



# CULTIVATIONS

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

Spring 2017

[www.payoungfarmers.com](http://www.payoungfarmers.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I hope everyone is having a good start to their spring. Hopefully this spring will not have the ups-and-down temperatures we had this winter.

I am looking forward to serving as your president for this year. Hopefully everyone has a good year and I hope to see everyone in Somerset this coming year, February 6-8, 2018, at the **PYFA Winter Conference** at Seven Springs.

*Jason Rentzel*

PYFA President



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Young Farmers Receive 2017 Awards

PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding received the **Honorary Young Farmer Award** at the recent winter conference of the PA Young Farmers Association in Shipensburg. 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 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 members and generous supporters of Gettysburg Young Farmer programs.



Dan Fox, PYFA Regional VP, with Debbie & Chris Smith

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 2,000 acres in the Mifflinburg area. This year the farm will be expanding with a 4,800 head hog barn that DJ will be in charge of. He also operates his own livestock hauling business and competes in tractor pulling.



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2017 Awards

"PYFA" continued from page 1

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.

Mr & Mrs Matthew Dersham with Steve Kline, Regional VP



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

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.

Dan Wilkinson with Jeff Rohrer and Grace Hoppes



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.

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

Hello from the Western Region!

By Judy Croner

The weather is finally starting to warm up and some of the fields are drying out. Berlin and Rockwood continue to have some joint meetings to make plans for the **2018 PYFA State Conference at Seven Springs**.

The regular informational meetings and workshops are winding down so that our farmers can concentrate on their field work.

We've had some very interesting tours and seminars this year and look forward to getting together for our County Picnic this summer.

Cedar Crest Young Farmers Banquet

Cedar Crest Young Farmers held their annual banquet on March 23, 2017. They had a great meal followed by wonderful entertainment and awards. We heard from two Cedar Crest FFA students, McKenzie and Paige Peiffer. Ms. Eleanor Isaacson, a World War II survivor was the highlight of the evening and had an emotional and moving presentation. Winners of our forage crop and dairy contests were Jason



Jason Krall, Brian Krieder and Joel Krall

Krall, Brian Krieder and Joel Krall. We also recognized Jacob and Brooke Frazier for winning the Outstanding Community Service Award at the PA Young Farmer Winter Conference.

Planting season is upon us and we wish everyone a safe and prosperous season!



Ms. Eleanor Isaacson



Jacob and Brooke Frazier

NOTES FROM KUTZTOWN YOUNG FARMERS

The Kutztown Young Farmers held their weekly educational meeting starting in January and winding up in mid-March. Our advisor, Jon Stutzman, led some topics on new technology and crop production. We also had discussions on pivot irrigation, increasing soybean yields and farm transitions. In February, we took our sweethearts out for the 18th annual Valentine's dinner. We wrapped up our season with our YF/FFA banquet in March. With planting season upon us we will switch gears and put what we learned during our meetings into action.

DUES ARE DUE!

PYFA dues for 2017 are now due. Chapters who have not yet sent dues in, please send your membership list and check to Membership Chair Debbie Zug, 390 Peters Creek Road, Peach Bottom, PA 17563.

THANK YOU!





# 2017 PYFA WINTER CONFERENCE

Shippensburg was the site of the 2017 Winter Conference of the PA Young Farmers Association on February 7-9th, hosted by the Shippensburg Young Farmers Chapter.

The “Media Blitz” kicked off the conference when Spokesperson for Agriculture contestant Ayla Blatt of Kutztown visited with shoppers at the local Weis Market and chose one to receive free groceries. PYFA paid for the food items in the shopper’s cart to point out how much of the grocery bill is non-food items. Ayla also presented a speech later that day at the Conference telling “What Agriculture Means to Me.” She won a trip to the National Young Farmers Educational Association Institute in Savannah, GA in December.

*“Farmers need to step up and serve in local government to express the agricultural viewpoint at the township or borough level.”*

The Conference continued with four educational workshops. “What’s in It for Me? Farmers and Local Government” was presented by Judy Chambers, Penn State Extension Educator. Agriculture faces many challenges from government regulations and neighbors’ complaints. Most municipalities want to support agriculture but may not understand how their zoning and regulations may affect it. Farmers need to step up and serve in local government to express the agricultural viewpoint at the township or borough level.

The second workshop was on sprayer calibration presented by Tracey Harpster, Penn State Extension Educator. Attendees received two pesticide credits. An explanation of the PA Preferred Program was given by Ashlee Dugan of PDA, explaining the benefits to farmers participating and how to apply.

Cassie Yost, Franklin County Extension Dairy Educator, spoke on the new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) under the Food Safety and Modernization Act. Each farmer raising livestock must have a working relationship with a veterinarian, who must prescribe any feed and water additives used. The vet must submit forms to the feed mill in order for the farmer to obtain the additives. Ms. Yost explained which categories of drugs required the VFD. She also explained new changes in the FARM program, Farmers Assuring Responsible Management. This is a Quality Assurance program for dairy offering training through online learning modules and webinars.

State Rep. Mark Keller, vice-chair of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, presented a citation recognizing PYFA for its 57th annual Winter Conference. Secretary Russell Redding, PA Department of Agriculture, also greeted members and guests at the Tuesday evening banquet. Channel 27 weatherman

Eric Finkenbinder compared farming to meteorology and spoke of the importance of weather forecasting to agriculture. He stated that whether climate change is man-made or a natural cycle, farming must make adjustments to address its effects.



An important part of the winter conference is tours of the local area. Bob Keefer opened his **Hard Earned Acres** in Shippensburg to the members and told about milking his 640 cows three times a day in the double-16 parlor. His anaerobic digester supplies all the electricity for his operation and home. He has had a closed herd for many years, raising all his own heifers.

The second tour was to **Railside Farm**, the Martin family, working 600 acres in the heart of the Cumberland Valley. They milk 270 cows with 5 Lely robotic milkers. They ship to Mount Joy Co-op and separate and compost their manure.



Railside Farm tour

Thursday’s tours visited **Martin’s Famous Pastry Shoppe**, home of Martin’s famous potato rolls. Martin’s operates the headquarters in Chambersburg, where they make 350 rolls per minute, and another plant in Valdosta, GA. Their hamburger rolls are rated number one and hot dog rolls number two in



the nation. A family company since 1958, the business began in the garage of Lois and Lloyd Martin and has grown to 750 employees.

**BWISE and Bri-Mar Trailer Manufacturing** welcomed PYFA members for a tour of their plant in Chambersburg. Brian Wise has been involved in metal fabrication since his

start in vo-tech school in 1981. The plant builds 130 trailers per week, in all sizes. Each trailer is computer-tracked through the entire process in the 300,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility. The company currently employs about 100 and is constantly designing new trailers and looking for ways to improve existing models.

Conference attendees brought a “mountain” of cereal boxes which were presented to Rev. J.R. Wells for the King’s Kettle food pantry in Shippensburg. Next year’s conference will be February 6-8, 2018 at Seven Springs Resort, hosted by Somerset County Young Farmers.

## PYFA Membership Application Form • Join us today!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15 annual fee • Make check out to: PYFA**

Mail this form and payment to: Debbie Zug • 390 Peters Creek Rd. • Peach Bottom PA 17563



# NYFEA WINTER INSTITUTE 2019

At the board of directors meeting in February, the officers voted to be the host state for the 2019 NYFEA Institute. We, Dan Wilkinson and Denise Sanner, were appointed as the co-chairmen for this event. We have had a preliminary meeting with past chairman Larry Wilkinson and his wife Doris, and are very grateful for the invaluable information that was kept from the last time we hosted in 1999.

Back in 1999 there was a committee of many members from across the commonwealth who helped make the institute the success that it was. Our hope is that we will once again have a group of dedicated individuals to work together to showcase Pennsylvania agriculture in 2019. A project of this size is ONLY made possible by many people working together...using their talents and

abilities...to put on the best institute for the folks who attend. Over the next year and a half we will have the opportunity to bond as one group and I am sure there will be many fun times had by all who choose to help out.

We are currently deciding on the location for our host venue and also lining up our committee chairman. We are looking for people who are interested in being on our sub-committees. If you are interested please contact one of us so that you can be included in any further communications. You can reach Dan at danwilkinson96@gmail.com or 717-752-5302 or Denise Sanner @ sannerfarm@aol.com or 610-683-5025.

*Dan Wilkinson and Denise Sanner*

## New Eastern Area Vice-President

Greetings. As your newly elected Eastern Area Vice-President, I'd like to introduce myself and share some information with you. I am a life-long farmer and have been active in my local young farmer chapter, the Kutztown Young Farmers, since I got out of high school, many years ago. Our farm is located in the hilly section of northern Berks County where I raise crops and beef steers. I also have several, off the farm, part-time jobs. My wife Denise and I have two sons. Ethan is a freshman in high school and active in his FFA chapter, among many other things...and Brett is married and living on one of our farms a few miles from our home farm.



Denise and Ken Sanner

I am looking forward to working with my co-Eastern Area Vice-President, Dan Fox. My goals are to share information with the members of the chapters in my region and also to host a regional event. If you want to be included in my correspondence please send your email address to sannerfarm@aol.com. We have a lot of young farmer members in our area and I look forward to meeting you at any upcoming events your

chapter might be hosting. Be sure to add myself and Dan to your distribution lists as well.

Plans are starting for our hosting of the 2019 National Institute. I am hoping we have a lot of help from members of the Eastern Region as we move along with the planning and implementation of this event; as we showcase Pennsylvania agriculture to NYFEA members from across the nation.

On Sunday, July 16th there will be a PYFA summer picnic held in the Gettysburg area. I hope to see you there. Have a safe planting season and let's hope for a great harvest this fall.

Sincerely,  
*Ken Sanner*



## The 2017 NYFEA Institute in SAVANNAH



got food?  
THANK A FARMER

**- MAKE PLANS NOW. HISTORY AND AGRICULTURE ARE AWAITING YOU!**

**- WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND this EDUCATIONAL and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM for AGRICULTURE!**

**- BRING A FRIEND and JOIN US!**

### Wednesday – December 6, 2017

1:00 PM Registration - Marriott  
1:00 PM NYFEA Board of Directors Meeting – Marriott  
1:00 PM Exhibits Open– Marriott Hotel  
4:00 PM NYFEA Delegate Session– Marriott  
5:00 PM River Boat Tour (Optional)  
6:00 PM State Executive Sect. Dinner (Dutch)

### Thursday - December 7, 2017

7:00 AM Registration - Marriott  
7:00 AM Breakfast – Marriott  
8:00 AM Savannah Port Presentation  
8:45 AM TOURS featuring JCB Tractor Co and The Savannah Port  
LUNCH— hosted at Ottawa Farms  
6:00 PM Dinner with Gary Black and Mighty Eight Air Force Museum

### Friday - December 8, 2017

7:00 AM Registration – Marriott Hotel



7:00 AM Breakfast (Officer Candidates) – Marriott  
8:00 AM TOURS featuring Circle F Farms and County Farms  
LUNCH and Branch Cotton Gin Tour  
6:30 PM Dinner on your own - Historic District of Savannah

### Saturday - December 9, 2017

7:00 AM Registration – Marriott  
8:00 AM Decision Makers College Banquet – Marriott  
Featuring: The Ag Decision Makers College—GA Agriculture Issues  
10:00 AM Ag Communication and Young Ag Leaders – Educational Programs  
11:30 AM Lunch—Marriott – Officer Installation Ceremony and The Institute Previews.  
1:30 PM Ghost Tours of Savannah (optional)  
4:00 PM NYFEA Auction—Marriott  
6:30 PM Agricultural Leadership Banquet - A Look at the Future of this Dynamic Industry - Marriott

**REGISTRATION -** Register On Line at website [www.nyfea.org](http://www.nyfea.org) and click on **Institute Brochure**  
You can mail Registration Form and Fees (payable to NYFEA):

**NYFEA: P. O. Box 20326, Montgomery, AL 36120** ( Registration will be confirmed utilizing email )

**Registration Deadline: October 25, 2017**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ YF State: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

NYFEA Attendance to all events: \$325 each # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$325 = \_\_\_\_\_

Weekend Rate # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$225 (Friday / Saturday only)

NYFEA Daily Rate is \$120 inclusive for each day Thursday # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120 \*\* = \_\_\_\_\_

NYFEA Daily Rate is \$120 inclusive for each day Friday # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120 \*\* = \_\_\_\_\_

NYFEA Daily Rate is \$120 inclusive for each day Saturday # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120 \*\* = \_\_\_\_\_

\*\* (Individual meals are available separately for \$50 per event. Must be confirmed by Dec. 1)

NYFEA Student Rate is \$300 all events # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$300 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Students must attend AG Decision Makers College & YALE on Saturday. Student rate includes 3 nights hotel and registration. Students must be willing to share a room if the room rate is included)

..... Child Registration (under age 10) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$195 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTALS DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel:** - Savannah Marriott Riverfront; 100 General McIntosh Blvd; Savannah, GA 31401

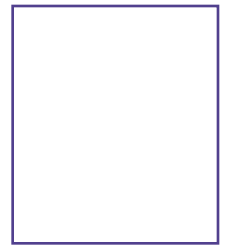
Phone: hotel direct 912-233-7722, Webpage: [www.savannahmarriott.com](http://www.savannahmarriott.com) **Note:** Please ask hotel for NYFEA or Young Farmer Institute rate (\$115 /night -until block is filled or deadline of 11/13/2017 ).

**To register or learn more about us, go to [WWW.NYFEA.ORG](http://WWW.NYFEA.ORG)—INSTITUTE 2017**





Betsy Huber  
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