

# A Guide for Adult Agricultural Education and Young Farmer Programs in Pennsylvania

A project of: Vision for Pennsylvania Agricultural Education  
in Cooperation with  
Pennsylvania Department of Education  
Pennsylvania State University  
Department of Agricultural and Extension Education

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# Preface

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Historically, societies survive and nations prosper based, in part, on their ability to feed themselves. As the world becomes more globally connected and developing countries improve their peoples' standards of living, the need for safe, high-quality food dramatically increases. International markets will impact the agriculture industry to meet ever increasing demands. A rapid rate of technological advancements will be needed to keep pace with demand. Adult education in agriculture must play an important role in addressing the challenges we face, especially with the need to keep pace with the rapid rate of change. There will always be a need to not only develop a workforce but also to provide opportunities for educating and updating those individuals involved in our nation's number one industry, agriculture.

The story of adult agricultural education and the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association (PYFA) is summarized in this publication. The role of PYFA members is reflected in collaborative efforts among all organizations that have similar missions. The contents are designed to help agriculture industry representatives, young/adult farmers, agriculture education instructors, school administrators, school directors and consumers understand the purposes, functions, and operation of adult programs and the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association. Also, this handbook will assist local young/adult farmer organizations plan educational programs and activities.

This handbook was prepared by the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, agricultural education staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Department of Agricultural and Extension Education of the Pennsylvania State University, agricultural educators and agriculture industry representatives.

Christopher Weller  
Agriculture Education Advisor

# Adult Education in Agriculture



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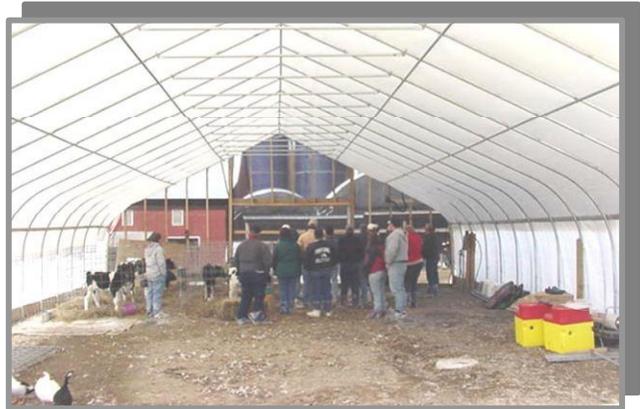
Pennsylvania  
Young Farmers Association  
Pennsylvania's Association for  
Adult Agricultural Education

## THE IMPORTANCE OF ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education can be traced back to biblical times. "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding." (Proverbs 4:7)

Adult education addresses three distinct sets of needs and goals: the needs and goals of individuals, the needs and goals of the institution, and the needs and goals of society. Knowles (1970) commented regarding peoples' needs concerning social involvement. "Every society has used adult education processes to continue the development of the kind of citizens visualized to be required for the maintenance and progress of that society; and the perception of each kind of adult required is different for each society.

Winston Churchill, one of the world's greatest leaders in the 20th century, stated it best. "The future of the world is left to highly educated races who alone can handle the scientific apparatus necessary for prominence in peace or survival in war." There is little question adult education in this country is only at the beginning of a period of rapid growth. Adult education enrollment in the public education system has indeed continued to grow proportionately faster than the general population.



## OVERVIEW OF ADULT EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

Adult agriculture education started in the United States after the American Revolution with the beginning of local and regional agricultural societies. In 1860, the United States Agricultural Society reported that there were 941 agricultural organizations in existence at that time.

The passage of the Smith-Hughes Act (1917) sanctioned public school system involvement in the educational process for farmers. Specifically, the Smith-Hughes Act endorsed public school educational programs for present and prospective farmers. Subsequent vocational legislation has emphasized the importance of local adult vocational education programs.

The adult education program in agriculture has reached a significant level of importance. Local public school systems should accept responsibility for offering adult education programs that meet the needs of the agriculture/agribusiness industry. Generation and application of agricultural knowledge demand that agriculturists pursue education beyond high school. Local adult agriculture programs can address that demand. Therefore, as provided in federal vocational legislation, special classes should be provided for adults.

## MISSION

The mission of adult education in agriculture is two-fold-- to provide the opportunity for educating adults for entry into agricultural occupations, and for educating adults to improve the job skills that empower them to be more productive and efficient in their current jobs or entrepreneurial enterprises.

## GOALS OF ADULT EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE

The adult education in agriculture program provides individual and group organized instruction to agriculturists and consumers in the local community to...

- Become successfully established or to improve their current agricultural status.
- Improve understanding and communication between the general public consumer and the agricultural community regarding common concerns and issues.
- Improve the managerial efficiency through sound decision making for those engaged in production and non-production agriculture careers.

## BENEFITS OF ADULT AGRICULTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Adult agriculture education programs are key in...

### Promoting Your School

- Identifying the school as the community education center.
- Maintaining closer communications between the school and the local community.
- Keeping the local agriculture education instructor current with local agricultural practices.
- Generating greater support for the in-school agriculture program.
- Creating a timely course of study for the in-school agriculture program using input from the local agriculture community.
- Improving utilization of school facilities and resources.



### Enhancing Local Economies

- Stimulating the local economy (research has indicated a return to the local economy of \$9.00 for each \$1.00 invested in adult agriculture programs.)
- Developing communications and partnerships between various agricultural agencies, and agricultural and non-agricultural sectors of the community.
- Improving local living conditions through service projects conducted by adults additionally attracts both industry and people to the community.

- Improving economic efficiency of operations (research has indicated a return of \$3.00 to the local farmer for each dollar invested in adult education) provides relatively less expensive agricultural products.

#### Providing Students Opportunities to.....

- Develop leadership ability.
- Evaluate new ideas before adoption.
- Stay up-to-date with latest developments.
- Participate in farm family educational activities.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF LOCAL LEADERS, ADVISORS, & MEMBERS

The School Administration and School Board should assist in...

- Developing program(s) with input from the agriculture education teacher(s), the occupational advisory committee and its community.
- Securing and allocating financial resources for required facilities and equipment.
- Providing an advisory council for establishing and continually advising the adult/young farmer program.
- Providing agriculture education teacher(s) with sufficient time to adequately serve the adult/young farmer educational needs.
- Promoting the adult/young farmer program.
- Evaluating teachers and reviewing, at least annually, the progress and status of the program with the teacher(s) and advisory committee.
- Completing reports and records necessary for administering the program.

The Agriculture Education Teacher is responsible for...

- Becoming familiar with the funding proposal for the adult/young farmer education program.
- Working cooperatively with the occupational advisory council in determining community and individual needs and evaluating the program.
- Organizing classes, providing instruction, or securing resource personnel for instruction.
- Making follow-up visits to class members' businesses or farms to assist them in applying knowledge and skills through individualized instruction.
- Maintaining records and submitting reports as needed.
- Securing enrollments for the adult/young farmer education program, and assisting in organizing, operating, and advising the local chapter.
- Promoting and publicizing program activities, accomplishments, and individuals.

Local Members are responsible for...

- Being involved in planning, conducting, and attending local activities.
- Communicating the needs of the program with school board members and administrators.
- Recruiting new members.
- Affiliating with the state and national associations.

## DEVELOPING THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM



The process of developing an adult program is similar to that used for developing secondary programs. Before proceeding refer to the [Vision for Pennsylvania Agricultural Education, a Handbook for Program Planning and Curriculum Development](#) as a tool to assist you in development efforts. There are no hard and fast rules for what a program should look like or what courses should be offered other than designing a program that meets the needs of the school's adult students, community, and industry.

When developing an instructional program focus on two components: a delivery model and curriculum content. The delivery model should include but not be limited to such variables as when the courses would be offered, how many would be offered, where they would be offered, and the instructor's role in facilitating program delivery. To enhance the learning process along with a classroom component the delivery model can include work-based learning components such as registered apprenticeships and internships. Some schools provide adults with the opportunity to take courses during the regularly scheduled secondary agricultural education program offerings. These types of programs are most prevalent in Area Vocational Technical Schools/Career and Technology Centers. Other programs are designed as a series of monthly meetings held in the evening, with special workshops and field days conducted throughout the year.

### SAMPLE PROGRAMS OF WORK

#### Production Emphasis

Month	Topic
January	Corn Production
February	Futures Contracting
February	Winter PYFA Conference
March	Intensive Grazing
April	Precision Farming
May	Building Ventilation
July	Chapter Business Meeting (Family Picnic)
July	Summer Conference (State Assoc.)
August	Ag Progress Days, Penn State
August	On Farm Field Day
September	Farm-City Program
October	Financial Planning
November	Pesticide Safety
December	New Farm Technology

#### Horticulture Emphasis

Month	Topic
January	Lawn Improvement & Management
February	Propagating Ornamental Plants
March	Managing Horticulture Business
April	Selection, Culture, and Management of Fruit Trees
May	Lawn Seeding Clinic
June	Insect/Disease Control on Ornamentals
July	Pesticide Certification for Landscape Gardener
August	Greenhouse Integrated Pest Management
November	Development the Herb Garden
December	Designing the Home Landscape

(These Programs of Work represent traditional delivery models using the monthly evening meeting approach)

Curriculum content can be determined by using the [Workforce Development Standards for Agriculture](#), found in the [Determining Curriculum](#) section of the [Vision for Pennsylvania Agricultural Education, A Handbook for Program Planning and Curriculum Development](#) mentioned previously as a starting point. It is very important to use advisory committees composed of industry representatives, school administrators and adult students to provide valuable input into curriculum content needs and program delivery methods.

Other options for program delivery model components may include certification programs offered by government agencies and industry organizations such as:

- ❖ Safe Pesticide Certification
- ❖ Pennsylvania Environmental Agricultural Conservation Certification of Excellence
- ❖ National Pork Producers Council, Pork Quality Assurance Program
- ❖ National Pork Producers Council, Environmental Quality Assurance Program
- ❖ Nutrient Management Certification
- ❖ Beginning Farmer Registered Apprenticeship
- ❖ National Beef Quality Assurance Program

For more information about Registered Apprenticeships and certification programs refer to the [Resources](#) section.

Several organizations and groups such as the Center for Dairy Excellence and The Pennsylvania State University sponsor webinars on various topics of educational value that would be of interest to agricultural producers.

The effectiveness of the program, however, is often determined by the time commitment set by the cooperating school district. Staff assignments to the adult program vary from a full-time to a part-time basis. Who actually delivers the various courses offered will vary and should include, but not be limited to, the agricultural education instructor, Cooperative Extension personnel, post-secondary institutions and/or experts from industry.

## COMMON ELEMENTS OF MANY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

- Support from school board and administration.
- Scheduled time for the teacher/advisor to conduct the young farmer program.
- Active participation with organizations like the FFA & 4-H for community service and recruitment.
- Member involvement and participation in all aspects of the program.
- Monthly meetings on the same day and time each month.
- Monthly newsletters as a way to inform members of upcoming meetings and activities.
- Structured officer formats, farm/agribusiness tours, evening meetings, and on-farm instruction.
- Guided educational planning of instruction as requested by the chapter members.
- Continued professional development for advisors.
- Community and agriculture industry involvement.

## GROUP INSTRUCTION

Although many adult agriculture groups meet monthly at local high schools or career and technology centers, group meetings may take the form of field trips to farms or agricultural industries. Meetings may be held during the day or night. Often, young farmer groups sponsor short courses or concentrated evening classes emphasizing specific subject areas. In a production agriculture adult program those areas may include quality forage production, beef marketing, dairy cattle nutrition, machinery maintenance or management decisions using farm records. Systematic group instruction is generally provided for classes of ten or more members. Moreover, short courses and monthly meetings may be part of systematic group instruction. Topic areas for group instruction result from adult enrollee and instructor input.



## INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

True education is based on meeting specific individual needs. On-site instruction, an important aspect of adult education, is an effective means of helping farmers and agribusiness people to solve immediate problems or plan growth and development. By visiting the farm or agribusiness, the instructor can easily identify problem areas and individual interests. Individual instruction provides personal supervision and builds trust between the two parties as they solve complex management problems. Ideally, the agriculture teacher visits each farmer or agribusiness at critical times during the year. Obviously, problems will vary from site to site. Future planning and record keeping are encouraged during these discussions.

Once the teacher achieves an understanding of the operation, he/she will analyze problem areas. With these in mind, the instructor can help the farm family and agribusinesses develop alternatives designed to improve management practices. During family conferences, the farmer and family choose appropriate plans. This instruction may help improve the farm or agribusiness economic situation. It will also enhance the community through economic stability and increased individual leadership.

# Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association



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## PYFA Pennsylvania's Association for Adult Agricultural Education

Mission Statement

To educate and promote the agricultural industry.

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

## History, Status, Potential

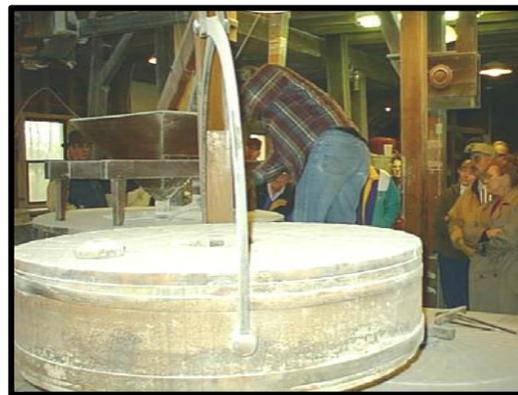
During its first fifteen years, vocational agriculture in Pennsylvania was confined to adult farmer night classes. The Great Depression stimulated young farmer classes from 1927 to 1941 because several million young men were unemployed in rural America. During World War II, classes were devoted primarily to reconditioning used farm implements. Soon after WWII the boom in veterans' agriculture training programs resulted in additional, special instructors teaching classes and providing on-the-job training.

In 1949, The Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association, organized through the veterans' classes on a county basis, held its first annual meeting at the State Farm Show. Most veterans discontinued their membership as their entitlement to subsidized training expired. Subsequently, teachers of agriculture assumed responsibility for the total adult program.

The year 1955 marked the beginning of the current Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association involvement in improved instruction, increased leadership development and enhanced community relations. In October 1954, the State Council on Education approved on-farm instruction of young/adult farmers as a regular feature of the vocational agriculture program.

Regional leadership training began in 1955, and one year later six regional vice presidents were elected to supervise and promote local association activities. The State Outstanding Young Farmer Award program was initiated in 1957.

In 1960, the annual convention date was moved to the Wednesday after Thanksgiving at the Pennsylvania State University. The change resulted in a boost in member and family attendance. Continued annual convention success is a credit to members' leadership and active involvement of local associations throughout Pennsylvania. Currently the annual meeting is held in February.



Today The Young Farmers Association serves as the primary opportunity and vehicle for providing systematic, effective, adult instruction in agriculture education. Determined at the grass roots level, it also serves as a medium for sharing public opinions and current technologies, resulting in constant upgrading of the total agriculture program in the public school system. Moreover, the association is an excellent forum for leadership development of agriculturists of all ages, thus providing a leadership pool for local government and both agricultural and non-agricultural businesses and organizations. In the 1990's and the next century, partnerships with private industries, government, educational institutions like Cooperative Extension, and strengthened bonds with agricultural youth organizations, are vitally important for the sustainability of American agriculture.

## OBJECTIVES OF PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG FARMERS' ASSOCIATION

1. To provide instructional opportunities (either classroom or on-site settings) with support from professionals to aid agriculturalists in maximum efficiency.
2. To educate the consumer in the areas of agriculture that affect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
3. To communicate with local chapters and leaders in response to their need.
4. To communicate and provide means by which local chapters and the state association can share knowledge and experiences that would be of value to PYFA chapters, members, stakeholders, and organizations outside of PYFA.
5. To provide those in production and agribusiness careers the necessary support for sound business organization, record keeping, farm laws, estate planning, etc.
6. To provide state officer leadership training, as well as provide leadership development for all members.
7. To provide educational networking opportunities through recreational and social activities.
8. To communicate and partner with agricultural organizations to enhance cooperation and learning at all levels of agricultural education.

## OFFICERS

State association officers are elected annually by majority vote in a secret ballot. The eleven officers are president, president-elect, past president, 5 regional vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, and public relations director.

All elected state officers hold office for one year or until the election of their successors. The president and president-elect are limited to one-year terms; all other officers, except treasurer, shall be limited to three consecutive years in the same office or as otherwise provided in the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Constitution and by-laws.

Local chapter officers conform to the constitutional guidelines, and usually include a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and public relations director.

Current PYFA Officers are listed at [www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com).

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The advisory council is composed of the state agriculture education advisor, a representative of the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators, advisors of state officers, and industry representatives as determined by the executive committee. The advisory council provides guidance and recommendations to the Young Farmers Association and conducts annual officer training.

## MEMBERSHIP

In order to obtain a charter and state association membership local chapters must submit the following:

1. Local Constitution and by-laws conforming to the state organization documents (refer to appendix B).
2. A list of names and addresses of local officers, members, and advisor.
3. Charters are granted after application and dues are received, providing all required documents are in order.
4. Application must be made through the state agriculture education advisor, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and must be forwarded to the state association secretary for executive committee approval.
5. To reactivate a chapter, send names, addresses, and dues to the state membership chairman.
6. The contact for chapters is the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association executive secretary or the agriculture advisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

An individual may join a local chapter by enrolling in young/adult farmer classes at a school which has a chartered chapter or which can form a chartered chapter.

## DUES

State association dues are established by the state executive committee and approved by delegates at the annual winter convention usually held during February. Dues are payable January 1 of each year. A chapter can retain active membership for 90 days after the previous calendar year ends. Local dues are established by the local chapter as needed and as provided in the local constitution and by-laws. Money generated from state dues is used to advance the work of the organization, publish the newsletter, finance the state convention, advance educational programs, and provide for necessary educational activities of the state association. Lifetime membership is available, and information may be obtained by contacting the state membership chairperson. Please refer to the organization's website address of [www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com) for current dues structure and membership chairman.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Newsletter is designed to inform the members of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association of local, regional, and state events. The newsletter shares pictures and articles submitted by individual chapters from around the state, State Association updates and programs, noteworthy National Association news, addresses of state officers, and other special happenings of interest to members. Each local chapter should direct questions and submit news for publication to the current public relations director who will compile then submit for publication. This provides a great medium for state and local young farmer groups to recognize achievements, exchange ideas about educational program plans, and strengthen bonds through membership.

The responsibility for publishing the newsletter rests with the public relations director and executive secretary along with local chapters who are assisted by their advisors/teachers of agriculture for appropriate and regular information. The newsletter is currently published twice during the year with special emphasis on the pre and post-convention issues.

## PYFA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The goals and objectives of the executive secretary include:

- A. Promote the PYFA organization to educational institutions, government agencies, agricultural industries and organizations
  1. Maintain close contacts with the PA Association of Agriculture Educators.
  2. Maintain close communications with key people in agricultural related industries and organizations.
  3. Be a liaison between the Young Farmers and the
    - A. PA Department of Education Ag Ed Advisor
    - B. PA Department of Education CTSO Coordinator
    - C. PSU Department of Agriculture and Extension Education
    - D. PA Department of Agriculture
    - E. PA FFA Organization
    - F. Schools
- B. Work with Committee Chairpersons as listed in the Program of Work and any special committees appointed by the President.
- C. Work with YF advisors, school administrators, school boards and PDE.
  1. Provide communication to local YF Advisors and Ag instructors relevant to improving the Young Farmers' organizational objectives.
  2. Oversee and provide information for different educational programs.
- D. Attend the PYFA Executive Board Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings and both state Educational Conferences.
  1. Also attend some local chapter meetings and other ag organization meetings as a representative as requested by the board.
- E. Attend both NYFEA Educational Conferences as a representative to the Executive Secretary sessions
  1. Participate in NYFEA conference calls and assist with enhancing membership participation in these activities.
  2. Maintain communication lines with the NYFEA offices.
- F. Search for grant sources and submit grant applications for funding of PYFA operation and educational activities.
- G. Perform other duties as appropriate to fulfill the above functions.

## STATE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association sponsors two statewide meetings. The annual PYFA Winter Institute is held during February at various locations throughout Pennsylvania. The program content includes agricultural industry tours, speakers and panel presentations, presentation of awards, officer election and conduct of state organization business. Each local chapter designates delegates to participate in the conduct of the state organization business.

The annual PYFA Summer Institute is held during July, rotates among regions of the state, and is often organized in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators. The program includes educational tours, a business meeting, and picnic.

## OFFICIAL COLORS AND EMBLEM

The official colors of The Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association are royal blue and corn gold. The emblem background illustrates that the Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association is a state organization. Four silhouettes, standing on books of knowledge, embody the young farmers' belief in education. The contoured fields depict the members' pride in well-kept farmstead, efficient production, and conservation of natural resources. Finally, the rising sun represents hope of a bright tomorrow.



## REGIONAL DIVISION

Pennsylvania is divided into four regions providing equal leadership opportunities throughout the Commonwealth as well as facilitating time and travel of officers and advisory committee members who counsel local chapters within their regions.



All **Past Presidents** of PYFA are listed at [www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com). The immediate past president serves as an officer for one year after his/her term as president.

**Honorary members** of PYFA may be elected by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association. An Honorary member is any individual interested in the improvement of agricultural conditions in Pennsylvania. He/she may not vote or hold office. Usually only one Honorary member is elected each year. All Honorary members are listed at [www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com).

# **Constitution and Bylaws**

## **Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, Inc.**

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

The Constitution of PYFA establishes the name, purposes, organization, types of membership, officers, meetings, and dues of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association.

The By-laws detail the organization of chapters, election of officers and their duties, official colors, and the Opening and Closing Ceremony for meetings. They also establish an awards program.

# PYFA Awards Program



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Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association  
Pennsylvania's Association for Adult Agricultural Education

# PYFA Awards Program

To honor young/adult farmers who excel in leadership and in agriculture, The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association provides and sponsors various awards. The awards presented annually at the winter state convention are listed below. Applications may be found on the website, [www.payoungfarmers.com/resources](http://www.payoungfarmers.com/resources).

- [Outstanding Chapter Award](#)
- [Outstanding Young Farmer Award - Over 30 \(Regional and State\)](#)
- [Outstanding Young Farmer Award - Under 30 \(Regional and State\)](#)
- [PYFA Community Service Award - \(Regional and State\)](#)
- [Spokesperson for Agriculture Award](#)
- Honorary Young Farmer
- Richard C. Hoppes Award
- [Outstanding Advisor Award](#)
- Retiring President's Award
- Retiring Officer Certificates
- Institute Host Chapter Award
- Institute Theme Award
- New Chapter Charters
- Chapter award for the largest number of registrants attending the State Institute



## AWARD GUIDELINES

Only one application may be submitted per chapter for each award.

Deadlines - The completed awards forms must be in the hands of the Public Relations Director by **November 15** of the year preceding the state winter convention where they will be awarded.

Applicants may receive each award only once.

## AWARD APPLICATIONS

Applications are available at [www.payoungfarmers.com/resources](http://www.payoungfarmers.com/resources) and may be downloaded and submitted to the public relations director whose contact information is found on the website as well. It will be requested that winners also submit photos that can be used in a Powerpoint presentation at the time the award is given.

# National Young Farmers Education Association



The Association for EDUCATING AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

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# NYFEA

The National Young Farmers Educational Association's Mission is to educate agricultural leaders through leadership training, agricultural education, and community service opportunities.

## Programs, Services and Opportunities for Young Farmers and Ag Leaders

NYFEA is an association committed to educating agricultural leaders and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the official student organization for adult education in agriculture. The association is preparing young farmers and ag leaders, including college students and adults of all ages, to succeed in today's agricultural climate.

NYFEA offers two fantastic opportunities to learn and share knowledge of agriculture and to broaden our horizons. *Agriculture's Promise (Washington Experience)*: From visits to the historically significant and extremely motivational monuments to the discussions with key policy makers at both USDA and in Congress, the attendees have found this to be an extraordinary experience. All organizations with an emphasis group (council, committee, advisory board) focusing on training and encouraging the next generation are invited to attend. All that is required is a willingness to join in the group policy discussion. This event is hosted at the headquarters hotel and coordinated by NYFEA. In addition, individuals and groups are encouraged to canvas "the Hill" and share their story of why the United States must make a commitment to the next generation of agricultural leaders, provide better access to credit, good rural leadership support, and added funding for collegiate scholarships for rural young people. This event is in the Spring of each year.

*National Institute*: The NYFEA Institute, held annually in the Winter, serves four major purposes:

- Agricultural educational programs - Through workshops, seminars and trade shows, participants have the opportunity to refine their leadership skills, business management techniques and knowledge about technological advancements.
- National association business - During this time delegate business sessions are conducted and national officers are elected.
- Showcase outstanding agriculture, agribusiness and leadership – Tours of local agricultural industry, farms, museums and historical sites are offered. Salute programs are featured.
- Fun: National entertainers and motivational speakers uplift and encourage members.

Young leaders in state Young Farmer organizations are encouraged to attend this event so that they can witness, first-hand, the importance of agriculture outside of their own town or state. They will have the chance to chat with other young individuals and share their own experiences with one another. They will attend the YALE (Young Ag Leaders Event) and participate in the Ag Communications contest.

*National Agricultural Communication Award*: Each year contestants compete to be selected as accomplished communicators. They are selected based on successful completion of an agricultural communication exercise. This national competition promotes a refinement of the skills needed to be an effective promoter of agriculture. Winners also receive free trips to Washington for "Agriculture's Promise."

Look for us on the web: [www.nyfea.org](http://www.nyfea.org)

334-546-9951

Email [nyfea-main@nyfea.org](mailto:nyfea-main@nyfea.org)

# Resources

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Many resources are available for speakers and educational workshops for PYFA meetings and events. Here listed are websites for PYFA advisors to use in planning educational meetings for their chapters, as well as for members to use for reference and information. Listing here does not imply PYFA endorsement of any businesses or products.

## **Governmental**

- U.S. Department of Agriculture - [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)
- Natural Resources and Conservation Service – [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
- Agricultural Marketing Service – [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov)
- Agricultural Research Service – [www.ars.usda.gov](http://www.ars.usda.gov)
- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service – [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)
- Economic Research Service – [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov)
- Farm Service Agency – [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)
- Food Safety & Inspection Service – [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)
- Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration – [www.gipsa.usda.gov](http://www.gipsa.usda.gov)
- National Agricultural Statistics Service – [www.nas.usda.gov](http://www.nas.usda.gov)
- Risk Management Agency – [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)
- National Weather Service - [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)
- PA Department of Agriculture – [www.agriculture.state.pa.us](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us)
  - Bureau of Animal Health & Diagnostic Services - [Animal Health](#)
  - Animal Health & Diagnostic Commission - [Animal Health Commission](#)
  - PA Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System – [www.padls.org](http://www.padls.org)
  - Bureau of Farmland Preservation - [Farmland Pres](#)
  - Bureau of Food Safety & Laboratory Services - [Food Safety](#)
  - Bureau of Plant Industry - [www.paplants.state.pa.us](http://www.paplants.state.pa.us)
  - State Conservation Commission - [SCC](#)
  - CHEMSWEEP Waste Pesticide Disposal - [CHEMSWEEP](#)
  - Pesticide Certified Applicators [Pest App](#)
  - Century Farm Program - [Century Farms](#)
  - Commercial Manure Hauler & Broker Certification - [Manure hauler](#)
  - Crop Insurance Education - [crop insurance educ](#)
  - Dead Animal Disposal Business - [Disposal](#)
  - Fertilizer Regulatory Program - [Fertilizer](#)
  - Foot & Mouth Disease Program - [FMD](#)
  - Healthy Farms, Healthy Schools Grant Program - [grant](#)
  - Integrated Pest Management - [IPM](#)
  - Milk Sanitation Program - [Milk Sanitation](#)
  - Nutrient Management Certification Program - [Nutrient Mgmt](#)
  - Odor Management Certification Program - [Odor mgmt](#)

PA Preferred – [www.papreferred.com](http://www.papreferred.com)  
PA Grows – technical assistance – [www.pagrows.com](http://www.pagrows.com)  
PA Egg Quality Assurance Program - [PEQAP](#)  
Pseudorabies - [Pseudorabies](#)  
Resource Enhancement & Protection – [REAP](#) – tax credits  
PA Department of Environmental Protection - [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)  
Small Business Ombudsman - [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)  
PA Game Commission - [www.pgc.state.pa.us](http://www.pgc.state.pa.us)  
PA Fish and Boat Commission - [www.fish.state.pa.us](http://www.fish.state.pa.us)  
PA Farm Show - [www.farmshow.state.pa.us](http://www.farmshow.state.pa.us)

## **Industry Groups**

### General:

Agriculture Ombudsman Program – [www.agombudsman.com](http://www.agombudsman.com)  
Farm Link – farm transitions, succession – [www.pafarmlink.org](http://www.pafarmlink.org)  
Conservation Districts – [www.pacd.org](http://www.pacd.org)  
Marcellus Shale Coalition – [www.marcelluscoalition.org](http://www.marcelluscoalition.org)  
PA State Association of County Fairs - [www.pafairs.org](http://www.pafairs.org)

### Crops

American Feed Industry Association – [www.afia.org](http://www.afia.org)  
American Seed Trade Association – [www.amseed.com](http://www.amseed.com)  
American Soybean Association - [www.soygrowers.com](http://www.soygrowers.com)  
Keystone Energy Forum – [www.KeystoneEnergyForum.com](http://www.KeystoneEnergyForum.com)  
National Grain & Feed Association – [www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org)  
Council for Biotechnology Information - [www.whybiotech.com](http://www.whybiotech.com)

### Finance

Ag Biz Masters – business management education program – [www.agbizmasters.com](http://www.agbizmasters.com)  
Ag Choice Farm Credit - [www.agchoice.com](http://www.agchoice.com)  
Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit – [www.midatlanticfarmcredit.com](http://www.midatlanticfarmcredit.com)

### Livestock

#### Animal Agriculture Alliance

[www.beef.org](http://www.beef.org) – portal for all beef organizations  
Center for Beef Excellence – [www.beefexcellence.com](http://www.beefexcellence.com) – cattle handling equipment, beef excellence teams, RFID tag program  
Beef Quality Assurance Program – [www.pa-bqa.org](http://www.pa-bqa.org)  
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association – [www.beefusa.org](http://www.beefusa.org)  
PA Livestock Association – [www.palivestockassoc.org](http://www.palivestockassoc.org) – cattle, sheep, swine, horses  
Center for Dairy Excellence – [www.centerfordairyexcellence.org](http://www.centerfordairyexcellence.org) – dairy advisory teams, dairy decisions consultants, grant opportunities, business plans, dairy transition teams, Dairy Animal Care & Quality Assurance Program

[National Dairy Council](#) – dairy nutrition information  
[Farmers Assuring Responsible Management](#) - Animal Care Reference Manual  
Dairy Policy Action Coalition – [www.dpac.net](http://www.dpac.net)  
PSU Weekly Dairy Report - [Dairy Outlook](#)  
Professional Dairy Managers of PA – [www.pdmp.org](http://www.pdmp.org)  
National Pork Board – [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) – Pork Quality Assurance Program  
PA Pork Producers Council – [www.papork.org](http://www.papork.org)  
American Sheep Industry Association - [www.sheepusa.org](http://www.sheepusa.org)  
Sheep and Goat Marketing - [www.sheepgoatmarketing.org](http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.org)  
American Egg Board – [www.aeb.org](http://www.aeb.org)  
National Turkey Federation - [www.eatturkey.com](http://www.eatturkey.com)  
U.S. Equestrian Federation – [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)

#### Veterinary

PA Veterinary Medical Association - [www.pavma.org](http://www.pavma.org)  
Merck Veterinary Manual - [www.merckmanuals](http://www.merckmanuals)

#### **Commercial**

AgWeb.com – ag news, weather, market info & analysis – [www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com)  
[www.agriculture.com](http://www.agriculture.com) – ag news, discussion & information  
Farm Journal – [www.agweb.com/farmjournal](http://www.agweb.com/farmjournal)  
Lancaster Farming newspaper – <http://lancasterfarming.com>  
Progressive Farmer – [www.dtnprogressivefarmer.com](http://www.dtnprogressivefarmer.com)  
Atlantic Tractor - <http://www.atlantictractor.net>  
Hoobers Equipment – [www.Hoobers.com](http://www.Hoobers.com) – precision agriculture training  
Messicks Equipment- [www.messicks.com](http://www.messicks.com)  
Deer Country - [www.deercountry.net](http://www.deercountry.net)  
Wenger's Equipment - [www.wengers.com](http://www.wengers.com)  
Monsanto – [www.monsanto.com](http://www.monsanto.com)  
Pioneer Seeds – [www.pioneer.com](http://www.pioneer.com)  
Wenger Feeds – [www.wengerfeeds.com](http://www.wengerfeeds.com)  
Northeast Agri-Systems – [www.neagri.com](http://www.neagri.com) – buildings and equipment  
Northeast Equipment Dealers Association – <http://ne-equip.com>  
American Livestock Supply Inc. - [www.americanlivestock.com](http://www.americanlivestock.com)  
Nasco - <http://www.enasco.com> – farm supplies, education, arts & crafts  
Ag Connection – [www.pennsylvaniaagconnection.com](http://www.pennsylvaniaagconnection.com) – news, directory, equipment locator, auctions, markets  
ADM Crop Risk Services – [www.admcrs.com](http://www.admcrs.com) – crop insurance  
Case IH – [www.caseih.com](http://www.caseih.com) – farm machinery  
Elanco- [www.elanco.com](http://www.elanco.com)- pharmaceuticals for animal health  
Syngenta - [www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com) – seeds  
Zoetis - [www.zoetis.com](http://www.zoetis.com) – pharmaceuticals for animal health

## **Education**

National Drought Mitigation Center – <http://drought.unl.edu>

Ag Map – <http://agmap.psu.edu> – searchable directory of ag businesses

[Penn State Animal Diagnostic Lab](#)

Penn State Ag Council - [Ag Council](#)

Penn State Continuing Education - [courses](#)

Penn State Cooperative Extension – <http://extension.psu.edu> – programs, courses, workshops

Penn State Cooperative Extension Dairy Team – <http://extension.psu.edu/animals/dairy>

Agronomy Guide - <http://extension.psu.edu/agronomy-guide>

[Soil Map](#)

[Penn State Conferences & Short Courses](#)

[Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences:](#)

- [Agricultural & Biological Engineering](#)
- [Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education](#)
- [Animal Science](#)
- [Ecosystem Science & Management](#)
- [Entomology](#)
- [Food Science](#)
- [Plant Pathology & Environmental Microbiology](#)
- [Plant Science](#)
  - [Field Crop News](#)
- [Veterinary and Biomedical Science](#)
- [E-learning](#)

Penn State Cooperative Extension:

- [AgMap: PA's Online Agricultural Directory](#)
- [Animal Composting](#)
- [Fruit Pathology](#)
- [Fruit Research and Extension Center](#)
- [Grain Crops](#)
- [Integrated Pest Management](#)
- [Nutrient Management](#)
- [Poultry Extension](#)
- [Publications Distribution Center](#)
- [SoilMap](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Vegetable Resources](#)
- [Weed Management](#)
- [Wine Production](#)

University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School – [www.vet.upenn.edu](http://www.vet.upenn.edu)

FFA – [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us) – FFA Association, Foundation, Alumni

PA Association of Agriculture Educators – [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

## **General Agricultural Organizations**

Pennsylvania State Grange – [www.pagrang.org](http://www.pagrang.org)

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau – [www.pfb.com](http://www.pfb.com)

Pennsylvania Farmers Union – [www.pafarmersunion.org](http://www.pafarmersunion.org)

PennAg Industries Association – [www.pennag.com](http://www.pennag.com)

PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture - [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org)