

GYF JULY NEWS

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NEW ADVISOR FOR GYF IN 2015-2016

Members of Gettysburg Young Farmers who gathered for the annual picnic on Sunday June 28 learned of a change in the advisor position for the upcoming year. Advisor Deb Kammerer announced that the responsibilities of GYF advisor will be passed to high school ag teacher William Tindall.

The Gettysburg Area School District has supported a supplemental contract for the advisor position for many years when the permanent ag teachers carried full schedules of high school classes and FFA activities. Due to recent reduced student enrollment in ag classes, staff time is available to advise the Young Farmers and the supplemental contract is no longer needed.

Mr. Tindall was present at the gathering but did not address the members as to his plans for the coming year. Kammerer and Tindall intend to make the transition as seamless as possible to prevent any disruptions to the educational programming. Kammerer was thanked for her service to the chapter over the past 7 years by the members present.

A crowd of about 25 members and families were present for the meal and meeting at the farm of Ed, Charles and Barb Brown. A welcome break from the daily rains was appreciated as members were able to tour the Brown family farm. Charles Brown, son of Ed and Barb, shared a short history of the farm's transformation from dairy, in the days when Ed and Tim were boys, to present day beef operation. As the primary operator Charles raises about 40 head of grass fed steers on pasture converted from cropland.

An interesting feature of Charles' cattle handling is the program he initiated to train the animals to eat invasive species of weeds. Left to browse untrained the cattle would avoid certain species of grasses and weeds. Charles encourages them to consume some of these species by harvesting small amounts by hand and mixing it in with the hay. By increasing the quantity of weeds mixed with the hay the animals become more familiar with the taste and texture until they accept the weeds as forage. Using this technique reduces the operator's time and expense spent on weed control.

Charles sells most of his beef privately or through auctions. He plans to continue converting cropfields to pasture so that he can increase the herd size. In addition to cattle, the farm produces a variety of poultry primarily for consumption by the Brown family.

GYF thanks the Browns for hosting the annual gathering!

In Tribute to Stanley R. Wolf

April 21, 1929—May 29, 2015

The Gettysburg chapter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers has lost a true treasure with the passing of Stanley Wolf. As a charter member of the Gettysburg chapter, Wolf was an active member for decades promoting the organization and the mission of continuing education for professional farmers. Wolf pursued multiple careers during his lifetime, not all were involved with farming, but all involved education. “A Young Farmer is any farmer willing to learn” slogan of the YF organization, was included in his eulogy by daughter Audrey Weiland. For Stanley, this lifetime commitment to learning stretched beyond his farm fields.

Wolf served as PYFA president-elect, president, and past president from 1970-1972. He was active in the national organization of NYFEA participating in many national conventions and building friendships across the country. In 1999 Wolf was honored by PYFA with the Honorary PYFA Member award. Wolf held lifetime memberships in both the NYFEA and PYFA.

The members of GYF offer our heartfelt condolences to Stanley’s family even as we mourn our own loss of a lifetime learner and fellow farmer.

DATES TO NOTE .

July 14-15

North American Manure Expo, Chambersburg, Pa.

July 14-15

PYFA/PAAE Summer Conference. Tyrone and State College, Pa. See article for details.

July 28

Soil Health field day and 10th anniversary of Pa No-Till Alliance, Harvest View Barn, Hershey farms, Elizabethtown, Pa. see

http://www.panotill.org/publication_files/10th-anniversary-field-day-brochure.pdf

Aug. 18-20

Ag Progress Days at Rock Springs research farm. Stop by the PYFA booth.

Oct 3-4 and 10-11

GYF and FFA volunteer at Apple Harvest Fest, pit beef stand to support scholarship. Volunteers needed for shifts 4-7 p.m.

Volunteers needed! Prime times available! Please call Deb at 321-6217 or email dkammerer@gettysburg.k12.pa.us to fill in one of the shifts. Passes are provided for free entry and parking is often open across road from main entrance. Our task is to help the Jaycees who run the Pit Beef Stand clean up and close up. Fringe benefit is a free Pit Beef sandwich!! Funds raised go to support our scholarship



At the South Mountain Fair Grounds in Arendtsville, Pa.

Day/Date/Time	Volunteer #1	Volunteer #2
Sat/10-3/4-7	Becky Nas	Deb Kammerer
Sun/10-4/4-7		
Sat/10-10/4-7		
Sun/10-11/4-7		

Don't GET THAT SUMMER ITCH!

Mid summer might be the time on your farm for cleaning up fencerows, removing brush from around buildings or just general clean-up. Perhaps there are some young, part time helpers who are lending a hand. What are the chances of getting hurt doing these simple common outside chores?

Pretty high if the workers are unaware of the presence of toxic plants, especially poison ivy!

Many farm families enjoy outdoor summer activities. Maybe yours likes to go camping, hiking, canoeing down a creek. All these fun activities provide exposure to the poison vine most people are allergic to and yet many are unable to identify this troublesome sprout in all its growth phases.

You may have heard the rhyme "Leaves of 3, let it be!" but looking for 3 leaves is often not enough.

Poison ivy has multiple growth forms. Although its basically a vine it can also appear as a shrub or ground cover. Look for it on trees or growing on walls, covering rocks, or just among the forest floor cover. Characteristics include three leaves closely clustered on a long stem. Leaves are pointy at the ends; the terminal leaf is often slightly larger than the other two. Variability in leaf color and shape can be deceiving. Leaf margins may be slightly notched or may be smooth. In early spring small spouts of the vine are often reddish in color. Later in the season, they are usually bright green, sometimes shiny, but not always. Towards fall the leaves start to turn red agains. Mature plants growing on trees will have very thick, hairy looking woody vines clinging to the tree. You may also notice white berries on mature plants.

All parts of the poison ivy plants contain the skin irritant, urushiol , which causes your skin to pop out in a rash, itch like crazy and even blister in bad cases. The best thing to do if you have touched poison ivy is to immediately wash/remove the urushiol oil from your skin. If you are near water, rinse the affected area with cold water and soap. Other liquids which will reduce the toxicity of the oil are rubbing alcohol, or a alcoholic beverage, and the sap of jewelweed plants. If you can apply one of these treatments within 15 minutes of contact, you may significantly reduce the severity of the reaction.

Despite your best vigilance, almost everyone who spends much time outside will suffer from a poison ivy rash at some time. When that happens here are some home remedies to reduce the itching:

- ◆ Use a **vinegar compress** to dry the rash and relieve itching. Mix a half-cup white vinegar with 1-1/2 cups water. Chill in the refrigerator. When you need cool relief, moisten a cloth in the solution and press it onto the rash.
- ◆ Dab **calamine lotion** onto the rash. This classic poison ivy remedy relieves itch and will help dry up blisters. If you find the lotion too runny, just mix in a little cornstarch.
- ◆ Soak a cloth in **cold milk** and hold it against your skin. Cold milk is more soothing to itchy skin than cold water. Exactly why milk relieves itching is unknown, but perhaps it's the milk fat.
- ◆ Using a cotton ball, treat your rash with **witch hazel**, which has a great reputation as a skin soother. The kind that comes in an alcohol solution cools your skin as it evaporates.
- ◆ Moisten a plain old **tea bag** (black or green, it doesn't matter) and apply it to the itchy skin. The tannic acid in tea, which is astringent, helps contract inflamed tissue and relieve the itching.

(<http://www.besthealthmag.ca/best-you/home-remedies/natural-home-remedies-poison-ivy>)

Help your kids learn to identify poison ivy with this fun cartoon tutorial at

<http://birdandmoon.com/poisonivy/>

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



*NOTE THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:
Wednesday, July 15, 2015 PYFA Board meeting,
State College, Pa.*