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CULTIVATIONS

Spring 2014
www.payoungfarmers.com

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA YOUNG FARMERS ASSOCIATION



FROM THE PRESIDENT...

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and enjoying some spring weather (finally)! As we all wrap up our local winter meetings, activities, and banquets, I would like to thank the Gettysburg YF chapter for hosting an excellent conference in February. It was well planned and provided many interesting workshops and tours. I look forward to the 2015 conference hosted by Solanco.

It has been a pleasure thus far visiting some chapter activities and banquets and meeting several PYFA members from across the state. Anytime I get the opportunity, as many of you have as well, I encourage current members to do their best to recruit new people to join our organization. Recruitment of new members continues to be a struggle in many areas. We have a lot to offer and need to be our own cheerleaders. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please don't hesitate to let me or other officers know.

As you put together your calendar for the summer, I hope to see many of you at the PAAE/PYFA conference July 8-10 at Derry High School.

Nathan Jamison
PYFA President

AGRICULTURE'S PROMISE ♦ MARCH 2 - 4, 2014 Gaylord National Harbor, Washington DC

This year's Ag's Promise had many challenges caused by the weather – 4 inches of snow Monday, causing travel problems for most attendees. Pennsylvania had about a dozen attendees, with five students from Penn State and five from Delaware Valley College participating in the program.



Sunday afternoon began with a meeting of the NYFEA leadership, delegates, and interested parties discussing how the organization can make a difference. Also discussion took place on how to get younger farmers involved in the organization with some great ideas developed. Many suggestions were put forth on how to use social media to attract interest among the younger generation.

Monday morning began with Matthew Mika from Tyson Foods speaking about his company and its position in international agriculture. Tyson sells one out of every five pounds of meat sold in the U.S., including beef, chicken, pork, and prepared foods. Matt said in 40 years the world will need 70% more food; population is growing 75 million every year. He challenged attendees to participate in ag leadership; speak their minds and promote the industry or others will present their message.



Unfortunately, Monday's weather caused all of the other speakers to cancel. However, the program objective was accomplished, compiling key talking points to present to the legislators during appointments on Tuesday.



Topics were:
A streamlined and available government process
Availability of capital, tax breaks, and education for new and beginning farmers; emphasis on ag education.
Research and delivery – entrepreneurial activity and market development. Funding FFA, 4-H, land grants, Young Farmers, and trade development.
Food programs should education about nutrition and agriculture
Terminology (labels) based on sound science.
Consumer education

Continued on Page 2.

Mission Statement

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

Continued from Page 1 - AGRICULTURE'S PROMISE

Monday afternoon the Ag Communication Award winners Gabrielle Murphy of PA and Savannah of CO presented an excellent workshop on how to be an effective communicator.

Following the afternoon activities, attendees boarded a bus for a legislative reception at Tortilla Coast on Capitol Hill. Travel was difficult because of the snowy streets, but a good time was had by all.



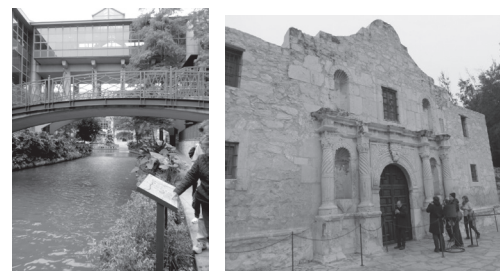
On Tuesday attendees put their education to good use in appointments with their Congressmen and Senators at the Capitol.

Ag's Promise is an excellent program for young farmers who want to be part of the solution in promoting modern agriculture and bringing their challenges to the attention of government policymakers. Plan to attend next year!



The National Young Farmers Educational Association Institute took place December 4-6, 2013 in San Antonio, Texas. Pennsylvania Young Farmers again had a good attendance at the institute. Delaware Valley College student Gabrielle Murphy was a winner of the Ag Communication Award and will represent PA at Agriculture's Promise in March in Washington DC.

Those traveling to Texas early got to tour the King Ranch, which occupies over 825,000 acres in the semi-arid region of south Texas. Production includes Milo, cotton, cattle, oil rights, and hunting leases. The Santa Gertrudis cattle breed, a cross between Brahman and Shorthorn, was developed at the King Ranch. They are known for their ability to withstand a hot dry climate. The Ranch is a privately held corporation whose board includes 7th generation descendants of Captain Richard King.



Thursday tours visited San Jose Mission, founded in 1720, and the Alamo and River-walk in downtown San Antonio. An excellent tour of the Northeast Agriculture Magnet Program in San Antonio was enjoyed by all. What an amazing opportunity for high school students!



Friday we boarded buses for the hill country, the home of Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the U.S. We toured his boyhood home in Johnson City and his ranch, the "Texas White House." We visited one of the more than 100 wineries in the area. Founder and president of Wildseed Farms, John R. Thomas, gave us a very informative talk about growing wildflowers for seed. The farm has more than 1000 cultivated acres of wildflowers in Texas and ships flower seed and seed mixes all over the country. It was interesting to hear how he developed his own machinery to harvest the tiny seeds. We also enjoyed the large gift shop!



We topped off the evening with a steak dinner prepared by Texas Young Farmers at the dance hall in Luckenbach, Texas.

Newsletter: This issue of the newsletter was edited by Betsy Huber and designed by Basic Designs. Please offer comments/suggestions to either of them. Betsy can be reached at 484-459-1957 or e-mail her at payoungfarmers@hotmail.com. Debra @ 717-548-4240 or basicd@dejazzd.com

Institute Workshop Selections

This section must be completed to obtain event reservations

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

- o 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Outdoor Picnic/Dinner - Pine Ridge Lodge, Blairsville (bring a lawn chair & fishing pole)

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

- o **8:00 AM – 9:15 AM PYFA Board Meeting**
 - o 9:15 AM – 11:15 AM Technical Workshops (Rank 1st & 2nd Choices)
 - ___ Bee Real!: Paul Bagnell
 - ___ Water Analysis: Richard Noone, ThermoFisher
 - ___ Tree & Shrub Identification: Ron McIntosh, Head Gardener @ Mellon Estates
 - ___ Grasslands Evaluation: Dan Griffith, Westmoreland Conservation District
 - ___ Chainsaw Operation and Safety: Stihl & Rob Harrold, Somerset CTC
 - ___ Ag Mechanics/Concrete Mixing/Form Construction: Cliff Wallace, Mohawk HS 3
- o **11:30 AM – 5:00 PM Industry Tours w/bag lunch (Rank 1st & 2nd Choices)**
 - ___ Farm Tour: Kepple's Robotic Dairy, Heinnickel's Feedlot, Fabin Bros.
 - ___ Horticulture: Musser's Forests, Yarnick's Hydroponics, Tom's Run Golf Course
 - ___ Energy Tour: Homer City Generating Station, Brookside Dairy
 - ___ Laurel Highlands Tour: Windmills, Flight 93 Memorial, PA State Gamelands #93
 - ___ Food Products & Processing: Turner's Dairy, Bardine Smokehouse
- o **6:30 PM – 8:00 PM Dinner & Awards Banquet – Chestnut Ridge, Blairsville**
- o **8:00 PM Benefit Auction - Chestnut Ridge, Blairsville**

Institute Registration Options

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

- o Outdoor Picnic/Dinner @ Pine Ridge Lodge _____ @\$30.00 = _____

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

- o Breakfast @ Grandview Elementary Cafeteria _____ @\$10.00 = _____
- o Lunch and Tours _____ @\$20.00 = _____
- o Banquet @ Chestnut Ridge Resort _____ @\$30.00 = _____

Thursday, July 10, 2014

- o Breakfast @ Grandview Elementary Cafeteria _____ @\$10.00 = _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Mail/Email Registration & Check to:

**Roy Campbell
Derry Area High School
988 N. Chestnut St Ext.
Derry, PA 15627
rscampbe@wiu.k12.pa.us**

Select Payment Type:

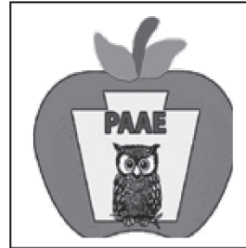
- ___ Payment enclosed w/registration
- ___ Payment will be mailed later
- ___ Payment will be made at the door
- ___ Personal check or cash

Conference Registration

Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

PAAE Summer Institute: "Energized for Teaching!"

July 8-10, 2014



Hosted by: Western Region PAAE Members

Information:

Name _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Home Address _____

City, Zip _____

Special Accommodations:

Vegetarian Meals

Diabetic Meals

Gluten Free Meals

Visit <http://www.paffa.state.pa.us/PAAE/%20Home.htm> Click on "Conference Information" link for more information on all workshops and tours listed below.

How to complete registration:

1. Complete page 1 – Conference Registration – (Spouses & Family information is on page 6)
2. Mark any events you plan to attend throughout the entire conference – you will need to tank in certain areas. Read all directions carefully.
3. Mail completed registration to address on page 6. Make sure you either enclose payment or mark payment process. Checks can be made payable to: PAAE.
4. Please pay special attention to postmarked dates, this will impact registration fees and choice of tours and workshops.

For Office Use: Conf. ID No: _____ Paid Amount: _____ Date: _____ Postmarked Date: _____

PYFA Holds Annual Conference

The 54th Annual Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Winter Conference was held recently in Gettysburg hosted by the Gettysburg Young Farmers Chapter.

Several awards were given at the annual awards banquet. The Outstanding Community Service Award was presented to Scott and Vickie Kreider of the Solanco Chapter. Jennifer Sands of Weis Markets was named Honorary Young Farmer for her assistance with the Spokesperson for Agriculture contest each year in conjunction with the Winter Conference. Nathan and Justine Kreider, Solanco, won the Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30 Award. Carl and Cindy Keller of Gettysburg received the 2014 Richard Hoppes Memorial Award for their years of exemplary service to PYFA. Deb Kammerer, advisor to the Gettysburg Young Farmers, was named Outstanding Young Farmer Advisor. A lively auction concluded the evening's activities.

Attendees toured several area businesses such as R.H. Sheppard Company of Hanover which engineers and manufactures quality heavy duty steering gears for tractor trailers, buses, Hum-vees and other military vehicles. Since its founding in 1937, R.H. Sheppard has remained a privately owned corporation dedicated to the manufacture of high quality engineered products for trucks, bus, rail, construction, recreation, and military vehicles. PYFA members toured the technology center, assembly building, and the museum which houses original Sheppard tractors. The company originally manufactured floor scrubbers, wire mesh, and generators. It has over 800 employees.

The second tour stop was Miller Chemical, also in Hanover, which manufactures specialty agricultural products for the U.S. and overseas. Non-toxic sprays are made from pine resins that, when added to herbicides and pesticides, reduce volatility of the sprays, increase longevity, and prevent leaching or dilution from rainwater. Miller is constantly researching new products and new uses to increase farmers' productivity.

Tuesday evening members enjoyed private access to the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and viewed the film and cyclorama, followed by an ice cream social provided by the Gettysburg Young Farmers Chapter.

The annual Delegates Meeting took place on Wednesday where Nathan Jamison of Berlin was elected president and Dan Wilkinson of Gettysburg was elected president-elect. New board members are Nathan Kreider, Eastern Region; Jason Wolfe, Northern Region; and Jason Rentzel, South-Central Region.

Educational workshops were presented Wednesday afternoon. Darlene Livingston, Executive Director of PA Farm Link, spoke on farm transitions with many helpful hints for beginning the conversation toward passing the farm to the next generation.

A representative from AT&T showed many applications available to assist farmers in collecting and storing data. Suggested uses were documenting pesticide and herbicide applications, irrigation and harvesting data, livestock inventory tracking and health information. Facility monitoring and water management are also possible, as well as video conferencing with a veterinarian to avoid farm visits. Smart phones and tablets can be used to save paperwork and labor for today's farmers. All applications are available in any AT&T store and website hosting and maintenance are also available.

The third workshop was presented by Mark Clowney of Barlow Worm Composting. He described his vermin-composting business using redworms and manure to produce a soil amendment product.

On Thursday attendees toured two more Adams County businesses. Bear Mountain Orchards, growers, packers, and shippers of quality fruit, opened their packing house to the group and showed how they produce value-added apples, peaches, and other fruits. The owners discussed current challenges such as new food safety regulations and uncertainty in immigration.

Energy Works Bio Power LLC uses chicken manure to produce electricity and ash for feed supplement. When fully operational this plant will eliminate the spreading of 70,000 tons of poultry manure on farmland and the cost of transporting it long distances. There are 5 million chickens within 3 miles of the plant.

**Next year's Winter Conference will be held Feb. 3-5, 2015,
at the Lancaster DoubleTree Resort, hosted by Solanco Young Farmers Chapter.**



The Cedar Crest Young Farmers Banquet was held on Tuesday, April 1 2014. The evening was run by our President Scott Smith, who kept everything moving smoothly. We had a lovely dinner, followed by chapter awards. Our winners were Andy Martin, Alfalfa Haylage & Corn Silage, Jason Krall, High



Moisture Shelled Corn and Ryelage, Glen Krall, Dry Hay, Kevin & Allison Sellers, Low Somatic Cell Count, J. Calvin Zimmerman, Largest Herd Milk Increase. We had a representative from the State Young Farmers Association, Betsy Huber, the executive secretary. The Lebanon County Dairy Princess, Bethany Huntzberger, and Cedar Crest FFA Vice President Kayla Kneasel spoke to us as well. We ended the evening with a Character Juggler, Chris Ivey who astounded us all with his amazing juggling skills. Jennifer Balmer, Advisor



Ephrata Christmas Program Report

This year's annual Christmas Program was held on Dec. 17, 2013 with a good crowd attending. Three hundred ninety dollars were collected and donated to the Ephrata Area Social Services to help local families in need. The 2014 officers were elected. They will be installed at the YF banquet in February. Gerald Martin updated the group on the Agri-Service Moldova.



This picture was taken at the Christmas Program in the Cafeteria of Ephrata High School.

2014 Young Farmer Banquet – Feb 8, 2014

The Ephrata Area Young Farmers held their forty-fifth annual banquet on Sat. Feb. 8, 2014 with ninety six people attending. Speakers included Nathan Jamison – PAYFA, Gordon Denlinger – State Representative and Timothy Stayer – School Board President. The Cloister FFA did a presentation on their yearly events followed by the entertainment: Martin Family Bluegrass Gospel Messengers (pictured below).



Cloister FFA Presentation:



Scott & Vickie Kreider (L) Community Service Award with Eastern VP Bill Zollers



Carl & Cindy Keller (L) Richard Hoppes Award with President Bob Corman

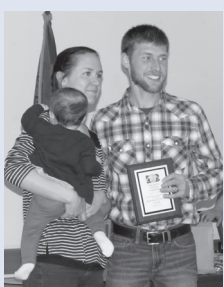


Nathan & Justine Kreider (R) Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30 with Eastern VP A. Dale Herr



Deb Kammerer (R) Outstanding Advisor with Northern VP Carol Corman

Solanco Young Farmers held their annual banquet March 27th with 64 attending. State Representative Bryan Cutler was present and spoke on current Ag legislative issues in PA. The Outstanding Agribusiness Person Award was presented to Randy Ranck. Outstanding Young Farmer Under 30 Award was won by Matthew and Esther Groff. Brian Zug received the Outstanding Young Farmer Over 30. Kerri and Justine Kreider were recognized as new Lifetime PYFA members. The Solanco chapter is hosting the 2015 PYFA Winter Conference February 3-5, 2015 at the Lancaster DoubleTree Resort.



PYFA MEMBERSHIP SIGN UP FORM ♦ JOIN US TODAY!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$15 annual fee, checks made to: PYFA
Mail to: Edith Rhoads, 1158 Wills Church Rd., Berlin PA 15530