CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Fall 2017

www.payoungfarmers.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year's harvest is nearing completion and appears to have been a good one. During this holiday season let us remember to give thanks for all our blessings.

I hope to see everyone in Somerset this coming year, February 6-8, 2018, at the PYFA Winter Conference at Seven Springs. Somerset County chapters are working hard to plan an excellent conference, so please try to attend. See inside this newsletter for details!

Jason Rentzel
PYFA President-Elect

PYFA Winter Conference

February 6-8, 2018

MISSION STATEMENT

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

2019 NYFEA INSTITUTE – IN PENNSYLVANIA!

Have you heard? The Pennsylvania Young Farmers are going to be hosting the National Young Farmers Educational Association Institute December 11 – 14, 2019. Contract negotiations with the national organization are being finalized in Savannah at the 2017 Institute and then we can move forward with signing the contract with our host facility, Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.

One of our main goals is to get as many PYFA members involved in the planning and implementation of this event. Together, with many helpful hands, we will be able to showcase agriculture in Pennsylvania. Our institute theme is simply "Pennsylvania Proud" and we definitely have a lot to be proud of! We are gathering suggestions for everything from what industries we should tour....where could we go for an evening of entertainment and education...what venues offer the best Pennsylvania Dutch food....how can we showcase the products that are produced in PA...and more. So, you see, we need everyone's input to make this event the success we know it can be.

Most of our lead coordinator positions are filled. We are still looking for a Finance Coordinator to work with Ed Zug, our Treasurer. This individual will be responsible for staying within budget, fundraising, and auditing. We are also looking for someone to lead the Public Relations and Education areas. The Public Relations Coordinator will be working with the Publicity, Hospitality, Welcome Host (Transportation to Lancaster), Optional Tours, Delegates, and Promotions (website/Social Media) Chairman. The Education Coordinator will work hand-in-hand with the chairman of the Advisor and Young Farmer Seminars, Contests, Tours, and Tour Transportation.

In addition to the committees mentioned above we also need people to fill in spots on the following committees: Banquets, Door Prizes, Entertainment, Ag Decision Makers College Panel, Auction, Guest Speakers, Exhibitors, Facilities, and Registration. Some of these committees already have chairman, and for some we are still seeking someone to lead that area.

Our hope is that you will contact us and let us know what committee(s) you would like to be involved with. You can be on several different

Continued on page 2.

EASTERN AREA NEWS

Hopefully by now the growing season and harvest are a distant memory for all of us. I think we were blessed with above average yields this year. Now is the time to address your marketing skills...the Young Farmers organization can help you in this process. Grain marketing is a great topic for a winter meeting as we have more time to focus without the distractions of harvest season.

By the time you read this we will have returned from Savannah, Georgia from the 2017 National Institute. I have served as a voting delegate during the delegate session. Ayla Blatt, from the Kutztown Young Farmers, and Nate Raudenhbush and Ethan Sanner of the Kutztown FFA chapter attended the institute and participated in the Young Ag Leaders Event, as guests of PYFA. The Georgia Young Farmers have a very large state organization. We enjoyed the hospitality that they extended to all of the attendees.

As you may have heard, the **Pennsylvania Young Farmers are hosting the National Institute in December 2019**. The event will be held in Lancaster at the Marriott downtown. As this is in the Southeast Region we will be looking for many of our Eastern Region members to get involved with the planning and implementation of this event. Let's show Young Farmers from around the country that Pennsylvania has a lot to offer and that they will remember their experience for a long time. Be sure to read the article from the institute chairmen to see how you can get involved.

In February we look forward to our state conference to be held at Seven Springs in Somerset County. I hope to see many of our SE Region chapter members in attendance. It will be a great conference filled with learning opportunities at tours and during our educational seminars. See you there!

If any of the Southeastern Region chapters have a program, banquet, or other event on your calendar be sure to let me know as I would love to attend. You can email me at sannerfarm@aol.com or by cell 610-334-4275.

Sincerely,

Ken Sanner

Eastern Area Vice President

"NYFEA" continued from page 1.

committees, as the commitment level for some of these areas will vary as far as when you will be needed to help (prior to the institute/at the institute) and the amount of time you will need to commit to. Each committee is asked to work together in the planning stages and then report back to the entire committee at our Institute Planning Meetings. We will have quarterly meetings over the next year....and as we get closer we will have more frequent meetings. Our next committee meeting will be in December when the PYFA Board of Directors meet. We will also have an Institute Committee Meeting at Seven Springs during the Winter Conference. Details will be forthcoming for both meetings. Be sure to contact us with your contact information so you can be included on the committee distribution list.

Each and every one of us has talents that will be useful as we move forward with this endeavor to host the best institute that we can. We have had some great state conventions over the years and we know there are some very competent people in our organization. Please reach out to us and let us know which committees you would like to be on. If you have an interest in being a Coordinator or Committee Chairman we encourage you to contact us asap so that we can fill those spots first. We have listed our contact information below and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Pennsylvania Proud, 2019 NYFEA Institute Co-Chairman

Denise Sanner
sannerfarm@aol.com
610-334-1624 (cell)
610-683-5025 (home)

Dan Wilkinson
danwilkinson96@gmail.com
717-752-5302 (cell)
717-334-1475 (home)

Somerset County Mobile Food Bank

The Community Service Project, during the Conference this year, will be monetary donations to the Somerset Mobile Food Bank.

The Somerset County Mobile Food Bank is a free food distribution intended to bring fresh produce and other items to those in Somerset County who have a limited income and a lack of or limited transportation.

The Somerset County Mobile Food Bank serves the communities of Berlin, Boswell, Central City, Confluence, Hollsopple, Hooversville, Meyersdale, Rockwood, Somerset and Windber.

WESTERN REGION *Notes*

Busy Summer; busy Fall; busy Western Region! The farmers have been busy harvesting their crops. In August, Berlin held their annual picnic at the Community Grove and had an auction after the potluck dinner. Proceeds from the auction went into the County fund for expenses from the state conference.

Somerset County Young Farmers held an indoor picnic/fundraiser at Hoss's in Somerset for the same reason.

We've had several fundraisers, including a chicken BBQ, a hoagie sale, a couple Cash Cow events at Hoss's and a ham dinner at the Berlin Community Building. State, county and local chapters put display booths up at both the Somerset County Fair and the Berlin Fair. Proceeds from premiums won went into the County fund also. Shown here are some pictures of our fair booths and hoagie-making so you can see how hard we've been working.

We've had several meetings and are gearing up for a successful State Conference at Seven Springs in February. Hope to see you there! – JUDY CRONER

The Solanco Young Farmers corn test plot was harvested on October 28, 2017. One half of the plot was sprayed with fungicide when it was two feet tall. The sprayed corn yielded 243 bushels per acre and the unsprayed half yielded 227 bushels per acre.

2018 WINTER CONFERENCE TOURS

Several interesting tours are planned for the winter conference:

TUESDAY TOURS

Founded in 1995, **Guy Chemical Company, Inc.** specializes in developing and formulating silicone sealants, silicone greases and two part epoxy adhesives. Guy Chemical is also a dedicated contract packager offering blister packing and other types of secondary packaging for the consumer and industrial markets. The company manufactures products for the automotive, industrial and home consumer markets.

With over 20 years of experience in formulating, compounding and packaging, Guy Chemical ensures the highest levels of quality for its customers. Our staff is experienced in providing formulating, raw material procurement, package/art design, filling and secondary packaging. Guy Chemical is your low cost source for quality silicone and epoxy adhesives and greases.

Baer Brothers Maple Camp is a maple producing, family operated and owned farm. They own and rent over 4,000 taps. Each spring, They put a new tap in their maple trees as the winter ends and spring returns. They boil this precious sap into a delicious maple syrup over a wood fired evaporator. Many weekends, They create delicious treats of spotza or sugar on snow and invite friends, neighbors, and visitors to view their maple syrup as it boils. Year round, they offer various grades of maple syrup to their customers in a variety of take home containers, from plastic to decorative glass. In addition to the syrup, they create and sell maple confections of maple cream, sugar, and candy, all made of pure maple syrup. They boil February through March. Tours are given by request. They also assist new and established customers with their maple production needs.

THURSDAY MORNING TOUR

Located on approximately 1,000 acres in Somerset, PA, the **International Conservation Center**, or ICC, is North America's premier conservation, research, education, breeding, and training facility, specializing in the care and breeding of African elephants. The ICC is the only center of its kind with such a strong focus on this beautiful and threatened animal.

ROCKWOOD MILL SHOPPES & OPERA HOUSE

Spouses are in for a treat on Wednesday with lunch and a show at historic Rockwood Mill. Originally built as a lumber mill in 1904, it fell into disrepair but was restored to its former glory at the turn of this century. You'll find unique, handmade and American items in the Shoppes, as well as antique treasures.

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

WEDNESDAY

Tammy Colt has been a **Regional Wildlife Diversity Biologist** for the Pennsylvania Game Commission since 2005, covering the ten counties of PA's Southwest Region. As an RWDB, her primary duties involve the management of Pennsylvania's bird and mammal species of greatest conservation need — approximately 100 species.

She works with public and private landowners to develop habitat management plans and provide guidance for habitat improvements that benefit declining species. In addition, she assists with research and monitoring of these species; participates in the PGC's prescribed fire program to better manage habitats; and presents programs to educate the public about species of greatest conservation need.

Phil Martz,Jr., Lineman for REC
with 24 years experience:
POWER LINE DEMONSTRATION

High voltage demonstration on how electricity is distributed from a substation to your home. Including safety simulation on responding to accidents involving fires, automobiles, tractors and farm equipment.

In addition, there will be a simulated fault demonstration involving tree limbs, kites, balloons, and other fault causes, ending with how to properly hook up a generator during a power outage.

MiField Analytics Team,
Justin Croner
Many changes have happened in farming over the last few years due to new innovations in technology. Everywhere you turn you hear terms like "Big Data" and see new products like drones. The quest to produce more crops on less acres has led to a high tech revolution in farming. From sensors that detect and identify weeds to field computers that control the seed population based on soil conditions. It is happening fast and sometimes is confusing and intimidating. But those who ignore it, miss out on the opportunity to increase their return on investment and produce a top crop.

Justin Croner is the manager of the MiField Analytics Team, the precision farming division of Growmark FS LLC. He will show us some of the new technologies in agriculture today and ways that we can use those technologies to increase your yields.

CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT

Our entertainment for the Tuesday evening banquet will be provided by TCP Magic. Gary Weimer is TCP Magic's owner and principle entertainer. He is best known in the agricultural community as a teacher of agriculture and Young Farmer advisor. However, he has been a magician even longer than the forty-two years he has been involved in agricultural education. He mixes comedy and classic magic in a down-home style, delighting young and old alike.

Gary performs for family audiences, fairs, festivals, corporate and club events throughout western Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. Currently he is preparing an educational show that will combine his talents as a magician and an ag educator. His "Ag Is Magic" show will explain the importance of farming and agriculture to adults and children who may have very little knowledge of modern agricultural methods.

Magician Gary Weimer

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

From your friends at the
Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

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

Pennsylvania Young Farmers

2018 WINTER CONFERENCE

Hosted by Somerset County Young Farmers

February 6-8, 2018

Seven Springs Mountain Resort and Conference Center
Champion, PA

		MEMBER	SPOUSE
FULL CONFERENCE PACKAGE (without lodging)			
Regular Registration – Postmarked by Jan. 10, 2018	$125	_____	_____
Late Registration – Postmarked after Jan. 10, 2018	$140	_____	_____
DAILY REGISTRATION			
Tuesday	$75	_____	_____
Wednesday	$75	_____	_____
Thursday	$75	_____	_____
PARTIAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION			
Tuesday, February 6			
Lunch	$20	_____	_____
Dinner	$40	_____	_____
Wednesday, February 7			
Lunch	$20	_____	_____
Dinner	$40	_____	_____
Thursday, February 8			
Lunch	$20	_____	_____
SPOUSE PROGRAM (Wednesday)			
Lunch & Show at Rockwood Mill Shoppes & Opera House	$20	_____	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: Payable to: "Somerset County Young Farmers" $_____

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____ Chapter _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail registration form & payment to:
Greg Croner • 126 Bronco Drive • Berlin, PA 15530

HOTEL INFORMATION:
For reservations, contact Seven Springs Hotel, 777 Water Wheel Dr., Champion, PA,15622 • 866-437-1300
Rooms are held under Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association.
There is also a link on the website, www.payoungfarmers.com, to make room reservations online.

Betsy Huber
362 University Road
Lincoln University, PA 19352

PYFA STATE OFFICERS 2017

PRESIDENT
Jason Rentzel
241 Rentzel Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-503-7732
plowboy66@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT
Denise Leydig
594 Cumberland Hwy.
Berlin, PA 15530
814-267-5208
farm2cruise92@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Becky Nas
30 Miller Road
Gettysburg PA 17325
717-253-3605
craigvnas@hotmail.com

TREASURER
Ed Zug
390 Peters Creek Road
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
717-548-3178
edzug@frontiernet.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR
Jennifer Balmer
125 Old Jonestown Road
Lebanon, PA 17046
717-480-6978
jam5019@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Debbie Zug
390 Peters Creek Road
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
717-548-3178
edzug@frontiernet.net

VICE PRESIDENTS:

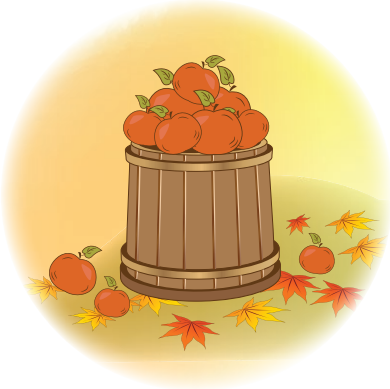
EASTERN REGION
Dan Fox
P.O. Box 57
Ephrata, PA 17522
717-278-3471
oneeyefox@aol.com

Ken Sanner
14 Pink Valley Road
Kutztown, PA 19530
610-683-5025
sannerfarm@aol.com

NORTHERN REGION
Stephen Kline
P.O. Box 54
Beaver Springs, PA 17812
570-658-6592 h
570-765-5364 c
sdkline@verizon.net

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
Lizzie Bailey
13 N. Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-530-8000
lbailey13@comcast.net

WESTERN REGION
Judy Croner
126 Bronco Drive
Berlin, PA 15530
814-279-4988
jcroner57@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Betsy Huber
362 University Road
Lincoln University, PA 19352
484-459-1957
payoungfarmers@hotmail.com

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION ADVISER
Christopher Weller
cweller2757@gmail.com