



# Friends of the Farm Show News



May-June 2026

Volume 14 Issue 3



**Friends of the PA  
Farm Show**

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The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that was developed to stimulate, facilitate, and support educational programs, incentives, and events relating to the annual Farm Show event.



## Message from the Chairman:

### Promoting Agriculture to Our Youth



As we welcome the warmer months of May and June, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of agriculture in our community and the role our youth play in its future. At Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, we believe that promoting ag to our young people is not just a responsibility, but a necessity. Our youth are the seeds from which tomorrow's agricultural leaders will grow, and it's up to us to nurture their interest and passion for farming, sustainability, and innovation.

Through education, hands-on experiences, and active participation in local events, we can inspire the next generation to appreciate the vital role agriculture plays in our lives. I encourage everyone—families, teachers, and volunteers—to join us in supporting programs that connect youth to the land and the legacy of farming. Together, let's ensure that agriculture thrives for generations to come by empowering our young people to be its champions. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission. Let's make this season one of growth, learning, and inspiration for all.

Mark Keller, Chairman  
Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, Inc.

We are seeking articles and photographs to feature in the Friends of the Farm Show News.

July–August–Due by June 1  
September–Due by October by August 1  
November–Due by December by October 1

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

July–August  
Newsletter  
**Deadline**  
is  
August 1, 2026

PA Farm Show 2026 Youth Fleece-to-Shawl  
Youth competitors create a shawl from the fleece of a sheep in the 2026 Youth Fleece-to-Shawl competition.

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# Little Hands Learn Big Lessons

## AgExplorer Detectives Explore Farm Show

The 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show welcomed 22 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.

Stations included: PA Sheep & Wool Growers, Poultry, Department of Environmental Protection, PA Cooperative Potato Growers Association, PA State Beekeepers Association, State Horticultural Association of PA, Pennsylvania Maple Syrup Producers Council, Dog Licenses, Christmas Trees, PA Department of Agriculture: Hardwoods Development Council, Governor's, Invasive Species Council, So You Want to Be a



Farmer, PNGA-Pennsylvania Nut Growers Association., Pennsylvania Dairy Princess & Promotion Services, Inc., PA Equine Council, PA State Rabbit Breeders Association, PA Alpaca Owners & Breeders Assoc., Mushrooms, PA Beef Council, PA Pork Producers Council, Penn State Extension, and Wish Upon a Butterfly.

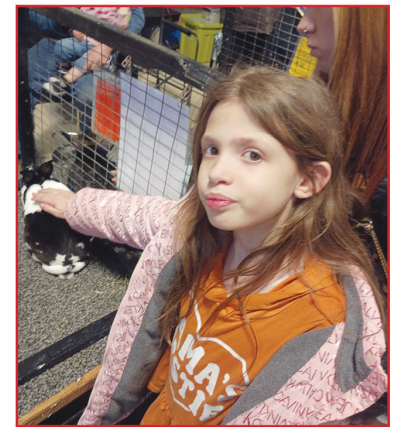
A digital version was available through an app sponsored by Visit Hershey Harrisburg and prizes were sponsored by DFA.

After 15 stamps were collected, maps could be turned in to be entered into a daily prize drawing.

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



Felix looks forward to the tractor pull and learning about farming in Pennsylvania each year when the Farm Show comes around. At just five-years-old his sweet tooth encourages Farm Show attendees to get a potato donut. While on the Learning Station trail, he enjoyed the PA Pork Producers Council because they had meat sticks and was interested in learning how long trash takes to decompose with Department of Environmental Protection.



Anastasia is no stranger to the PA Farm Show. This eight-year-old enjoyed seeing all the animals, but especially the rabbits. Her favorite Learning Station was the digging & composting station (So You Want to Be a Farmer). She learned how to spot the AgExplorer banners out which were located above each learning station. Anastasia encourages other children to be sure to participate in the AgExplorer Program.

The Farm Show welcomed the Latshaw family back to the 2026 PA Farm Show. They loved seeing the animals, particularly the Calving Corner and riding on the carousel. When asked what they would encourage other children to do at the show, they responded, "Explore all of the potential careers Agriculture has to offer." A favorite station for the family was the PA State Beekeepers Association — the kids found it very interesting! Why do they keep returning to the show, "There are so many different ways to experience Agriculture in our state!"

Amina got to experience the Farm Show for the first time this year. Along with her family, they loved all the family-friendly activities. However, Amina especially enjoyed seeing all the animals and getting to pet the rabbits and sheep.



Amina is only two, but her parents would encourage all the children to try the different activities, even if they are hard. They believe Amina favored the So You Want to Be A Farmer station the best, as it had a large section of dirt that she could learn through play. She even has started to show greater interest in their plants at home. She also showed pride in herself when she completed the potato sort at the PA Cooperative Potato Growers Association. Though just a little tot, she was able to start recognizing the signs above the stations and pointed at them.



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Under the Big White Tent

# Family Farm Days

The Farmstead at Oregon Dairy

2900 Oregon Pike • Lititz, PA 17543

• Tues., June 9: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. • Wed., June 10: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
• Thurs., June 11: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Celebrate AMERICA250 – See how farming has changed in the last 250 years!



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**Thanks to the amazing support of our sponsors, the Foundation helps fuel more than 20 exciting programs and events during Farm Show!**

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





# More than a Ribbon: Garrett Kaltenbach's Experience at the PA Farm Show

Garrett Kaltenbach is a long-time exhibitor at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and a number of county fairs. He's a member of the FFA and served on the 2026 PA Farm Show Junior Committee. We had the chance to catch up with him to chat about his projects and experiences along the way. Read on to learn more about Garrett!

**Q:** Tell me a little bit about yourself and how long you exhibited at your local fair, shows and the Farm Show.

**A:** I grew up and live on a beef farm in Northern Pennsylvania. My dad and I have a herd of cattle that we own together. My brother had the same opportunity prior to me, and I took the chance to buy in. As soon as I was old enough, I joined 4-H. I started with showing pigs at the Tioga County Fair and eventually started showing goats and chickens. I had lots of success at the county fair due to some really great mentors along the way. My dad and brother were helpful in guiding me to be successful in my own way. I later joined a 4-H group in Lycoming and was able to continue my showing career at the Lycoming County Fair as well as the Bloomsburg Fair, where I hold the 2025 Grand Champion Goat title. I've been showing at the Pennsylvania Farm Show since 2018 and have exhibited market goats, pigs and lambs.

**Q:** What inspired you to be involved with exhibiting and volunteering on the Jr. Committee?

**A:** I spent a lot of time with my dad attending the county fair board meetings. He has served on the committee for as long as I can remember. I had the chance to see behind the scenes, and this inspired me to help out there. I even got to attend the PA State Association of County Fairs Convention. While there, I noticed the need for younger people to be involved to keep the fairs going. During my sophomore year my ag teacher asked me to help start the Tioga County Junior Fair Committee. Since being involved here, the next logical step was applying for the PA Farm Show Junior Committee. I am excited to apply what I learned while serving on this Committee at the local level.

**Q:** What did a typical day look like for you leading up to the Farm Show? How much preparation went into getting your entries ready?

**A:** While managing my projects, I'd get up and get ready for school then head to the barn. Winter is always a bigger challenge since it required me to thaw water and bed pens twice a day. I enjoy mixing and feeding my animals and preparing them for show.



Garrett has been exhibiting goats, pigs, and lambs at the PA Farm Show since 2018.

**Q:** What challenges did you face as an exhibitor while preparing for the show?

**A:** This year my Farm Show experience was really different. Not only was I an exhibitor with a market goat, lamb and pig, I also served as a member of the PA Farm Show Junior Committee. I was busy! Trying to balance my time with the Committee and my projects was a challenge since I didn't want to let anyone down. Thankfully, I could rely on my family for a lot of help.

**Q:** What is/was your favorite part of being an exhibitor?

**A:** I've made a lot of connections over the years showing different livestock. My favorite part of being an exhibitor is catching up with and talking to other exhibitors. It's always fun to reconnect and learn from them.

**Q:** What is the most memorable moment you had at the Farm Show?

**A:** I received my FFA jacket at the Mid-Winter Convention as a freshman. This was incredible and really got me set on the right path to where I am now.

**Q:** What will you exhibit in 2027 at the Farm Show?

**A:** I'm looking forward to the next Farm Show. I'm still exploring what projects to take but am thinking I'll probably have a market goat and pig. I'd like to exhibit some breeding stock at some point.

**Q:** What would you like to see added or improved for exhibitors?

**A:** Every exhibitor should get a piece of the PA Farm Show merchandise!

**Q:** Do you have a favorite Farm Show tradition or "must do" when you are at the show?

**A:** My dad and I have a tradition of eating fried mushrooms. We are the only ones in our family who like them so it's special for us. We eat and walk through the Expo Hall to see the antique tractors and ag displays. And of course, I never miss the Mid-Winter Convention.

**Q:** What advice would you give to someone entering and exhibiting for the first time at the Farm Show?

**A:** Exhibit with a mindset that it is the experience that matters most. It's easy to focus on wanting to win, but there's so much more to it. At the Farm Show you are going to be able to meet so many people from all over the state. They each have a different county fair and experience. Learning from them is a great way to expand your own abilities.



**Q:** What advice would you give to a first-time spectator at the Farm Show?

**A:** Visit with an open mind to learn about the projects that 4-H and FFA members are exhibiting. There is a lot of love, time and effort put into these projects. Sit down, watch a show and don't be afraid to ask questions. Exhibitors are proud to talk about their animals and the work they did to get to that point.

Thanks for your great work as a Jr. Committee member this year Garrett and good luck with your projects. We'll be excited to hear about them and your next adventure as an exhibitor at the 2027 PA Farm Show.



# Encouraging our Young Folks

## By Landis Zimmerman

We constantly hear that our young folks have no interest in getting involved in our shows anymore. They just want to play on their phones or play video games. Our shows will fall apart in a few years if nothing changes. Does this sound familiar? Does it have to be this way?

Maybe this is partly our fault. Do we make our young folks feel welcome? Do we make them feel needed and an important part of our show or event? We need to create an atmosphere where they feel comfortable.

I had an interest in antique tractors and farm equipment history since grade school. Sad to say, I did not get much encouragement from my own dear dad. He just couldn't understand my passion or see any lasting benefit in this. I would send letters to farm equipment companies for their annual buyers' guides. I also badgered them for company history. Some responded nicely. I also raided the dealership's literature racks whenever I had a chance. Places like Rough & Tumble and antique tractor auctions were my favorite places to be. At these events, I could find older people who shared my passion for history.

In 1984, at the age of 21, I bought and restored my first antique tractor, a 1927 McCormick Deering 10-20, then a 15-30. Yes, I started with red. I had some great mentors in life that encouraged me along; Bob Tallman, James Owensby and Bill Bechthold to name a few. They encouraged me to jump in with both feet and do it right. Sometimes that word of confidence goes a long way. I'm sure there were also individuals in your life that encouraged you and believed in you.

Several years ago, I met Dan Brinkmann at Half Century of Progress. Since 2008, he led the Night Shift Program at the Four Rivers Career Center in Washington, MO. I

remember asking Dan, "So, do you restore tractors?" "No," he said, "I build kids!" This is in line with what I am talking about tonight.

Two evenings a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dan teaches young people about more than nuts, bolts, carburetors and crankshafts. The students not only restore tractors in this program but more importantly they attain necessary skills for life, and it builds their confidence.



PA Farm Show Junior Committee

If you find the right carrot to motivate a young person, you can show them that they will end up with skills no one can take away from them. It doesn't take money or gifts if you can show them that, if you spend this time with them, they are going to be able to use them to better their own life from now on.

We start by planting seeds in their lives and help them get started. He wants the students to have necessary skills for life beyond high school. To be a part of this program, they will need to maintain their grades in school.

### PA State Farm Show

I have been involved with the PA State Farm Show since 2007. Gerald Reichard was one of my earliest mentors there. We put on a one-day indoor tractor show. Even though this has been a really nice event and has brought a lot of nice people together, this isn't the real object of what I am going to touch on next.

Since 2017, FFA students have restored antique tractors and entered them in the state competition at the Farm Show. I have served as one of the judges for this event. I was always against judging tractors at our shows. However, this is part of their school curriculum which they get credits for. Since I have been involved with farm equipment history, I felt I could contribute to this. It is heartwarming to see how much effort these 15 to 18 year old students put into their projects. Each year, I came away feeling good about this program and can see that the students are attaining some important life skills.

On the last Saturday of the show, each participating FFA chapter does an on-stage presentation where they tell about their project and also answer any questions that the judges put to them. This reveals how much they understood about their project and how each one was involved. This is my favorite part of this event. Dedicated teachers and mentors play a large part in this.

Two years ago, it was decided to have the FFA students restore lawn and garden tractors. The cutoff year was put at 1984. This past year, it was decided to open it up to both full size farm tractors and lawn & garden. The question came up, "Where do we put the cutoff year?" Now, I have my ideas about what is an antique and what is not. Do we move it up to 1984 for a full-size tractor? That's too new! That's the year I bought my first antique tractor! It took a little time to wrap my mind around that idea. Finally, it dawned on me, this is not about what I prefer, but we need to keep the students' best interests at heart. After all, we are working with young folks. This needs to be something they can identify with. The outcome; one Case garden tractor 1974. (restored as 1976 Bicentennial.) The rest were full sized tractors with the newest one built in the late 50s. T

his is what the chapters chose and felt comfortable with.

This past year, our local show, Rough & Tumble and the Garden Spot FFA joined hands to provide a John Deere AN for this competition. Another tractor was completed by a good group of young folks. The FFA student's SAE venture isn't just tractors, it can be a number of categories such as, animals, plants, landscaping, forestry, and AG mechanics to name a few. Along with all this, it's up to the students to maintain their grades and attendance in class.

### **FFA Jacket Program**

The other part of FFA our company has participated in for the last number of years, is the FFA jacket program. We usually donate two jackets a year. In PA, this program is headed up by the PA FFA Foundation. It makes my day to put a smile on the face of two first year FFA students. One young lady that was one of our jacket recipients a few years ago went on to become a State FFA officer. We often receive letters of appreciation from them. Some students cannot easily afford a jacket, so this is a necessary program.

### **Farm Show Junior Committee**

The PA State Farm Show also has a Junior Committee. This was formed because they noticed the average age of their volunteers continued to increase each year and with no new individuals stepping into these leadership roles.

Does this sound familiar?

The Junior Committee was formed about eight years ago by a young lady which is now the executive director of the Farm Show. Most of these members are FFA students. This year they had 44 applicants and selected 24 members.

They try to make this a very elite group and provide extra perks for them, such as special opportunities

## **Making an Impact**

Many of us can make an important impact on our young folks.

- **Be a mentor.** You may be someone they look up to — someone reliable, who knows what they are doing and has been around the block more than once.
- **Give of your time and talent.** Freely share information and guidance where asked or needed.
- **Encourage involvement.** There are many ways to be involved. Help is often needed in various areas, in addition to having fun, including workdays, grounds maintenance, setup, and tear-down, and assisting at the front gate with admissions.
- **Create a welcoming atmosphere.** Help them feel comfortable and find their niche. Be friendly.
- **Be patient.** Don't get uptight. We are in this for fun.
- **Connect with them.** Being a people person helps. Relate to them on a level they understand. This may take extra time and explanation on some projects. All of us were young once.
- **Make them feel valued.** Help them feel like an important part of the group.
- **Don't pressure them.** Some young folks need time to get used to being involved. Sometimes it takes that special person or event to make it click.
- **Listen to their ideas.** Make them feel appreciated.
- **Encourage their projects.** Even if you don't see a real benefit in them.

with leaders in the industry, TV and radio interviews, custom vests and shirts that identify them as members.

The committee leaders get them to take responsibility for their appointed roles. They help with things such as picking up garbage, giving tours, scanning tickets, planning, and managing various events throughout the Show week, such as finding and lining up presenters for their main stage months in advance, acting as representatives of the show, and more.

Members also completely manage the Junior Committee social media channels. Four advisors do a lot of planning for the group. I had a chance to work with some of this committee while volunteering at the Friends of the Farm Show booth. They are a great asset to the Farm Show.

### **National Anthem During Opening Ceremonies**

There is usually a search for young talent to sing the national anthem during opening ceremonies each day. Here again, it is surprising, with encouragement that comes forth. I believe most were under 15 years of age and sang beautifully.



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**Proud sponsor of this edition of the Friends of Farm Show News**

# Women in Agriculture Spotlight: A Conversation with Caitlin Reichard

By Lizzie Bailey

Caitlin Reichard was not raised knowing agriculture, but somewhere along the way, it became part of who she is. The road into agriculture was not a straight one, and in many ways, she is still finding her footing as she goes.

Her days are layered with many roles. She and her husband, Brett, are raising two young girls, ages one and four, while she balances two part-time jobs, contributes to the work of the farm, and gives her time to the Franklin County Fair, where her family's roots run deep. It is a full life, not one that fits neatly into a single title, and somewhere in the middle of it all, she makes it work.

Like many women in agriculture, those roles are not separate. They overlap in ways that make one day look very different from the next, yet still come together in a rhythm that works for her family. It is not always tidy, but it is steady.

During the week, Caitlin works alongside her father-in-law, Gerry Reichard, at Keystone Crop Insurance Services. "This time of year is busy," she shares. "As crop season approaches, the pace picks up, and the details matter even more." Much of what she does happens behind the scenes, managing reporting systems, keeping documentation organized, and handling the technical side of the work so others can stay focused on the people they serve. It is steady, detailed work, the kind that does not draw attention to itself, but matters all the same.

She also works a second part-time job one day a week at Forrester Farm Equipment, her family's business, where the family legacy runs just as deep. Her grandfather started the business 50 years ago, and that history is not something she simply talks about. It is something she is still part of. It is another thread that ties her to agriculture, one that reaches behind her and ahead of her.

That sense of legacy continues through

long history in agriculture. Each year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, that legacy is recognized through an award named in honor of Brett's grandfather, Gerald W. Reichard. It is a reminder that what one generation builds does not stop with them, and each generation, in its own way, carries it forward.



**Brett and Caitlin Reichard with their daughters enjoying family time.**

her marriage into a farming family with a Caitlin now stands within that legacy, still learning, still growing, and finding her own place in it.

Her path into agriculture was not always clear. In 2016, she stepped into the Shippensburg Fair Queen competition and did not win. It would have been easy to walk away from that moment, but she chose not to. The following year, she tried again, this time at the Franklin County Fair, and she won. It was an experience that would shape what came next, even if she could not have known it at the time.

Looking back, Caitlin says that experience opened the door to everything that followed. "Being the fair queen is really what started my agriculture journey," she shared. "It gave me relationships with people who will be part of my life forever and put me on a road that gave me a sense of comfort and belonging." Many of the opportunities

she has today grew from that moment. "I've been blessed with opportunities I never would have had otherwise, from my family to being able to stay at home with my kids while still contributing through my work and volunteering."

"That moment changed things for me," Caitlin said. "It placed me in a role where I was representing both the fair and the agricultural community." From there, her connection to the industry continued to grow, not all at once and not without learning along the way, but steadily over time. "Everyone starts somewhere," she added. "You grow by learning, and there's always so much more to learn."

That way of thinking has stayed with her.

She also reflects on the influence of her mother, a steady presence in how she carries herself. "I'm often told I'm like her," she said. "We both have a lot of work to do, but we get it done without creating stress." It is a simple approach, but one that shows in the way she moves through her responsibilities, handling what needs to be done without adding unnecessary weight to it.

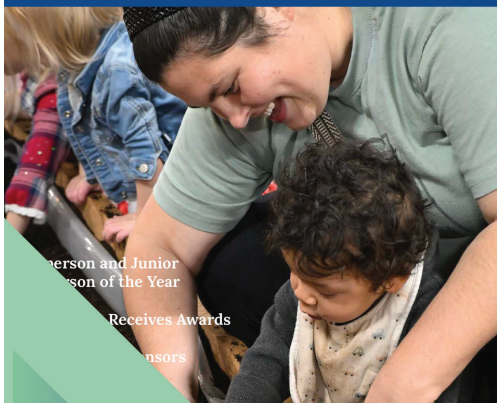
And when she talks about confidence, she points to her sister, Brooke. "I've always admired the way she carries herself, and she's always had great confidence," Caitlin said. "To me, confidence is an important quality to have as a woman in agriculture." Over time, she has found that same confidence growing within herself, shaped both by her family and by her involvement in the fair. When asked what she would say to young women considering agriculture, her answer is both honest and encouraging. "There is space for you in agriculture," she said. "It is still a male-dominated industry, but there is a place for you. Get involved as soon as you can. Explore 4-H, FFA, and your local fairs. Learn as much as you can, and you will find your place." She also hopes her story serves as a reminder that there is not just one way into agriculture. "I didn't grow up on a farm. I wasn't (continued on page 12)



Friends of the  
Farm Show News



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# PA State Association of County Fairs Queen Olivia Morrissey



In January, I was honored to be crowned the 2026 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. Growing up in Lebanon County shaped my appreciation for agriculture, from being a member of the 4-H Friends Club to spending a week of my summer annually at the Lebanon Area Fair. I'm grateful for the chance to represent Pennsylvania's fairs this coming year as I travel across the commonwealth and learn about traditions that are unique to every community.

As I step into this role, I'm excited to highlight a part of agriculture that has shaped my own life, creating clothing with natural fibers. My years in 4-H sparked a curiosity about where our clothing comes from; wool, cotton, and the agricultural processes behind them. This has grown into a passion for educating others about the agricultural roots of textiles. This is especially relevant to Pennsylvania, as the state ranks fourth nationwide for the number of sheep producers, with an impressive 3,590 sheep operations. Wool from these farms is used in countless ways, from apparel and household textiles to sustainable mulch and fertilizer.

Pennsylvania also celebrates the creativity behind wool through contests such as the

Pennsylvania Make It With Wool Competition, which advances to a national level. Another tradition is the Sheep-to-Shawl competition at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where teams demonstrate the entire process of creating a shawl. From shearing the sheep to spinning, weaving, and finishing the final



(From Left to Right) Hope Wagner, Olivia Morrissey, and Madison Copenhaver in their wool projects at the 2022 Make it With Wool Contest.

piece. I've competed in Make It With Wool some times, and I love the challenge of designing a garment using at least 60% wool. It pushes my creativity in ways that are both fun and rewarding.

I've been blessed to work with wool in many of my own sewing projects, creating coats, dresses, and even jeans. look is



one of my favorite fabrics because of its versatility when blended with other fibers and the benefits it offers in the final garment.

Many people think of wool as coarse or uncomfortable, but they're often surprised to learn how soft and smooth it can be, and that it's naturally self-cleaning even if you take it somewhere stinky.

As I travel this year, I hope to spark curiosity in others the same way mine was sparked years ago. Fiber arts tell a story of agriculture, craftsmanship, and community and I'm excited to share that story across Pennsylvania.

**To request Olivia to speak or attend an event, please contact: [pafairschedular@gmail.com](mailto:pafairschedular@gmail.com)**

**Women in Agriculture Spotlight:**  
continued from page 9



Brett and Caitlin Reichard are pictured with their daughters, relaxing on the swing.

showing livestock,” she said. “But that didn’t mean I didn’t have a place in the industry. It’s never too late to start your agriculture journey.”

Her story is not a straight road. It never was. It has been shaped over time, through experience, through learning, and through a willingness to step into something before she had it all figured out.

When posed with the question, when people tell your story someday, what do you hope they say? Caitlin’s answer returns to something simple but meaningful. “I hope people would say I helped them in some way,” she said. “That I made a difference in their life, whether it was mentoring them or just being someone they could look up to.” She added, “I know I have big shoes to fill. I just hope I can do my part.”

And in many ways, she already is.

For the next generation watching and learning what this life looks like, her example is already shaping what comes next.

For Caitlin, agriculture was never about having all the answers from the start. It has been about stepping in, learning as she went, and staying on a road she did not always see clearly, but chose to follow anyway.



# COMING SOON!

## Pee Wee Showmanship

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Photos by Rachel Schlegel

David Cassel stands with his 1966 Farmall that was once owned by the Harrisburg State Hospital Farm and the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

By Rachel Schlegel

As a young boy, David Cassel attended the Pennsylvania Farm Show and watched a 1966 Farmall work the ground in the Large Arena — well before the Equine Arena was built.

No stranger to farming, he used IH and Ford tractors on his family's farm in Hummelstown, PA. However, the 656 gasoline-powered tractor left a lasting impression. The tractor was more than a machine to David, it was a dream. David told his father he wanted to own that tractor one day.

The Farmall was originally owned by the Harrisburg State Hospital Farm and the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and was used to prepare arenas with a 3-point 10-foot harrow for 30 to 40 years. Today, its working tachometer reads 9,400 hours and it has found a new home in Grantville.

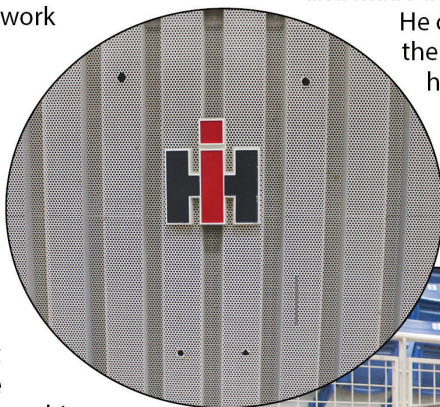
In the spring of 2024, one of David's good friends located the Farmall and purchased it through an equipment trade-in. Knowing David's connection to the tractor, his friend asked if he would be interested

in buying it. Remembering the excitement it brought him as a young farm show attendee, David scraped together the money and made the purchase.

He continues to trailer the tractor to Farm Show, however, it now gets to rest the week of the show and is proudly on display during the HorsePower! event. His love of agricul-

ture runs deeper than just tractors. Today he operates a hay, grain and small beef operation in Dauphin and Lebanon counties with his wife, Aubrey, son and daughter. He also works part-time for a local milk hauling company picking up milk in Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster and Schuylkill counties.

When asked why it is important to keep agriculture in the spotlight, David responded, "We feel agriculture is important to Pennsylvania and take great pride in growing safe food for the American people."





# Pennsylvania Farm Show

## May–June

# 2026

### May

**2-3** Ultimate Club  
Duals Wrestling

**3** Tuner Evolution  
Car Show

**9-10** MADE Hoops  
Basketball

Lancaster County

**15-16** Firemen's Assoc.  
Fire Expo

### June

**27-28** U.S. Junior Nationals  
Basketball Tournament

### July

**7-16** Obstacle Course Expo

**22-25** Mecum Car Auction

More events...



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-William L. Piper  
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**Donate to the Friends:** Along with the fee of becoming a Friend, donations of any amount are accepted and are tax deductible. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.





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