



# Friends of the Farm Show News



April/May 2023

Volume 11 Issue 2



**Steinmetz Family Farm Goat Cuddling**

**PA Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner**

**Become a Friend of the Farm Show**

Friends of the PA  
Farm Show

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Agriculture

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PA Department of  
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Deputy Secretary  
PA Department of  
Agriculture

The Friends of the  
Pennsylvania Farm Show  
Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-  
profit that was developed to  
stimulate, facilitate, and  
support educational  
programs, incentives, and  
events relating to the annual  
Farm Show event.

# Save the Dates

## Friends of the PA Farm Show Picnic

June 11th, 2023

1 p.m. (Lunch at 2 p.m.)

Lebanon Valley Exposition Center & Fairgrounds

80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA

## Ag Progress Days

August 8-10, 2023

Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center

2710 W. Pine Road, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA

Visit Friends of the PA Farm Show at  
Ag Progress Days in the PDA building.

We are looking for articles and pictures to  
publish in the Friends of the Farm Show  
News.

April/May - Due by March 1, 2023

June/July - Due by May 1, 2023

August/Sept. - Due by July 1, 2023

Newsletter Editor: Lizzie Bailey

**Questions?** Please call (717)254-9550.

**Email articles:**

[fofsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fofsnewsletter@gmail.com)

June-July  
Newsletter

Deadline  
is  
May 1, 2023

Cover Photo

PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and Senator Elder Vogel, PA 47th District at the PA Farm Show  
cuddling goats.

Photo Credit: PA Department of Ag



### Foundation Contact Information

**Email:** [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com). **Website:** [www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com)

**Like us on Facebook:** Friends of PA Farm Show

# Friends of the Farm Show Foundation Inc. Attends PSCFO Cornucopia "A Taste of Pennsylvania"



Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, Inc. Marketing Manager Rachel Schlegel, greeting attendees at the booth.

The Friends of the Farm Show Foundation, Inc. participated in Cornucopia's "A Taste of Pennsylvania" on March 7, 2023, at the Pennsylvania State Capitol.

The Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations hosts the event to showcase Pennsylvania agriculture. PA Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding welcomed guests, and many political leaders were in attendance.



Friends of the Farm Show Foundation served WayHar Farm Market brownies to the Cornucopia guests.



Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding welcomes guests.



Pennsylvania State Capitol.



Friends of Farm Show Foundation Inc. Board members, Lizzie Bailey and Lela Reichart.



Taking a moment for a picture during the event are State Senator Nick Miller, with FOFS, Inc. Board Member Lela Reichart; FOFS, Inc. Secretary/Treasurer Bev Gruber; and FOFS, Inc. Marketing Manager Rachel Schlegel.

# Goat Cuddling for a Purpose

## Steinmetz Family Farm partners with Friends at Farm Show

If you had asked Justin Steinmetz if his wife Lauren's idea of baby goat snuggling was a crazy idea, he would have agreed and even thought she "was a bit nuts."

However, with Lauren's persuading, Steinmetz Family Farm held its first goat snuggling stand at the Kutztown Folk Festival in July 2022. The event was extremely successful and opened doors to even more opportunities for the beloved baby goats to shine. The Steinmetz's now share their love of goats with others at nursing homes, birthday parties, hospitals, fairs, and more. The biggest stage date the farm has been a part of thus far was the 107th Pennsylvania Farm Show, held from Jan. 7 to 14, 2023. In response to the event at the Farm Show, Justin explained, "The level of interest and success has simply blown us away."



Baby goats await the arms and laps of attendees at the 107th Pennsylvania Farm Show. Photos by Rachel Schlegel



Beverly Gruber, secretary and treasurer of the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc., receives a check from Justin Steinmetz of Steinmetz Family Farm from its goat snuggling event at the Farm Show. Photo by Jessica Ciecwisz

The success of the goat snuggling event not only brought smiles to the faces of the farm's staff but also to the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. The family graciously decided to partner with the Friends and gave half of the entrance fee profits to the Friends. Justin and Lauren heard about the Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. through the Pennsylvania Farm Show. When they found out about its mission, they wanted to contribute to the organization as they, too, believe "it is so important to continue to teach our children and teens about farming and agriculture in Pennsylvania." The Friends exist in order to stimulate, facilitate and support educational programs, incentives, and events relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

**The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation Inc. has raised over 1.5 million to support the education program and events at the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show since our inception in 2010.**



Steinmetz's admiration of its kids runs deep, but they had no idea that the farm and its goats would become so famous in the public's eyes. Those who follow the farm on its Facebook page have fallen in love with the goats and look forward to seeing what new adventure they get into each day. Due to the livestreams on Facebook featuring the goats and the farm brought supporters from New York, Connecticut, North Carolina, Iowa, and Colorado to the Pennsylvania Farm Show to show their support.

There is a good chance many believe that goat snuggling is only for children. That is not the case. "Once adults get into our stand and have a baby in their lap, they quickly realize they never want to leave. Holding a baby goat is very therapeutic. It calms you and brings you so much joy. It does wonders for coping with anxiety and depression," Justin explained.

Steinmetz Family Farm plans to bring its love of baby goats to the attendees next year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show with even more babies to snuggle and shorter wait times. Steinmetz Family Farm is a small 12-acre farm located in Fleetwood, Pa. A fairly new business, they specialize in baby goats and have livestock. The farm offers petting zoos, parties on the farm, goat yoga, seasonal events open to the public, and the popular "Rent-a-Goat" program. This program allows you to

rent a baby goat for the day and take them home to snuggle and love.

When the couple purchased the farm three-and-a-half years ago, the land did not include a barn. Lauren continues to work as a full-time kindergarten teacher, and Justin left his contractor job to devote his time to goat farming full-time. Through their busy schedules, they are saving as much as possible through goat snuggling, farm parties, fairs, and goat yoga events to put towards erecting a brand-new barn. The support for constructing the barn from fans has been overwhelming, and they encouraged the farm to start a GoFundMe account called Steinmetz Family Farm Animal Barn Raising Fund. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

For more information about the farm and its events, visit [steinmetzfamilyfarm.com](http://steinmetzfamilyfarm.com) and join the 50,000 followers and supporters on Facebook at Steinmetz Family Farm.

The Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc. would like to extend its appreciation to the Steinmetz Family Farm for its support of our mission.



**FRIENDS OF THE  
PENNSYLVANIA  
FARM SHOW  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

**Friends of Farm Show**  
*Funding the Future of Ag*



## Greetings from Chloe Bomgardner 2023 Pennsylvania Fair Queen Crown

Hello! My name is Chloe Bomgardner, and I am truly honored to serve as the 2023 Pennsylvania State Fair Queen. For the next year, I will represent the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs (PSACF) and promote PA fairs as the showcase of Pennsylvania Agriculture.

I am the 17-year-old daughter of Corwin and Tara Bomgardner of Jonestown, Lebanon County. I enjoy living on our small farm with eight of my siblings, where we raise Holstein show heifers, chickens, beef, market hogs, and crop farm small grains. My siblings involvement in FFA and 4-H influenced me to join 4-H and FFA. I became a NorLebCo 4-H Dairy club member when I was just eight years old and showed my first dairy heifer that year. Since then, I have held many offices in that club, including Reporter, Vice President, and the current President, for the past two years.

Growing up, I was homeschooled. However, in 9th grade, I started taking Agricultural classes through my local high school. There I got involved in the Northern Lebanon FFA chapter and soon became the Northern Lebanon FFA Treasurer. After serving as the Treasurer for two years, I was elected to serve as the 2022-23 Northern Lebanon FFA Vice President. This organization has impacted my life tremendously, and I credit most of my experiences and opportunities to it. Through FFA, I was even able to start my very own market hog project this past summer to show at the Lebanon Area Fair!

My connection to agriculture and PA fairs began when I was very young. Watching my older siblings walk around the show ring with their cows, waiting for the day when it would be my turn to be in the ring, always excited me. I also exhibited home and garden entries, including cakes, eggs, vegetables, and more. Since then, every year, you can find me either in the dairy barns or pig barns or volunteering anywhere and making memories with my family and friends throughout the fairgrounds. My fair has taught me many life lessons and skills, such as the importance of hard work, responsibility, volunteerism, and sportsmanship. From showing at multiple other county fairs over the past few years, I have grown to



2023 Pennsylvania Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner of Lebanon County.

Photo: courtesy of Tim McGowan Studios

understand that all county fairs throughout the Commonwealth have their traditions. I am excited to experience them and serve as an ambassador for all Pennsylvania fairs this year.

PSACF has been in existence since 1912. Over 100 member fairs, associations, or societies hold annual events that promote the Commonwealth's top industries - agriculture and tourism.

An estimated 5.5 million people visit PA fairs each year to enjoy amusements, food, entertainment, judged competitions, and our rich Pennsylvania heritage. I invite you to discover a PA fair near you, and find out for yourself how communities across the state are coming together to keep the agricultural fair tradition alive. Who knows? You may even see me there! Learn more about PA fairs at [pafairs.org](http://pafairs.org).

Sincerely,  
Chloe Bomgardner



FRIENDS OF THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA  
 FARM SHOW**  
 FOUNDATION, INC.

# Friends of Farm Show

## *Funding the Future of Ag*

### **Stimulate ♦ Facilitate ♦ Support**

The Foundation believes in its mission statement to contribute to educational programs, incentives and events relating to the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show.

### Why is the Foundation important?

The Foundation was established in March 2010 and since then it has contributed more than \$1.5 million to the educational programs at the Farm Show.

### How can you get involved?

#### **Become a Friend!**

\$65/annually ♦ \$500/lifetime

Email [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com)  
 or call 717-729-7158

#### **Donate to the Friends**

Along with the fee of becoming a Friend, donations of any amount are accepted and are tax deductible.

**To become a Friend, be sure to scan this code!**



Friendship Application:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Sponsorship Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

\$65/Annual  \$500/Lifetime

Check enclosed

I would like more information about the Foundation.

**Please make your check payable to:**  
 Friends of the  
 Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc.

**Mail to:**  
 c/o PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center  
 2300 North Cameron Street  
 Harrisburg, PA 17110



c/o PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center,  
2300 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Email: [farmshowfriends@gmail.com](mailto:farmshowfriends@gmail.com)

Website: [www.friendsoffarmshow.com](http://www.friendsoffarmshow.com)

Like us on Facebook: [FriendsofPAFarmShow](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPAFarmShow)

Visit the PA Farm Show Website for upcoming events!

<https://tinyurl.com/5y3a85dw>



Pennsylvania  
**Farm Show**

**Is Hiring!**



apply at:

[employment.pa.gov](http://employment.pa.gov)

## Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center Schedule

### Highlights of Upcoming Events

March 30–April 2, 2023 PAOBA Breeders Showcase

March 31, 2023 PA Relief Sale

April 1 & 2, 2023 Harrisburg Heat Soccer Game

April- 8 & 9- 2023 Motorcycle Swap

April 13-16, 2023 Harrisburg Kennel Club

To see the full schedule

