

## GYF FEBRUARY NEWS

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## Avian Influenza Meeting Scheduled

Note: *This meeting is sponsored by the Gettysburg Young Farmers in cooperation with Battlefield FFA. Both organizations are reaching out to the community in an effort to help control this devastating disease and present necessary precautions to keep the infection out of Pennsylvania. Please share this opportunity with your friends and neighbors. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

Reserve the evening of March 8 on your calendars. Dr. John Roberts, veterinarian at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will present a 35-minute Power Point on Avian Influenza at the Gettysburg High School agriculture room. There will be time for questions and answers after the presentation.

Since December 2014, USDA has confirmed several cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 in the Pacific, Central and Mississippi flyways (migratory bird paths). The disease has been found in wild birds, as well as in backyard and commercial poultry flocks. The good news for human health is that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections to be low. No human cases of these HPAI H5 viruses have been detected in the United States, Canada or internationally.

Avian influenza is a viral disease that can infect wild birds (such as ducks, gulls and shorebirds) and domestic poultry (such as chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese). There is a flu for birds just as there is for people and, as with people, some forms of the flu are worse than others. Anyone who owns or works with poultry, whether on a commercial farm, in the wild or at a hobby/backyard farm should take proper steps to keep HPAI from spreading.

Come to the meeting on March 8 to learn biosecurity measures and get expert advice on the best way to control this devastating poultry disease.

To ensure adequate seating, reserve your space by calling the high school ag office at 717-334-6254 X6285 or e-mail:

dkammerer@gettysburg.k12.pa.us  
wtindall@gettysburg.k12.pa.us



**TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016, 7:30 P.M. GHS ag room,  
enter from rear of building**

# Winter Class Schedule

Tuesday, February 16—7:30-9:00 p.m.

“How to Fund Retirement Without Selling the Farm”  
Presenters: Shawn Abma, Thrivent Financial and Mike Hosterman from AgChoice Farm Credit

Tuesday, March 1—7:30-9:00 p.m.

Interpreting Soil Test Results  
“Beyond NPK”  
Presenter: Dean Collamer  
Bring recent soil test results if you'll like to ask questions.

Tuesday, March 8—7:30-9:00 p.m.

*Avian Influenza*  
*Controlling this highly pathogenic disease*  
Presenter: Dr. John Roberts, Veterinarian at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

March 17— 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

*How do I Get Started with an On-Farm Mastitis Culture Program?*  
Presenter: Amber Yutzy, Penn State University Dairy Team

## On-Farm Milk Culture Workshop

Presented by the Penn State University  
Dairy Team

1-day culture workshop on Thursday, March 17  
10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

At the Gettysburg High School Agriculture Room

- Mastitis is one of the most costly diseases of the dairy industry
- How do I best manage this disease?
- What species of bacteria are affecting my herd?
- Are my current antibiotic treatments necessary and effective?



- How do I get started with an on-farm culture program?
- What is the procedure in taking an aseptic sample?
- How do I properly set up milk culture plates?
- How do I read the culture plates?
- How do I write a treatment standard operating procedure?

# Gettysburg Young Farmer/ Battlefield FFA Spring Tour



*See how research advances from the lab, to the greenhouse and then into field testing at BASF's research complex in Research Triangle, North Carolina.*

Educational Tour –  
Gettysburg Young  
Farmers and Battle-  
field FFA

- Tour world-class research at BASF Corporation's Agricultural Research Complex
- Meet scientists that discover and develop agricultural products that we utilize on the farm
- Interact with other Young Farmers, FFA members and parents
- Enjoy a day of fun and relaxation at Busch Gardens Amusement Park

## March 22–24, 2016

We will depart at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and return late Thursday evening, after a day at Busch Gardens.

Gettysburg Young  
Farmer Educational  
Assoc.

1130 Old Harrisburg Rd.  
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325



*"Young farmers are any farmers  
willing to learn"*



Each of the Young Farmer Workshops scheduled this winter are designed to reach out beyond our traditional Young Farmer membership.

Make plans now to attend one or all of the remaining workshops.

**Be sure to Bring a Friend!**