



# CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Spring 2023

[www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com)

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#### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## PA YOUNG FARMERS 2023 WINTER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



The PYFA Winter Conference took place at the Gettysburg Hotel February 7-9, 2023. Three days of educational tours and workshops were enjoyed by about 50 attendees.

Tuesday morning four contestants for the Spokesperson for Agriculture award traveled to the local Weis Market to talk to shoppers about agriculture and where

their food comes from. One lucky shopper was selected and PYFA purchased all the food items in their cart, demonstrating how much of their grocery bill was comprised of non-food items.

Tuesday's tours began at K-Tool, founded in 1979 by Dale Keller in his garage. The company manufactures indexable carbide cutting tools for use in the metalworking industry. K-Tool is in the top ten private tool manufacturers in the world. They have 24 employees and sell through 360 distributors across the U.S. They make special order tools and respond faster than their larger competitors.



K-Tool



The next stop was Miller Chemical, manufacturer of fertilizers and adjuvants for growers globally



Miller Chemical

for more than 80 years. All of their products are made at this location and are shipped to more than 90 countries with custom mixes and labels. There are 18 employees in the plant and 4 in their warehouse.

On return to the Hotel, the four Spokesperson contestants delivered their speeches on the topic "What Agriculture Means to Me." All presented excellent talks, but the winner of the trip to the National Young Farmers Education Association institute in Texas was Penelope Brosius. Second place- Makayla Keller, third- Theresa Feese, and fourth- Makayla Hess.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michelle Dietrich

Let me introduce myself. My name is Michelle Dietrich. I am married to Anthony Dietrich and have four children and four grandchildren with another one on the way. I was born and raised in Union County but currently live in Snyder County.

Spring is getting here! While for a bit, it does not seem to be that way, staying positive that the sunshine and warmth will arrive in full swing is counting our blessings!

I as your new PYFA President set a goal of improving our membership with younger people and improving our local chapter involvement, so the history and teachings of this organization can continue progressing to educate the generations that will follow us.

I am asking each one of you in membership of our organization that if you can get one young person to join your chapters and attend your meetings, or even if you can get your local chapters to participate once again, you would assist our organizations in planting the seeds to cultivate our history and learning.

Fifty years ago my father-in-law David Dietrich was the PYFA President. Through the Mifflinburg Chapter of Young Farmers and being a part of PYFA, I have learned a great deal about agriculture among other interesting parts of it. I continue to enjoy learning about farming through my husband and enjoy the people in this organization. I am honored to be your President for 2023.

The time is now to Plant and Grow!

*Michelle Dietrich*

*"...if you can get one young person to join your chapters and attend your meetings... you would assist our organizations in planting the seeds to cultivate our history and learning."*

### Message from Past President Becky Nas

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that two months have already passed by since we gathered in Gettysburg. It was so wonderful seeing everyone who joined us! The state board recently met for our quarterly meeting and it sounds like there are many great events happening across the state! We are once again joining forces with PAAE for our July gathering and board meeting. We will join them on their "tour day" during their conference on Wednesday, July 12th. All PYFA members are welcome to join.

It is my hope that you are all well and that this season of new life is encouraging to us all.

Scan this QR code with your phone for more information and to register!



### PYFA WILL ATTEND PAAE

All Young Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend the annual conference of the PA Association of Agriculture Educators this summer at Cumberland Valley High School, Mechanicsburg PA. **Wednesday, July 12** is tour day, and young farmers will participate in the tours beginning at 8:30 a.m. Choose from three tours:

**Cumberland County Tour** – Land O'Lakes & TCO Fly Fishing lessons

**Dauphin County Tour** – Milton Hershey School & Cassel Vineyards

**Perry County Tour** – Wonder Why Farm (swine, poultry & beef)

Following lunch, the PYFA State Board will meet at the school. The Banquet that evening begins at 6:30 pm at Farm 1840. Registration for the tours, lunch and board meeting is \$35 (select "Other" on form); including Banquet is \$70 (select "Wednesday only") **Register using this link: <https://paffa.org/paae-summer-conference>** or the QR code on the left.

***We hope to see a good turnout of Young Farmers for this day!***

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

### EASTERN REGION NEWS

Dale Hawkins

Manheim Young Farmers, along with the FFA, went to the Baltimore port on Tuesday, March 28th. A great time was had by all. There were 30 people in attendance. On the way back we stopped at the Utz potato chip plant in Hanover. Thanks to Brooke Griffin and Jonathan Werner for planning this event, and taking the time to make sure everything went smoothly.

As everyone heads out with their equipment to the fields and roads, keep safety first and have a wonderful spring.

### KUTZTOWN YOUNG FARMERS NEWS

Ken Sanner

The Kutztown Young Farmers ended their monthly meetings in March. Highlights included the pesticide meeting, led by advisor Jon Stutzman, and a program put on by Lamont Garber informing us about the work of the Stroud Water Research Center. The Valentines Day dinner in February was a big success as always. We ended our winter education with a visit to Jason and Casey Rice's dairy farm and farm store in Kempton.



Members of Kutztown Young Farmers listen to Jason and Casey Rice tell about their farm store experiences.

**PYFA  
AWARDS  
TWO \$500  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
THIS YEAR**  
*Congratulations,  
ladies!*

Chosen from many applicants, the winners are **Jordan Anderson** and **Rebecca Lehman**.

**Jordan Anderson** is from Centre Hall, PA and is completing her sophomore year at the University of Wyoming, majoring in Agriculture Communications. She is active in the UW Collegiate Farm Bureau, Campus Ventures Ministry Group, Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow, Alpha Tau Alpha, and the Wyoming Collegiate Cattlemen's Association. She is a graduate of Penns Valley High School 2021.

**Rebecca Lehman** is from Nescopeck, PA and is graduating this June from Central Columbia High School. She competed in FFA Creed Speaking and Senior Prepared Public Speaking at the National FFA Convention. In FFA she also participated in livestock judging, agronomy, horticulture, land judging, employment skills, ag sales, creed speaking, and senior prepared speaking. She has served as treasurer and president of her FFA chapter. She plans to attend Penn State in the fall to study Animal Science.

The deadline for scholarship applications is February 15 each year. Application & details are on the website, [payoungfarmers.com/contests.html](http://payoungfarmers.com/contests.html).

### 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**



# Somerset County Young Farmers Second Annual *st. patrick's Day Banquet*

DONNA L. PAUL

Ninety-two members and families of the Somerset County Young Farmers (Rockwood and Berlin Chapters) met for their Second Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet at the Berlin Brethren Church on March 16th, 2023.

Samuel Dively, Berlin Young Farmer Advisor, was the MC for the evening and welcomed the group. Gary Weimer, Rockwood Young Farmer Advisor, gave the invocation. A delicious Swiss Steak Dinner was served by the Mission Team of the church.

The group thanked the Mission Team for serving the meal. Judy Bird, Chairperson of the Mission Team, gave remarks regarding a recent mission trip to India. The group also continues to serve over 300 people each month at the free Hospitality Meal held the last Monday of each month in the church.

Samuel introduced special guests including Denise Leydig, State Young Farmer Public Relations Director, Coleen Dawson, Somerset County Commissioner, Molly Metzgar,

Acting Somerset County District Attorney, and State Representative Carl Walker Metzgar who was the speaker for the evening. Carl had the group mesmerized with his very informative remarks regarding his leadership in the House of Representatives. His comments were not only educational, but humorous as well. He gave the group an opportunity to ask questions.

Leanne Calvert addressed the group regarding the disbandment of the local Sheep Producers Chapter in Somerset County and expressed the need to give the Chapter's funds to help farmers who are now beginning new sheep operations in the county. She welcomed the groups comments regarding how to contact these farmers.

Door Prizes, provided by Donna Paul, were awarded to those who were lucky enough to have the Luck of the Irish and have their ticket number drawn.

A wonderful evening of good food, fellowship, and fun was enjoyed by all who attended.



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Congratulations and thank you to all! (Pictured here with PA Honey Queen Paige Ryan.)

Tuesday's banquet featured entertainment by Jacob the Amishman, who involved the audience in his comedy show. Many beautiful items were auctioned to benefit the PYFA programs.



Wednesday morning PA Secretary of Agriculture visited the group prior to the delegate business meeting, where new officers were elected for the year:

President Michelle Dietrich, President Elect Anthony Dietrich, Past President Becky Nas, Secretary Tammy Rentzel, Treasurer Ed Zug, Membership Chair Debbie Zug, and Public Relations Chair Denise Leydig. Regional Vice Presidents were reelected: Eastern- Dale Hawkins, Western- Keith Weimer, South Central- Jason Rentzel, North Central- Matt Dersham. Betsy Huber will continue as Executive Secretary.

The spouses spent the day at a local shop making personalized charcuterie boards, wooden decorated "grazing" boards filled with cheeses, meats, fruits, etc. which they enjoyed for lunch.

Workshops featured Allison Maloney from Agri-Safe who spoke about their

2023 new PYFA officers



resources for rural mental health. Agri-Safe works under a USDA grant through the Farm & Ranch Stress Assistance Network, to provide help for farmers who may be struggling with stress and suicidal thoughts.

Zack Bolitho, National Park Service representative from Gettysburg National

the host for the evening banquet where attendees enjoyed a feast of delicious food in a rustic barn setting. The Richard Hoppes Award was presented to Greg and Judy Croner, long-time members of the Berlin-Brothersvalley Young Farmers chapter for their many contributions to PYFA.

The Richard Hoppes Award winners



Military Park, spoke about the changing management of agricultural lands within the park which totals 6032 acres, plus the Eisenhower National Historic site of 690 acres, 90% of which is farmed. The Park Service tries to balance the historical significance of the 1860s with environmental concerns of today.

The third workshop was presented by Deb and her daughter Courtney Smith, owners of Fields of Adventure farm, a popular agri-tourism spot near Gettysburg. They spoke of the good, the bad, and the ugly of agri-tourism, their challenges and opportunities in their effort to educate and entertain the public.

Hickory Bridge Farm restaurant was

Thursday the group traveled to the recently opened World War II American Experience museum just outside of Gettysburg. Attendees spent the morning on a guided tour of the many displays, followed by a box lunch. Everyone then said their goodbyes and look forward to next year, Feb. 9-10, 2024 in Mifflinburg.





# 2023 NYFEA INSTITUTE

**Bryan-College Station, Texas**  
**December 6-9, 2023**



## **NYFEA invites you to join us at the 57th Annual Institute in Bryan - College Station**

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. 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, you are welcome!

### **NATIONAL YOUNG FARMER EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

The Association for Educating Agricultural Leaders works to answer the question:

***"Where will  
we find the  
next generation  
of agricultural  
producers and  
young ag  
leaders?"***

### **NYFEA INSTITUTE SCHEDULE**

The trip to Texas (December 6-9) will be a wonderful experience of agricultural learning and cultural enlightenment:

**Wednesday** will include optional tours featuring unique aspects of a Texas Christmas and the local area.

**Thursday** will be a day of local tours. Every Institute attendee will be provided access to an assortment of great museums, art galleries, cultural centers, etc.

**Friday** will be a day of agricultural experiences.

**Saturday** will feature the Agricultural Decision Makers College, Ag Communication and Ag Spokesperson Contests and a fun and enjoyable evening at the stadium of the Texas A&M Aggies - Kyle Field.

### **HOTEL & ON-LINE REGISTRATION**

#### **Hotel Reservation Information**

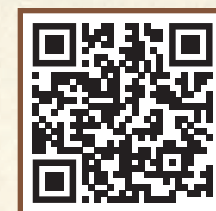
Rooms and meetings are at the Texas A&M Hotel and Conference Center in Bryan-College Station.

\$119/night • phone: 979-260-2235.

**Register now** to be sure to get a room at the headquarters hotel!

If the rooms are identified as sold out, please know that we have a backup plan and do as follows:

1. Go ahead and secure your registration for the Institute at [www.nyfea.org](http://www.nyfea.org)
2. Let NYFEA know that you need hotel rooms by texting guests' names, arrival date, departure date and number of rooms needed to 334-546-9951. We will secure a room for you at either the main property or one of the backup locations.



Scan this with  
your phone  
to register!

### **REGISTRATION DETAILS:**

Full Institute registration is \$375 per person for activities.

Daily registration is \$155 perday.

Student registration is \$450 inclusive of hotel rooms for shared rooming. Students must attend the Ag Communication Award Program and YALE Event.

### **2023 INSTITUTE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

Go to [nyfea.org/institute-2023](http://nyfea.org/institute-2023) and click the "Buy Now" button to pay for your registration. You will receive confirmation of payment. Each person must also complete the email submission form.

If on-line is not available, email [nyfea-main@nyfea.org](mailto:nyfea-main@nyfea.org) and a pdf will be sent for mail submission.





Betsy Huber  
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Lincoln University, PA 19352

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### CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE!

*Send to:*  
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