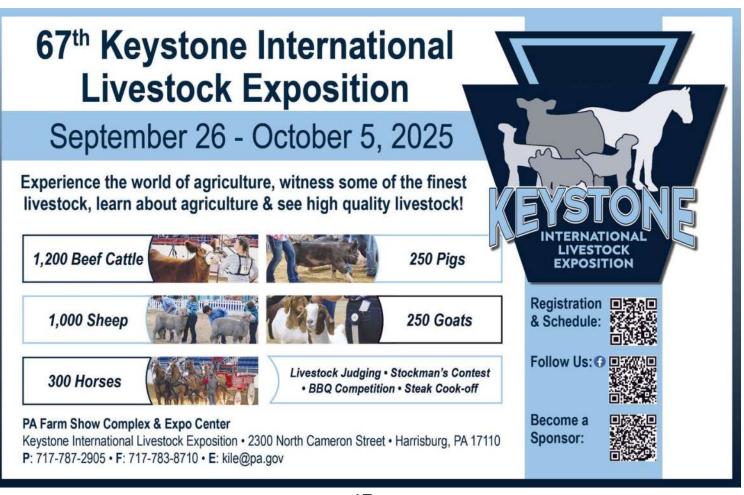


2025 All-American Dairy Show and Premier National Junior Show Events

September 13-17, 2025

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

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



Farm Show Detectives Take Over 110th Show

This year's PA Farm Show detectives investigated 22 different AgExplorer Learning Stations located throughout the Complex. The stations which were sponsored by PA Department of Agriculture, Friends of the PA Farm Show, and Dairy Farmers of America was a popular event for those ages 9 to 99 to experience hands-on agriculture.

Stops on the AgExplorer trail included: PNGA-Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association, PA Fish and Boat Commission, So You Want to Be a Farmer, PA Department of Agriculture: Hardwoods Development Council, Governor's Invasive Species Council,

State Horticultural Association of PA, Pennsylvania State Beekeepers Association, PA Sheep & Wool Growers Association, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau



of Emergency Medical Services, Pennsylvania State Grange, Quilting America-250 (Cumberland Valley Grange), Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers Council, Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeders Association, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess & Promotion Services, Inc., PA Equine Council, PA Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assoc., PA Friends of Agriculture Foundation, PA Pork Producers Council, PA Beef Council, Wish Upon A Butterfly, and Dairy Farmers of America.

For those who collected stamps and handed their map in, they were then entered into a daily

drawing sponsored by DFA, a grand prize winner was also drawn.

The Foundation reached out to each winner with a few questions about their experience, those who responded are featured below.

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

The following questions were asked to each AgExplorer winner:

- 1. Was this your first time at Farm Show? If so, did you enjoy your time at the show? If not, what do you look forward to doing/seeing that brings you back?
- 2. What is one thing you would encourage other children to do when they are attending Farm Show?
- 3. What was your favorite Learning Station and why?



lan of Wrightsville

- 1. Not our first time, but the first time in at least five years. The kids love the animals and the AqExplorer program!
- 2. Use the AgExplorer map to find fun activities and learning opportunities.
- 3. I can't remember one the kids liked best, but they enjoyed every one that provided a learning activity or game in addition to the stamp.

Grand Prize Winner



Ethan of Sinking Spring

- Not the first time, but it has been a couple of years. I had a great time and will most certainly return next year.
- 2. Try some of the ice cream. It was fantastic. And make sure to ride the mechanical bull.
- 3. Probably the Beekeepers Association because bees are cool and very important to nature.



Madelyn of West Grove

- 1. Yes! It was amazing! We never knew how much fun it could be. My girls enjoyed seeing the rabbits, petting the goats, seeing a calf being born, tasting the winning dishes in the competitions, and doing the AgExplorer stations.
- 2. Madelyn says, "They should go play with the baby goats and see the calf being born!"
- 3. Madelyn said, "The honeybee station because I like honey and bees and I liked looking for the queen."

Aradella of Newmanstown

- 1. We look forward every year to attending the PA Farm Show to see all the different animals and activities to learn about agriculture.
- 2. Take your time to listen and learn.
- 3. The bees.



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:	Annual-\$65 ☐ Lifetime-\$500 ☐
Contact's Name:	Billing: Check Enclosed □
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
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Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

Highlights of Upcoming Events

Tuesdays & Fridays - Farmers Open Air Market

Sundays - Flea Market (Elmerton Lot)

July 11 - Harrisburg Community Job Fair

July 12 - 13 Downunder Horsemanship Walkabout

July 12, 19, August 9, 16 - Susquehanna SCCA Autocross

July 23 - 26: Mecum Car Auction

Jan. 10-17, 2026 PA Farm Show 2026

Plus hundreds of other entertaining and educational events. See the full schedule here

