



CULTIVATIONS

Spring 2012

www.payoungfarmers.com

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Groundhog saw his shadow declaring six more of weeks of winter, however, the weather shows us otherwise. As I drive up and down the valleys, farmers are working fields and sowing seeds. Hopefully, for an early and prosperous harvest. Farming, by nature is not a career for procrastinators and we all have to take advantage of what the good Lord hands us. I hope for all, the cold weather is behind us and mother nature does not produce a cold spell to destroy the fauna and flora.

Moving on to the business at hand, the Executive Board will be meeting on March 23 in State College to plan for 2012. A couple of items on the agenda are the Program of Work and to review the job description for the Educational Secretary.

I have attended two weekends of ACES for the FFA, Farm Show Committee meeting and the tenth annual North Central Regional meeting. Along with the planning meetings for the Lewisburg/Mifflinburg joint 2013 Conference.

A friendly reminder for two upcoming events - to plan on joining the NAAE Region VI/PYFA Conference summer conference at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey, in Grantville on July 9-12 as well as the National Young Farmers Educational Association in Memphis, TN on December 6-8.

It is enjoyable to attend chapter visits to renew old acquaintances and to make new friends at the same time. Young Farmers have a great opportunity to take advantage of the many educational programs that are offered. As we all know, there is no end to learning and we need to keep looking for newer and better ways to operate our businesses. Keep up the good work!

Jeff McClellan, President

Winter Conference in Bedford



The PYFA would like to thank Scott Myers and the newly formed Bedford County

Young Farmers chapter for hosting a wonderful Winter Conference.



The tours were very interesting. It was nice to see how successful the Bedford County Technical Center is. Students are offered a

variety of class options. The violets used as centerpieces were grown by the students.

The BC Stone Company

Uses natural and manmade stone to make custom made countertops, shower stalls and almost anything else you'd like.



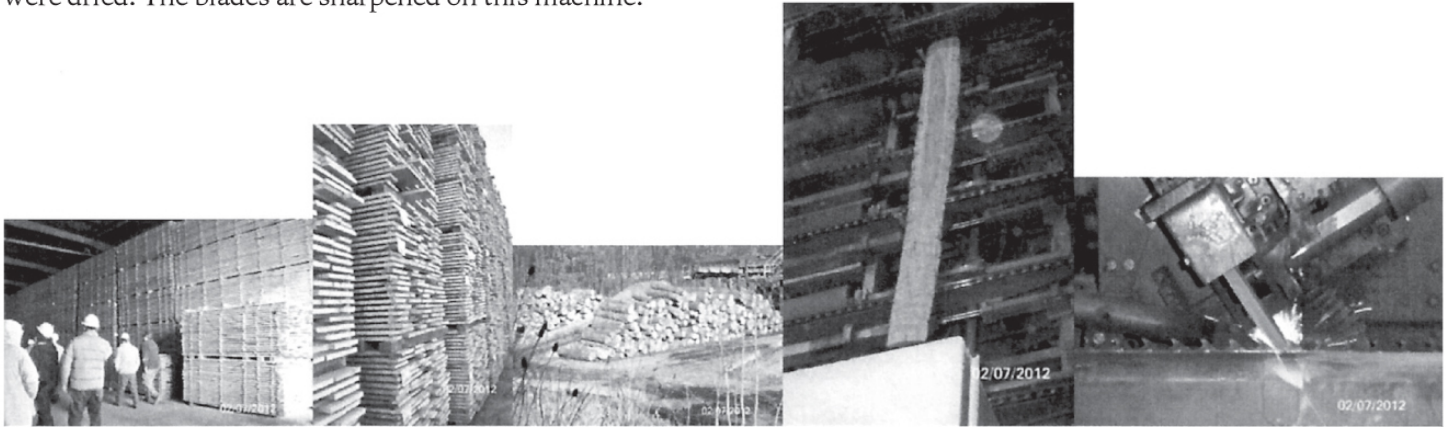
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Mission Statement

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

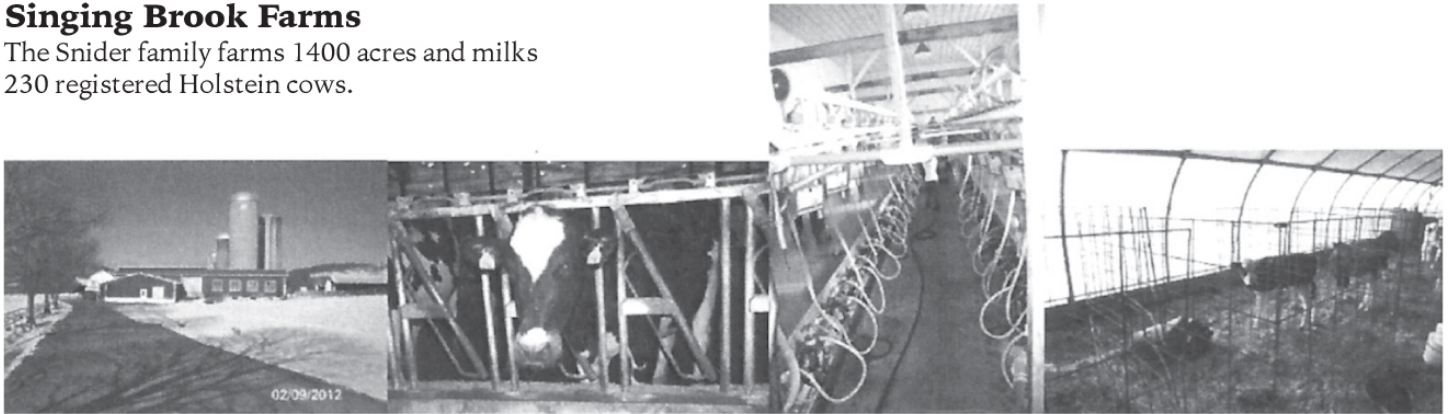
Blue Triangle Hardwoods

It was very interesting the way lasers were used to get the most boards out of the logs. The kilns were huge where the boards were dried. The blades are sharpened on this machine.



Singing Brook Farms

The Snider family farms 1400 acres and milks 230 registered Holstein cows.



The cows are housed in a free stall barn and are milked twice a day in a double 16 herringbone parlor. Calves are raised in a greenhouse barn.

REI Distribution Center

Recreational Equipment Incorporated's 500,000 + square foot state-of-the-art distribution center distributes products to stores and customers east of the Mississippi. Workers on forklifts travel up and down rows of shelves to fill orders for customers.



Mark Your Calendar

July 11: Summer Conference with PAAE Hershey PA

Aug 14 - 16: Ag Progress Days - Please let Britney Marsh know if you are willing to man our booth for a few hours.

Dec 6 - 8: NYFEA Institute Memphis TN

Feb 12 - 14, 2013: Winter Conference Lewisburg/Mifflinburg Host Chapters

Pennsylvania Young Farmers Educate the Public Name

Britney Marsh - Public Relations Director for the
Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Bedford, Pa.-The Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association held their annual winter conference on the week of February 7th. We hold several contests through the week. The Spokesperson contest, which judges the contestants on their agricultural knowledge and ability to communicate agriculture's message, is the most interactive contest we have. Hannah Wentworth and Tyler Claypool were the two contestants. Dwayne Hay, Kellie Goodman-Shaffer and Dr. John Ewing were the three judges who helped with this contest. The participants and judges visited the Everett Weis Markets store and talked to the customers about agriculture and where their food comes from. At the end of the event the participants picked one shopper and the Young Farmers paid for all of their food purchases. The shopper this year was Doug Otto from Shellsburg. Otto worked on his father's neighbor's beef farm when he was younger. When asked what he thought about the Young Farmers paying for his food purchase he said, "I don't know what to say. This is a great thing." Otto's food purchase was \$143.23. In the United States consumers spend 9% of their income on food purchases. This is considerably lower than every other country. It is important for consumers to know how important agriculture and their food are. This is why the Young Farmers hold the Spokesperson contest.

After the visit to Weis Markets the contestants delivered a five minute prepared speech on Colony Collapse Disorder. After their speeches the judges have five minutes to ask the contestants questions. Based on all of the information collected the three judges determined the winner. Tyler Claypool was the Spokesperson winner. He is from New Galilee and is currently the State Chaplain for the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Claypool won an expensive paid trip to Agriculture's Promise, a conference held in Washington, D.C. each year. Thank you to all of the judges and contestants.



Group Shot: From left to right, Lu Anne Burkett, Tyler Claypool, Hannah Wentworth, Dwayne Hays, Doug Otto, Dr. John Ewing, Kellie Goodman-Shaffer and Mallory Fischer.



Weis Reps with Doug: From left to right, LuAnne Burkett, Weis Grocery Leader, Doug Otto and Mallory Fischer, Weis Customer Service Manager.



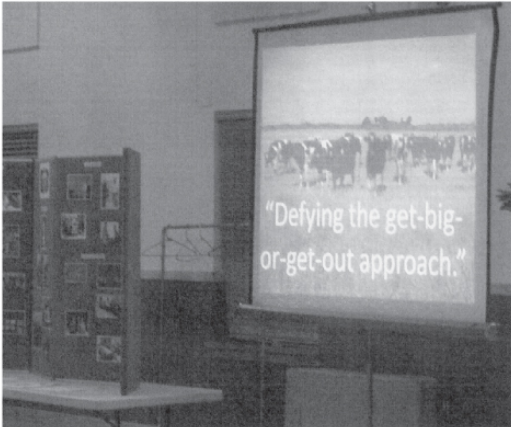
Contestants Helping Doug: Hannah Wentworth and Tyler Claypool help Doug Otto unload his cart full of groceries.

North Central Pennsylvania Young Farmers Meet

The tenth annual educational dinner meeting of the North Central Region of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers' Association hosted by the State College Young Farmer Chapter was held recently at Christ's United Lutheran Church in Millmont.

Carol Corman, North Central Region Vice President and National Young Farmer Educational Association President recognized the six chapters that make up the North Central Region - Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, Penns Valley, Selinsgrove and State College. Heather & Hailey Wasson, State College FFA member lead the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and Larry Harpster, provided the invocation.

Special guests for the evening were Candi & Krystal Wasson and State College Advisor, Paul Heasley who were speakers for the evening, PYFA President Jeff McClellan, PYFA President -Elect Bob Corman, past PYFA presidents in attendance were 1986 Dale Rossman, and past North Central Regional vice president Richard Weller.



State College Young Farmer Advisor Paul Heasley, was the keynote speaker. He talked about the educational activities he is conducting within his classroom such as: biodiesel, using the glycerin to feed deer and hydroponics. He also noted a project called "Children's Grow House" where elementary students learn about gardening, vining crops and gourds. Could not have been a better day to listen to an agriculture teacher than on National Teach Ag Day who was nationally recognized for receiving the Christopher Columbus Foundation award!

Candi Wasson, spoke of the events that they are conducting on their dairy farm. She stressed one must find their "niche" and she enjoys educating children about agriculture. Candi noted they like to visit the farm because "it is real." They have expanded from a seasonal market of pumpkins, sweet corn, and other produce to offering hayrides and corn maize. Weekdays are dedicated to school children and the weekends are open to everyone with offerings of homemade soup and applebutter by steam. A possible deterrent is insurance and one must have a good relationship with your township supervisors and code officers. The Wasson's also hold several fundraisers during the year. She concluded with "it's not what you take in but it's what you have at the end of the day."

Carol Corman presented corn contest awards to first place Fred Scholl from Selinsgrove, second place to Michael Hauck from Mifflinburg for the long



Corn Contest Recipients – Michael Hauck, Coy Weller, Fred Scholl

growing season and first place short growing season to Coy Weller from Selinsgrove. Other recognitions were presented to Selinsgrove Advisor Valerie Fry for her dedication to the Young Farmer program and Penns Valley for the largest attendance with the Mifflinburg Chapter following in second place.



State College Advisor Paul Heasley

Newsletter: This issue of the newsletter was edited by Debbie Zug and designed by Basic Designs. Please offer comments/suggestions to either of them. Debbie can be reached at 717-548-3178 or e-mail her at edzug@frontiernet.net. Debra @ 717-548-4240 or basicd@dejazzd.com

GYF HITS THE ROAD

The Gettysburg Young Farmers were invited to participate as vendors in two recent local agricultural events. The first was the No-Till workshop held by the Adams County Conservation District at the Emergency Management facility in Straban township. Gettysburg Young Farmers was one of a dozen ag vendors who set up tables to demonstrate products or offer services to the workshop participants. The display was "manned" by Deb Kammerer, GYF advisor. Newly printed brochures about the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association were available to interested visitors. There was also a sign up sheet to subscribe to the monthly newsletter. Several interested attendees stopped by to chat and sign up for the newsletter.

The second event was held on March 8 at Gettysburg High School in observance of National Ag Day. The Battlefield FFA officers did an outstanding job organizing the event to raise student awareness of local agriculture and careers in agriculture. About ten vendors participated including GYF. Local agribusiness GVM brought a mammoth field sprayer which was parked at the school entrance. Also greeting students as they arrived were two pens of cattle and a pony. FFA students from other local schools were invited to attend. Russell Redding, Dean of Agriculture and Environmental Science at Delaware Valley College and former Pa. Secretary of Agriculture gave a keynote address to the FFA students and guests.

GYF offered students, faculty and staff the opportunity to compete in an AgTrivia contest consisting of three questions relevant to Pa. agriculture. Participants who answered three questions correctly were eligible to enter the drawing for prizes. Two GYF members donated prizes for the AgTrivia competition. Debbie and Chris Smith donated passes to Smithfield Corn Maze and Marcia and Tim Brown donated a gift certificate to Brown Valley Market. Also Dan Wilkinson donated his time to stand at the GYF display, talk to visitors and run the AgTrivia contest.

Thank you to these Young Farmer members for their support of National Ag Day, Battlefield FFA and GYF!!

As we try to raise community awareness of the opportunities available through the Young Farmer association, these types of public event are key to becoming more visible in the community.

An Update From Hannah Wentworth

I am excited to have been recently appointed to the state Young Farmer's board.

I am currently spending time in New Zealand, learning more about their agricultural industry. I am taking classes at an agriculture college called Lincoln University on the South Island. Some of my classes include Dairy Science and Plant Production Systems related to New Zealand.



Coming from a dairy farm, I love learning about the New Zealand's dairy industry. It is intriguing with its differences compared to the U.S. Everything is centralized around seasonal grazing. Milk production is predominantly measured in milk solids per cow and per hectare. It gets confusing being in the southern hemisphere, their seasons are opposite and they use the metric system.



Some fun facts about NZ's dairy industry are that 95% of their milk production is exported. They produce 4% of the world's milk and the average herd size is 386 cows.

I am the only American in my dairy science class of about 60 kiwis (New Zealanders). In our first lab we visited the Lincoln University Research Dairy Farm. It was unreal standing in a lush pasture surrounded by kiwis with cows grazing and a beautiful mountain range in the distance. We discussed some current research; one study is comparing high and low stocking rates in grazing paddocks, the affect on milk production, pasture quality and the environmental footprint.

I look forward to visiting more farms while I am here and traveling around the country.

Feel free to check my blog:
www.pafarmgirladventures.blogspot.com
for more of my experiences abroad.

PYFA MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP FORM

JOIN US TODAY!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

\$15 annual fee, checks made to: PYFA

Mail to: Debbie Zug
390 Peters Creek Rd., Peach Bottom, PA 17563

PYFA / PAAE Summer Conference Agenda

TUESDAY JULY 10, 2012

5:30 - 10 PM: Hershey Park Dinner and Park Time

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012

7 AM: Buffet Breakfast, Holiday Inn

9 - 11 AM: PYFA Board Meeting, Holiday Inn

11:30 AM - 5 PM: Educational Tours, Lunch along the way

A: Hershey Food's Research and Development Center, Giant Center/Arena

B: Zoo America, Hershey Gardens, Milton Hershey School

C: Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, Penn National Race Track

D: Huntsinger Farms Potato Fields, Masser's Potato Packing Plant, Millersburg Ferry

6 - 8 PM: Awards Banquet, Purcell Friendship Hall, Milton Hershey High School

“AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IS SWEET”

Tour Descriptions

Wednesday, July 11, 2012 - Educational Tours

Tour A: Hershey Food's Research and Development Center & Giant Center/Arena

Hershey Food's Research and Development Center: This will be a rare, behind-the-scenes look at how the company creates new foods, tantalizing flavors, evaluates ingredients from all over the world, finding the best way to package their products for shipping, and a lot more. Not a lot of folks get to see what goes on there, so this is one sweet treat!

Giant Center/Arena: A tour of the GIANT Center is your group's exclusive backstage pass to all the action! See the event level where the stars hang out, tour the HERSHEY BEARS® locker room, and feel what it's like to walk down the tunnel to the ice, watch the production team in action as they plan for game day ... it's all just a part of your experience at GIANT Center. This tour showcases the GIANT Center concourse, HERSHEY SPORTS, Bud Light Champions Club Lounge, various Suites, Interview Room, Video Production Room, and Press areas.

Tour B: Zoo America, Hershey Gardens & Milton Hershey School

Zoo America: ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park is an 11-acre walk-through zoo that displays living plants and animals from five regions of North America, which is home to more than 200 animals of 75 species.

Hershey Gardens: Hershey Gardens is a 23-acre botanical garden and arboretum located on top of Pat's Hill overlooking HersheyPark. It was built as a gift from chocolate magnate Milton S. Hershey for his community and to honor his wife, Catherine.

Milton Hershey School: The Milton Hershey School is a private philanthropic (pre-K through 12) residential school in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Originally named the Hershey Industrial School, the institution was founded and funded by chocolate industrialist Milton S. Hershey and his wife, Catherine Sweeney Hershey. The school was originally established for impoverished, healthy, Caucasian, male orphans, while today it serves students of various backgrounds. The Milton Hershey School Trust, which funds the school, owns controlling interest in The Hershey Company and owns the Hershey Entertainment and Resorts Company (HERCO) which oversees many of the area hotels along with a theme park, HersheyPark. With over six billion dollars in assets, the Milton Hershey School is one of the wealthiest schools in the world.

Tour C: Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association, Penn National Raceway

Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association: CATRA is a nonprofit organization providing therapeutic horseback riding to people with disabilities. The program is run completely by volunteers who do everything from assisting at lessons to cleaning stalls, mowing grass, completing barn and office work. Over 100 riders receive lessons every week.

Penn National Raceway: This one-of-a-kind tour will feature a behind the scenes look at one of PA's finest industries, horse racing. We will tour the backside of the track, including the horse stables and testing barn. The race track veterinarian will be on hand to provide detailed information about the regulations required of race horses, including the origin of the “pee like a race horse” phrase. Groups on this tour will also take a look at the Hollywood Casino, including a floor tour and an inside look at the simulcast center.

Tour D: Huntsinger Farms Potato Fields, Masser's Potato Packing Plant & Millersburg Ferry

Huntsinger Farms Potato Fields: Started by Elvin Huntsinger, an innovator in the field of potato growing and packing, he was the first to pack potatoes in poly bags in the late 1950s. Tour the 80-acre farm featuring red, white and golden potato varieties. Tour the fields and witness the adopted technologies from European agricultural practices utilized to maximize the quality of the finished product.

Masser's Potato Packing Plant: A family-owned operation, Masser's combines eight generations of farming experience with today's newest potato farming technology to meet the demands of modern business. Today, the farm has expanded to more than 4600 acres, with potatoes, cash grain and hay being produced. The potato packaging and warehouse operations pack and distribute over 250 million pounds of potatoes each year.

Millersburg Ferry: While enjoying the scenic tour of the ferry, presentations will be made by the Millersburg Ferry Association, PA Game Commission, PA Fish Commission and student aquatic Specialist, Northumberland County Conservation district and Ned Smith Environmental Center. Alternative arrangements are made in case of extreme weather conditions.

PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION Summer Conference

(To Be Held in Conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators)

July 9 - 12, 2012

Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey, Grantville, PA

Conference Registration Form

Names of Attendees:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Program Reservations – (Please indicate the number of reservations needed for each item)

- _____ Tuesday, July 10th, Only Package - \$50
Includes ticket to Hershey Park and dinner in the park, 4pm – 10pm
- _____ Wednesday, July 11th, Only Package - \$75
Includes breakfast, tour, lunch and banquet ticket
- _____ Wednesday, July 11th, Breakfast Only - \$12
- _____ Wednesday, July 11th, Tour and Lunch Only - \$25
- _____ Wednesday, July 11th, Banquet Only - \$40
- _____ Thursday 1:00 PM – Friday PM Post Conference Pesticide and Certification Program
Dr Kerry Richards. This will be on a first come first served basis. Limited to 25 attendees.

Tour Reservations – (Please rank your desired tours 1, 2 and 3)

- _____ Hershey Foods Testing Facility
- _____ Zoo America, Hershey Gardens, West Hanover Winery
- _____ Penn National, Capital Area Therapeutic Riding Association (CATRA)
- _____ Potato Farm, Potato Packing Plant, Game Commission Presentation on the Millersburg Ferry

Mail this form to:

Sherisa Nailor, 2012 PAAE Summer Conference, 32 Bare Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3101

Make checks payable to PAAE.

Registration Deadline is June 25, 2012.

The hotel is the Holiday Inn Harrisburg /Hershey Exit 80, I-81
604 Station Road, Grantville PA 17028 ♦ 717-469-0661



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