

SUMMER CONFERENCE 2015

The PYFA/PAAE Summer Conference took place July 13-16 at Tyrone High School and Penn State University. Tuesday morning was a session called “Ag EduCamp” where the attendees divided into ten discussion groups on various topics pertaining to agriculture education. Doyle Paul, Dan Wilkinson, and Betsy Huber led the group on community relations, with great discussions on the value of PYFA and how to make contacts with farmers and agri-businessmen in the community. Many of the teachers were not familiar with PYFA and how schools can receive payments for time the teachers spend on adult education. After lunch several workshops were available for PYFA members to participate in with the ag teachers.

Dave Hershey Percheron’s was the scene of Tuesday evening’s lovely barbecue in the barn, complete with carriage rides drawn by the huge Percherons.



The PYFA Board met Wednesday morning and then everyone boarded buses bound for Penn State. Dairy Manager Nadine Houck led a tour of the dairy barns where 210 Holsteins are milked twice a day. The milk goes to the Penn State Creamery with excess going to Land o’ Lakes. In a neighboring barn, research studies take place on methane, diet and environment, and numerous other projects. Plans are proceeding for a methane digester and additional barn.



After lunch and a walking tour of the Penn State Arboretum,



we boarded the bus for Rock Springs and the Agronomy Farm. Researchers took the group to five different research plots, showing the Inter-seeder, manure injection equipment, studies on lignin in alfalfa, herbicide resistant crops, and Plenish high oleic soybeans.





Wednesday evening was the PAAE awards banquet at Marzoni's restaurant. Next year's summer conference will be in the Mid-West area.