

Winter 2008

A Friendly Note

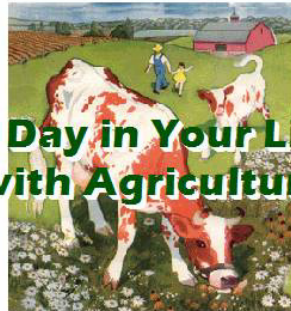
News from the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation

P. O. Box 8736, 510 S 31st Street, Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736

(717) 761-2740

Fundraising Goal Met for Fourth Ag Lab

The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation wishes to thank everyone who worked so hard to raise sufficient funding to purchase our fourth mobile ag ed science lab. Funding came from a variety of sources including state and local grants, donations from county farm bureaus and local businesses, and from individuals.



A Day in Your Life with Agriculture

The theme of the fourth lab is “a day in your life with agriculture.” Students will learn how agriculture improves and affects their lives from the time they wake, to the time they go to bed.

The Foundation expects delivery of the new lab in February 2008. Once it arrives, it will take another twelve to sixteen weeks to

finish the exterior graphics and decorate and outfit the interior. Lesson plans have already been created.

The lab will make its first visit to western Pennsylvania schools in August 2008. A date for the kick-off ceremony is yet to be scheduled, but the event will be featured in a

future issue of *A Friendly Note*.

New teachers are currently being recruited, and a new part-time assistant coordinator has been hired to help administer the growing Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab program.

Schools wishing to schedule this, or any of our labs, should contact Tonya Wible. Her contact information can be found on page two of this newsletter.

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The Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation wishes to recognize the *Agway Foundation, Pittsburgh 250 Community Connections* and the *Pennsylvania Department of Economic & Community Development* for their generous grants.

This funding was critical to the purchase of our fourth Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab and will help insure its operation and maintenance, in addition to benefiting our Ag in the Classroom teacher workshops.

The board and staff of Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation thank you.

Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation

(717) 761-2740
www.FriendsOfAg.pfb.com
FriendsOfAg@pfb.com

Carl T. Shaffer
President

Louis R. Sallie
Executive Director

Susan K. Lassi
Assistant Executive Director

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Comments and items of interest can be mailed to:

Stephanie Hoover, Editor
A Friendly Note
c/o The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
P. O. Box 8736
Camp Hill, PA 17001-8736

Or, contact Stephanie by email at:
sahoover@pfb.com.

Would you like to...

...learn how your group or organization can raise funds for Friends of Ag?

Please contact Stephanie Hoover at sahoover@pfb.com or call (717) 761-2740, ext. 161.

...book our Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab at your elementary or middle school?

Please contact Tonya Wible at tdwible@pfb.com or call (717) 439-0863.

...receive more information on the 2008 Ag in the Classroom workshop?

Please contact Rebecca Freeman at rafreeman@pfb.com or call (717) 761-2740, ext. 186.

Spice Sales Continue to Grow

The Foundation's fundraiser, "Spice Up Ag Education," enjoyed brisk sales at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's annual meeting at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center in November 2007.



Nearly sixty bottles of spices were sold -- many after visitors taste-tested the dill and ranch dips that were made using the actual Foundation spices.

Other particularly popular spice varieties were pumpkin pie spice and cinnamon, no surprise since the annual meeting fell just before Thanksgiving.

Please check future issues of **A Friendly Note** for details and dates of upcoming 2008 spice sales.

Golf Tournament Only Six Months Away

The **16th Annual Richard Prether Golf Tournament** to benefit the PA Friends of Ag Foundation happens June 2, 2008 at the beautiful Hershey Country Club.

It is not too early to start putting your team together, or to think about sponsoring this enjoyable and worthwhile event.

Funds raised benefit valuable educational programs such as the Ag in the Classroom teacher workshops, and the Mobile Ag Ed Science Labs.

For more information, please email FriendsOfAg@pfb.com.

AITC Level II Registration Filling Fast



As of this writing there are only 10 spaces left for graduates of Ag in the Classroom Level I wishing to participate in Level II to be held at Delaware Valley College April 25 - 27, 2008. Deadline for registration is March 25th. Email rafreeman@pfb.com for more information.

Foundation Planting Activity A Hit with Farm Show Attendees

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural expo in the nation. Record crowds attended the 2008 show, based on the number of vehicles that paid to park.

PA Friends of Ag Foundation had a prime spot at this year's event: the center of the large Pennsylvania Farm Bureau exhibit. It was the perfect place from which to offer our free kids' planting activity entitled "Which seed will you grow?"

The concept is a simple yet effective one: provide kids (and adults!) with an unidentified package of seeds. Give them a handout offering planting instructions and pictures of three herbs. Tell the children to chart the growth of their seedlings and -- when the leaves are mature -- compare their plant to pictures on the handout to determine if they've grown parsley, dill or cilantro.



Natasha Jones & dad of Upper Balford Township, deciding which seeds to plant

Foundation and Farm Bureau staff handed out 5,000 packages of seeds during farm show week. In addition to thousands of kids intrigued by the idea of growing their own herbs, many seed packages and instructional handouts were given to teachers, home schooling parents, scout troop leaders and other educators.



Gov. Edward G. Rendell (right) stops by the booth with PA Ag Secretary Dennis Wolff

"We want kids to be excited about the concept that food doesn't come from a grocery store, that it's actually grown and produced by farmers and families," said Susan K. Lassi, the Foundation's assistant executive director. "What better way to do that than to have them grow something for themselves?"

While there are no seed packages left, there is a surplus of the instructional handouts. Educators who would like to receive a 30-count package of these flyers can contact Stephanie Hoover at sahoover@pfb.com, or (717) 761-2740.

Farewell to A Friend...

Herb Hewitt, 64, a former Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Regional Organization Director, passed away October 8, 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

Herb was hired in late 1999 and worked with county farm bureaus in Armstrong, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Jefferson and Warren Counties until his retirement last March.

Prior to joining the PFB staff, Herb was a farm operator and had held several leadership positions with the Erie County Farm Bureau including vice president.

At the time of his passing, Herb's wife Laura knew she wanted friends to make charitable donations rather than give flowers. Laura contacted us several weeks later saying she had chosen the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation as the benefactor of this giving, with funds to be used for sponsorships for schools visited by the new Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab (see cover story.)

Those of you wishing to honor Herb Hewitt with a donation can use the address below.

Be sure to note on your check that your gift is in memory of Herb Hewitt and we will see that Laura's wishes for disbursement are honored.



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The Foundation Welcomes...

Becky Freeman, who transitioned from another department within the PA Farm Bureau to become the full-time administrative assistant for the PA Friends of Ag Foundation



Deborah Ellis, the new part-time Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab program assistant.

The Foundation is fortunate to have the services of both of these fine professionals.

Save The Date

Food Check-Out Day & Food Drive
February 6, 2008

National Ag Safety & Awareness Week
March 2 - 8, 2008

National Agriculture Day
March 20, 2008

Pennsylvania Clean-Up Day
April 19, 2008 (tentative date)

Rural Road Safety Week
April 19 - 26, 2008

Visitors to our offices in Camp Hill have likely noticed the large, bronze "tree of honor" adorning the wall of our lobby. The copper leaves of this tree contain names of particularly generous donors. The PA Friends of Ag Foundation would like to recognize the following individuals and companies -- all of whom became a leaf on our tree of honor in 2007:



Agway Foundation
Allegheny Energy Inc.
Armstrong County Commissioners
Beaver/Lawrence County Farm Bureau
Capital Blue Cross
Elderton State Bank
Firestone Agricultural Tire Division
Freysinger Pontiac GMC Buick
Highmark Blue Shield
Klingensmith Health Care

Nationwide Insurance
Penneco Oil Company
Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association
Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council
Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board
Richard Mains
The Growmark Foundation
United Electric Cooperative Inc.
Washington County Farm Bureau

Thank you to our recent, generous contributors:

AgChoice Farm Credit
Armstrong County Community Foundation
Dr. W. R. & Susan Bastian
Brian Crytzer
C. W. Howard Insurance Agency
Centerville Lions Club
Crawford County Farm Bureau
Crystal Springs Tree Farm
Dairyside Veterinary Service, Inc.
Dominion Foundation
Charles & Emily Dull
Amos & Edna Egolf
Franklin County Farm Bureau
Fulton County Farm Bureau
Beth Hazen
Hillcrest Farms
Hoover Inc
Donald & Ethel Horner
Jefferson County Holstein Club
Ronald & Barbara Kerr

Klingensmith Drug Store
Little Eagle Associates LTD
Marion Center Bank
McCutcheon Enterprises Inc.
Mercer County Farm Bureau
Mercer-Northwest Guernsey Breeders' Assoc.
Montgomery County Farm Bureau
Over Lane Farms
Pennsylvania Beef Council
Pennsylvanians for Affordable Nutrition
James & Lynn Ramage
S & T Bank
John & Norma Saylor
Sechler Insurancy Agency
Senate Engineering Company
Andrea Sharretts
Susquehanna County Farm Bureau
Walker's Farm Service
Wayne/Pike County Farm Bureau
York County Agricultural Business Council