



CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Spring 2022

www.payoungfarmers.com

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NYFEA Winter Institute



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association is to educate and promote the agricultural industry.

SOMERSET COUNTY YOUNG FARMER BANQUET

Donna L. Paul

Eighty-three members of the Rockwood and Berlin Brothersvalley Young Farmer Chapters gathered together on March 10th, 2022 for their Annual Somerset County Young Farmer Banquet held at the Berlin Brethren Church in Berlin, Pennsylvania. Everyone turned Irish for the evening by wearing their green clothing for the St. Patrick's Day themed event. The tables were decorated accordingly with each table having a door prize in the center. If "ye had the luck of the Irish" you were able to take home one of the centerpiece creations made by Donna Paul.

"Everyone expressed their happiness to be able to come together as a group again after an extended period of not being able to hold events due to Covid."

Samuel Dively, Advisor of the Berlin Chapter, served as MC for the banquet and welcomed everyone. David Dively gave the invocation. Gary Weimer, Advisor of the Rockwood Chapter, gave remarks. Denise Leydig, newly elected Public Relations Director of the Pennsylvania State Young Farmer Association, spoke to the group about the recent State Convention and encouraged everyone to attend next year's convention in Gettysburg. She also encouraged the Young Farmer members to complete applications for the awards presented on the state level. Carl Walker Metzgar, a member of the Berlin Young Farmer Association and State House Representative, his wife Mollie, Somerset County Assistant District Attorney, and their four children were in attendance at the banquet.

The delicious Swiss steak dinner was prepared by the mission team of the Berlin Brethren Church. Judy Bird, Chairperson of the team spoke briefly after the meal regarding the many mission projects that are supported throughout the world. Recently, the team was involved in sending financial support to help remove girls from an orphanage in Ukraine to Moldova. On the last Monday of each month the mission team serves a free hospitality meal. Last month they served over 400 turkey dinners.

Tom Calvert, a former Somerset County Extension Agent, who worked with livestock producers and the 4-H clubs in Somerset County, was the guest speaker for the banquet. While operating a successful sheep farm in Brothersvalley Township, Tom began looking more closely at pasture management and the increased use of grazing techniques. In 1980 he accepted the position of Coordinator of "Project Grass," a soil conservation service project to make the idle and underutilized permanent cover into a valuable commodity.

Continued on page 6.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Becky Nas



Greetings from Gettysburg! A group of us have gathered to begin our conference planning for February 2023 in Gettysburg. Our fields are growing greener, the trees are beginning to blossom and the Martins are making their way north! A certain sign that longer, warmer days are here. It is my hope that we are all ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that the coming growing season will undoubtedly present. May we all have a safe planting season and always find time to appreciate and enjoy our many blessings.

Take care,

Becky Nas

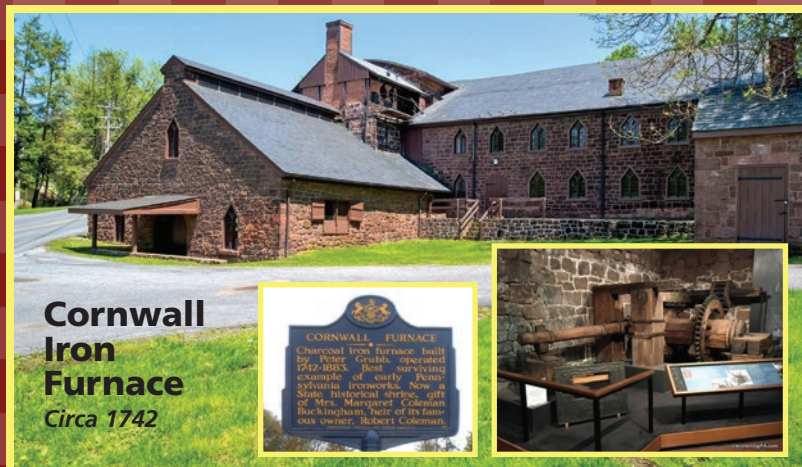
Message from Our Past President: Ken Sanner



I'd like to thank all my board members who served last year, which turned into 2 years, for their dedication to this organization. We didn't get done what we planned, as Covid got in the way, but we kept moving forward as best we could. Another thank you to the members that came out to the February conference. It was great to see everybody. This December the national conference will be in New Orleans and in February the state conference will be in the Gettysburg area. Look for better days ahead as we all get back to normal!

LATE SUMMER PICNIC

The PYFA will hold a summer picnic gathering at the home of Glen and Linda Krall, 180 Schaeffer Road, Lebanon, PA 17042. In addition to a picnic lunch, we will tour the nearby historic Cornwall Iron Furnace www.cornwallironfurnace.org. The walking and museum tour is \$7 per person for 13 years and older, \$4 for 3yrs-12 years old and \$2.50 for those that just want to do the museum and not the walking tour. The state PYFA board will meet at the Kralls, but everyone is welcome to attend the picnic and tour. Please rsvp to President Becky Nas. Call or text 717-253-3605. Bring a covered dish to share. We hope to see you there!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

EASTERN REGION NEWS

Dale Hawkins

Hi everyone!

Greetings from the eastern portion of Pennsylvania. Spring has arrived and another PYFA Winter Conference has come and gone. It was wonderful to see many of you there and get reacquainted with old friends. I was in charge of the fundraiser this year, and am happy to report that because of the many donations, we were able to present a nice contribution to the Sharing Cupboard of the Myerstown Church of the Brethren. I want to thank all of those that participated in giving to a wonderful cause where neighbors are helping neighbors in need.

The Manheim Chapter has finished up their winter spray meetings and were to have finished out their winter activities with some tours at the end of this month of March – I'm sure that those able to attend had a great time – you don't want to miss them next time!

I was able to attend Messicks Farm Equipment's Open House this year – it was a day to remember! I had the opportunity to tour their newly constructed facilities. I learned many interesting facts about the history of farming, amazing things that are happening today, and a look into what the future of farming may look like... wow!

Messicks Farm Equipment's new location



We received an invitation to attend the Northern Lebanon Chapter's dinner meeting at Country Fare Restaurant this month. I'm not one to turn down good food... so that was another night of great food and fellowship. It is wonderful to see people getting together again and being able to share struggles, ideas, and just have a good time.

Well, as you all know planting time has just about arrived. Here's to hoping everyone has a safe and successful spring and summer!

KUTZTOWN YOUNG FARMERS NEWS

Ken Sanner

The Kutztown Young Farmers wrapped up their bi-weekly meetings at the end of March. Much of the focus was related to crop production. Topics for the evening programs were Precision Farming Applications, Tar Spot Disease in Corn, Alternative Grain Crops, and the annual pesticide update for recertification credits. There was also a medical evening led by Holly Stutzman and a very enjoyable Valentines Day Dinner. Thanks to Advisor Jon Stutzman for directing the winter meetings.

PYFA Membership Application Form • Join us today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

\$15 annual fee • Make check out to: PYFA

Mail this form and payment to: Debbie Zug • 390 Peters Creek Rd. • Peach Bottom PA 17563



2022 PYFA WINTER CONFERENCE

WYNDHAM GARDEN YORK
Hosted by the State Board • February 1-3, 2022

The 2022 Winter Conference of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association began with a bus tour and lunch at the **Greystone Brew House** in Dillsburg. A delicious meal was enjoyed and brewmaster Jesse described their beer-making process.



The bus then traveled to **Cedar Hill Farms**, owned by the Eisenhower family since 1964. Through the years they have purchased additional farms so they now own 1600 acres and farm 6500 acres in the Wellsville area, with 1400 steers, 750 sows, and many chickens. The farm grew 3500 acres of corn in 2021, averaging 200 bushels/acre. A large portion of the feeder steers diet is outdated produce from area grocery stores. The Eisenhowers were very gracious hosts and joined us for the Wednesday night banquet.

CEDAR HILL FARMS



The next stop was **Wags Brothers Meats**, owned by Byron Wagner. Kelly Young led the tour through the entire process, from loading off the truck to the processing room where butchers were dividing the meat and processing hamburger, sausage, jerky and other products. The Wagners have their own steers and pigs, and in addition do custom butchering of all types of meat animals including 300 deer this hunting season. Wags Brothers recently opened a retail store in nearby Dover for convenience of their customers. We enjoyed samples of their delicious sweet bologna.

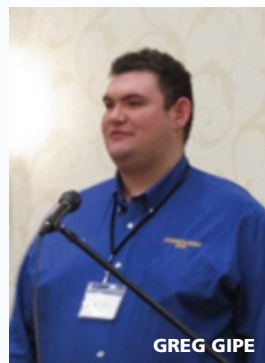


WAGS BROTHERS MEATS



Tuesday evening's banquet featured the Spokesperson Contest and **Greg Gipe**, PA State FFA Vice President, was declared the winner. He participated Tuesday morning in the Media Blitz at the nearby Weis Market, where a lucky customer's food items were purchased for them by PYFA. Greg pointed out that much of what is purchased at the grocery store is not food.

DAVE KLINE



GREG GIPE

Conference attendees enjoyed music by **Dave Kline** and an ice cream social to close out the evening.

Wednesday morning was the Delegates meeting, where new officers were elected: President Becky Nas, Past President Ken Sanner, President Elect Michelle Dietrich, Secretary

Anthony Dietrich, Treasurer Ed Zug, Membership Chair Debbie Zug, Public Relations Denise Leydig, Northern Region VP Matt Dersham, South Central VP Jason Rentzel, Eastern VP Dale Hawkins, and Western VP Keith Weimer.

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Greg Hostetter was our guest for luncheon and he gave an update on PDA activities and the PA Farm Bill that was passed two years ago. Agriculture in PA has an impact of \$132 billion on the economy.

Kutztown Young Farmers won the award for having the highest conference registration this year.

Wednesday afternoon featured three educational workshops. **Dwayne Salem** talked about the types and benefits of crop insurance and how to get involved in grain trading and futures.

Mike and Sharon Reifsnnyder described their experience with growing hops, the challenges and opportunities. Hops are a perennial crop that take 3-5 years from planting to begin production. They grow on an 18-20 foot high trellis and are difficult to grow in Pennsylvania's climate.

The third workshop was presented by **Marty Clemmer of Paradise Solar**. He explained how solar panels can be installed, the various incentive programs and tax credits currently available, and the benefits of ownership rather than leasing.



MARTY CLEMMER

Wednesday night's banquet featured the award winners from the various contests sponsored by PYFA. **Michelle Dietrich** of Mifflinburg YF received the Community Service Award for all her work with emergency services, Young Farmers, and other local groups.



KEN SANNER AND MICHELLE DIETRICH

Ag Choice and **Mid Atlantic Farm Credit** were named Honorary Young Farmers for 2022. Both offices have been very supportive of the PYFA with sponsorships to support our contests and conferences.

The Richard Hoppes Memorial Award for years of continual service to PYFA was given to **Jason Rentzel** of Gettysburg. Jason has served as regional vice president several times, as well as state president 2017-18.

The community service project for the conference was the food pantry operated by the Myerstown Church of the Brethren, with attendees donating \$406 to the cause.



Speaker for the evening was **Dr. Elizabeth Hines** of Penn State. Her talk explained the various programs available for swine producers as well as the new PSU Butcher School and upcoming animal science apprenticeship program.

On Thursday, attendees took off on their own to visit downtown York, touring the **Agriculture and Industrial Museum** and **Central Market**.



Next year's conference will be in February in the Gettysburg area. Watch for more information.



2022 PYFA OFFICERS

11/30-12/3
2022



NYFEA invites you to join us at the 56th Annual Institute in New Orleans!



Since 1966 the NYFEA has hosted Institutes from one corner of the United States to another. Young farmers from many different states have experienced the blessings of agriculture from livestock to row crops to horticulture to agribusiness. It has been a unique learning experience that has been unparalleled. Today's Institute allows for experiential learning and leadership training to occur under the same umbrella.

To the many people that have made this a part of their regular routine, Thank you! To the people that are willing to try this for the first time, welcome!

Looking forward to a great Institute... New Orleans, Louisiana will bring traditional farms and new ideas to our attention! Join us!



“Banquet” continued from page 1.

This soon became a pasture management program to support and guide Southwestern Pennsylvania producers in to a grazing program that would work for their farms. Tom has a wealth of information on grazing and loves to share with others what he has learned over the years with regards to pasture management and grazing.

David and Kathy Blough were presented with their Young Farmer Life Membership Certificates by Samuel Dively, Berlin Advisor. Samuel also recognized the Harry Rhoads Family for having donations made to the Doyle E. Paul Memorial Scholarship Fund after the recent passing of Harry, a long-time member of the Berlin Young Farmer Chapter.

Everyone expressed their happiness to be able to come together as a group again after an extended period of not being able to hold events due to Covid.

Though the group will no longer hold a county picnic in the fall during harvest season, they will be planning other events to get together for fellowship.



Twenty-nine members of the Berlin Brothersvalley Young Farmer Chapter attended the Berlin FFA Chapter’s annual banquet on St. Patrick’s Day in support of the local chapter.

2022 NYFEA INSTITUTE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 3

New Orleans is known for the finest examples of cross-cultural cuisine, shopping, music, art and old-fashioned fun!

- Attractions:** From streetcar rides to visiting parks and churches, there are a bounty of options for fun and frolicking around New Orleans. You can spend the day in one of the many lovely parks, relax on a golf course, meander through a cemetery and so much more. There is history to be found around every corner and fun to be had in a relaxing way at delightful attractions. Enjoy! (taken from www.visitneworleans.com)
- Museums:** Learn the stories behind Mardi Gras costumes and culture, immerse yourself in the largest collection of Southern Art, and walk in the footsteps of America’s Greatest Generation at the world famous World War II Museum - in New Orleans, you’ll find endless places to explore and learn. (taken from www.visitneworleans.com)
- Food:** What unites everyone in New Orleans is the city’s love affair with its traditional fare. It’s a romance conducted over white-linen tablecloths graced by crawfish etouffe, in a bistro courtyard with a bowl of gumbo or requited on a picnic bench with a po-boy sandwich stuffed with fried oysters. Creole, Cajun, the list could go on forever. (taken from www.visitneworleans.com)
- Planning for the Tours:** See the Mississippi River Swamps, Louisiana State University agricultural research, farms featuring rice, cattle, row crops, southern plantations, wildlife galore, the Tabasco factory, shrimp and other seafood operations, etc.
- Hotel:** Hampton Inn Convention Center, 1201 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130. Hotel phone: 504-293-1200 (ask for NYFEA or Young Farmer rate). Room rate: \$120/night until block is filled or 11/10/2022 (cut-off date). If you have any challenges with your room or registration, please call NYFEA at 334-546-9951 or email nyfea-main@nyfea.org.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 30 Registration / Afternoon Board and Delegate Meeting/ Morning - YALE and Contests Opening Evening Event: Dinner and local entertainment (New Orleans restaurant with local flavor speaker and an agriculture industry speaker)

Thursday, December 1 Breakfast at Hotel – Sample of Agricultural Tour: Departure-8:00 am; **a)** Drive north – Avery Island, LA. **b)** Arrival 10:00 am at Tabasco Plant; 45 minute tour and shopping for 30 minutes. **c)** Drive 1 hour west to Crowley, LA. **d)** Arrival 11:30 am for tour of LSU Experiment Station (rice, milo, crawfish, sugar cane). **e)** Drive around Crowley. **f)** Arrival 2:00: tour grain facility, crawfish farm and a sugar cane facility. **g)** Departure for a fertilizer facility, tour fertilizer facility. **h)** Dinner.

Friday, December 2 Breakfast at hotel. City tour departure begins at 9:30 am. Hop-on Hop-off with City Tours of New Orleans. Soak in the best New Orleans has to offer with a one day sightseeing pass. Bus tours through Quarter and Garden District hitting New Orleans’ most popular attractions: French Quarter, French Market, Esplanade, Tremé, Basin Street Station Visitor Center, Uptown

Saturday, December 3 8:00 am - Breakfast and Ag Decision Makers College; 11:30 am: Lunch and officer swearing in program. Afternoon: Plantation tour with transportation and dinner

REGISTRATION: Online: www.nyfea.org or mail form to: NYFEA: Box 20326, Montgomery, AL 36120

Deadline for preferred registration is 10/31/22.

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

(Registration will be confirmed by email.)

NYFEA Full Registration: Attendance to all events: \$350 each

Weekend Rate (great for those who want Friday/Saturday only)

NYFEA Daily Rate \$135 per day:

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

NYFEA Student Rate \$300 for all events (no hotel rooms)

NYFEA Student Rate for students sharing a room w/at least two other students \$450 includes hotel room for four nights. Students must attend Ag Decision Makers College & YALE. Students must be willing to share an assigned room if the room rate is included.

Child Registration (under age 12)

____ @ \$350 = _____

____ @ \$260 = _____

____ @ \$135 = _____

____ @ \$135 = _____

____ @ \$135 = _____

____ @ \$300 = _____

____ @ \$450 = _____

____ @ \$150 = _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:

\$ _____

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