

Friends of the Farm Show News

September-October 2026

Volume 14 Issue 5



Friends of the PA Farm Show

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The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. 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:



Looking Ahead to the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show

When the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show opens in Harrisburg from January 9 through 16, it will again bring together the familiar sights, sounds, and flavors of one of the nation's largest indoor agricultural events. But beyond the livestock barns, food court favorites, competitions, and crowds, the show will offer something broader: a look at where Pennsylvania agriculture is headed.

For general visitors, the Farm Show is often a winter tradition — a chance to see prize-winning animals, sample Pennsylvania-made products, and experience rural life under one roof. For farmers, producers, educators, and policymakers, it is also a yearly checkpoint for an industry that remains deeply tied to the commonwealth's identity and economy.

The 2027 show arrives at a time when agriculture is balancing tradition with rapid change. Pennsylvania farms are navigating shifting markets, new technology, environmental pressures, workforce challenges, and changing consumer expectations. The exhibits and conversations in Harrisburg are likely to reflect those realities, showing how farmers are adapting while continuing to produce the food, fiber, and agricultural products that touch everyday life across the state.

As the Farm Show looks ahead to another year, its value may be less about any single competition or display than about the larger story it tells: Pennsylvania agriculture is not standing still. It is evolving — rooted in generations of knowledge, but increasingly shaped by innovation, resilience, and the need to connect farm communities with the broader public.

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.

November–December by October 1
January–February by December 1
March–April by February 1

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

Questions? Please call (717)254-9550

Email articles: fofsnewsletter@gmail.com

Nov.–Dec.
Newsletter
Deadline
is
October 1, 2026

Cover: PA Farm Show Junior Market Turkey Showmanship and Market Show. Juniors work to control their turkeys at the 2026 Showmanship contest. Photo: PA Farm Show Flickr

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

2026 Farm Show Funding Support

With the support of our sponsors and advertisers the Foundation was able to directly fund the following amounts at the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Will you consider becoming a part of our group of supporters to help surpass these numbers in 2027?

Contact Gerry Reichard at 717-729-7158 or Rachel Schlegel at 717-682-2351.

Farm Show Funding

\$237,824.53

In partnership with the Farm Show Complex, the Foundation supports many areas of the PA Farm Show while staying in line with its Mission Statement.

\$39,862.85

A total of 35,000 copies are printed and distributed during the week of the PA Farm Show. The guide serves as a valuable resource for Farm Show attendees while also providing advertising opportunities for the organizations and companies featured within it.

PA Farm Show Visitor's Guide

PA FFA Support

\$32,286.80

The 2026 FFA Mid-Winter Convention is held during the week of Farm Show and celebrates our growing ag leaders. The event brings 12,000 visitors to Dauphin County from all corners of Pennsylvania. Additional support is provided for the Antique Tractor Restoration program, as well as the Window Displays that showcase the talent and skills of FFA members.

Since 2010, the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation has provided \$248,623.59 in direct funding support to the Pennsylvania FFA.

\$10,953.61

Stations are designed with the entire family in mind. This unique program teaches visitors about Pennsylvania agriculture through fun, interactive and hands-on learning. Getting the younger generation excited about agriculture to ensure their return to the PA Farm Show. An estimated 12,000 children became Farm Show Detectives showcasing local organizations and their importance.

AgExplorer Learning Stations

Foundation Marketing

\$106,876.02

As a Foundation, we strive to strengthen our youth. Marketing of the Foundation and the PA Farm Show is an important piece to the puzzle. As we continue to grow our presence, it is also important to grow our audience. By doing so, we are better able to stand behind our future ag leaders and bring visitors to the Pennsylvania Farm Show year after year.

\$2.6 MILLION

Since the Foundation's inception in 2010, its mission to "facilitate, stimulate, and support educational events and incentives at the Pennsylvania Farm Show" has guided the efforts of its Board of Directors and supporters. Through their dedication and generosity, the Foundation has proudly provided more than \$2.6 million in direct funding to support and invest in the future leaders of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Total Contributions

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!

Advertisement Rates & Sizes

Price includes color

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

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?

Send an email early to penguingraphixs@gmail.com

Questions:

Rachel Schlegel, 717.682.2351 - Marketing



Scan the QR code to check out the 2026 Guide.

Sponsor

Exhibitor or Event Sponsor

A rewarding way to be involved in Farm Show! Through sponsorships, the Foundation was able to support over 20 events & exhibits at the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show. **Check out our Sponsorship Packages here!**



Become a Friend

Directly support 4-H, FFA and the PA Farm Show Junior Committee! Annual Friendships are available for \$65 and Lifetime Friendships for \$500.



Become a Lifetime Friend and receive a Commemorative Coin.



Pennsylvania State FFA

What if the impossible is simply something we have not tried yet? That question is at the heart of the 2026–2027 Pennsylvania State FFA Officer Team’s theme, “Redefine Possible.” The State FFA Officer Team is honored to serve more than 16,000 FFA members across the Commonwealth this year. “Redefine Possible” encourages members to step outside their comfort zones and challenge the limits they may place on themselves. Sometimes, we decide something is impossible before we ever give it a chance. This year, the State FFA Officers hope to change that mindset and remind FFA members that hard work and determination can take them further than they might expect.



PA State FFA Officers met with Congressman "GT" Thompson while in Washington, D.C.

The State FFA Officers have already had an incredible start to the year. One of the first highlights was traveling to Washington, D.C., to attend the State Officer Summit, facilitated by the National FFA Officers. While there, the team met state officers from across the country and had the opportunity to learn from their experiences. They also completed visits on Capitol Hill, which gave them a chance to see agriculture and leadership from a different perspective. The experience was a great way to begin the year and build connections with other students who share a passion for FFA.



2026–2027 PA State FFA Officers: Emma Copenhaver, Reporter; Levi Ferster, President; Tanner Zimmerman, Chaplain; Nathan Huber, Vice President; Garrett Kaltenbach, Sentinel; Draven Stout, Treasurer; and Kayla Hyde, Secretary.

The team also recently spent time at Ag Progress Days. This gave the officers another opportunity to connect with people from across Pennsylvania’s agricultural community. Meeting FFA members and hearing their stories made the event especially meaningful. These experiences are just the beginning of what the State Officers will get to experience throughout the year.

As the year continues, the State Officer Team is excited to travel across Pennsylvania and visit chapters throughout the Commonwealth. Every chapter has its own story, and the team looks forward to hearing about the goals and experiences that make each one unique. Building these connections is one of the most exciting parts of serving as a State Officer. FFA gives members the chance to discover what they are capable of. A new leadership role might build confidence.

A Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project might turn an interest into a future career. Trying something new at an FFA event might lead to an opportunity that a member never expected.

This year, members are encouraged to take that first step and try something new, even if it feels a little uncomfortable. Take a chance on an opportunity you might normally pass up because you never know where one decision can lead. The 2026–2027 FFA year is already off to an exciting start, and there is so much more ahead. The State Officer Team is looking forward to meeting members, hearing their stories, and making memories along the way. This is a year to think bigger, take chances, and believe in what is possible. Pennsylvania FFA, let’s make this a year to “Redefine Possible.”

Passion for PA Agriculture on Display

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show spent three days at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center for Ag Progress Days. Throughout the show, our volunteers and Board of Directors members welcomed visitors to our booth in the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Building and shared information about the important role the Foundation plays in supporting the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Ag Progress Days was filled with something for everyone, including live field demonstrations, more than 400 exhibitors, delicious food, agricultural equipment, and hands-on activities for both the youngsters and the young at heart. We were proud to be part of this annual event and connect with so many people who share our passion for Pennsylvania agriculture.

Throughout the three days, the Foundation's marketing director was able to step away to capture the show from behind the camera lens. Enjoy a small recap through the following photographs.



FOFS board members (front row, left to right) are Lela Reichart, Nathan Tallman, Martha Ebersole, Beverly Gruber and Galen Kopp. (Back row, l-r) include Mark Keller, Dale Welk and Larry Weaver. Missing from the picture is Lizzie Bailey.



When you show up dressed alike, a photo is a must. FOFS volunteer John Friedhoff and board members Lela Reichart and Dale Welk.



Board members Dale Welk, Lizzie Bailey, Mark Keller, Larry Weaver and Beverly Gruber pause for a photo.



A New Face Behind a Familiar Farm Show Tradition

Some Pennsylvania Farm Show traditions are so familiar that we rarely stop to think about the people working behind them. The milkshake line is certainly one of those traditions.

This January, however, there will be a new person helping lead the organization behind those familiar cups. Patrick Carney became executive director of the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association on Aug. 17, succeeding longtime executive director Dave Smith.

Carney is certainly not new to Pennsylvania dairy promotion. He comes to the position after more than eight years with American Dairy Association North East, where he most recently served as vice president of marketing.

His work there focused on something every commodity organization understands well: helping consumers make a connection between the food they purchase and the farmers who produce it.

That experience should fit naturally with the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association.

Most Farm Show visitors recognize the organization because of its milkshakes, but its work reaches far beyond eight days in January. Throughout the year, the association supports dairy promotion, agricultural education, scholarships,

youth programs and efforts that benefit Pennsylvania dairy farm families.

The organization has also used the popularity of its milkshakes to create opportunities well beyond the Farm Show Complex. Mobile milkshake operations now appear at fairs, schools and community events around Pennsylvania.



Dave Smith welcomes Patrick Carney, the new executive director for the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association.

During Smith's years of leadership, the association also strengthened partnerships that connected dairy farmers with charitable causes. One of the best-known is Fill a Glass with Hope, an effort that helps provide fresh milk to Pennsylvania families facing food insecurity.

According to the association, approximately \$6.5 million has been directed toward dairy programs, charitable organizations and communities

during the past 12 years. That is a lot of impact from an organization many people first meet while standing in line for a vanilla, chocolate or mixed milkshake.

Smith, who has been connected with the Dairywomen's Association for more than 30 years, will remain involved during the leadership transition. He will serve as an adviser and assist with preparations for the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Carney now steps into a position that combines dairy promotion, consumer education, industry relationships, and the responsibility of carrying forward one of the most recognizable traditions in Pennsylvania agriculture.



So when the Farm Show doors open again in January, and the milkshake line begins to form, something behind the counter will be a little different.

The tradition will remain familiar. But a new chapter for the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association will have begun.

Feed Scurry

2027 Mike Waugh Celebrity Feed Scurry

New Holland Arena • Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2027 @ 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.

What are the benefits of this sponsorship?

Sponsor an Industry or Public Servant Celebrity



Help Secure the Future of Friends Funding Ag



Be Part of the Largest Indoor Ag Event in the United States



Signage & Promotion for your Business



Photograph with Sponsored Celebrity



Interest or Questions?

Call: Dale Welk, 717.451.0962 - Feed Scurry Chairman

Email: dwelk@hanoverpa.com

Meet One of our Newest Department Chairpersons for the 2027 PA Farm Show

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

I'm from Greensburg, PA, where I grew up on a small beef cattle operation. My sister and I began showing livestock at ages 4 and 5, and we continued raising and exhibiting beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats until we aged out of junior show opportunities. That passion for livestock and agriculture led me to Penn State, where I earned my B.S. in Animal Science and later my M.S. focused on beef cattle production and management. During graduate school, I also had the opportunity to coach the Penn State Livestock Judging Team. I'm now faculty at Penn State, teaching undergraduate courses, working with the beef extension team, and coaching the judging team full-time!

What was your first involvement in the Farm Show?

I started attending the Farm Show with my family before I was even old enough to exhibit. Once I was eligible, my first projects were market hogs, and I participated in square dancing for several years!

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

My main responsibility is helping create a show that is organized, efficient, as stress-free as possible, and, most importantly, fun for our junior market beef exhibitors and their families. I also want to be a listening ear for exhibitors' families so we can continue improving the show and making it an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.



Alli Jobe, Jr. Market Cattle Co-Chair

What does your typical day look like during the week?

You can usually find me in the cattle barns, helping exhibitors and families with any questions or concerns that come up, or in the livestock office making sure things are running smoothly. A lot of my day is spent troubleshooting, answering questions, and putting out the occasional fire! No two days are ever quite the same.

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

One of the biggest challenges is balancing the needs and wants of everyone involved. Many exhibitors, families, volunteers, staff, and other individuals help make the show happen, and everyone brings a different perspective. The goal is to listen to those perspectives while making decisions that keep the show fair, efficient, and enjoyable for everyone!

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

I think the Farm Show does an incredible job of showcasing just how diverse Pennsylvania agriculture really is. From livestock and dairy to mushrooms, Christmas trees, and so much more, you can find nearly every part of Pennsylvania agriculture represented. And, of course, you can't talk about the Farm Show without mentioning January in Pennsylvania and the lovely snow that usually accompanies it!

What is your favorite part of the Farm Show?

I enjoy watching junior exhibitors compete, reconnect with friends, and showcase all the hard work they've put into their projects throughout the year. But, of course, we can't forget one of the best parts of the Farm Show...the delicious food!

What advice would you give a new exhibitor?

Read the rules, know who your chair people are, and ask questions early! Those of us on the committee are here to help in any way we can, and good communication makes that much easier. Don't be afraid to ask questions, especially if it's your first year. Most importantly, enjoy the experience and have fun!



PA Farm Show
January 9-16, 2027

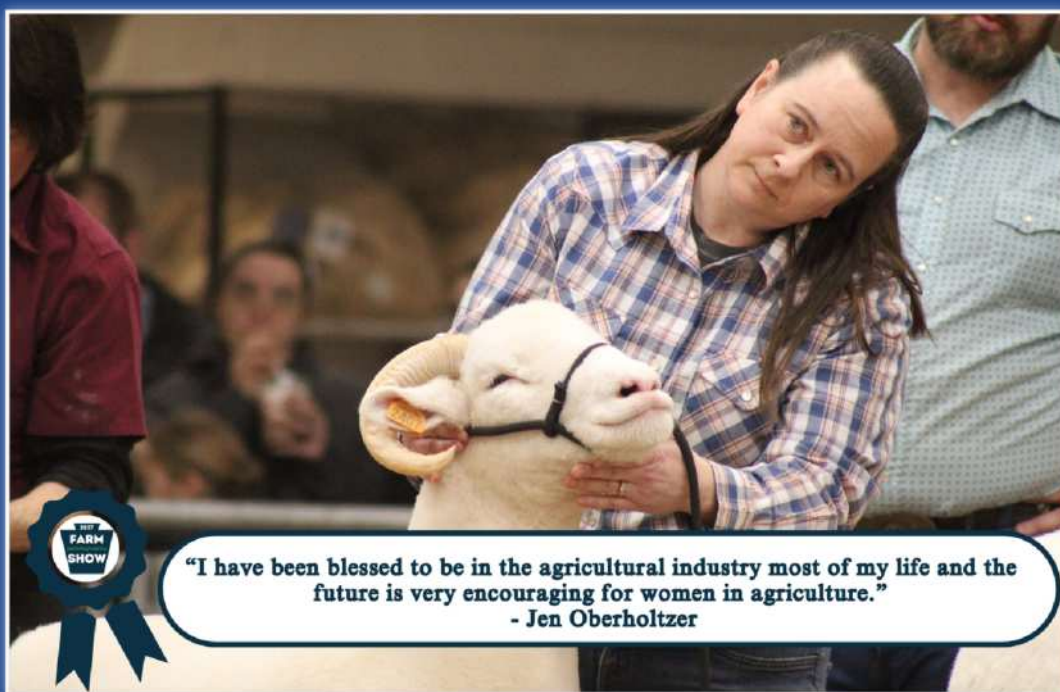
2026 Women of the PA Farm Show



Amy Saover- Draft Horse Committee Volunteer



"Something I always say is 'Tell me I can't and watch me work twice as hard to show you I can'. It is a testament to hard work and grit! Women in Ag have to be so tough. Early mornings, long days, late nights, loss and gain equals memories." - Jamie Brozman



The Women of the PA Farm Show showcase their businesses, demonstrate trades and skills, mentor, educate, judge, and volunteer.

Nearly 2 out of 3 exhibitors are women

Junior Market 63%

37% Commodities

77% Family Living

61% Livestock

To the Women of the PA Farm Show, Thank You!

Woven by the **Red**, **White** & **Blue**



Could you feel the excitement throughout the Complex during the 2026 Pennsylvania Farm Show? A spirit of red, white and blue was woven throughout every hall, barn and display.

As we enter the end of summer, and America has turned 250-years-old, we hope you found a meaningful way to celebrate our Nation and reflect on the patriotism showcased during the Farm Show.

Photos by Rachel Schlegel



Save the date for the 2027 PA Farm Show: Jan. 9-16!



Pennsylvania Pork Finds a New Audience Through Penn State Athletics

A Pennsylvania pig farmer and a Penn State athlete may spend their days in very different places, but a new partnership is bringing their worlds a little closer together.

The Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council is expanding its relationship with Penn State Athletics through a new sports nutrition fellowship designed to put agriculture into conversations about food, health and athletic performance.

Alyssa Chritz has been selected as the first Penn State Sports Nutrition Fellow connected with the partnership. In the role, she will work with Penn State Sports Nutrition while also helping PA Pork communicate with athletes and consumers about pork as a source of protein and its place in a balanced diet.

For Pennsylvania pork producers, the opportunity reaches beyond simply getting pork onto another menu.

Athletes pay close attention to what they eat. Their coaches, dietitians and trainers do too. That makes collegiate athletics an interesting place for farmers to enter a larger conversation about where food comes from, how it is produced and how it contributes to nutrition.

Chritz brings an unusual combination of experience to the fellowship.

She recently earned a master's degree in clinical nutrition from the University of Michigan and worked with Michigan athletics as a performance nutrition intern. Her experience included assisting with nutrition programs for athletes, developing educational materials and traveling with the men's basketball program during its 2026 NCAA Tournament run.

She also understands athletics from the other side of the table. Before pursuing sports nutrition professionally, Chritz played college basketball at The College of Wooster while studying biochemistry and molecular biology.

That background gives her an opportunity to communicate with athletes not only as a nutrition professional, but as someone who understands the demands of collegiate competition.

Her fellowship is expected to include recipe development, cooking demonstrations, nutrition education, social media outreach and appearances at educational and community events.

The program also represents another step in a relationship Pennsylvania Pork has already begun building with Penn State.

PA Pork previously worked with Penn State sports nutrition staff and the university's Performance Dining Center to introduce pork dishes and nutrition information to student athletes. The effort included cooking demonstrations and meals connected with Penn State athletic programs, including wrestling.

The fellowship gives that work a more permanent connection. For Pennsylvania agriculture, that may be the most interesting part of the story.

Commodity organizations have traditionally reached consumers through fairs, grocery-store promotions, cooking demonstrations, classrooms and agricultural events. Those efforts remain important, but the way people learn about food continues to change.



Alyssa Chritz, PA Pork Producers/Penn State Sports Nutrition Fellow.
Photo: PA Pork

Sports nutrition provides another doorway. An athlete interested in building strength or recovering after competition may begin the conversation by asking about protein. From there can come questions about the food itself, how it was raised and the farmers who produced it.

Pennsylvania is home to thousands of pig farmers, many of whom operate family farms that seldom receive the visibility of a major university athletic program.

The new partnership gives those producers another opportunity to put a face behind the food.

That connection may ultimately be what makes the fellowship significant.

Penn State athletes will continue to think about protein, nutrition and performance. Pennsylvania farmers will continue raising the food that helps supply those meals.

This partnership simply gives the two a better opportunity to know something about each other.

From Monticello to the PA Farm Show

By Lizzie Bailey

More than 200 years ago, Thomas Jefferson was doing something farmers still do today. He was trying things, paying attention to what happened and writing down what he learned.

Jefferson kept what became known as his Garden Book from 1766 to 1824. He recorded when things were planted, what grew well, what did not and what might be worth trying again. His 1,000-foot vegetable garden at Monticello became much more than a place to grow food. It was also a place to experiment.

There is something about that I find wonderfully familiar.

Plant it. Watch it. Learn from it. If it works, do it again. If it does not, try to figure out why.

That is where Pennsylvania becomes part of Jefferson's agricultural story.

Dr. George Logan lived at Stenton, near Philadelphia. Although he was a physician, agriculture was also an important part of his life. He experimented on his farm and was interested in finding better ways of doing things.

In 1785, Logan helped establish the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. Its members believed farmers could improve agriculture by sharing what they were learning rather than keeping that knowledge to themselves.

Jefferson apparently thought a great deal of Logan's abilities. In 1793, he described him as the best farmer in Pennsylvania in both theory and practice.

Their connection, however, was not limited to exchanging ideas.

That same year, Jefferson purchased a Pennsylvania barshare plow from Logan. Jefferson described it as "short and light," and the plow cost him \$8.

He took that Pennsylvania plow back to Virginia and studied it.

Jefferson was already interested in improving plow design, and Logan's plow became a model for later work at Monticello. Years later, Jefferson was still referring to the plows he had obtained through Logan when discussing his own designs. I like that part of the story.

A plow leaves a Pennsylvania farm and travels to Virginia. Another farmer looks at it, uses it and begins thinking about what he might change. That is agriculture.

Someone tries something. A neighbor notices. Questions are asked. Ideas are exchanged. Before long, something that began on one farm has traveled down the road, across the county or, in this case, across state lines.



Monticello Gardens.

The equipment has certainly changed since Jefferson and Logan were comparing plows, but farmers have never really stopped learning that way.

As agricultural fairs, organizations and demonstrations developed, they gave farmers more opportunities to gather, compare what they were raising and growing, look at new equipment and learn from people facing many of the same challenges they were.

Eventually, Pennsylvania farmers would have a much larger place to do exactly that. In January 1917, the first Pennsylvania Farm Show opened in Harrisburg. More than a century later, agriculture still comes together there every January. Farmers bring livestock, crops, ideas, equipment and generations of experience with them.

The Farm Show has grown into something Jefferson and Logan could hardly have imagined. Hundreds of thousands of visitors can walk through the complex, meet the people who produce their food, see animals and crops up close and learn about agricultural technology that would have seemed almost impossible 200 years ago.

But underneath all of that technology is something Jefferson and Logan would recognize immediately.

Farmers are still comparing. Still asking

questions. Still trying something new. And still learning from one another.

From Jefferson's handwritten Garden Book to George Logan's Pennsylvania farm, to the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, more than 200 years have passed.

The tools have certainly changed. The way agriculture grows has not. Someone learns something and shares it with someone else.

Franklin and Pennsylvania's Agricultural Roots

Long before there was a Pennsylvania Farm Show, people in Philadelphia were already gathering to talk about agriculture, experiment with new ideas and share what they learned.

1743 | American Philosophical Society

Benjamin Franklin helped establish the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia around an idea he described as promoting "useful knowledge." For Franklin, useful knowledge was meant to have a purpose. Agriculture fit naturally into that thinking, and the Society took an interest in practical questions, including how to restore fertility to worn-out soils.

1785 | Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture

More than 40 years later, John Beale Bordley brought the idea of forming a society devoted specifically to agriculture before the agricultural committee of the American Philosophical Society.

The first meeting was held February 11, 1785. On March 1, 23 men gathered for the Society's charter meeting, formally establishing what became the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture.

Interestingly, Franklin was not sitting among those original 23 charter members. He joined the Society later that same year. The Society today recognizes Franklin's earlier ideas and influence as part of the inspiration behind its formation.

The names and organizations changed as Pennsylvania grew, but the idea was already taking root: learn, experiment, and then share what works.

That sounds remarkably familiar more than two centuries later. It is still part of what happens when agriculture comes together in Pennsylvania.



Summer Filled with Fairs, Festivities, and Fun

By Olivia Morrissey

This summer has been full of fairs, agriculture, and so many memories that I know I will carry with me long after the season comes to an end. So far, I have had the opportunity to attend 13 fairs across Pennsylvania, and every single one has given me something new to appreciate about our Commonwealth and the people who make these fairs possible.

One of my favorite parts of visiting each fair has been meeting the people behind it. From fair queens and royalty to volunteers, exhibitors, board members, and families, I have been welcomed so warmly everywhere I go. It has been so special getting to hear their stories, learn about their communities, and see the pride they have for their fair.

These visits have also given me an even greater appreciation for just how much work goes into making a fair happen. There are so many people working behind the scenes, often for months before the gates ever open, because they care about their community, agriculture, and keeping these traditions alive.

I also love experiencing the traditions that make each fair unique. No two fairs are exactly alike, and I have enjoyed seeing the different events, foods, exhibits, and activities that each community looks forward to every year. I have even created a little tradition of my own. At every fair I attend, I make sure to visit the indoor exhibits. I love seeing the creativity and hard work that exhibitors put into their projects, whether it is sewing, baking, photography, agriculture, or something completely unexpected. There is always something that catches my eye!

One of the biggest highlights of the summer was attending Penn State's

Ag Progress Days with my alternate, Rory. We spent three days surrounded by agriculture, education, and incredible people from across Pennsylvania. We hosted a booth through the Pennsylvania Association of County Fairs where children could reach into sensory buckets and guess which farm animal they were feeling. It was so much fun watching their reactions and getting to talk with families about agriculture and the Fair Queen program.



Olivia at the Dayton Fair admiring the patriotic wall hanging.

Throughout the three days, we met fellow agricultural royalty, talked with the Pennsylvania FFA and 4-H State Officer Teams, attended a Women in Agriculture panel, and had the opportunity to hear from agricultural and state leaders at the Legislative Luncheon. We even got to ride a cow! One of my favorite moments was attending the recognition of Pennsylvania farm families whose farms have remained in the same family for more than 100 years. Hearing their stories was such a great reminder of the history and dedication that are at the heart of Pennsylvania agriculture.



The fair queen booth was a busy place at Ag Progress Days.

As I look ahead to the rest of the year, I am excited for what is still to come. I also have a very exciting video project coming up with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that will help educate the public about a specific agricultural industry. I cannot share too much just yet, but I am so excited to be part of this project, so stay tuned!



Olivia enjoying her time with the Hartford Fair Queens.

Between 13 fairs, Ag Progress Days, and everything still ahead, this summer has reminded me just how fortunate I am to represent the Pennsylvania Fair Queen program. I am so grateful for everyone who has welcomed me, shared their story, and made each stop along the way so memorable. I cannot wait to see where the rest of this journey takes me!



DEADLINES TO ENTER
Entries are open!

- OCT 15** Jr Market Swine, Lambs, Goats (tags, DNA, code of ethics, entry)
- NOV 3** Ag Ed: Ag Mechanics, Demonstrations
Ag Ed: Landscape & Window Exhibits
Ag Ed: Antique Lawn/Garden Tractor Restoration
- NOV 6** Draft Horse, Sheep, Swine, Beef Cattle
Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Alpacas/Llamas
Meat Goats, Wine, Cider, Spirits, Beer
- NOV 12** Cheese, Square Dance
- DEC 1** Poultry, Rabbits, Ag Marketing
Ag Ed: Horticultural Exhibits, Ag Science Fair
Ag Ed: Competition Crate
- DEC 12** Horse Pulling
- DEC 15** Sheep To Shawl, Fleece To Shawl
Wool, Family Living Exceptionalities
Youth Public Speaking, Coloring Contest
- JAN 7** Grains, Straw, Potatoes, Fruit, Nuts, Vegetables,
Mushrooms, Maple, Apiary, Christmas Trees
Christmas Weaths, Family Living

Enter Here




Reminder:
Friends of Farm Show
Newsletter

**Deadline for
Nov.-Dec.
is
Oct. 1, 2026**

Send your news!
Email:
fofsnewsletter@gmail.com



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PENNSYLVANIA
FARM SHOW
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Friends of Farm Show
Funding the Future of Ag

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





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*Funding the Future of Ag***

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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September
October

2026

September

PA Open Air Market every Tuesday & Friday

PA Farm Show Flea Market every Sunday

9-16 All American Dairy Show

9/24-10/4 Keystone International Livestock Show

October

PA Open Air Market every Tuesday & Friday

PA Farm Show Flea Market every Sunday

7-17 Pennsylvania National Horse Show

22-24 PA State 4-H Horse Show

10/31-11/1 Harrisburg Gun & Knife Show

More Events...



Pennsylvania
Farm Show Complex
and Expo Center Schedule
2300 North Cameron Street
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

Email: farmshowfriends@gmail.com
Website: www.friendsoffarmshow.com
Like us on Facebook: [FriendsofPAFarmShow](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPAFarmShow)
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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



**The Pennsylvania Farm Show
Is Hiring!**

apply at:

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