

The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture



The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture has been in continuous existence since 1785. Over these 229 years we have carried out a variety of advocacy, educational and informative programs to promote progressive, productive and sustainable agriculture. During the last 39 years our annual programs have consisted of visits to farms, universities and research institutes and presentations at our luncheons in Philadelphia covering a very wide range of agricultural disciplines and activities. Our members include large and small scale farmers, government and academic staff and industry representing every aspect of agriculture and the food system.

The 2014/2015 Activities Program is devoted to understanding how we can ensure sustainability as the pressure continues for increased productivity to feed the growing world population. We have invited distinguished speakers to address key issues and possible solutions at our eight luncheons and two field trips. The field trips this year are aimed at increasing our understanding of sustainability in producing protein from fish farming and in the design and management of our landscapes. Our luncheons and outside visits are held on the first Thursday of every month September through June. The luncheons are held at the Union League, 140 S. Broad Street, in Center City, Philadelphia and typically last from noon to two o'clock. Format of the meetings includes opening remarks, invocation, introduction of guests, lunch, our speaker and time for questions. The meetings conclude by 2:00 PM.

Our PSPA Web Site

We urge members, and non-members, to visit our newly revamped web site at

WWW.PSPAONLINE.COM

Visitors to the web site can find up-to-date information regarding our meetings, field trips, speakers and topics of agricultural interest. We attempt to link visitors to timely articles across the web concerning agriculture, food and marketing. Summaries of our speakers' presentations can be found there along with audio-visual recordings of the proceedings (as available).

The web site also provides access to the history of America's oldest agricultural society. We are connected to the Society's Library and Art Collection at the University of Pennsylvania, with its rich resources concerning the history and progress of agriculture in the U.S. and around the world. A beautiful, hardcover history of the Society, recently updated by Betty Mosimann, is available for purchase on the web site, too.

Members are encouraged to use the web site for enhanced member services. Members can now reserve luncheons, make payments online, renew membership and access forms to invite new members to join.

We encourage non-members to visit www.pspaonline.com and learn more about the Society's history, our programs and ongoing objectives for promoting agriculture.

Ensuring Sustainability - Increasing Productivity
PSPA Meeting Schedule ~ 2014 – 2015

September 4, 2014 - The U.S. Food Waste Challenge Dr. Elise Golan, Director for Sustainable Development, Office of Chief Economist, USDA In this talk, Elise Golan will examine the impact and drivers of food waste in the United States – and present the USDA's and Environmental Protection Agency's initiative, The U.S. Food Waste Challenge. She will discuss innovative approaches and technologies for reducing, recovering, and recycling food waste.

October 2, 2014 - Marel Raub, Pennsylvania Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

November 6, 2014 - Field Trip to Delaware: Aquaculture In the morning we will visit Blair View Farm. Joel Blessing, owner, will give us a personal tour of this commercial aquaculture operation. We will hear about applied research by the University of Delaware to increase production. We will enjoy lunch at Bonz Restaurant at the Harrington Fairgrounds. After lunch an overview of UD research in aquaculture by recognized expert, John Ewart of the Marine College.

December 4, 2014 - Clemens Food Group and Our Commitment to Sustainability Tom Clemens is a fourth-generation officer of the Clemens Family Corporation, which operates one of the largest pork production and processing companies in the eastern United States. Mr. Clemens will speak on the Clemens Food Group's commitment to sustainability through – Commitment to Members, the Environment, Animal Welfare, Customers and Products, and Community.

January 8, 2015 – Note Change in Location – Van Pelt Library, University of Pennsylvania - Why Investing in Research Is Necessary to Feed the Growing World Dr. Keith Fuglie, Economist, Economic Research Service, USDA Global demand for food is projected to rise by 70-100% between 2010 and 2050, putting unprecedented pressure on the world's agricultural resources. To meet this challenge in a sustainable way, major improvements in agricultural productivity will be necessary. Serious weaknesses in the global agricultural R&D system are emerging and pose a major risk to the long-term prospects for the global food economy. (After the presentation there will be brief talks by Librarian Lynn Farrington and Bettsey Mosimann and viewing of selected PSPA archived documents.)

February 5, 2015 - Dr. J.B.Penn (invited), Chief Economist, Deere & Company; Director, Global Harvest Initiative and former Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, USDA.

March 5, 2015 - From Moon Farming to Satellite Farming: The Evolution and Future of Agriculture in America Dr. Gary Moore, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Agricultural & Extension Education, North Carolina State University. The ten most significant advances in agriculture during the past century will be discussed. The involvement of the PSPA will be highlighted. Then 10 trends/issues that could impact the sustainability of agriculture for the next 100 years will be identified. He will address the historical role of agricultural education including the significance of the PSPA as well as how today's agricultural education system prepares students for a sustainable future.

April 2, 2015 – Keeping Families on the Farm: Sustainability for 2020 and Beyond Allen Lash, CEO and Founder of Family Farms Group, Brighton, IL. Mr. Lash will discuss how Family Farms Group is working to ensure the financial viability of its member farms. This will expand our discussion of sustainability to include the financial health of farms and their “longevity.”

May 7, 2015 - Field Trip to Longwood Gardens – On this trip we will learn about Longwood's sustainability objectives and visit selected projects. In the morning there will be presentations by Tom Brightman, Land Steward, Longwood Gardens, and Steve Castorani, President of North Creek Nurseries, Landenberg, PA. North Creek is a leader in use of native plants in our public places and a major supplier of native plants in the Eastern US. After a special lunch we will move to visit the sustainability projects. For the remainder of the afternoon members and guests can visit the Gardens at their leisure.

June 4, 2015 - The Challenges of Sustainable Agriculture in the Corn Belt Dr. Mark A. Rasmussen, Director, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Ames, IA. Dr. Rasmussen will discuss Midwestern issues related to soil degradation, water quality, nutrient management, and intensive crop and livestock production. He will explore the pressures global demand is placing upon our agricultural resources and the efforts to integrate production with sustainability.

Please note: All regular meetings of PSPA begin promptly at 12:15 PM. Reservations for the luncheon must be made by Noon of the Friday preceding the meeting (no meals guaranteed for late reservations). Deadlines for field trips will be announced.