

NYFEA 2025 NASHVILLE INSTITUTE

Several PYFA members and guests attended the 2025 NYFEA Institute December 10-13 in Nashville, Tennessee. The Institute was filled with music, as fitting for the Music City.

The first evening Lydia Simonds and group entertained us with great music at the welcome dinner following the delegates meeting. PYFA delegates were Glen and Linda Krall, Judy Croner, and Betsy Huber.



Thursday featured tours of the Shelbyville area, including Crossing Creek Farm, a 150 acre regenerative farm with pastured South Poll cattle, pork, chicken and turkey. Their farm store is popular with the locals, and they also feature agritourism, campsites, and a commercial kitchen trailer on site.



Next was a quick stop at Nearest Green distillery. Nearest Green was the original distiller who taught Jack Daniels the process.

After box lunches at the Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration center, we visited two TN Walking Horse operations; a training center and a breeding farm where we saw many beautiful horses and babies. TN Walking Horses are noted for their long gait, head movement, smooth ride, and good temperament.



Charles McDonald told us the history of the Celebration grounds and events, the largest event facility in Tennessee. Their 87th annual show will be held in August 2026. Over 2000 horses are entered in the competition held for 11 nights and 5 days. The Celebration has \$52 million economic impact for the town of Shelbyville and the county.



On Friday we spent the day in Nashville, touring the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Johnny Cash Museum, with dinner at Nudie's Honkytonk. Twelve of the youth attendees visited two classes at a Nashville school, teaching them that pizza ingredients come from farms.



New officers were sworn in Saturday morning: President Tim McSwain, SC; President Elect James Wolff, IN; Secretary Keith White, AL. Winners were announced of the various youth contests. Nearly 50 youth attended, the most ever! Pennsylvania was delighted to have the Ag Communications Policy Award winner, Kayla Hyde from Potter County. She wins a trip to Ag's Promise in March in Washington DC.



Following the brunch we enjoyed music from Harvest Arts, a string quartet plus flutist playing Christmas carols combined with classical pieces.



Saturday evening the Institute was capped by a fantastic Grand Ole Opry show with Marty Stuart.

Join the 2026 NYFEA 60th Institute December 9-12 in Raleigh, NC.