



CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Fall 2024

www.payoungfarmers.com

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

PAGE 2

President's Message

Secretary's Note

Rose Dillner

PAGE 3

What's Happening Around the State

PAGE 4-5

2024 NYFEA Institute Albuquerque, NM

DECEMBER 4-7

PAGE 6-7

2025 Winter Conference

FEBRUARY 6-8



MISSION STATEMENT

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

What Happens When a Farm Bill Expires?

From *The Grange Today*, by Burton Eller, Leg. Dir., National Grange, October 25, 2024

Congress left town at the end of September to campaign for reelection. They did not pass a new farm bill before leaving. In fact, neither the Senate nor House farm bill versions have been sent to the floor for a vote. In the meantime, the 2018 Farm Bill expired on September 30. In some ways, the current farm bill has been dying the last few years, thanks to unanticipated price inflation. The dollar is only worth 80% of what it was in 2018. The fixed reference prices for commodities in that farm bill, which define the help from USDA farmers depend on in rough times, are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018. Also, dollars set aside for research and innovation grants and certain conservation programs are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018.

"The dollar is only worth 80% of what it was in 2018. The fixed reference prices for commodities in that farm bill, which define the help from USDA farmers depend on in rough times, are only worth 80% of what they were in 2018."

So, what will we miss with no new farm bill? Some programs were shut down immediately October 1:

- Numerous international programs, including the Market Access and Foreign Market Development Cooperator trade promotion programs and Food for Progress.
- The Biobased Markets Program and Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels
- The Specialty Crops Block Grants Program
- The National Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- Several animal health programs
- New enrollments in the Conservation Reserve Program, livestock projects under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Incentive Program, and several wetland, forest and watershed restoration programs.

Conservation Funds Outside the Farm Bill – The Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act added nearly \$18 billion to farm bill conservation programs deemed “climate related” by the law’s authors. These programs are at least partially funded outside the farm bill with supplemental funding that doesn’t have to be spent until fiscal year 2031. These funds can be used to supplement “climate -related’ conservation practices in the absence of a farm bill.

Permanent Law – A number of farm bill programs operate under permanent law, meaning law without a sunset date. These include crop insurance



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

D. Anthony Dietrich

As fall has descended upon us, so has the final harvesting of crops. We have so many things to be thankful for in this life. The bounty of food we as farmers produce for people, fellowship with fellow farmers and friends to keep learning new productive ways, equipment to make farming a bit simpler and just the ability to be grateful to be alive!

I ask what have you done for your young farmer organizations? Are you participating and being a part of the teaching process for our next generations? Young Farmers is not just another meeting, it is a couple of hours well spent with colleagues and friends enjoying educational topics to make a difference. We are happy you are a member and grateful for your participation. As we move into the holidays my wish is for all of you to have a blessed holiday season.

Continued from page 1.

programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and several disaster programs.

These will continue to operate but without improvements and updates that would happen in a new farm bill. Normally when people talk about permanent law and the end of a farm bill, they are talking about farm programs dating back to the 1930's and 1940's that are still on the books, but which are suspended by modern farm bills. Various current commodity support programs will be extended through the current crop year then replaced with permanent law that will kick in with the 2025 crop. Congress has chosen to leave these old laws on the books as a guarantee that it will take some action to prevent the return of these programs. The old programs would support certain farm prices far above current support prices and so far above market prices as to be disruptive to the agricultural economy and very costly to the federal government. These permanent law support prices account for rising input costs but not for vastly improved yields and input efficiencies. These "parity prices" are still published every month by USDA.

If there is no new farm bill or extension through next year, USDA would pay commodity prices under these old programs through purchases and non-recourse loans. Milk and honey pricing would kick in January 1. The current milk price per hundredweight of \$22.80, for example, would go to \$49.43. Pricing for barley, corn, cotton, oats, rice, rye, sorghum and wheat would kick in with the 2025 crop. Corn would go from the July 2024 market price of \$4.24 per bushel to \$7.45 per bushel and wheat from \$5.52 to \$15.08 per bushel. There are no permanent law programs for peanuts, canola, seeds, soybeans, sunflower and several other crops.

What's Next?

Congress will return to Washington after the elections for a "lame duck" session. They could spring into action and pass a new farm bill before January 1. That's highly unlikely given the mood and politics in Congress right now. Congress could do nothing and let permanent law kick in January 1. Congress can't afford that option. So, at this point it looks like the only palatable option for Congress to take is to pass an extension of the current farm bill. The only argument may be to extend for how long.

Secretary's Notes – Tammy Rentzel

2024 – This year has been interesting as we have had some challenges, changes and successes. With the support of family and friends, we met these challenges with personal growth, experience, and a renewed connection with others.

Thank you to the Mifflinburg chapter for their hard work in putting together our 2024 Winter Conference.

I look forward to serving another year as PYFA Secretary. I wish everyone a safe and happy Fall!



Rose Dillner

Long-time Young Farmer Rose Dillner of Shippensburg turned 95 on October 22nd, and her family held a party in her honor.

In August, she was so excited to attend the Shippensburg Corn Festival. She enjoyed seeing all her friends and visited us at the Shippensburg Young Farmers booth.

Rosie is doing well and loves getting mail. If you would like to send her a letter, her address is Rose Dillner, 106 Village Square, Chambersburg, PA 17201, or 217 Means Hollow Road, Shippensburg, PA 17257

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

SOUTH-CENTRAL REGION VP REPORT

Jason Rentzel

Hope everyone is doing well. Things have been on the dry side this year at least around here.

Not much going on but I hope to see you all at Shippensburg for the winter convention this year. They have always had a nice convention in the past.

Hope everyone had a decent harvest and will see you all at convention.

er is full-swing into fall with cooler temperatures, colorful leaves and harvesting time rolling along. May all of you have an abundant harvest despite the hot, summer drought we experienced this summer!

The Rockwood Chapter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers is planning their re-organizational meeting on Thursday, November 7th with an election of officers followed by fall program discussions (including scheduled tours) and planning our winter curriculum covering production, marketing and farm management classes which begin in January.

Tours in November include **Ponfeigh Distillery** and **McWilliams' Dairy**.

A **March tour to Hoobers** is on the agenda. Classes will welcome speakers and topics from various agricultural-related vocations such as: Tyler Pritts, proprietor of Covered Bridge Garlic; Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) member Savage Mountain Farms; Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants covering the latest updates; representing the PA Game Commission will be Officer Brian Witherite on deer management; Michael Doucette of the USDA Forestry presenting invasive and ongoing forest issues; the PA Department of Agriculture discussing business development; plus a carbon credit initiative for farmers, to name some of our planned activities.

May each of you have a warm and safe winter!

BERLIN BROTHERSVALEY YOUNG FARMER

Donna L. Paul

Fifty Berlin Young Farmer members and their families gathered on August 8th, 2024 at the Berlin Community Grove for their **Annual Picnic**. Samuel Dively, Advisor, was the MC for the evening. Past president, Justin VanGilder, offered the blessing and gave special thanks for the rain that was falling during the picnic. A delicious covered dish picnic was enjoyed by those attending. Brandon Rhoads, Vice President, and his dad Tim delivered the meat and drinks provided by Berlin Market.

Denise Leydig, Berlin Young Farmer President, and State Public Relations Director, was out of town the night of the picnic.

We were delighted to have our very own royalty with Jillian Smiley, Somerset County Dairy Princess, dipping ice cream for dessert. Jillian's parents are Jonathan and Jennifer Smiley, members of the Berlin Young Farmers. Jillian's sister, Josie, who is a Dairy Maid, was also present.



Amanda Dively, Treasurer, Lacey Landis, Secretary, and Jessica Landis, Public Relations Director were in charge of the Basket Raffle. The baskets were beautifully prepared and it was exciting to see who would go home with the basket or baskets they wanted.

Edith Rhoads revived "Farmer's Bingo" that was a staple at the picnics for many years when Doyle Paul was Advisor. Everyone enjoyed seeing if the agriculture words that they chose for their squares on the bingo card would be called. Edith did a great job of calling Farmer's Bingo as she does for the Tractor Buddies Square Dancing at the Farm Show.

A bitter sweet moment was when Samuel Dively announced that he would no longer be the Berlin Young Farmer Advisor because of increased responsibility at his employment, raising a young family, and community involvement. Donna Paul said that she was very proud of her grandson who stepped into the role as Advisor at the young age of 23, seven years ago after the death of his grandfather, Doyle, to save the program that was destined to be eliminated by the school district. Everyone gave Samuel a round of applause for a job well done. Matthew Webreck, Agriculture Instructor at Berlin Brothersvalley School, will be the new Young Farmer Advisor.

NORTHERN REGIONAL VP REPORT

Matt Dersham

Young Farmers have been busy here in Northern Region. Over the last several months, some areas within the county dealt with flooding from Tropical Storm Debby, but that did not hinder our organization getting together for several education events, such as a tour that was held at **Stoltzfus Grain**. Elvin and family provided a history of their business. They even had sunflowers as a cover crop this year and allowed anyone to have pictures taken there.



Then the normal legislative update to hear from our local legislators on things pertinent to our organization and community.

In November we will be hosting DCNR with some topics on Forestry. December is a time for election of officers and our venison supper, which usually has our biggest attendance.

WESTERN VP REPORT

Anita Weimer

Greetings from the "Rooftop of Pennsylvania" in sunny Southern PA! The weath-



. V I S I T .

ALBUQUERQUE.

CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

When we were recently asked why should someone travel to New Mexico for the 2024 NYFEA Institute, we decided to develop the following story. Please feel free to share it and know that we will be updating this story as we go.

Once arriving in Albuquerque (ABQ), the Institute attendee will depart the plane and take the shuttle to the hotel. The Embassy Suites sits just off the interstate and overlooks the city.

The first thing that the attendee will notice is the beautiful Sandia Mountains. Quickly, the local culture and art scene are evident. As one drives to the hotel, the skyline of ABQ helps you realize that this is a different kind of city. Get ready for an adventure.

The Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of the week of the 2024 Institute are like no other.

On Wednesday, along with the usual business of the meeting, you will have the chance to see the Sandia Mountains up close. There is an optional tour that allows you to take a fabulous tram ride to the top! What a cool ride! Of course, there are other optional sites that will also be available for that Wednesday morning.

Think about the value of Thursday's agenda. The Los Lunas Agricultural Experiment Station where you see the multiple chile pepper plants and learn about the fascinating industry. You will see the importance of the forage research and experience the pecan industry from orchard to sales. You will have firsthand look at the issues of water management.

Later in the day, you will visit a community farm where the suburban young folks learn about agriculture. You will also visit Los Pablanos where you will also be introduced to a fascinating agri-tourism and production farm. The focal crop on this farm is the lavender plant. See how this lavender influence is transferred to soaps, perfumes and even gin. We will learn about the bee keeping industry and how tourism fuels these efforts.

Friday, you will have the chance to see a massive agri-tourism operation that focuses on local people enjoying a fall festival. You will meet and share stories with a rancher that features Hereford, Angus and Charolais Cattle. His ranch covers nearly 15 miles.

The tour will also take you to the beautiful town of Santa Fe. Have lunch and experience the beauty of landscape based painting. Tour the Old West town and its elegant shops. Find time to enjoy the scenery of this lovely community. On the way home, you will have the chance to experience the novelty and awesomeness of the International Hot Air Balloon Festival Museum. Hot Air Balloons are a feature of ABQ and you will be right in the heart of the business.

Among the other activities that you will enjoy:

- . Fabulous ABQ Food,
- . A traditional New Mexico restaurant that highlights the chile in its meals will be a choice.
- . Local history and Native American dance
- . The oldest town in the ABQ area will be a featured stop.

Finally, the institute will offer a great opportunity to see the very significant movie, film and TV industry in the area. As a hub for Netflix, the film industry is a big deal.

Of course, there will be Ag Expression, Ag Communication and Spokesperson Contests and they are going to be filled with energy this year.

ABQ will be fun and offer unique perspective to the agriculture of an entirely new part of the country.

To attend the 2024 Institute in New Mexico:

- 1) Registration and hotel rooms: [INSTITUTE 2024 \(nyfea.org\)](https://www.nyfea.org)
- 2) [Albuquerque Overview - An informative introduction to the Duke City \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)
- 3) For questions, call NYFEA at 334-546-9951.

The 2024 Institute: New Mexico



Institute Preview



58th Institute in Albuquerque (Wednesday, Dec. 4 — Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024)

The New Mexico Institute will provide new experiences and open eyes to extraordinary adventures. During the 2024 Institute, attendees will see how agriculture impacts lives in an area that is part desert and part mountain. From farming to marketing to agricultural value-added production, this will be an adventure filled program.

Discover the secrets of ag in the desert like raising chile peppers, forages and beef cattle. Learn about the opportunities for agri-tourism as Pumpkin Festival park, a lavender/honey bee farm and a community garden. Touring the masterful work of the New Mexico State University College of Agriculture (Los Lunas Station) will provide perspective on the challenges and opportunities of agriculture with limited water resources.

In addition, see the Pueblo Museum, the International Hot Air Balloon museum, the art scene of Santa Fe and Christmas in the Southwest.

There will be trips to fabulous local restaurants for authentic Southwestern food.

Two optional tours are available: (1) a trip to the top of Sandia Peak Tramway or (2) a behind the scene tour of the Albuquerque film industry. Remember the show Breaking Bad? See where the series was filmed and the unique features of a city where Netflix has a studio. The hotel will be the Embassy Suites in downtown Albuquerque.

The Institute has a long standing tradition of excellent tours, unique learning experiences, great people (who become lifelong friends) and outstanding food and entertainment. The 2024 Institute will exceed those goals!

The Schedule —

Wednesday: Board / Delegate/Contest Meetings.

Opening Reception and Optional Tours

Thursday/Friday: Off-site Tours

Saturday: Ag Decision Makers College, Awards Programs/Auction and the Big Show Entertainment



Registration: Online: www.nyfea.org or mail to: NYFEA: Box 20326, Montgomery, AL 36120

Deadline preferred registration is 10/31/24.

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____
(Registration will be confirmed by email.)

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

NYFEA Full Registration: Attendance to all events: \$395 each
_____ @ \$395 = _____

Optional Tour: Sandia Peak Tramway _____ or Film Industry Tour -
_____ /// # _____ @ 85/person

Weekend Rate (great for those who want Friday/Saturday only)
_____ @ \$350 = _____

NYFEA Daily Rate
\$200 per day: Thur - # _____ @ \$200 = _____
Fri - # _____ @ \$200 _____ Sat - # _____ @ \$200 = _____

NYFEA Student Rate (ALL events —no hotel) = \$375
_____ @ \$375 = _____

NYFEA Student Rate (ALL events & w/ hotel) = \$525 (includes hotel room for four nights) (Students must attend Ag Decision Makers College & YALE. Students must be willing to share an assigned room if the room rate is included)
_____ @ \$525 = _____

NYFEA New Mexico Student Only—Rate (Daily Attend—no hotel) = \$100/person/day
_____ @ \$100 x # _____ days = _____
(for group discounts or Saturday events, call 334/546/9951)
Circle days: TH / FR

Child Registration (under 12) # _____ @ \$185 = _____

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Hotel Reservation Information

Reservations must be made separately and should be made by Nov. 5, 2024 to insure rate. (If problem call 334-546-9951).

Rooms and meetings are at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque—Downtown. Contact number for the hotel is 505-245-7100.

The room rate is \$121 per night. Go to www.nyfea.org for hotel details.



Registration for the Institute is best accomplished at www.nyfea.org



Pennsylvania Young Farmers Conference Program

Thursday, February 6, 2025

6:00 pm-9:00 pm: PYFA Executive Board Meeting Courtyard Marriott Meeting Room

Friday, February 7, 2025

6:30-8 am - Breakfast Marriott Dining Area

8-5 p.m - Registration

8 am - 9 pm - Hospitality in Courtyard Marriott Meeting Room

Tours

8:30 am - Board the bus entrance of the hotel

9 am - 4:30 pm - Martin Dairy Farm, Martin's Custom Farming, Lunch & Cedar Grove Farm Store, Keefer Farm

5 pm - Media Blitz Weis Markets

5:30 pm - PYFA Spokesperson Contest SU Foundation Conference Center

6:30 pm- Banquet SU Foundation Conference Center

Saturday, February 8, 2025

6:30-8 am- Breakfast Courtyard Marriott Dining Area

8 am-5 pm - Registration

8 am - 5 pm - Hospitality Room

8-9:30 am - Past Officers & Advisors Meeting SU Foundation Conference Center

9:30 - 11:30 am - Delegates Meeting SU Foundation Conference Center

9:30 am - 3 pm - Departure Spouses Event: History Mystery Tour/Lunch Knute's Tap Room

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Lunch in SU Foundation Conference Center

Workshops

1 p.m. - Penn State Extension Energy Team Educators: Large-Scale Solar in Pennsylvania

2 pm - Farm Technology - Drones

2:45 pm - Animal Health

3:30 pm - Storytime: Once upon a time, we had more members...rejuvenating your organization -Lizzie Bailey

6:00 pm - Awards Banquet/Auction SU Foundation Conference Center

2025 Pennsylvania Young Farmers Winter Conference

Hosted by Shippensburg Young Farmers

February 6-8, 2025

Full Conference Package (without lodging)	Number	Total
Early Registration – Postmarked by Jan. 5, 2024.....	_____	_____
Regular Registration – Postmarked by Jan. 20, 2024	_____	_____
Daily Registration		
Friday, February 9th registration.....	_____	_____
Saturday, February 10th registration.....	_____	_____
Spouse Event	_____	_____

Amount Due: (Payable to: "Shippensburg Young Farmers" ")

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____

Address: _____

Chapter: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Mail registration form and payment to:
Lizzie Bailey, 356 Park Avenue, New Cumberland, PA 17070

Hotel Reservations

Courtyard Marriott, 503 Newburg Road, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Rooms Double Queens/ King Bed \$119. night

(includes breakfast for 2 per room)

Call: 717-477-0680 or online: <https://tinyurl.com/PYFAReservation>
Room Block Special Pricing of \$119. per night expires January 7, 2025.

Spouses Event Saturday, Feb 8th

Hop on the tour bus...
History Mystery Tour
Lunch@ Knute's Tap Room
Ssshhhh it's a secret!
Fun activity after lunch



Martin's Dairy Farm

Come meet Randall Martin the new owner of the former Gro-Lan Farms (Jeff & Jay Grove farms) Randall is continuing on with the dairy farm operation and he looks forward to welcoming us to tour his farm.



Martin's Custom Farming

Martin Custom Farming LLC has been a reliable source of efficiency and professionalism for nearly thirty years. Come and learn about what makes them so unique.



Cedar Gove Farm Store

Family-owned and operated, Cedar Grove Farm Store is a local distributor for all types of Stihl Power Equipment, serving customers from Cumberland County, Franklin County, and beyond. The store's featured brands include Stihl Power Equipment, Milwaukee Tools, Interstate Batteries, Zimmerman Equipment, Dry Shod Boots, Lignetics, RYCO Hydraulics, Stens Parts, and more.



Bob Keefer and 14 yr. old grandson Nick who is excited to be part of the future for the farm.

Hard Earned Acres Farm Bob & Barb Keefer

When Bob & Barb Keefer said they were retiring and selling their dairy farm, no one ever thought that meant building a new farm and their new dream house. The Keefers have pivoted from dairy and are now farming 900 acres and have 550 steers on their new farm.

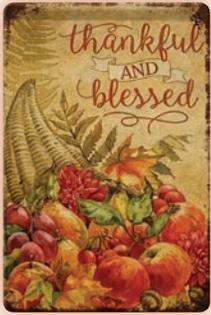
Come hear their story how you take on new adventures in retirement.



Betsy Huber
362 University Road
Lincoln University, PA 19352

PRSTD STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 408
WILMINGTON, DE

*Have a wonderful
holiday season.*



*From your
friends at PYFA*



PYFA STATE OFFICERS 2024

PRESIDENT

Anthony Dietrich
1000 Bowersox Rd.
Middleburg, PA 17842
570-765-0754
madietrich2014@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Michelle Dietrich
1000 Bowersox Rd.
Middleburg, PA 17842
570-939-2888
madietrich2014@gmail.com

PRESIDENT ELECT

Keith Weimer
635 Hauger Road
Rockwood, PA 15557
814-926-3135
bullseyesecurityinc@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Tammy Rentzel
241 Rentzel Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
rentzel03@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Ed Zug
390 Peters Creek Road
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
717-548-3178
edzug@frontiernet.net

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Denise Leydig
594 Cumberland Hwy.
Berlin, PA 15530
814-267-5208
farm2cruise92@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Debbie Zug
390 Peters Creek Road
Peach Bottom, PA 17563
717-548-3178
edzug@frontiernet.net

VICE PRESIDENTS:

EASTERN REGION VP

Linda Krall
180 Schaeffer Rd.
Lebanon, PA 17042
717-821-1756
krallfarms@aol.com

NORTHERN REGION VP

Matt Dersham
216 Windy Valley Ln.
Millmont, PA 17845
570-274-2027
mattdersham@yahoo.com

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION VP

Jason Rentzel
241 Rentzel Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-503-7732
plowboy66@hotmail.com

WESTERN REGION VP

Anita Weimer
189 Shaeli Drive
Somerset, PA 15501
814-442-9862
pamomzilla@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Betsy Huber
362 University Road
Lincoln University, PA 19352
484-459-1957
payoungfarmers@hotmail.com

