

Friends of the Farm Show News

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A glimpse of the 2026
PA Farm Show patriotic
themed entries & events.



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Farm Show**

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PA Department of
Agriculture**

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:

2026 Ag Progress Days



2026 Ag Progress Days

Please join us at Penn State's Ag Progress Days, to be held August 11-13, 2026, at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center in Pennsylvania Furnace, Pennsylvania. Recognized as Pennsylvania's largest outdoor agricultural exposition, the event offers an outstanding opportunity to explore current research, educational programming, agricultural technology, and industry innovation in a dynamic outdoor setting.

As you make plans to attend, we warmly invite you to stop by the Friends of the Farm Show Foundation Inc. booth to say hello. We look forward to connecting with visitors and sharing in the spirit of this longstanding celebration of Pennsylvania agriculture. Admission and parking are free.

Mark K. 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.

September-October by August 1
November-December by October 1
January-February by December 1

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

Sept. - Oct.
Newsletter
Deadline
is
August 1, 2026

Cover: A glimpse of the 2026 PA Farm Show patriotic themed entries and events.

Photos submitted by PA Farm Show.

Sponsors and advertisers, we're looking at you!

Sponsorships:

Gerry Reichard, Special Advisor
717.729.7158
farmshowfriends@gmail.com

2027 Visitor's Guide:

Rachel Schlegel, Marketing Director
717.682.2351
penguingraphixs@gmail.com

Visit us in the Pennsylvania Department of Ag Building #111

A monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a bright yellow flower. The background is a clear blue sky with other yellow flowers visible in the foreground and background. The image is framed with a red border.



Friends of Farm Show

Lab Breeds

Children Take Over the Complex

Farm City Days was held at the Farm Show Complex on May 6 and 7, welcoming more than 1,600 elementary school students from across Central Pennsylvania for two days where agriculture came alive through hands-on learning. Students discovered that food doesn't simply come from grocery store shelves and how agriculture touches every part of their daily lives.

Learning stations welcomed students, teachers and volunteers for activities that brought agriculture to life right before their eyes.

The Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation sponsored a Stick Horse Race station where students — and even adults — could release some energy in a fun, interactive way. One volunteer smiled ear to ear as students eagerly named their horses and asked if the horses would be back again next year.

To everyone who shared their agricultural knowledge and passion with those in attendance, thank you for helping inspire the next generation and bringing agriculture to life for so many young minds.



Planting More Than Sunflower Seeds

A seed is such a small thing to place in a child's hand, but no matter how tiny it may be, it can still grow into an experience that excites a child and stays with them.

At Farm City Days, a little boy came hurrying back to our sunflower table, his mom close behind him. "Mom, Mom, where's that picture?" he asked, already beaming before the phone was even in his hand.

He wanted us to see what had happened to the sunflower seed he planted the year before through the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation's sunflower project. His mom had helped him transplant it into a large pot, and with care, sunshine, and a child's proud attention, it grew more than 12 feet tall.

He was not just showing us a sunflower. He was showing us his success.

Then he asked if he could plant again. Of course, the answer was yes.

That is part of the heart of Farm City Days. It gives children a chance to touch and see agriculture in simple, memorable ways.

For this little boy, one sunflower seed became something he could plant, care for, watch grow, and proudly bring back as a story of his own.

The sunflower may have grown more than 12 feet tall, but the greater growth was in the joy of a child who came back wanting to plant again.



PA State Fair Queen Olivia Morrissey & Alternate PA Fair Queen Rory Jones at Farm City Days planting sunflower seeds. The Queens received help from 2025 Past PA Fair Queen Ava Immel, and 2026 Franklin County Fair Queen Laine Hess.





Photos by Rachel Schlegel



Scooping up sweet treats are (left to right) Jaylene Everhart, FFA chaplain; Sarah Firestone, FFA president; Sally Bollinger, FFA vice president; and Heidi Svonavec, PA Farm Show Complex executive director.



Posing for a quick picture before lunch are (left to right) Sally Keller, FOFS board member, Lela Reichart; Todd Grim and Logan Hall.

The Foundation hosted its annual picnic on Sunday, May 17 at the Farm Show Complex, honoring its Annual and Lifetime Friends.

Mark Keller kicked-off the afternoon by welcoming guests and thanking them for their continued support of the Foundation's mission. Since the Foundation's inception in 2010, the Friends of the Foundation have given more than \$2.6 million back to educational incentives and events at the PA Farm Show. This impact would not be possible without the generous support of Friends, sponsors and advertisers.

Guests enjoyed a lunch catered by Smith's BBQ Chicken, along with sweet treats supplied by attendees.

The afternoon was filled with fellowship, friendship and celebration.

See more photos from the event on our Facebook page.



Brinton Schlegel (left) gets cheesy with Linda Kuczek and John Friedhoff.



Picnic attendees enjoying each other's company.



Mark Keller, FOFS chairman, shares updates on the Foundation.



Helping serve the chicken is FOFS special advisor, Gerry Reichard (left), while former FOFS chairman, Bill Piper serves plates to hungry picnic attendees.

Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation SPECIAL PRESENTATION



With raffle ticket sales from the America250 Quilt Project, the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation was able to present the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation with a check for \$5,000. Both organizations have a heart for youth in agriculture and know they are our future. Pictured (left to right) FOFS secretary, Beverly Gruber; FOFS vice-chairman, Lizzie Bailey; PA Farm Show special events coordinator, Morgan Firestine; PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation treasurer, Mike Firestine; FOFS chairman, Mark Keller; PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation president, Tom Moyer; PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation vice-president, Kyle Heffner; and Friends of Farm Show treasurer, Larry Weaver.



Exciting New Opportunities Await Exhibitors for the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show

The Pennsylvania Farm Show continues to evolve while celebrating the traditions that make it the nation's largest indoor agricultural exposition. The 2027 Farm Show will feature a variety of new classes, divisions, and exhibitor opportunities designed to showcase Pennsylvania agriculture, encourage youth participation, and engage visitors in new and exciting ways. Here is a listing of what's in store.

New Animal Exhibitor Opportunities

Several livestock departments have added classes and activities.



A proud poultry exhibitor.

Peewee Showmanship

Young agricultural enthusiasts not quite eligible to show yet will have a chance to shine in the ring with expanded showmanship opportunities. Two classes (5-6 years old and 7-8 years old) will be offered in the following departments swine, beef cattle, dairy goats, exhibition avian.

Sheep

The Sheep Department welcomes the addition of the popular Valais Blacknose Sheep breed. Exhibitors can also participate in a new Lamb Olympics competition, highlighting fun and interactive challenges with their breeding sheep. A new Leadline Costume Dress-Up Class will provide a fun way to showcase creativity while introducing the general public about the sheep industry.

Sheep to Shawl

The popular Sheep to Shawl competition will place additional emphasis on visitor engagement. Teams will be encouraged to designate a spokesperson who can interact with spectators throughout the competition and provide educational information about sheep shearing, wool processing, fiber characteristics and textile production. This initiative will help connect visitors directly with the sheep fiber industry.

Beef Cattle

Crossbred heifers for both open and junior divisions and prospect steers will be welcomed at the 2027 Farm Show. Exhibitors will also be able to bid on gated tie out pen spaces during an online auction after entries close.

Junior Market Animals

To further recognize Pennsylvania breeding programs, premium awards will be offered to the top five Pennsylvania-bred animals in market beef, lambs, swine and goats. Additional requirements will need to be submitted from the breeder.



A kiss to remember.

Exhibition Avian and Eggs

Following the successful return of poultry exhibits, the Exhibition Avian and Eggs Department will feature additional breeds allowing all APA and ABA recognized varieties to show only for youth exhibitors. The Junior Market Turkey project will continue, with poults acquired and distributed by the Farm Show this year.

Alpacas and Llamas

Exhibitors and visitors can look forward to Alpacas and Llamas arriving and showing during the second half of Farm Show week, creating an exciting new schedule for the department.



A partnership built on trust, both stand proudly in the show ring.

Dairy Cattle

To improve traffic flow and exhibitor experience, dairy cattle exhibitors will be released following a staggered schedule based on geographic zones.

Rabbits and Cavies

New recognized breeds and varieties for 2027 will include:

Mini Californian Rabbits

Senior Buck
Senior Doe
Junior Buck
Junior Doe

American Cavy – Blue Variety

Senior Boar
Senior Sow
Intermediate Boar
Intermediate Sow
Junior Boar
Junior Sow

New Classes for Agricultural Commodities:

Cheese

The Cheese Department is adding six new classes:

Fresh Cheese Curds

- Any Flavor (All Milk Division)

Surface Mold Ripened Cheese –

Goat Milk

Surface Mold Ripened Cheese –

Sheep Milk

Surface Mold Ripened Cheese –

Cow Milk

Fresh Goat Milk Cheese

Fresh Sheep Milk Cheese



Pennsylvania cheesemakers proudly showcase quality in every block.

Cider and Beer

The Cider Department welcomes new classes:

Single Varietal Cider

Perry (Pear Cider)

The Beer Department will add a Non-Alcoholic Beer Class this year.

Apiary

Honey producers will find new opportunities with the new pastry class and the extracted liquid fancy glass class. Sauces and dressings will now be two separate classes.

Edible Nuts

A new Nut Display Division will allow exhibitors to showcase three different kinds of Pennsylvania grown nuts attractively arranged in a container.

Vegetables

Two new photography classes will be offered with separate youth and adult age divisions.

Christmas Trees and Wreaths

A class specification update requires porch pot entries to fit within an 18-inch diameter cylinder.

Other Departments to enter:

Family Living has added 14 new classes and divisions some as listed below:

Canned Goods

1 jar display for Apple Butter

1 jar display for any kind of Hot Jam or Jelly

Crafts

Chunky Knit Blanket

Painting on Canvas for both youth and adult offered for

landscape/seascape, portrait, still life, animal in media categories of acrylic, oil, pastel and watercolor.

Floral Design will include Artistic Arrangement in an Upcycled Container.

Hobbies will add two classroom project classes:

kites and mobiles.

We hope that teachers will have their classroom submit these projects that they work on together throughout the months leading up to Farm Show.

Save the date!
PA Farm Show
January 9–16, 2027

Talent Show continues to grow with a new division dedicated to Fiddle and Banjo talent.



Growing tradition through music.

Agricultural Marketing

Agricultural organizations will have new opportunities to showcase the promotion of their EVENT through three new classes. These additions recognize the growing importance of digital communication and marketing in agriculture with the addition of event website, event brochure and event social media.

Whether competing in the show ring, showcasing agricultural commodities or showcasing your artistic talents, exhibitors will play a vital role in celebrating Pennsylvania agriculture and continuing the Farm Show tradition.

Check out a full look at all department classes and rules available for the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show here:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/farmshow/pa-farm-show/exhibit/rules-and-registration>.

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.



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We proudly support the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation championing agriculture, education, and the future of farming.



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Take home a farm show memory and be part of something bigger. Every purchase helps us continue to support the future of agriculture.

Visit us January 2027

in the North Hall and along
the Spine of the Farm Show Complex.



A Legacy That Lives On at the PA Farm Show

by Lizzie Bailey

Some people leave their mark on the Pennsylvania Farm Show with a champion animal or a blue ribbon. Others leave it much more quietly. For more than half a century, Tom and Lee have been creating memories that leave the Farm Show tucked into the pockets, jewelry boxes, and hearts of families long after January has come and gone. Their engraved keepsakes, Farm Show apparel, and friendly conversations have become as much a part of the annual tradition as the livestock barns and show rings themselves.

Their story began in the 1960s when Lee's father, Joe, introduced engraved keepsakes to Pennsylvania Farm Show visitors. Horse necklaces, cow pins, pig pins, and stall plates quickly became treasured souvenirs, each personalized with the name of a favorite animal or the words "Pennsylvania Farm Show." When Tom joined Joe in the 1970s, the family business expanded throughout the old Farm Show Complex, serving visitors who wanted to take home a lasting reminder of their Farm Show experience.

When Joe passed away in 1985, the engraving machine never truly fell silent. Tom and Lee carried the tradition forward, building upon the foundation Joe had established while creating relationships that now span three generations of Farm Show families.

Long before the first visitor walks through the doors each January, the work has already begun. Displays are carefully packed. Inventory is counted. The engraving equipment is prepared.

Clothing, keepsakes, and merchandise are loaded before making the journey from Florida to Pennsylvania. By the time the first child steps up to the booth with a favorite horse, steer, goat, or lamb waiting to be engraved, countless hours of preparation have already taken place behind the scenes.

Visitors see the smiles and the finished products. What they may not always see is the commitment that has quietly carried Tom and Lee back to the Pennsylvania Farm Show year after year for more than fifty-six years.

Tom has participated in events across the country, yet when asked what makes the Pennsylvania Farm Show different, his answer comes without hesitation. "I've never seen or felt anything like this before. Of all the venues I have participated in, there is a smile on every face, both young and old."

Lee sees something equally remarkable. As an educator, she has watched thousands of young exhibitors proudly lead their animals through the Farm Show Complex. Behind every animal is a young person who has learned responsibility, perseverance, and pride through agriculture.

"With the challenges facing today's youth," Lee shared, "the passion and accomplishments of our agriculture kids are infectious in a good way." Through those years, she says she and Tom have gained a greater understanding and appreciation for Pennsylvania's agricultural community and its mission.

Perhaps no story illustrates that better than one shared by Lee. Years ago, a father walked to Joe's booth with his young son. Reaching into his pocket, he pulled out a well worn Pennsylvania Farm Show cow keychain.

"This is where I got my first Farm Show souvenir," he told his son. Then, pointing toward the engraver, he said, "This is the man who made it. His name is Joe."

Without hesitation, the little boy smiled and answered, "I want one." Today, that little boy has a child of his own. Only now, when it is time to engrave a horse stall plate or another keepsake, he points across the counter and says, "That's the man who will make yours. His name is Tom."

There may be no greater compliment than watching a tradition pass from one generation to the next.

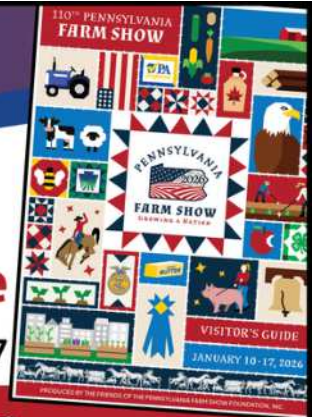
For Tom and Lee, the keepsakes they engrave are more than souvenirs. They become reminders of a first Farm Show, a favorite project animal, a championship season, or simply a special day spent together. Those small pieces of metal often become family treasures, carrying stories that are shared years later with children and grandchildren.

Some people leave their mark on the Pennsylvania Farm Show with a champion animal or a blue ribbon. Tom and Lee have left theirs by helping generations of families carry a little piece of the Farm Show home, one engraved memory at a time.

Advertise

2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show Visitor's Guide

35,000 copies printed and distributed **FREE** at the Pennsylvania Farm Show **January 9-16, 2027**



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!

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Deadlines to remember:

Ad space reservation - Friday, Oct. 30
Camera ready ad submission - Friday, Nov. 20

Ad submission & assistance:

Rachel Schlegel, penguingraphixs@gmail.com

Do you want to reserve a specific page?

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Questions:

Rachel Schlegel, 717.682.2351 - Marketing



Scan the QR code to check out the 2026 Guide.



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PA, you know the drill.
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Kayla Hyde, Secretary, Levi Ferster, President, Garrett Kaltenbach, Sentinel, Nathan Huber, Vice-President, Tanner Zimmerman, Chaplain, Draven Stout, Treasurer, Emma Copenhaver, Reporter,



The Pennsylvania FFA State Convention was held at Penn State University Park, State College, Pa., on June 9-11.

The 2026-2027 PA State FFA Officer Team was elected by a nominating committee of eight of their peers during the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention. The Pennsylvania FFA State Officer Team serves as the voice of Pennsylvania FFA members. Throughout the year, these student leaders will travel the Commonwealth representing agricultural education, developing future leaders, and sharing the impact of FFA.

Congratulations to the following FFA members.

State President: Levi Ferster, Line Mountain Mahantango FFA
State Vice-President: Nate Huber, Manheim FFA
State Secretary: Kayla Hyde, Headwaters FFA
State Treasurer: Draven Stout, West Perry FFA
State Reporter: Emma Copenhaver, Little Dutchmen FFA
State Sentinel: Garrett Kaltenbach, Grand Canyon FFA
State Chaplain: Tanner Zimmerman, Cedar Crest FFA

Seventy delegates attended the FFA State Convention this year. There were also over 2,300 FFA members, advisors, and guests registered for the convention.

The Return On Investment Nobody Talks About

by Katie Dotterer

There's a phrase that gets thrown around on farms, in processing plants, and in break rooms across the country: "They're here, they should speak English." It's said with frustration, sometimes with exhaustion. Rarely with bad intent.

But it's worth pausing on, because it quietly puts the entire burden of communication on one side of a conversation that really takes two. Agriculture has never been an industry that shies away from change. I've watched farmers embrace GPS-guided equipment, precision feeding technology, and drone scouting; things that would have seemed like science fiction a generation ago. New tools get adopted when the value is clear, when the return on investment makes sense. So why does that same progressive mindset stall out when it comes to people?

It's a question I've been asking for years, and it's what led me to build Spanish for Agriculture courses designed specifically for people working in dairy, swine, poultry, and produce. Not tourist Spanish. Not textbook Spanish. Vocabulary and phrases built around the actual work, environment, and conversations that happen daily while sorting cows, feeding pigs, harvesting tomatoes, etc.

I also offer English as a Second Language (ESL) services for Spanish-speaking employees who want to learn English, because the bridge gets built from both ends. My tagline, "Meet in la Mitad," says it plainly: Meet in the Middle.

The work all comes back to one mindset shift I believe the industry is overdue for. We're quick to be progressive with technology, but slower to be progressive in how we think about people and learning. That gap is costing us.

Farmers and ag representatives go to conferences, attend workshops, read trade publications, and take training seriously. Professional development is deeply embedded in the culture when it's tied to machinery, agronomy, or markets. Language learning deserves a seat at that same table.

When a manager can communicate directly with a Spanish-speaking employee, even imperfectly, in broken sentences, something shifts. Safety instructions land. Protocols get followed correctly. Turnover drops. Trust builds. Employees stop hesitating to ask clarifying questions and start feeling like a valued part of the team. That is professional development. The return on investment is right there.



Katie Dotterer teaching a Spanish lesson.

The communication barrier in agriculture costs the industry in ways that don't always show up on a balance sheet: miscommunication, inefficiency, accidents, and a workforce that never quite feels like a team. Closing that gap isn't about politics or policy. It's about practical leadership.

Learning a few words/phrases of Spanish isn't surrender. It's strategy. Showing that vulnerability often encourages others to do the same. There's more common ground here than most people realize.

The workers showing up every day milking cows, moving chickens, and picking produce aren't waiting for the industry to figure this out. They're already here, already working.

The question is whether we're willing to meet them halfway. I know we are. And I've got the courses and experience to help the process.

Learn more at agvokate.com

Fresh Solutions Network Announces Dave Masser's Potatoes USA Appointment

Industry Veteran and Eighth-Generation Farmer Elected as Chairman of Potatoes USA

Newport Beach, CA (June 4, 2026)

– Fresh Solutions Network® (FSN), the exclusive supplier of Side Delights® potatoes and onions, announced today that Dave Masser, President and CEO of Masser Family of Companies and former FSN Chairman, has been elected by Potatoes USA as Chairman.

Potatoes USA serves as the national marketing and research organization representing U.S. potato growers and importers, supporting demand-building initiatives, consumer education, nutrition research, and industry development.

As an eighth-generation farmer and a pioneer in the potato profession, Masser was appointed to the leadership position for his decades of agricultural expertise, strategic vision, and commitment to enhancing category performance.

"Dave's election as Chairman of Potatoes USA is well-deserved recognition of his leadership, integrity, and dedication to our industry," said Kathleen Triou, President and CEO of Fresh Solutions Network. "Throughout his career, Dave has developed a true talent for balancing the traditions of family farming with forward-thinking innovation to support and strengthen the potato business for growers, retailers, foodservice operators, and consumers."

Masser previously served as Chairman of Fresh Solutions Network, helping guide the organization through a key phase of growth and innovation while supporting the network's mission to deliver high-quality potatoes and onions from family-owned farming operations across North America.

**I know Potatoes USA
is in great hands
with Dave Masser
as Chairman.**

**–Molly Connors, Chairman
Fresh Solutions Network**

"I know Potatoes USA is in great hands with Dave Masser as Chairman. With his experience and dedication to the industry, we will continue to see growth across all sectors. Speaking on behalf of the FSN Board, we congratulate Dave on his election," said Molly Connors, Chairman, Fresh Solutions Network / VP Sales & Marketing, Basin Gold Cooperative.

"One of the key benefits of working with Fresh Solutions Network is access to the exceptional leadership and agricultural expertise that grower-owners like Dave bring to the table every day," added Triou. "His election reflects the caliber of people behind our Network and the value they create throughout the supply chain. We wish him continued success as he helps guide the future of potatoes."



Dave Masser, Chairman of Potatoes, USA.



About Fresh Solutions Network, LLC: Fresh Solutions Network (FSN) is the exclusive supplier of Side Delights® potatoes and onions. FSN is a group of family-owned potato and onion growers and shippers who help fresh potato and onion buyers grow their categories, maximize category investment, and increase sales. FSN delivers category insights, collaborative innovation, and customized assortment. Fresh Solutions Network, LLC partners include: Masser Family of Companies, Inc. (Masser Potato Farms and Keystone Potato Products in Sacramento and Hedges, PA), Fresh Solution Farms (White Pigeon, MI), Michael Family Farms, Inc. (Urbana, OH), Basin Gold Cooperative, Inc. (Pasco, WA), and NoKota Packers, Inc. (Buxton, ND).

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A Novice Camel Rider Takes A Trek Through the Egyptian Desert

By Mary Klaus

Although I've written the Pennsylvania Farm Show centennial book "Hold Your Horses!" I'm no equestrian.

I'm even less graceful as a camel rider, I recently discovered in Egypt while serving on my 67th international medical mission.

Nonetheless, I took my first camel ride in the desert near the pyramids of Giza, Egypt, and it was an unforgettable adventure.

Riding camels is a bit out of my comfort zone in my regular life, being a journalist, hospice nurse, firefighter, and medical missionary.

Our 11-member medical mission team spent a week conducting free medical clinics in a town south of Cairo, Egypt. On our last day in Egypt, six of us visited Giza, where we saw the three pyramids and the Great Sphinx. We also rode camels.



I was excited to ride a camel, until it was time to actually do it. Our camels were dromedaries, a type of one-humped camel, and bigger than I expected. As we approached them, I requested an old slow one. Instead, I was assigned the youngest and most peppy camel, whom I called Charlie.

The first challenge was getting on. I gingerly approached Charlie, who knelt on the ground. Was he praying? I certainly was!

Then, encouraged by our guide, I threw my right leg over the blanket on his back, pulled myself up, and put my feet into stirrups. "I got this," I said to myself. A moment later, I didn't.



Mary Klaus embraces adventure on her first camel ride in near the pyramids in Giza, Egypt.

One moment, Charlie had his legs folded under him. The next minute, he lifted his back legs, throwing me forward as I shrieked in fear and held onto his saddle horn for dear life. A fellow missionary nurse, who also owns horses, giggled at my performance as she mounted her camel smoothly.

When Charlie got up with his front legs, I blurted out, "I'm not sure I want to do this." By then, it was too late. I was perched atop Charlie, high above the desert and ready for the ride.

Charlie decided to lead the pack (Of course, I ended up with a camel who likes to show off!) We began the ride



with a lurch forward, a lurch backward, and a slow, rolling gait. As my fear eased, I looked at the desert, at the three pyramids, and at the other camels in motion. "This is great," I said, marveling that I was seeing things I only dreamed of as a child. I gazed at golden brown sand dunes, blue skies, and large pyramids built over 4,500 years ago as resting places for pharaohs. Pennsylvania seemed a million years and a million miles away.

When the ride ended, and we were back to our starting point, there was one more challenge – getting off Charlie. I managed not to squeal when he knelt and waited for me to dismount.

After doing so, I turned to him, patted him on the back, and thanked him for the ride. He turned to me, giving me a big camel grin and looking at me with his large eyes with long lashes. "Goodbye, Charlie," I whispered to my new friend. "I'll never forget you." Somehow, I think that Charlie won't forget me either.

Mary Klaus is a freelance writer, author, nurse, and world-renowned adventurer with a heart for mission work and service.

Affectionately known as "Farm Show Mary," she captures the people, traditions, and spirit of the PA Farm Show.

GreenTech NORTH AMERICA

Pennsylvania is excited to welcome GreenTech North America to Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Convention Center this fall, **September 23–24, 2026!**

This inaugural conference will bring together nearly 100 exhibitors and more than 1,000 attendees across the United States, Canada, and Europe to showcase technology and innovations advancing the horticulture industry.

Growers can find the latest technologies for specialty crops and ornamentals with opportunities to learn from industry experts from around the world.



GreenTech
NORTH AMERICA / PHILADELPHIA



Pennsylvania
Department of Agriculture

Why Participate



GreenTech North America is a globally recognized horticulture platform.

Backed by RAI Amsterdam, this event joins leading international GreenTech exhibitions across Europe and Mexico, connecting North America to global innovation.

Growers and industry leaders can:

- Discover practical solutions to industry challenges
- Connect with growers, innovators, investors and researchers
- Learn from experts to grow operational efficiency, profitability and sustainability

Practical Themes Driving Solutions

Whether you operate greenhouse systems or field solutions like high tunnels, GreenTech will deliver insights and best practices across the horticulture value chain, including:

- Labor challenges and workforce development
- Water management and sustainability
- Energy-efficient technologies
- Robotics, automation, and emerging ag technologies
- Post-harvest handling and production solutions
- Market trends and investment strategies

Visiting Philadelphia



From historical exhibits and iconic landmarks to world-class dining, vibrant neighborhoods, and passionate sports culture, Philly offers something for everyone.

GreenTech attendees can take advantage of a wide range of events and experiences happening across the city.

Make the most of your visit – enjoy all that Philadelphia has to offer!

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Center for Rural Pennsylvania Hosts Public Hearing Series on Data Centers

Rural Perspectives Newsletter

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania Board of Directors recently hosted the public hearing, Data Centers: Part I — Mapping the Landscape Across State, Local, Industry, and Environmental Perspectives, at the Deane Center for the Performing Arts in Wellsboro. The hearing convened Board members, elected officials, state agency representatives, industry leaders, environmental organizations, and local officials to examine the growing role of data centers in Pennsylvania.

Testifiers shared perspectives on the infrastructure, energy, environmental, and economic considerations associated with data center development, as well as the potential impacts on rural communities across the Commonwealth. The hearing provided a forum for discussion on topics including siting considerations, power demands, regulatory frameworks, community planning, and long-term development implications tied to the expanding data center industry.

The hearing marked the first in a multi-part public hearing series designed to help inform policymakers on this evolving issue, with the second hearing planned for July. The Center extends its sincere thanks to all of the testifiers for contributing their expertise and insights. A livestream recording of the hearing, written testimony, and additional resources are available on the Center's website at www.rural.pa.gov.



Jace Mable, a Foundation volunteer, helps hand out prizes to attendees.

Karen Hoffer, a Foundation volunteer poses with Rachel Schlegel, FOFS marketing on opening day.

Hoffer speaks with guests about the Foundation.

Friends Make New Friends at Family Farm Days

The Foundation spent three days at Family Farm Days at Oregon Dairy in Lititz promoting its mission statement and the PA Farm Show.

Held on a working dairy farm, attendees

took a wagon from the parking lot through the dairy barns. After unloading from the wagon, guests experienced hands-on learning exploring the importance of agriculture.

To those who stopped by the Friends'

booth, we hope learned a bit more about us. If you would like to make a donation to our Foundation, scan the QR code.

Visit www.friendsoffarmshow.com for more information.





July-August

2026

July

PA **Open Air Market** every Tuesday & Friday

PA Farm Show **Flea Market** every Sunday

11-16 Obstacle Sports Expo

22-25 Mecum Car Auction

August

PA **Open Air Market** every Tuesday & Friday

PA Farm Show **Flea Market** every Sunday

12-16 Partridge Run Summer Classic

18-19 Central PA Jr. Horse Show

27-28 Harrisburg Home Show
Harrisburg Gun & Knife Show

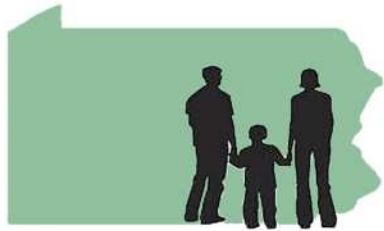
More Events...



Pennsylvania
Farm Show Complex
and Expo Center Schedule
2300 Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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





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.

How can you get involved?

Become A Friend:

Contact's Name: _____

Name for signage: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

How did you hear about us: _____

I would like to receive Friends' emails:

Annual-\$65 ☐

Lifetime-\$500 ☐

Billing: Check Enclosed ☐

Pay by credit card:

Call Debby Griffith, Bookkeeper,
717-497-5660

Mail checks to:

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

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.





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

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