

PYFA GIVES AWARDS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Senator Judy Schwank (D-Berks) was presented the Honorary Young Farmer Award for her work on behalf of agriculture and the PYFA throughout her career. She also presented a Resolution from the PA Senate in honor of PYFA's 56th annual Winter Conference. She stressed the importance of agriculture to Berks County and the successful agricultural preservation program that is first in the nation.



Outstanding Young Farmer Under 30 went to Mark Balmer of the Cedar Crest chapter. He is the operator of Hit-the-Mark Farm, milking 53 Holsteins in Lebanon. Mark stated he started farming “because I had an outstanding passion for cows and the life of farming, the tight knit community and the open ended opportunity to set your own goals and achieve them on your own terms. The detail of genetic improvements and watching my herd continue to succeed and grow better with each generation.” Mark is the 2015 chapter president of Cedar Crest YF.

Runner-up Outstanding Young Farmer was Matthew Schantz of the Kutztown chapter.

Ron and Mel Kurtz of the Kutztown chapter received the Outstanding Community



Service Award for their many activities in Young Farmers, their township, school, and church. Ron and Mel, along with their two children Rachel 23 and Eric 20, are third generation farmers living on the family homestead in Fleetwood, PA where they raise beef, replacement heifers, and have a grain business. They started an “Overtime” Committee at the High School that provides after each home sporting event a

“supervised yet fun place for the youth to gather, have fun, eat, dance and socialize in hopes to keep them off the streets and avoid mischief!” said Ron. He also serves as a township supervisor

in Richmond Township.

The Outstanding Agri-Business Person Award was presented to R&B Krieder Seeds, Richard and Brian Krieder of the Cedar Crest Chapter. Other nominees were Rob's Rations LLC, Robert Slingo III of the Rockwood chapter and Kurt Haas of the Kutztown chapter, employed by TIMAC.



The Richard Hoppes Award went to Ken and Denise Sanner for their lifelong



commitment and dedication to the PYFA. Both Ken and Denise are past state presidents, and Denise is the immediate past president of the National Young Farmers Education Association. They belong to the Kutztown Young Farmers chapter and Ken was the host chairman for this year's PYFA conference.

2016 CONFERENCE TOURS

EAST PENN MANUFACTURING CO. INC.



East Penn began as a dream of the Breidegam family. In 1946, DeLight Jr., a young Air Force veteran, started a battery business with his father, DeLight Sr. The location of their business was a small, one-room creamery in the village of Bowers, PA. Wartime made for scarce battery materials, but there was big demand for rebuilt batteries so returning GIs could get their vehicles running again. DeLight and his father filled that need by collecting old batteries and

rebuilding them to new. From the beginning, the Breidegams knew if their business was to be successful, customers and employees would have to be the top priority, and opportunities for improvement could never be overlooked. These founding principles make East Penn what it is today. In six remarkable decades, East Penn has grown from a one-room shop with a product line of five automotive batteries to one of the world's leading battery manufacturers with over 8,000 employees, 450 product designs, and hundreds of [awards](#) for manufacturing and environmental excellence.

CORNER VIEW FARM



Corner View Farm began in 1915 with Ammon Biehl milking 14 cows in a tie stall barn. Five generations later, young Baxter (age 10) and Blake (age 12), live on the same property. Corner View Farm is still a typical family-sized dairy farm in Berks County, PA. Brad Biehl had a passion for technology and automation which sent him to Holland, Canada, and the United States looking at robotic milking systems. He decided on the Reality iMilking system and now the Biehl family can watch their cows and the robotic milking system wherever they are. Six IP cameras view

strategic parts of the barn. From anywhere, he can track activity monitoring, milking statistics, sorting sick cows, separating milk for treated cows, and managing herd records. And from his phone, Brad can fully control two curtains, sprinkler system, four fans, thermostats for floor heating, roll-up doors, and six sections of lighting control technology. All are also automatically controlled by code that operates the curtains according to the weather or temperature, controls lighting to maximize cow traffic/production, and runs fans only when needed to conserve energy. We will tour the facility and the training center that supports training for dealers of Reality iMilking nationwide right there on Corner View Farm.



FM BROWNS FEED MILL



Browns Mill has several divisions, but our tour will be of the Livestock and Poultry Feed Division's new facility in Birdsboro, Pennsylvania. This new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility produces fine quality feed for agriculture livestock. Launched in 2012 the new facility was designed and developed to further enhance the quality of nutritional products and to meet the specialized needs of their valued customers. They buy and store almost one million bushels of locally produced high quality grain to use in the manufacture of their quality feeds. Browns Mill is strategically located in the middle of southeast Pennsylvania's prime farmland with easy access to the highway system. They have direct rail service, and a fleet of

bulk and sacked trucks can deliver to southeastern PA and New Jersey.

TIMAC AGRO USA Inc.

TIMAC is a subsidiary of the Roullier Group, an international agriculture supply company created in Europe in 1959 and specializing in the production of fertilizers, calcium soil conditioners, biostimulants and animal products. In 1999, TIMAC established its first presence in the American market and headquarters in Reading, PA, with operations in 50 countries. From this facility they provide area farmers with custom application of plant nutrients and crop protection products. A full line of corn, soybean and forage seeds, crop protection products, lime and dry and liquid fertilizer provide their customers with the products they need to achieve the best return on their investment. TIMAC has proprietary products *EXCELLS MAXX*, *FERTIACTYL*, *FERTILEADER*, *KSC HYDROSOIUBLES*, *MPPA DUO* AND *HUMISTART* to improve the availability and efficiency of all manure and fertilizer nutrients for crop growth. On our tour, you will see an Automatic (Robotic) Dry bagging/Bulk Facility, Custom Application Liquid Load Facility, and a Liquid Biostimulant Mixing Facility.



YOUNG FARMERS RECEIVE AWARDS 2017

PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding received the Honorary Young Farmer Award at the recent winter conference of the PA Young Farmers Association in Shippensburg. Redding was honored with a life membership for his years of support of the organization and Pennsylvania agriculture.



Secretary Redding with Chris Weller

Several other awards were given to PYFA members at the conference. Chris and Debbie



Dan Fox, PYFA Regional VP, with Debbie & Chris Smith members and generous supporters of Gettysburg Young Farmer programs.

Smith of Gettysburg received the Agribusiness Person of the Year Award for their Smithfield Farms and Fields of Adventure. Their various enterprises include off farm retail marketing, corn maze entertainment, playground areas, picnicking, zip line adventure, field crop production including popcorn, kettle corn production and sales, and on-farm beef, pork, egg and poultry sales. The Smiths have been active

The Outstanding Young Farmer Under 30 was awarded to Dennis Boop Jr., a member of Mifflinburg Young Farmers chapter. After graduating from Penn College of Technology DJ came back home to work on the family's farm where he, his Grandfather Jim and father Dennis grow 500 acres of corn, soy beans and small grains and custom harvest over 2000 acres in the Mifflinburg area. This year the farm will be expanding with a 4800 head hog barn that DJ will be in charge of. He also operates his own livestock hauling business and competes in tractor pulling.



Dennis Boop Jr with Lizzie Bailey, PYFA Regional VP



Mr & Mrs Matthew Dersham with Steve Kline, Regional VP

Matthew Dersham, also of Mifflinburg Young Farmers, received the Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30 award. He raises 40,000 organic layer chickens and the family packs eggs twice every day. He also grows corn and soybeans and loves tractor pulling locally and interstate.

The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to Jacob Frazier of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers chapter. Jake and his family raise cage-free layers, dairy beef and swine, and operate a business for custom drilling, combining, mechanical work, and welding.



Jake and his family are very involved in the community through sports, 4-H activities, and church groups. Jake also volunteers at the Lebanon Area Fair, working on the Fair Track Crew helping with the Track events for the week.

Mr & Mrs. Jacob Frazier with Judy Croner, Regional VP

The Richard Hoppes Memorial Award went to Jeff and Kathy Rohrer of the Gettysburg chapter for their years of service and dedication to the PYFA.



Dan Wilkinson with Jeff Rohrer and Grace Hoppes



2017 President Jason Rentzel presenting the plaque to past president Denise Leydig.