

GYF MAY NEWS

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New Financial Opportunities for Farmers from USDA

Two USDA agencies, Farm Services and Rural Development have announced innovative loan/grant programs to assist producers with financing their operations.

Information provided by Callihan Dice, FSA County Exec. Director, Adams Co., Pa.

Portable Farm Storage and Handling Equipment Loan

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide a new financing option to help farmers purchase portable storage and handling equipment. The loans are designed to help producers, including new, small and mid-sized producers, grow their businesses and markets.

The program offers a new "microloan" option, which allows applicants seeking less than \$50,000 to qualify for a reduced down payment of five percent and no requirement to provide three years of production history.

Farms and ranches of all sizes are eligible. Producers can invest in equipment like conveyers, scales or refrigeration units and trucks that can store commodities before delivering them to markets. Producers do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply.

To learn more about Farm Storage Facility Loans, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport or contact a local FSA county office at 334-4216 ext 106.

Value Added Producer Grant

If you are producing an agricultural commodity and reselling with added value, the Value Added Grant Program can pay for up to 50% of expenses such as marketing, packaging, administrative and labor expenses related to selling your product. There is a cap of \$75,000 for project planning and \$250,000 for working capital. The grant must be utilized within three years and work must begin within 90 days of the award. The repair, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility are not eligible projects for the grant. Similarly, grant funds may not be applied to the rental, purchase or installation of fixed equipment.

Examples of value added products:

- Grapes to wine
- Apples to cider
- Grass-fed beef
- Pasture raised lamb
- Honey into skin products
- Pumpkins into pumpkin donuts
- Flash frozen vegetables
- And many more

For more information contact Amanda Hope at 717-237-2289, USDA Rural Development Program Specialist or check www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants/pa-0.

Dates to Note

June 21, 5-9 p.m.

Lehigh Valley Twilight Pig Roast and Grain Marketing meeting. Speakers Dewey Strickler, Ag Watch Market Advisors, Franklin, Kentucky, and Bill Kirk, CEO and Co-founder of Weather Trends International. Hunsicker Farm, 2731 Hilltop Rd, Mertztown, Pa. No fee, No rsvp required.

June 26, 5:30 p.m.

GYF summer picnic at Smiths' Fields of Adventure.

July 13, 1-2:30 p.m.

PYFA summer board meeting and PAEE summer conference; Host School Midd-West High School 540 East Main Street Middleburg, PA 17842

August 16-18

PSU Ag Progress Days

Two top ag topics to be discussed in public forums: *Workforce and Economic Development* and *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*.



Sunday, June 26

Summer Meeting and Picnic at Smiths'

Fields of Adventure

64 Tree Lane, Aspers

Come at 5:30 p.m. to play

Eat at 6:00, meeting will follow.

Bring a covered dish to share. Please RSVP to Deb Kammerer, 334-2760 or dkammerer@gettysburg.k12.pa.us



FFA officers and members greet guests at the Spring Banquet held on Friday, May 15 at Gettysburg High School.

PYFA President, Denise Leydig greeted the crowd assembled in the auditorium.



AN AWARD WINNING YEAR FOR GYF AND BATTLEFIELD FFA

The Battlefield FFA/Gettysburg Young Farmer Spring Awards Banquet was held on Friday April 15 at the Gettysburg High School. Approximately 18 Young Farmer members joined the FFA guests including PYFA President Denise Leydig. Following a hot buffet dinner and drawing for many donated door prizes, the assembly moved to the auditorium for the awards presentations.

Gettysburg Young Farmer President, Carl Wilkinson announced the recipient of the annual \$500 scholarship. This year's winner is Justin Klunk, FFA senior at New Oxford High School, who was not able to attend due to an obligation associated with his 4-H state officer position. Justin prevailed over his competitors with a high school record of superior academics and outstanding leadership in FFA and school sports. Justin plans to study diesel mechanics at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. His aspirations after college include designing and/or modifying ag machinery to improve efficiency. GYF is glad to help him on his way!

In the FFA awards portion of the assembly there were numerous highlights. Participation and achievement were recognized for many Battlefield members. Mr. Stanley Plank was recognized for his annual contribution to the Teacher Appreciation Social hosted by Battlefield FFA. Mr. Plank is the head chef for the roasted pig served to GHS faculty. Two honorary chapter memberships were conferred to community members who have supported the chapter. One went to Mrs. Holly Staub, who chaperoned Battlefield FFA members to the National FFA Convention, cooked for FFA Fun Night and volunteered to drive two students and their FFA advisor to Baltimore in the middle of the night to send them off for a week-long cultural exchange and learning experience in Nicaragua. The second honorary member-

ship went to Mr. Isaac Bucher for coaching the students competing in FFA public speaking contests. Battlefield students came home from the local competition with numerous awards; some placing well enough to proceed to the regional level and one advancing to statewide competition. Mr. Bucher himself was a successful public speaking contestant during his Battlefield FFA years. In accepting his honorary membership he again demonstrated his skill with a moving tribute to Ag teacher and FFA Advisor Bill Tindall who will be retiring in August 2016. Isaac, wife Nichole and 3 week old baby Bucher were most welcome guests as they had formerly also been active Young Farmer members. Senior, Ashlyn Burkholder, was honored with the DeKalb Award, an award presented to outstanding high school seniors with a superior record of scholarship, leadership and agricultural work experience. Many former FFA students were also present to wish Mr. Tindall the best in his retirement.

The evening's program concluded with the customary video presentation of the year's activities. Despite the late hour, many guests lingered to greet former classmates and teachers, convey congratulations to award winners and enjoy the FFA/GYF fellowship.



Gettysburg Young
Farmer Educational
Assoc.

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



ANYTIME NOW!!