

PA FARM SHOW



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**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.



Dear Friends of Farm Show,

With just five months to go until the Pennsylvania Farm Show, our board and team, as well as the Farm Show staff, are already hard at work behind the scenes, preparing for the largest indoor agricultural event in the nation. The Farm Show is more than just an event — it's a celebration of Pennsylvania's farming families, traditions, and innovations. From the animals in the barns to the exhibits, competitions, and food that everyone loves, we are focused on creating an experience that will showcase the pride and spirit of agriculture across our Commonwealth.

These next few months will be filled with planning and partnership, as we work with farmers, producers, and volunteers from every corner of Pennsylvania to bring this special show to life. It's always inspiring to see the dedication of so many people coming together to share their passion for agriculture with the public. We look forward to welcoming visitors in January to learn, celebrate, and make memories at the Pennsylvania Farm Show — a tradition that connects us all to the roots of who we are.

Mark Keller
Chairman

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

Nov.-Dec. Due by Oct. 1
Jan.-Feb. Due by Dec. 1
Mar.-Apr. Due by Feb. 1

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

Nov. - Dec. 2025
Newsletter
Deadline
is
Oct. 1

Cover Picture: The PA Farm Show Junior Committee members. Make sure to go to page 10 to read their bios.

Photo provided by the Junior Committee.

Foundation Contact Information

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

Like us on Facebook: FriendsofPAFarmShow

Insta: friendsofpafarmshow



Advertise in the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show Visitor's Guide

35,000 copies printed and distributed **FREE** at the Pennsylvania Farm Show **January 10-17, 2026.**

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



Advertisement Rates & Sizes

Price includes color	Full\$1,500
Back\$3,000	7" x 9.75"
Inside Front\$2,500	1/2 Horizontal ...\$800
Inside Back\$2,500	7" x 4.73"
Front of Center ..\$2,000	1/4 Vertical\$500
Back of Center ...\$2,000	3.416" x 4.73"

Deadlines to remember:

Ad space reservation - Friday, Oct. 31
Camera ready ad submission - Monday, Nov. 17

Ad submission & assistance:

Rachel Schlegel, penguingraphixs@gmail.com

Questions:

Gerald Reichard, 717.729.7158 - *Special Advisor*
Rachel Schlegel, 717.682.2351 - *Marketing*

Become an Exhibit/Event Sponsor

Are you looking for a rewarding way to be involved in Farm Show?

How about becoming an exhibit or event sponsor? Through sponsorships, the Foundation was able to support over 20 events & exhibits at the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show. *To view available exhibit/event sponsorships, scan the QR code or visit: <https://friendsoffarmshow.com/sponsor/>*



*The Foundation welcomes and values support at every sponsorship level.
Your generosity makes our work possible year after year.*

Sponsorship Levels

Platinum:	Gold:	Silver:	Bronze:	Friend:
\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500

To view
sponsorship packages
scan the QR Code:



Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry

New Holland Arena • Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 @ 3 p.m.

What is a Feed Scurry?

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

Why is the Feed Scurry important?

It is a **significant fundraising** event for the Friends. The money raised from the event helps secure its mission statement.

Interest or Questions?

Call: Dale Welk @ 717.965.2886
Email: dwelk@hanoverpa.com





New Faces, Fresh Energy: Meet Our Newest Department Chairpersons of the PA Farm Show!

by Morgan Firestine

The PA Farm Show is welcoming a fresh wave of leadership with the appointment of new department chairpersons! These new faces are bringing fresh energy and a commitment to preserving the traditions that make the Farm Show a beloved staple of Pennsylvania agriculture. Their goal is simple: an organized, smooth check-in and show to keep it fun, educational, and efficient for both participants and visitors.

Allow us to introduce you to the newest department chairs, who are dedicated to preserving the time-honored traditions of the Farm Show while ensuring everything runs smoothly behind the scenes. When you see them in January, please thank them for being a steward of the show.



Amy Garges,
Junior Market Chairperson

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

I am the 4-H Educator in Montgomery County 4-H – the county and 4-H program I was born and raised. I grew up raising beef cattle and market and dairy goats in 4-H. I am a Penn State graduate with a B.S. in Animal Sciences, and I was heavily involved in various clubs during my time there, including Block and Bridle, Dairy Science Club, and as founding president of Collegiate Cattlewomen, as well as Paternoville. My family shows breeding sheep competitively at a National level.

What was your first involvement in the Farm Show?

I would attend with my family, but my first time as an exhibitor was in college when I worked for Lenape Limousin, and we would bring cattle to show at the Farm Show.

What are your main responsibilities as the chairperson of your department?

Supporting our other volunteers – from species chairs to show day volunteers. My main focus is on how to continue to make the Farm Show more exhibitor-friendly and continue to keep them at the forefront of decision-making. As chairs, we facilitate the shows for the exhibitors.

What does your typical day look like during the week?

It's all a blur! I typically get there by 6 and 7 a.m. and leave somewhere between 9:00 p.m. – 1 a.m., depending on what we have going on! Lots of problem-solving!

What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your department?

Finding volunteers!

What do you think is most unique about the Farm Show?

That's in January, and we are always worrying about snow! What is your favorite part of the Farm Show?
The kids – watching them grow up in agriculture and celebrating their successes with them.

What advice would you give a new exhibitor?

It's overwhelming and like no other show you will go to – read the premium book and reach out to other exhibitors so you know a little bit about what to expect! Bring your patience and a good attitude!



Emily Shoop, Exhibition Avian and Eggs Chairperson

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

My name is Emily Shoop. I'm the 4-H Youth Development Educator in Juniata County. I am originally from Lima, (LIE-Ma) Ohio and have been showing, judging, and raising poultry for over 30 years. I was an Ohio 4-H member for 13 years showing rabbits, poultry, and many craft and cooking projects. I am a graduate of the University of Arkansas where I studied poultry science for my bachelor's and master's degrees. I am currently an American Bantam Association Licensed judge and raise Bantam White Sultans. I live on a cow-calf and feeder beef operation in East Waterford, PA with my daughter, Mollie, and husband, Derek.

What was your first involvement in the Farm Show?

In 2017, I assisted Phillip Clauer with the infamous hallway show where we packed all the birds into the hallway between the Main Hall and East Hall, then carried them past the butter sculpture to the McClay Street lobby. I got in a little trouble that year for walking right in front of, then, Governor Tom Wolf, with two geese tucked under my arm. Being brand new to PA, I didn't recognize who he was, but he and his security detail recognized the two big geese and got out of the way.

What are your main responsibilities as the chairperson of your department?

I help the Farm Show staff put together the premium book, check in entries, provide feedback on judge selection, run the shows, interact with the kids (my favorite), help with the FairEntry side of things, flip over turkeys, and all other duties as assigned. It's a wild week, but I enjoy every minute with the kids.

What does your typical day look like during the week?

Up early, heading down to the Complex to feed and water birds, check on families that might need assistance, enter results, answer questions from the public, grab a soft pretzel and a milkshake, and just hang out with the other "bird nerds" in East Hall. Last year, I remembered leaving the building after the turkey show late and chatting with a security guard who had no clue what it entails to show a turkey! Show and sale day is a bit more chaotic, but it was awesome to see the exhibitors, their families, and the public amazed at not only the birds back, but also this new-fangled turkey show!

What are some of the biggest challenges you face in your department?

HPAI will be the black cloud that

hangs over our industry for a long time, I fear. The uncertainty of whether we will be shut down suddenly or that the opportunities could be taken from the kids is a real bummer. The silver lining is that we have learned to pivot in new and creative ways!

What do you think is most unique about the Farm Show?

I've judged and attended a lot of state fairs - none in January. The weather is always a challenge with the time of year, but where else are you going to see 25,000+ people in one area at the beginning of January? I think the most exciting part of that is that the New Year's excitement hasn't yet worn off, and the kids and families are still hopeful for the year to come. So, while it's a culmination of the past year's projects, it's a lot of hope, and looking forward to the upcoming year.

What is your favorite part of the Farm Show?

Am I wrong to say the milkshakes? That's kind of what we chairs live on for the week! Honestly, I just love the kids and their families. I have met so many of them since my first Farm Show in 2017, and it's been a blessing to keep up with them over the years. Some have gone on to do awesome things in the state, and that's really what it's all about!

What advice would you give a new exhibitor?

You practice for sporting events, you practice your instrument for band, why not use Farm Show as the ultimate practice? We offer so much in the poultry department for kids to try on for size - from showmanship, to posters, to photo contests, eggs, market turkeys, and hopefully exhibition birds. Even beyond poultry, one of my Mifflin County 4-Hers, Elle Halfpenny, credits honing her showmanship skills to exhibiting pigs at Farm Show for the past several years.

The ability to just watch so many different styles and techniques, then talk to those exhibitors and learn, is invaluable. She's become one heck of a showman, too!



Chad Butters, Spirits Department Chairperson

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

I am the Founder and CEO of Eight Oaks Farm Distillery, located in New Tripoli, Pennsylvania. A retired Army aviator with over 25 years of military service, I hold a bachelor's degree in professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and an MBA from Drexel University.

People often ask how I came to start a distillery. The answer is simple: a lifelong passion for family, agriculture, science, and history led me to create Eight Oaks in the heart of the Lehigh Valley farmland. Today, I'm proud to be joined by my daughter, who serves as our Chief Operating Officer.

Our mission is to remain true to the spirit and craft of distilling, guided by a sustainable cycle that begins and ends with purpose. At Eight Oaks, we've built our farm distillery on the core principle of leaving things better than we found them—both on our land and in our community.

(Continued on page 18)

Catching Up with Pennsylvania 4-H State Council

This past July, Pennsylvania 4-H State Council had a fantastic time at the Council's annual Industry Tours. In this edition of the Friends of Farm Show Foundation newsletter, we highlight Council members and their experiences during our time traveling across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, learning how to better advocate for agriculture.



Lancaster Farming Tour.

Sami Hayman (Events Committee) on the Lancaster Farming and Susquehanna Printing Tour

Our time at Lancaster Farming was spent learning about the behind-the-scenes operations. We were able to see all the machines running hundreds of papers, as well as the huge tanks that hold all the ink. We learned how much detail goes into the paper itself and how much work and time management is needed to get all the information compiled on time. This was such a neat experience for the Council, and we're so grateful to them for always providing us with opportunities to promote 4-H.



4-H State Officers with Secretary Russell Reading at the PA Department of Agriculture.

Grace Ziegmont (Communications Committee) on the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Tour

During our visit to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, the State Council had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Russell Redding to explore our theme of Connecting Our Communities and reflect on its meaning within our 4-H experiences. We also spoke with Secretary Redding about the lessons he's learned during his time as Secretary of Agriculture.

In addition to our conversation with Secretary Redding, we learned about the various bureaus within the Department, including the PA Division of Weights and Measures and the State Veterinary Laboratory, gaining a broader understanding of the Department's role in supporting agriculture across the Commonwealth.



Horizon Farm Credit Tour.

Ariana Cook (Communications Committee) on the Farm Credit Tour

At Horizon Farm Credit in Mechanicsburg, the 2025 PA 4-H State Council team had the opportunity to learn about their cooperative and what they do. Their mission is to support rural communities and agriculture with reliable and consistent credit and financial services. Being a cooperative means that the owners and users are the same people.

Some of their employees also gave us helpful financial tips and advice, including budgeting and saving money. After the presentation, our team split into two groups and played a competitive game of Jeopardy to put our new knowledge to the test.

Giuseppe Schiano Di Cola (President) on the Case New Holland Tour

Council had the honor of visiting Case New Holland's International Testing Facility for hay and grain. During our time at the incredible facility, we were shown not only where production occurs and where design and engineering take place, but we also had the opportunity (for Council members 18+) to drive machines such as a combine and tractor.

These amazing experiences gave people like me, from a non-agriculture background, insight into what all the machines do and why they are important. Overall, the visit with CNH was phenomenal, and we learned so much. My favorite part was being in the cold room, which reaches temperatures of -20°F!



Front row sitting: Caitlyn Shrodo - Events Committee, Alyssa Bergenstock - Secretary, Sami Hayman - Events Committee, John Bruner - Outreach Committee. Starting from left to right in the back row (standing): Helayna Hollobaugh - Events Committee, Ariana Cook - Communications Committee, Kaylee Baker - Outreach Committee, Giuseppe Schiano Di Cola - President, Grace Ziegmont - Communications Committee, Patricia Shively - Communications Committee.

Ag Progress Days

Celebrating "Innovations in Agriculture"

By Rachel Schlegel

Yet again this year, the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation set up a table in the Pennsylvania Department of Ag building on the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center grounds.

The show, which featured more than 500 exhibitors and vendors, highlighted "innovations in agricultural equipment and industries." With guided tours, live demonstrations, a butterfly exhibit, corn maze, pedal pulls, and so much more, this event truly offered something for all ages to enjoy. Visitors were guaranteed to leave with a greater appreciation and understanding of agriculture than when they arrived.

This event is a wonderful way to celebrate our farmers, educate the community, and promote the future of Pennsylvania agriculture.

At the Friends booth, board members and volunteers shared information about the Pennsylvania Farm Show and the important work of the Foundation. They enjoyed hearing fond memories from longtime attendees and encouraged those who have never been to experience the Farm Show in January.

We want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the show and took time to stop and visit us. If you weren't able to join us this year, we invite you to enjoy a short video highlighting our three days at Ag Progress Days. Check it out at: <https://videopress.com/v/IHkuDW3Y> or scan the QR code.



**Save the date for Ag Progress Days 2026:
Aug. 11-13.**

Photos by Rachel Schlegel



From Show Ring to Leadership: Heidi Svonavec Named Executive Director of Farm Show Complex

The Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex has long been part of Heidi Svonavec's life. As a Somerset County 4H member, she square danced in the arena and showed livestock alongside her brothers. Now, with more than two decades of service to Pennsylvania agriculture, she has been named Executive Director of the Complex and Expo Center.

Svonavec succeeds Sharon S. Myers, who earlier this year became President and CEO of Visit Hershey & Harrisburg. The promotion marks the next step in a career that has included 22 years with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and 17 years behind the scenes at the Farm Show Complex.

Secretary Russell Redding shared, "In this new role, Heidi brings fresh energy and new ideas to the Complex, grounded in her strong foundation of experience, a deep respect for the tradition, and a vision for continued growth and excellence. Throughout her career, Heidi has demonstrated a deep commitment to the mission of the Farm Show and a strong track record of leadership, teamwork, and innovation."

Known for her steady leadership and event expertise, Svonavec has overseen the nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition and helped the venue grow into a year-round hub. Today, the Complex hosts more than 200 events annually, from livestock shows and horse events to sports tournaments and trade expos.

"My goals include ensuring the employees remain a priority by



Heidi Svonavec, Executive Director, PA Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg

providing them with the training, tools and direction needed to complete their jobs," said Svonavec. "Details matter! I'm planning to focus on how we are best serving our clients, promoters, and attendees and of course how are we serving Pennsylvania as an economic driver. Capital Improvements and ensuring the facility continues to function properly will be top of the list also." added Svonavec.

Svonavec shared, "The Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex has shaped my life - from my days as a livestock exhibitor and square dancer to working behind the scenes on three state sponsored livestock shows and hundreds of events held here annually. Now, after 22 years with the Department of Agriculture, it's an honor to lead a facility that not only celebrates our ag heritage but drives real economic impact for the Commonwealth. This complex generates millions of dollars in

At A Glance: Heidi Svonavec

Hometown: Somerset, PA

Education: Penn State University
Agricultural Education

Career Highlights:

- 22 years with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- 17 years at the Farm Show Complex
- 25+ years in Event & Show Management

Early Ties to Farm Show:

Square dancing and showing livestock with her brothers as a youth

Passions:

Youth development
Industry collaboration
Showcasing PA Agriculture

New Role:

Executive Director, Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center

The Complex:

Nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition, 200+ shows, sporting, and meetings annually

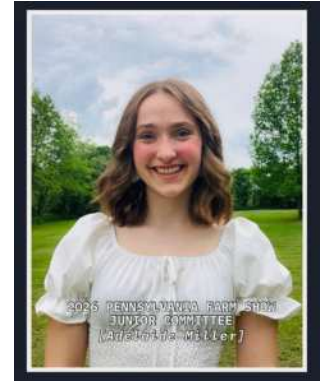
revenue each year, supports local businesses, and showcases the strength of Pennsylvania agriculture. As Director, I'm committed to ensuring its continued growth - and to inspiring the next generation to carry agriculture forward."

Mark Keller, Chairman of the Friends of Farm Show Foundation, praised her as a leader who respects tradition while embracing new ideas. With her mix of experience, energy, and vision, the Farm Show Complex is poised to thrive under her leadership.

Meet the 2025-26 PA Farm Show Junior Committee



Ava Immel, the 2025 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen, is an honorary member of the PA Farm Show Junior Committee. Ava resides in Lancaster County. When she is not busy with her royal duties, she stays just as busy with Junior Committee tasks. Ava also reigns as the 2024 -25 West Lampeter Community Fair Queen. Ava will be attending Delaware Valley University.



Adelaide Miller is a proud 4H member and 4H club president. She competes in 4-H knowledge tests, advocates at National conferences, and pursues other opportunities. She recently graduated from high school with an Associate's degree in Business.



Nate Huber is the secretary for his FFA chapter, treasurer for the Lancaster County FFA organization, student leader for his church's middle school group, and Jr. Board Director for the Manheim Community Farm Show. After high school, Nate plans to attend SUNY Cobleskill with a major in Agricultural Business.



Anna Houser is going into her senior year at Eastern Lebanon County High School. She is involved with her FFA chapter, NHS chapter, Chorus, Raiders Read Club, and enrolled in AP classes. She has competed at the state level Potato Judging Contest through the Lebanon County 4-H Friends Club. She also serves as an FFA Officer at the ELCO FFA Chapter and is on the Lebanon Area Fair Jr. Fair Board.



Lauren Smith resides in Lancaster County. Lauren is passionate about the environment and agriculture, which has led her to the National FFA organization. She is a freshman at Penn State University. Lauren is also serving as the 2024-25 Manheim Community Fair Queen and a member of the Manheim Community Farm Show Junior Board.



Frances Weaver grew up on the McMonigle-Weaver Family Farm as a 7th-generation farmer, where her love for agriculture runs deep. She's passionate about dairy farming and enjoys sharing that passion through dairy promotion and community outreach. She is active in FFA and has found purpose in leadership, service, and inspiring others to appreciate the value of farm life and hard work.



Lindsey Kline is a dedicated Animal Science student at Penn State University with a strong passion for agriculture and public service. She developed a love for agriculture through involvement in the Grand Canyon FFA Chapter, where she serves as both Sentinel and Secretary. She works as a Student Auxiliary Officer with the Penn State University Police.



Heather Inch is an active 4-H member from York County. She has showcased breeding rabbits, market rabbits, market turkeys, market goats, and 4-H exhibits at the PA Farm Show for six consecutive years. "She is the Secretary of the York County 4-H Teen Council, President of the York County 4-H Rabbit and Small Animal Club, a member of the Kiddin' Around Goat Club, and the York County Poultry 4-H Club.



Emily Kerstetter is a sophomore at Penn State, majoring in Agricultural and Extension Education. She intends to be an Agricultural Education and FFA Advisor. Following her freshman year, she served a gap year as the PA FFA State Treasurer. She also serves as a Teach Ag Avenger and an Ag Advocate.

Emma Copenhaver is a dedicated senior with a strong passion for agriculture and leadership. With over 10 years of experience showing dairy cattle, she has developed a deep connection to the agricultural community. Emma is actively involved in both FFA and 4-H, where she has held leadership roles and helped organize numerous events. Emma is active on the Student Council and a member of the National Honor Society and Mini Thon Committee.



Sophia Carrera is an active FFA member at Twin Valley High School, where she currently serves as the chapter president. Sophia demonstrates strong leadership skills and a deep commitment to agricultural education. She is passionate about public speaking, and Sophia frequently represents her chapter at events and competitions.

BrynLee Balliett is excited to be part of Delaware Valley University's class of 2029, and she is majoring in Animal Science in the Pre-Professional track to become a veterinarian. Brynlee was active in her FFA chapter in high school and served on the 2024 State Officer Nominating Committee, acquired her Keystone Degree, and earned the Easter Regional Star placement Award.



Lenka Ohler is a Borlaug Scholar and a PSEAS alumna of Penn State's Pennsylvania School for Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences, where she will serve as a counselor. Lenka is a committed learner, an agriculture activist, and a future leader in food security and education. Lenka has been part of the Global Teach Ag Network's GOALS program, where she completed a teaching rotation in Tampa, Florida.

Chelsie Bomgardner is a dedicated and diligent worker who strives to create a lasting impact on her community and the world around her. She serves as the Vice President of the Norlebo Dairy 4-H club, and served as a chapter officer for her local FFA chapter, where she has participated and won the Pennsylvania State FFA Creed competition in 2024.



Mary Walter resides in York County and was raised on a 4th-generation livestock production farm with three older sisters. Mary shows livestock at her county fair and has been involved in 4-H since she was eight years old. She is a junior at Penn State University, where she is pursuing a career in Agriculture and Extension Education.

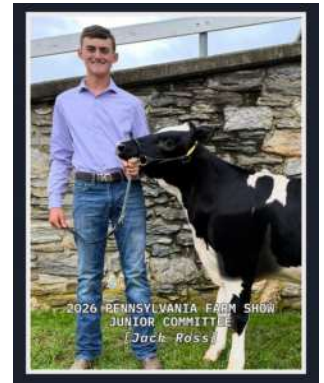
Garrett Kaltenbach is a senior at Wellsboro Area High School. He has been part of the family-owned beef farm since he was born, helping with the family herd and raising his own animals. He is President of the Grand Canyon FFA chapter and President of the Tioga County Jr. Fair Board. Garrett enjoys competing in a variety of FFA CDSs and contest throughout the year.





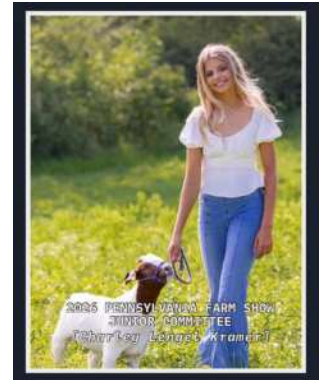
Ashley Ocker is from Chambersburg, where she resides with her parents and younger sister. Her grandfather and uncle co-own Creekside Dairy, where they milk 150 Holsteins. Ashley loves to enter home goods products and co-chairs the Youth Foods Department. Ashley is the secretary of the Junior Fair Board. She will be attending Shippensburg University to major in early childhood education and special education.

Jack Ross is from Lancaster and was not raised on a farm; however, he grew up working alongside his dad, learning the value of hard work, responsibility, and gained an interest in mechanics at an early age. Jack was active in FFA during his freshman year of high school. He held multiple officer positions, including Chapter Treasurer, Secretary, and County Treasurer, and he competed in events such as agricultural mechanics, public speaking, and agricultural issues.



Sophia Spang has always had a love for animals and people. From her first volunteer job in intermediate school at a local horse barn to joining FFA her freshman year, she has come a long way in her agricultural journey. She currently serves as a leader at her church's Young Adult group and teaches Sunday school classes. She plans to start up her goat production project in the near future.

Charley Lengel Kramer has been deeply rooted in agriculture from a young age. Her journey began with active participation in FFA and 4-H throughout high school, and she continues her involvement during college. She raises cattle, goats, and pigs for both market and show, and is now preparing to dive into the world of breeding. Currently studying to become a veterinarian, Charley's career goals are a natural extension of her passion for animal care and agricultural science.



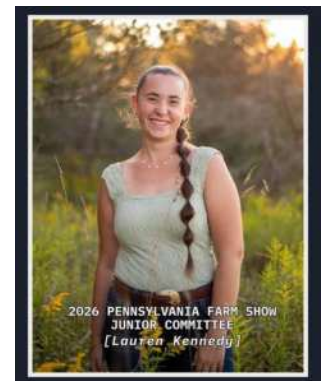
Brynn Karnes is a senior at Central Columbia High School. She is the 2025-26 Central Columbia FFA president and the 2025 Bloomsburg Fair Queen Alternate. She is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America, Students for Environmental Action Club, and the Drama Club, where she is the Lead Floral Designer. She owns Fishing Creek Floral Company, making floral arrangements year-round and running a seasonal flower farm in Stillwater, PA.

Kennady Laird is a current freshman at Penn State University. She is involved with the Farm Women of York, The Red Lion Grange, Class of 2024 Executive Council, Occupational Advisory Committee, and a past Red Lion Area FFA member. Kennady served as a Pennsylvania FFA State Officer, where she advocated for the FFA, agricultural education, and the agriculture industry.



Regan McDaniel is a senior at the Athens Area School District. She is enrolled at the Northern Tier Career Center pursuing vocational training, focusing on Automotive Body Collision and Repair. She is an active Athens FFA chapter member serving on the middle school team for one year and the high school officer team for three consecutive years as Secretary, Reporter, and Vice President. She earned her Greenhand, Chapter, and County degrees. She was recognized with the Outstanding Member Award in 2023-24.

Lauren Kennedy is from Clearfield County. She is an active member of the Clearfield FFA chapter, where her favorite class was Agricultural Mechanics, and she has spent time competing in various CDEs. She earned a trip to the State Convention in the Senior Prepared Public Speaking contest. She will be attending Penn State University, University Park, majoring in Agricultural Science.



A Tale of Two Quilts

By Mary Klaus

When I was a little girl, my grandmother made quilts for her grandchildren.

We didn't think of them as anything special, just scraps of fabric stitched together to make warm coverings for our beds. I remember patches made from aprons, bathrobes, shirts and more.

Years later, I learned to love, appreciate and even make quilts. This is the story of two special quilts in my life, one beautiful and one not so much.

The beautiful one, a blue and white Wedding Ring quilt (below), was created by Amish quilters in Snyder County. I chose a quilt in lieu of a ring when I got engaged to my late husband, Rick Moyer. I bought him a bookcase.

Shortly after we got engaged, we were driving from Harrisburg to Lewisburg. As we entered the village of Port Trevorton, I saw a gorgeous quilt hanging from a clothesline on a porch. When I saw a sign proclaiming "quilts for sale," I excitedly called out "Rick, stop the car! I found my engagement quilt!"

We pulled over, went to the door and rang the bell. A lovely woman smiled when we expressed interest in the Wedding Ring quilt. She insisted on showing us more than a dozen quilts of all sizes and patterns but nothing moved me more than the Wedding Ring quilt. Rick proudly bought it for me. I treasure it to this day.

After we were married, I took quilting classes. Although I never advanced beyond the amateur stage, I made several quilts over the years. One, in the Stars Galore pattern, was a scrap quilt. Like my grandmother, I used leftover fabric in it for the many patches.

That became Rick's favorite quilt (sometimes he would stretch out under it while watching football) and my least favorite quilt because it wasn't very pretty. It looked like the kind of quilt you would lie under while eating



Photos submitted by Mary Klaus

Rick's favorite quilt was given the name, "The Noodle," as it was the perfect quilt to lie under while calming a sore throat.

chicken noodle soup to soothe your sore throat. In fact, we named it "The Noodle!"

Pretty or not, it became one of our most used quilts. It wasn't a quilt for special occasions or to dress up a bed. Instead, it was an everyday quilt, part of the fabric of our wonderful 15 years of marriage.

For many years, we had it all. Rick was an officer in the Harrisburg Bureau of Fire. I was a reporter at a daily newspaper. We were volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians together too. We loved our jobs, we loved our lives and mostly, we loved each other.

Life throws you curve balls. When you get married in your 20s, you're not supposed to be a widow in 15 years.

Yet my sweet husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor that claimed his life 17 months later. He died lying under The Noodle while I had my

arms wrapped around him. Despite my strong faith, my heart was shattered. I grieved more than I thought was possible.

Eventually, I began quilting again. During one quilting retreat (a weekend getaway of quilting), I took The Noodle along and slept under it during my two nights there. Somehow, I left The Noodle behind. When I tried to get it back, nobody knew what became of it. Suddenly, this plain quilt seemed like a treasure which I had lost.

The next year while I was covering a quilt show in Hershey, I ran into a woman I met at the quilt retreat. I told her about my lost quilt.

"I think I know where it is," she said. "When we were cleaning up from the retreat, we found a quilt and didn't know whose it was. One of the quilters from Chambersburg took it home and is holding on to it to see if we can find the owner." She gave me the phone number.

I couldn't wait to call the Chambersburg woman. Sure enough, she had The Noodle. We arranged to meet at a McDonald's parking lot in Chambersburg.

Ironically, the day I got The Noodle back was the anniversary of my husband's death. I pulled into the McDonald's parking lot about the same time the other lady did. We got out of our cars and she handed me The Noodle. I stood there, hugging this homely quilt and sobbing in pain for all I had lost and in joy for the return of this link to my husband.

I still have both the Wedding Ring quilt and The Noodle. I never would give up either. Certain quilts are more than works of art or warm bed coverings. They are a part of our hearts.



Wedding Ring quilt created by Amish quilters in Snyder County.



Friends' Photo Contest!

We celebrated agriculture around Pennsylvania through your camera lens this past year, this year we will focus on Pennsylvania Fairs!



As you attend one of the many fairs across the state, take your camera and be on the lookout for that special moment! Submit your photo to us by December 1.

DETAILS:

- Photographs can be submitted on our Social Media outlets, or emailed to FriendsFarmShow2026@gmail.com. Include the fair location and contact name/info.
- If too many images are submitted the board of directors will pick their top 10.
- Photographs will be displayed during the 2026 PA Farm Show at the **Friends' Booth** and placed Online after the show. So come vote for your favorite!
- The winner will receive a prize.

★★★PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT IN ANY WAY ATTACHED TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST AT THE PA FARM SHOW★★★



To view the full PA Fair Schedule visit:
www.pafairs.org/

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:
 - Bib Apron
 - Half Apron
 - 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

America 250
SPECIAL CONTESTS

PA FARM SHOW
JANUARY 10-17, 2026

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

visit
PAFARMSHOW.GOV
to enter



FRIENDS OF THE
PENNSYLVANIA
FARM SHOW
FOUNDATION, INC.

"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
Former Chairman

Friends of Farm Show

Funding the Future of Ag

About us: The Foundation exists in order to , **facilitate, stimulate**
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. Organizations, businesses and
individuals are welcome to explore varied sponsorship levels.
Becoming a Farm Show Friend is open to any person or family.

- **Sign-Up for the Newsletter**
- **Become a Friend**
- **Stay Connected**



www.friendsoffarmshow.com

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America250PA Quilt Project



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

Luzerne County Fair
September 3-7, 2025
luzernecountyfair.com

Albion Fair
September 9-13, 2025
albionfair.com

Bloomsburg Fair
September 24, 2025
bloomsburgfair.com

67th Keystone International Livestock Exposition

**September 26 -
October 5, 2025**

Experience the world of agriculture,
witness some of the finest livestock, learn
about agriculture & see high quality livestock!

September 26-28:

*Ranch Riding, Swine
and Goat Shows*



October 2-5:

*Beef, Draft
and Sheep Shows*



October 2-5:
Trade Show Open



October 4:
Livestock Judging Contest



October 2:
KILE Award Ceremony



October 4:
Agri-Kid Olympics



October 3:
Stockman's Contest



October 4:
Horse Pull



October 4-5:
Keystone Classic BBQ



October 5:
Jr Show: Beef & Sheep



Full
Schedule:



Follow
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PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center
Keystone International Livestock Exposition
2300 North Cameron Street - Harrisburg, PA 17110
• P: 717-787-2905 • F: 717-783-8710 • E: kile@pa.gov



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

Passion and Pride

By Rachel Schlegel

Fair season is upon us! I hope you take the time to visit at least one of the many fairs Pennsylvania hosts each year.

Earlier this year, I was honored to be asked to judge the Royalty Pageant at the Franklin County Fair. With genuine excitement, I replied with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" Admittedly, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect—but I knew it was a privilege to be invited..

The evening was welcomed by a brief summer downpour as I joined two other judges to



Photo by Lizzie Bailey

Royalty Pageant judges (left to right) Lauren Bowen, Rachel Schlegel and Brittany Baird.

interview each queen contestant. I was in awe of the bravery and confidence each of these young women displayed.

As the interviews wrapped up and the skies cleared, we took our seats at the stage, where eager young ladies were ready to earn their crown.

Little Miss contestants were the first to be presented followed by the Princess candidates. How these girls presented and conducted themselves with such poise and personality was truly amazing. I remember being that little and I couldn't have imagined



Photo submitted by Caitlin Reichard

(Pictured left to right) Kynsee Coons, Little Miss; Arielle Andrews, Princess; Laine Hess, Queen; Kamea Pierce, Queen Alternate; Delaney Carbaugh, Princess Alternate; Isabella Pierce, Little Miss Alternate.

being on stage doing what they did that evening!

As stated on the Franklin County Fair website, "These girls hold the highest honor of being the face of our fair and community with passion and poise." From the youngest to the oldest, each knew the importance of the role they were pursuing.

The culmination of the evening was the crowning of the 2025 Franklin County Fair Queen. As they presented their introduction, answered an impromptu question and presented their prepared speech, they showed confidence, pride

and excitement.

It was a really special moment for me to watch the past Little Miss, Princess and Queen place the crown on this year's winners. The smiles on each of their faces spilled over to our faces as well.

This year's contestants did not make our jobs easy. Each young lady brought talent, passion and pride. to the stage. I was truly honored to be part of such an unforgettable evening!

Congratulations to all three gals who were chosen to represent the fair and their community for this year!



Photo by Rachel Schlegel

Crowns await the 2025 Royalty Pageant Princess winners.

New Faces, Fresh Energy: Meet Our Newest Department Chairpersons of the PA Farm Show!

(Continued from page 4)

What was your first involvement in the Farm Show, and now?

I began attending the PA Farm Show several years ago. Eight Oaks also supported the PA Preferred receptions over the last few years. I am excited to help bring PA Spirits to the Farm Show and tell the story of the rich history of PA agriculture as it relates to distilled spirits.

Best part of Farm Show?

My favorite part of Farm Show is getting the chance to talk to other farmers about their operations. I especially enjoy the livestock.

Tell us about the new Department and classes

We're excited to announce that the Pennsylvania Farm Show will feature a Spirits Department for the first time this year! I'm proud to share my passion and help highlight the exceptional distilled spirits being crafted right here in Pennsylvania. The goal is to promote and grow the industry while recognizing the distilleries producing outstanding products across the state.

This new platform offers a valuable opportunity to showcase the diversity, creativity, and craftsmanship of Pennsylvania distillers. By creating a level playing field for competition, the Farm Show will help producers gain well-deserved recognition and broader visibility. We hope that celebrating these achievements will spark greater consumer interest and continued support for locally made spirits.

For the inaugural year, the Spirits Department will include 12 competition classes ranging from whiskey, brandy, vodka, gin, and rum to ready-to-drink products and specialty spirits. Awards will also be given for PA Preferred spirits. The competition will be

open to any Pennsylvania Limited Distillery with an active Limited Distillery license and current membership in the Pennsylvania Distillers Guild. All entries must be fermented and distilled in Pennsylvania



Arthur Etchells, Spirits Department Co- Chairperson

Can you tell us a bit about yourself and your background?

I manage Pennsylvania Libations in Philadelphia's Reading Terminal Market as my full-time job. We specialize in exposing and selling Pennsylvania produced spirits and to the 5+ million visitors to the Market yearly. I have also written about food and drink in Philadelphia for years and previously worked for a Pennsylvania craft distillery. I have been a project manager for the Pennsylvania Distillers Guild for two years now and am very excited to be part of helping Pennsylvania distillers grow and become even more integrated into the state's agricultural industry.

What was your first involvement in the Farm Show and now?

My first involvement in the Farm Show was as a visitor. I took the train from Philadelphia and I remember being overwhelmed by just how big the Farm Show is.

Best part of Farm Show?

I'm tempted to say the PA Dairymen's annual milkshake. But a close second is just the show's vastness. It is a great eye-opener about how large Pennsylvania is, and just how much agriculture plays a direct part in so many people's lives.

Tell us about the new Department and classes.

We're excited to have Pennsylvania distillers become part of the Pennsylvania Farm Show and to showcase all of the great spirits being produced within the state. I look forward to sharing the distillers' success with the public.



We look forward to seeing you at the Pennsylvania Farm Show!

Jan. 10-17, 2026



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
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I would like to sign-up for Friends' Emails

Email: _____

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Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule Highlights of Upcoming Events

September 13-17, 2025 All American Dairy Show

Sept. 26 - Oct. 5, 2025 Keystone International
Livestock Expo

Oct. 9-19, 2025 Pennsylvania National Horse Show

Jan. 10-17, 2026

PA Farm Show 2026

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

