

Young Farmer



News

What Is The Young Farmer Association All About?

For many organizations, the logo has lots of meaning, and the same is true of the logo of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association Inc. (PYFA).

It is located at the top of this column.

The PYFA emblem background illustrates that the PYFA is a state organization within the Keystone State.

The silhouetted figures, standing on books of knowledge, point to the young-adult farmer's belief in sound education, pride in a well-kept farmstead, efficient production and conservation of soil and water in the contoured fields, and hope for a bright tomorrow as indicated by the rising sun.

The Organization

The PYFA is divided into seven regions across the state to facilitate travel and time of the officers and advisory committee members, who in turn give service and counsel to local chapters within their respective regions.

The regional divisions provide equal leadership opportunities throughout the state.

Region 1 comprises Bradford, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, Pike, Sullivan, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Carbon and Northampton counties.

Region 2 includes Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, and York counties. Specific chapters in Region 2 are Ephrata, Manheim, Solanco, Dover, Kennard Dale, and Red Lion.

Region 3 includes Centre, Clearfield, Snyder, Union, North-

umberland, Columbia, Montour, Lycoming, Clinton, Mifflin and Juniata counties. Chapters in Region 3 are Penns Valley, State College, Selinsgrove, Middleburg, West Snyder, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and Line Mountain.

In Region 4 are Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Huntingdon, Cumberland, and Perry counties. Chapters are Bermudian Springs, Biglerville, Gettysburg, Chambersburg, Waynesboro, Southern Huntingdon, Shippensburg, and Greenwood.

Region 5 includes Lawrence, Beaver, Butler, Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Somerset, Fayette, Westmoreland, and Indiana counties. Chapters include Berlin, Brothersvalley, Meyersdale, Rockwood, and Derry.

Region 6 has Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Venango, Armstrong, Clarion, Jefferson, Warren, Forest, Elk, Potter, Cameron, and McKean counties. The Elderton Chapter is within Region 6.

In Region 7 are Dauphin, Schuylkill, Bucks, Montgomery, Lebanon, Berks, and Philadelphia counties. Chapters include Lower Dauphin, Blue Mountain, Upper Perkiomen, Annville-Cleona, Cedar Crest, Northern Lebanon, Kutztown, and Tulpehocken.

The official colors for the PYFA are royal blue and corn gold, the same as the FFA.

We are a stepping stone for agricultural education. Some FFA students advance to college, others continue at home with PYFA as a source of education about advanced technology in farming and agribusiness.

A farmer must be knowledgeable in all aspects of technology, from purchasing to marketing, veterinarian to mechanic, cropping to computers, etc. ... there is not one day goes by that we as farmers don't use some of these technologies.

The right decision can keep us in the black ink.

Weather is a big factor that we have no control of, but with up-to-date weather news available 24-hours in many areas, we can make decisions that can mean the difference between, for example, making hay valued at \$150 per ton or \$40 per ton.

The better the information, the better the chance of making a wise and successful decision.

PYFA History

1955 marked the beginning of the effective use of a local Young Farmers Association to provide improved instruction, increase leadership development of members, and better relations in each community.

But the start of the program goes back before then.

In October 1954 the State Council on Education approved "on-farm instruction" of young-adult farmers as a regular part of the program in vocational agriculture.

As teachers systematically have visited more people on an on-farm basis, the number and quality of short courses taught has increased.

In the first 20 years of vocational agriculture education in Pennsylvania, most teachers conducted adult farmers' night classes, but without on-farm instruction.

From 1937 to 1941, special emphasis on classes for young farmers resulted from the Great Depression and its effect on the general unemployment of several million young men in rural areas.

World War II OSYA classes were largely devoted to the reconditioning of used farm implements. Soon after the war, the veterans' agricultural training program enrolled so many men, that special instructors were added to teach the classes and provide on-the-job training.

It was in 1949 that the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, organized through the veterans' classes on a county unit basis, held its first annual meeting at the state Farm Show.

As their individual entitlements to the subsidized training program expired, most of the veterans dis-

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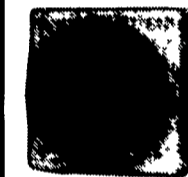
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