

## The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture



*The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture* has been in continuous existence since 1785. Over these 230 years we have carried out a variety of advocacy, educational and informative programs to promote progressive, productive and sustainable agriculture. During the last 40 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 2015/2016 Activities Program reflects the eclectic interests of the Society over its history. We have invited distinguished speakers on a wide variety of topics to our eight luncheons and two field trips. These meetings 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 lunch, our speaker and time for a lively discussion of the topic. 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](http://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 digital presentations and visuals.

The web site also provides access to the history of America's Oldest Agricultural Organization. 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 Bettsy 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.

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**The Breadth of Agriculture Today  
PSPA Meeting Schedule ~ 2015 – 2016**

**September 3, 2015 – More With Less: The Case for Precision Agriculture**

Dr. Joshua M. McGrath, Associate Professor, University of Kentucky (member of the Society). Sensor guided, variable rate N shows tremendous promise, with potential nitrogen savings of 5 – 20% in corn and wheat production, while maintaining yields. The science behind the technology, its practical limitations, and roadblocks to adoption will be discussed.

**October 1, 2015 - Field Trip – New Bolton Center; Luncheon; Walmoore Holsteins Farm Tour**

**November 5, 2015 – Hudson River Watershed, Its Impact on Agricultural Land, and the Promotion of Local Food Initiatives**

Steve Rosenberg, Senior Vice-president and Executive Director, Scenic Hudson River Land Trust, Inc., will discuss the current issues surrounding the Hudson River watershed and impacts to agriculture.

**December 3, 2015 – Manure to Energy**

Bevin Buchheister, Maryland Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission Handling the animal waste produced within the Chesapeake Bay watershed is a major challenge. Energy production may be one alternative that has been a primary focus for Ms. Buchheister

**January 7, 2016 – The Importance of Bees and Their Role in Agriculture**

James Bobb, Pennsylvania Beekeepers Association, Inc. Honeybees have been in the news of late, highlighting their importance to the production of food.

**February 4, 2016 – Explosion of Jobs in Agriculture**

Jean Lonie, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences Director of Student Recruitment and Activities (member of the Society). Recently, job growth in the agriculture sector, especially high tech, has been a bright spot in the U.S. job market. This presentation will look at this phenomenon and its effects on education.

**March 3, 2016 - Computer Technology and Its Uses in Agriculture \**

Beverly Wayside, John Deere Co. The Ag sector has led the way in bringing computer technology to the “internet of things.” And John Deere is leading in the Ag sector implementing precision agriculture and improved efficiency through computer technology.

**April 7, 2016 – Field Trip to Herr's Potato Chip and Snack Factory Tour**

A perennial favorite! Lunch: Wyncote Country Club, Oxford, PA

**May 5, 2016 – Impact of Sheep and Wool Growers in Agriculture**

Melanie Barkley, Penn State Extension Educator. Harkening back to the early days of the *Society* we explore the modern role of diversification and specialty animal husbandry.

**June 2, 2016 - 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. 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 the future.

***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.***