



CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Fall 2025

www.payoungfarmers.com

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2026 Winter Conference FEBRUARY 4-6



MISSION STATEMENT

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

ROCKWOOD YOUNG FARMERS HAVE A LOT GOING ON!

Anita Weimer, Western Region VP

The Rockwood Young Farmers are gearing up for a new year of activities which begin with our Re-organizational Meeting on November 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm at the Rockwood Area High School Agricultural Sciences Classroom. This initial meeting will include discussion on our Holiday Banquet. Then, we begin touring!



The first scheduled educational tour is to the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank, Somerset, PA on November 13th. The Mobile Food Bank is a free food distribution method which assists in feeding those families in Somerset County who have limited income and lack transportation to obtain needed food items,

such as fresh produce and frozen protein. We are excited to learn how this program is run and what they offer to our communities.

Then, on November 20th we look forward to visiting Forrester Farm Equipment in Stoystown, PA for a tour of their facilities. Forrester carries a large selection of new and pre-owned agricultural, construction and lawn care equipment from a number of trusted brand-name companies. Learning what they offer and some of the latest technological advances for agriculture are only two of the possible topics from which we will glean information.

FORRESTER
FARM EQUIPMENT

We will then take a short break for the holidays to spend time with our friends and family before beginning our regular schedule of agricultural information classes. These classes delve into and encompass a wide variety of topics such as production, marketing and farm management. There is much to learn and apply to our agricultural lives through these in-person or video demonstrations and talks, in-depth discussions, some PowerPoint presentations plus each class has Question and Answer sessions to clarify what was presented or to touch on related subjects. We have refreshments available also! YUM!!

More details on these educational classes will be forthcoming at our Re-organizational Meeting. We will also be planning our upcoming Holiday Banquet. Such a treat!

Should you be in the area and wish to attend the meetings, tours and classes, come on in! We welcome visitors as well as members!

With warm wishes to all for the upcoming Holidays and family gatherings!!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Keith Weimer

Greetings from your PYFA President!

We had a great time at our summer picnic in August. I want to give a special thanks to the Rentzel family for putting on a great program with great food. It was a beautiful day with many members in attendance. We had a productive meeting as things are gearing up for the annual conference hosted by Kutztown Chapter. Ken Sanner and crew have things well in hand. I look forward to

attending what looks to be another great program.

I handed out the raffle tickets to the chapter representatives to give out to the members that were unable to attend the picnic. I hope that you are having an easy time selling the tickets. Remember, it's not just about raising funds for our organization, it's about raising awareness about what we do as Young Farmers. Go out, enjoying talking to others about what Young Farmers are, and promote the good things we do as a group.

We are all looking forward to the start of a new year of Young Farmer programs and activities. I hope the new Young Farmers' year sees everyone happy, healthy and prosperous.

PYFA FUNDRAISER



The PYFA state board has voted to hold their first statewide fundraiser. This will enable the state organization to assist local chapters to host the winter conference each year. If the plan is successful, it will provide \$5000 in seed money to a chapter to help them with costs of hosting a fun, educational, entertaining and valuable winter conference in their area.

The fundraiser is a lottery calendar. For the small investment of \$20, the individual has the chance of winning hundreds of dollars if their number matches the 7 p.m. Daily Number in the PA State Lottery during the two-month period. Different dates will win various amounts of money—\$500 for special days, \$225 on regular days.

PYFA board members (listed on the back of this newsletter) have the calendars for sale and some have been sent to chapters not represented on the board. Contact one of these members to purchase one or receive some to sell, or contact President Keith Weimer:

bullseyesecurityinc@gmail.com
814-926-3135

All 1000 calendars must be sold by December 1st and money returned to Keith or Treasurer Ed Zug.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

2025 – This year has gone by so fast! We continued to grow and learn with the support of family and friends this year. Thank you to everyone who came out to the Picnic in July. We hope you had a good time and enjoyed reconnecting with old friends! I am looking forward to our Winter conference hosted by Kutztown. I wish everyone a safe and happy Fall!

Tammy Rentzel, Secretary

PYFA STATE BOARD MEETING

Sunday, December 28, 2025
Ozgoods, 4 Lincoln Road
Kutztown
Starting at 11:30

All are welcome!

We will tour the Winter Conference Hotel following the meeting and lunch.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE STATE

STATE COLLEGE YOUNG FARMERS VP REPORT

Lidia Everhart, Northern Region VP

We had a great re-organizational meeting and picnic on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at the Wasson Farm in State College, PA. We are grateful for Wasson's hosting us!

We now have 13 dues-paying members, and we are excited about the reorganization. Lydia Everhart and Kayla Corl led the meeting and discussion; they have taken on a co-advisor role until the chapter gets on its feet and can elect officers. We had members of the State College Little Lions FFA Chapter and the Bellefonte FFA Chapter present to share with us about their activities and help us understand how we may be able to help their FFA chapters. The evening then held a discussion of our purpose, our goals, potential programs for the program of activities, and how we can promote and gain membership across the county, so that we could incorporate the Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, and State College areas, since they all are without a chapter. A discussion was held on if the name of the chapter can be altered to allow for the greater Centre County community to be intrigued to come aboard. We will be hav-

ing a display at the Centre County Grange Fair, as well as a few fall festivals in our area to help get the word out.

We have members who will be working on various items throughout the fall, and we will come back together as a larger group on December 8, 2025, to put together our program of activities and more. ***We are excited about the prospect of growing and getting the chapter back on its feet!***



LEBANON YOUNG FARMERS VP REPORT

Lynda Krall, Eastern Region VP

The Cedar Crest and Northern Lebanon Young Farmers met in August for a summer picnic at the Lebanon Expo/fairgrounds with over 40 members and families attending. After a delicious meal the Lebanon County dairy princess Jesslyn Risser gave her speech and skit that she will be giving at the state pageant, encouraging everyone to have their 3 servings of dairy a day. Del Voight from Penn State extension gave an update on the crop and growing season and reminded all of us that it is very important that we

become more involved with our municipalities' planning departments. We are losing too much farm land.

A brief business meeting and update on PYFA followed. The picnic was a perfect way to end the summer, getting together with our fellow farmers and agricultural business people.





Visit **Twitter** or **X**: (@nyfea36120), **Instagram** (_nyfea) or **Facebook** (NYFEA) for up to the minute on the #nyfeainstitute25. For questions, call NYFEA at 334-546-9951.

Will you go to Nashville on Dec. 10-13 for the 2025 NYFEA Institute?

Upon arriving in Nashville, the first thing that the Institute attendee will need to do is start listening. There are so many sounds... from the people visiting along the sidewalks to the laughter to the music to the peaceful quiet of the farms. When you arrive at the **Sheraton Music City**, the experience begins.

On **Wednesday**, along with the usual business of the convention, you will have the chance to experience a special optional tour. You will get a chance to tour Andrew Jackson's Home, The Hermitage. A special tour and lunch experience of the 7th President's Mansion and Farm!

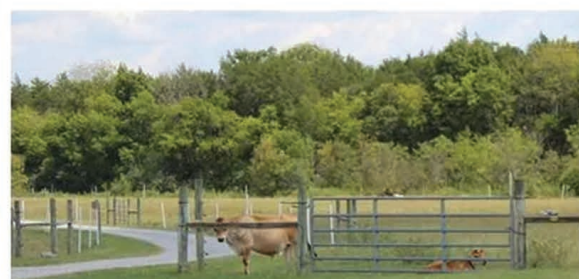
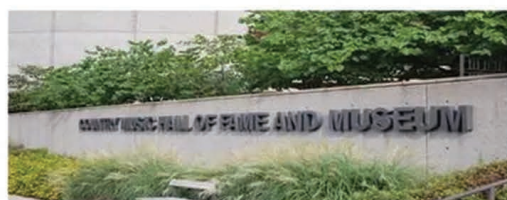
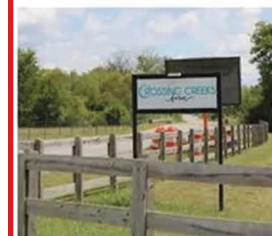
On **Thursday's** agenda are the ag tours into central Tennessee. We will see the beauty of Central Tennessee as we drive south to Shelbyville. We start the day at **Crossing Creeks Ranch** where we learn from Shaun and Elizabeth. The originators of this family operation offering agri-tourism, a farm store and ranching. They are just a short drive from the Hollywood of the South! Then, we take a short trip over to the award winning **Uncle Nearest Distillery** where we visit the company store and hear the story of the origin of Tennessee Whiskey!

We eventually drive to **Sugar Creek Farm**. This ranch features equine breeding with multiple breeds and a rich tradition. They will also showcase horses being trained. We finish the day with a wonderful tour of the **Celebration Arena** – Home of the World Champion Tennessee Walking Horses, we will also enjoy a local BBQ dinner smoked on the grounds of the Celebration.

Friday, we will have the chance to start the day with a festive musical showcase. Later, a tour will take us to the country music capitol of the world. We will enjoy the breathtaking stories of the **Country Music Hall of Fame** and will see the mystery and fascination of the industry's growth. We will also visit the world famous **Johnny Cash Museum**. Also, we will finish the night with an early dinner in Nashville and with an all-in food and music event at a downtown showcase!

On **Saturday**, there will be Ag Expression, Ag Communication, Spokesperson Contests and the new Ag Law and Policy program. We will have a spectacular auction. There will also be a great musical program that sets the scene for a beautiful Christmas-time fin-lunch! Finally, we finish the night with a visit to the 100th Year Show of the **Grand Ole Opry**!

Nashville will be fun and offer unique perspective to the agriculture. To attend the 2025 Institute in Nashville: [INSTITUTE 2025](#)



The Nashville Institute 2025



59th Institute in Nashville

(Wednesday, Dec. 10 to Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025)

The Nashville Institute will involve agriculture from cattle to horses to specialty items. It will showcase the merging of production ag and agribusiness, music and history!

EXAMPLES OF TOURS:

Thursday - Crossing Creek Farms: We believe you should know your farmers. At Crossing Creeks, we raise animals the right way—naturally and responsibly. We take pride in producing premium-quality meat that your family can trust.

Thursday - Celebration: A Premier Equestrian Facility: A 100-plus-acre equestrian complex; frequented by many breeds and including a 30,000 seat outdoor stadium, a 4,500 seat indoor arena, permanent stalls for more than 1,700 horses... it is a thrill to watch the more than 2,000 horses compete during the 10-day-and-night Celebration®...

Thursday - Uncle Nearest Distillery: Every bit of our 458-acre, four-phase, \$50 million build-out, is a master class in storytelling and history-making. No matter where you turn on our property, we are either unveiling history-making moments of the past or history being made in the present.

Thursday - Sugar Creek Farm: Our facility is the home to many of the greatest Tennessee Walking Horse stallions that have ever lived. We pride ourselves in our customer service, the quality of our stallions, and knowledge we have acquired producing countless World Champions in all divisions of the Tennessee Walking Horse breed.

Friday - Country Music Hall of Fame: Lainey Wilson: Tough as Nails is open. Exhibit explores the Louisiana native's ascent to stardom, her identity as both a pragmatic farmer's daughter and the originator of "bell bottom country."

Friday - Johnny Cash Museum: The Johnny Cash Museum has been named the Best Music Museum for the 2024 USAToday's 10Best Music Museums in America!

Wednesday Optional Tour - President Andrew Jackson's Hermitage Mansion: VIP Tour, Lunch and Transport. An expert guide will lead you through the grounds, the Hermitage Mansion, and through the Gardens to Jackson's Tomb. Our VIP experience allows you to skip the mansion tour line and also includes a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take in the view from the beautiful Hermitage balcony!

Young agriculturalists will love the connection to ag mentors and ag policy! Sign-up your ag teachers, FFA & 4H, family friends and others for Nashville!

The Schedule — Wednesday: Board /Delegate/Contest Mtg.
Wed. Optional Tour: The Hermitage VIP Tour (w/ transp., lunch)
Thursday Tour: Horses, Distillery, Celebration Arena,
Friday Tour: Country Music Hall of Fame, Cash Museum
Saturday: YALE Educational event, Contests, Special Christmas Lunch w/ Awards, Auction, GRAND OLE OPRY

Institute Preview

Registration: www.nyfea.org or
mail: NYFEA, Box 20326, Montgomery, AL 36120
Deadline for preferred registration- 10/31/25

Name(s): _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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

Phone: _____

NYFEA Full Registration: \$415 each # _____ @ \$415 = _____

Optional Tour: The Hermitage Experience (Wednesday) - _____ / / / #
_____ @ 110/person .

Weekend Rate (Friday night/Saturday only) # _____ @ \$340 = _____

Daily Rate \$225 per day: Thur - # _____ @ \$225 = _____ Fri - # _____ @
\$225 Sat - # _____ @ \$225 = _____

Student Rate (ALL events/ no hotel) = \$395 # _____ @ \$395 = _____

NYFEA Student Rate (ALL events & w/ hotel) = \$565 (includes hotel room for four nights) (Students must attend contests, Ag Decision Makers College & YALE. Students must be willing to share an assigned room if the room rate is included) # _____ @ \$565 = _____

NYFEA Tennessee 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 Due: _____

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

Hotel Reservation Information

Reservations must be made separately and should be made by Nov. 10, 2025 (If problem, contact NYFEA at 334-546-9951).

Headquarters hotel is the **Sheraton Music City (Nashville airport)**. Contact # 615-885-2200.

Room rate is \$139/ night. Go to www.nyfea.org for hotel details.

Go to www.nyfea.org and click on Institute 2025, then follow the instructions on the page.



YES SIR! The 100th Year of the OPRY is a part of our Saturday program. It is included in registration!!



Pennsylvania Young Farmers

2026 WINTER CONFERENCE

Tours

MACK TRUCK HISTORY MUSEUM

The Mack Truck History Museum opened in 1984 to preserve Mack Truck history. The Mack company began building trucks in 1907. You will get a guided tour focusing on the history of the company and will see the dozens of restored heavy duty trucks on display.



CORNER VIEW FARM

Corner View Farm is the home of their multi-generational dairy farm, Corner View Equipment, AMS Galaxy USA Corporation, and Innovative Dairy Solutions. You will see the robotic milking equipment system for 150 cows, automatic calf feeding, a bedding robot, and a robotic feed pusher. Owner, Brad Biehl, is also CEO of the World Wide Galaxy Corporation.



RON KURTZ GRAIN

Ron, wife Melanie, and son Eric operate a grain handling, storage, and hauling business. They have storage of 400,000 bushels of grain and haul over 1 million bushels per year. The Kurtz family also farms 500 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. They also raise cattle.



SEEDWAY SEED COMPANY

Seedway is a retailer of a full line of agricultural seeds, as well as vegetable and lawn and turf seeds. At Seedway they dry, sort, clean, treat, pack, and store seed at their regional facility.



Pennsylvania Young Farmers

2026 WINTER CONFERENCE

Hosted by Kutztown Young Farmers

February 4-6, 2026

FULL CONFERENCE (without lodging)	NUMBER	TOTAL
Early Registration – Postmarked by Jan. 5, 2026	\$135	
Regular Registration – Postmarked by Jan. 20, 2026	\$150	
DAILY REGISTRATION		
Friday, February 5th registration	\$85	
Saturday, February 6th registration	\$85	
Spouse Event	\$25	

AMOUNT DUE: (Payable to: "Kutztown Young Farmers") \$

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Chapter _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Mail registration form and payment to:
Ken Sanner, 14 Pink Valley Road, Kutztown PA 19530

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
Hampton Inn & Suites Kutztown
15080 Kutztown Rd, Kutztown, PA 19530
Phone: (484) 641-8800

Room block special pricing of \$125 per night expires January 20, 2026
(includes breakfast)

For reservations call the hotel directly and ask for the Young Farmers block or scan the QR code:





Betsy Huber
362 University Road
Lincoln University, PA 19352

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US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 408
WILMINGTON, DE

*Have a wonderful
holiday season.*



*From your
friends at PYFA*



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