

GYF MAY NEWS

Board of Directors 2015-2017

President

Carl Wilkinson
555 Rentzel Rd.
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325
752-8368

Vice President

Jason Rentzel
241 Rentzel Rd.
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325
334-1079

Treasurer

Carl Keller, Jr.
350 Meadowbrook Ln.
Gettysburg, PA 17325
334-7894

Directors

Mike Riser
91 Whisler Rd
Gettysburg, PA 17325
752-0929

Chris Smith
64 Tree Lane
Aspers, Pa. 17304
717-677-7693

Ed Wilkinson
880 Old Carlisle Rd.
Aspers, PA 17304
677-4477

PYFA State Officers

Jason Rentzel, President
Becky Nas, Secretary
Dan Wilkinson, National Institute 2019, co-chair

Advisor

Deb Kammerer
717-334-2760

AND THE WINNER IS...



This year's recipient of the Gettysburg Young Farmer scholarship is

Battlefield FFA President, Olivia Staub.

Olivia's activities during her high school years are evidence of her strong interest in agriculture, leadership and entrepreneurship. As an active member of both FFA and Future Business Leaders of America, FBLA, she has enriched her academic studies with many competitive and vocational experiences. She has been a volunteer Sunday School teacher and rec softball coach. She clearly enjoys mentoring younger friends as well as modeling responsible leadership to her high school peers. Olivia's academic record reveals a student who has learned how to study and has the discipline to meet teacher expectations. In her senior year Olivia has interned at JoBo Holstein farm and during that brief time has brought valuable talents and interests to this local dairy operation while learning skills in managing and breeding livestock.

Olivia will be attending Delaware Valley University to study secondary education with a focus on ag education. We think Olivia will be an exceptionally successful college student and an outstanding ag educator. The Gettysburg Young farmers offer this monetary award as a token of our support and belief in your success.

Olivia, congratulations on your admission to Delaware Valley University. We applaud your decision to study secondary education in agriculture science. Your essay answers indicate that you appreciate the importance of consumers, both young and old, being informed about the food we consume and its production. Agriculture is certainly a key-stone industry in our society. We are proud that you have chosen to be an Ag Educator and Advocate!



Olivia Staub, daughter of Richard and Holly Staub
with Deb Kammerer, GYF Advisor

Dates to Note:

June 7

Dairy Month celebration in Barlow, Adams County. A commemoration of the historic Barlow Creamery.

June 25

GYF Picnic, tentative date, location to be determined

July 16

PYFA Summer meeting and picnic, Jason Rentzel farm

HOST NEEDED

For GYF Picnic and Planning Meeting

Date is flexible to suit hosting family.

Call 334-2760 or email Deb at dkammerer@gettysburg.k12.pa.us



JUNE IS DAIRY MONTH

Save the date, June 7 for a special Adams County Dairy History celebration. Cumberland Township will host a sign dedication and community gathering in recognition of the much loved Barlow Creamery, cited in local histories as *"an ice cream manufactory ... famous for the celebrated Barlow ice cream."* PDA Sec Redding will attend.

Contact Tom Clowney for details.

CRUNCH TIME!

Every profession has one and this time of year is ours. With the likely delay of planting due to rain and cold, when we finally get rolling, the temptation to go all out may lead to carelessness and crankiness.

A couple of safety reminders:

Take time to review the pesticide and other chemical labels of products you are using. Even if it's a familiar product, recommendations may have changed. If keeping a binder of label copies is too cumbersome, try taking a photo with your phone. You'll have the current info handy in the event of an emergency.

Stay healthy. Take breaks, don't skip meals, get enough sleep. Recommended amount is 7-9 hrs/night. Just do it!

source: <http://unitedsoybean.org/article/six-farm-safety-tips-to-keep-in-mind-this-planting-season/>

A bit of good humor:

An old farmer was walking down the path to the pond when he spotted a bullfrog. He reached down and grabbed the frog and started to put him in his pocket when the bullfrog said, "Kiss me on the lips and I will turn into a beautiful farmers wife." Again the old farmer started to put the frog in his pocket. The frog asked, "Didn't you hear what I said?" The farmer looked at the frog and said, "At my age I'd rather have a talking frog."

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/peoplejokes/farmerjokes.html>

Watch for Soil Compaction Threat

Posted: May 4, 2017, *Field Crop News* online

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/crops/news/2017/05/watch-for-soil-compaction-threat-1>

Soil compaction threat increased in much of the state after significant rainfall over the past days. Avoiding compaction has been shown to be much more cost effective than repairing it.

Significant rainfall hit much of the state over the past couple of days causing soils to be saturated or at field capacity. In saturated soils all pores are filled with water, while in soils at field capacity large pores have emptied of water. The critical moisture point for soil compaction is the 'plastic limit', when soil can be easily molded. This is usually a bit drier than field capacity. The plastic limit is the point when soil is most compactable. You can determine if your soil is at the plastic limit with the clod test – grab a handful of soil and mold it in your hand – if you can form a ball, your soil is at the plastic limit. Soil that is wetter than the plastic limit is sensitive to rutting and pugging. For all practical purposes, if your soil is at the plastic limit or wetter, it is better to stay out of the field. Remember that avoiding compaction is much more effective than causing it and then having to repair it. Here are some other things you can do to avoid compaction:

1. Increase the resistance of your soil to compaction. Increasing soil organic matter is the first thing you can do. Research has shown that a soil high in organic matter cannot be compacted to the same density as the same soil low in organic matter. Having live roots in your soil at all times is another way to make your soil resist compaction – the live roots act like a geo-textile under the soil. Using no-tillage has been found to increase soil resistance to compaction because you have a firm matrix interspersed with macropores, which remain open for water percolation, aeration, and root penetration.

2. Reduce the likelihood of surface compaction by using tires inflated to low pressures or increase vehicle footprint by using tracks. Surface compaction is caused by the stress put out on the surface and this corresponds very closely to the inflation pressure in completely flexible tires. Refer to your tire manual to check the lowest inflation pressure you can use for the load that tire has to carry. There are tires nowadays that can run at 12 psi pressures which is not likely to cause much surface compaction, even if soil is at plastic limit.

3. Reduce the likelihood of subsoil compaction by reducing axle load. Axle load determines subsoil compaction. Our research suggests that if axle load remains below 10 Tons you are unlikely to cause compaction below 12 inches. However, manure trucks or grain carts may have higher axle loads than that.

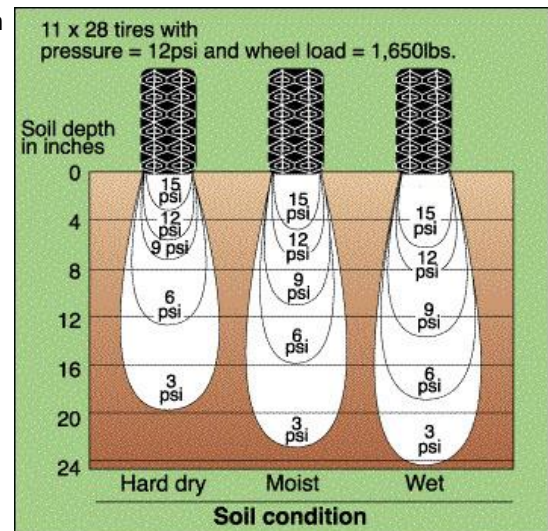
4. Keep your grazing animals in the shed when soil is too wet. It is much more costly to feed animals in the shed than in the pasture (at least twice as expensive), but this is the time you don't want to cut corners because it can hurt you for a long time if your soil is compacted by your grazing animals. Fortunately, soil compaction caused by grazing animals has been shown not to cause subsoil compaction (ie it does not go deeper than about 8 inches).

Make your soil more resilient. Resilience is the power to come back. A resilient soil can come back from compaction quicker and better than a non-resilient soil. Resilience has much to do with the life in the soil. If you have many earthworms and other tunneling animals (such as the lowly dung beetle, see last week's FCN), mycorrhizal and detrital fungi, and living, growing roots in the soil, the soil is able to repair itself. These organisms are helped by not disturbing the soil, leaving crop residue at the soil surface, using diverse crop rotations, and using cover crops during fallow periods in your rotation.

Contact : Sjoerd Willem Duiker

Associate Professor of Soil Management and Applied Soil Physics

Email: swd10@psu.edu



<http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/images/g01630art01.jpg>

News from PYFA

NYFEA Institute 2019

Plans for the NYFEA 2019 Institute to be hosted by Pennsylvania have started to take shape. The location being considered at this time is Lancaster County. Dan Wilkinson, GYF member, will co-chair the Institute with Denise Sanner, former NYFEA President. Dan and Denise have asked all PYFA members to volunteer as planning proceeds especially with securing sponsorships and suggesting businesses/attractions for tours.



Summer Conference 2017

PYFA will not join PAAE this summer for the annual joint conference. Instead PYFA will convene on July 16 at the farm of PYFA President Jason Rentzel and family for a carry in picnic. More details later.



"Young farmers are any farmers willing to learn"

Mark Your Calendar:

June 7, 2017

Dairy History Celebration of Barlow Creamery