

NYFEA 2014 – Louisville, Kentucky

Fifteen PYFA members and several students visited the Bluegrass State in December for the NYFEA Winter Institute. Kentucky Young Farmers presented a well-organized, excellent showcase of Kentucky agriculture and industry for over 300 visitors from many states.

The first day's tour visited the Bowling Green area, third largest city in Kentucky and home of the only Corvette assembly plant in the world.



The first Corvettes were built here in 1981 and 137-180 are built every day by 1000 employees. The privately owned Corvette Museum across the road showcased many styles of Corvettes manufactured through the years and showed the sinkhole that swallowed eight of their cars in February this year.



A delicious pork chop lunch was provided at Triple Oaks Farm along with a machinery display and lots of varied vendors.

A few members participated in a tractor driving competition.



Next stop was the Bale Tobacco Marketing station for contract growers for Phillip Morris. Six hundred pound bales of tobacco come in, are evaluated, and are shipped out the same day for the domestic cigarette market.



The day was topped off with a visit to the Churchill Downs Museum and dinner in Millionaire's Row with some betting for fun on three horse races.

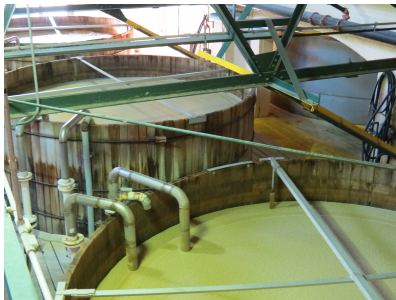


Friday tours began at Keeneland Race Track in Lexington with a tour of the facility. Races are held here in April and October, and thoroughbred sales four times a year. Buyers come from all over the world; the top price brought was \$13 million but average price is \$100,000.

The second stop was Big Ass Fans research and development facility, where we had a detailed tour of their test labs and an excellent lunch. This company makes industrial and residential fans and LED lighting. Their products are all made in the U.S., over-engineered to last many years, and sold to 80+ countries around the world.



Four Roses Distillery was the next tour. We walked through the distillery and saw how bourbon is made from corn, malted barley and rye and delivered daily to another location for bottling. Some sampling of three types of bourbon was also part of the tour.



The final tour stop was the University of Kentucky Animal Science Research Center beef unit. Purebred Angus and crossbreds produce 130-150 calves per year and much research is conducted on nutrition. Hogs, sheep, and dairy cows are also housed on University farms in the area.



Saturday morning the Ag Decision-makers College featured four speakers on Kentucky agriculture and challenges. Issues discussed were water availability, feeding a growing world population, and finding the next generation of ag industry leaders.





Several PA students participated in the Ag Communication competition and the winner was again a Pennsylvanian, Krystal Wasson from Centre County. One of last year's winners, Gabrielle Murphy of York County, helped to conduct the program.

The Institute was capped off with an auction and banquet Saturday night, followed by a fantastic concert by recording artists "Exile."



Next year's NYFEA Institute will be December 9-12, 2015, in Charleston SC.