

The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture



In our 232nd year, the PSPA will return to a familiar theme, “Sustainability,” but will examine more than just the environmental component. True sustainability (the ability to endure) in farming and agricultural and food systems requires positive benefits for the environment (the planet), acceptance by the public (the people), and the ability to be economically viable (the profit). This year’s program theme “Successfully Meeting the Challenges in Agriculture in the 21st Century and Beyond” will address these issues. A recent survey of the members of PSPA identified critical challenges to agriculture over the next 50 years. These included climate change, conservation of our soil and water, the use of genetic and other technologies, organic and conventional agricultural practices, feeding the growing world, local production and value-added processing. We invite you to participate in all our lunch presentations and field trips and help us continue to support and promote agriculture as the cornerstone of civilization.

The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture has been in continuous existence since 1785. Over these 231 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 wide range of agricultural interests. Our members include large and small farmers, government and academic staff and industry representing every aspect of agriculture and the food system.

The 2016/2017 Activities Program reflects the eclectic interests of the Society over its history. Distinguished speakers on our theme will highlight our eight luncheons and two field trips. These meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month September through June. The luncheons are usually 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. Our field trips will take place on the October and May meeting dates and details will be available closer to those events.

Our PSPA Web Site - We urge members, and non-members, to visit our continuously updated web site at WWW.PSPAONLINE.COM. Visitors to the web site can find 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 Bettys 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. Non-members can now use the website to request reservations to attend meetings and learn about membership in PSPA.

Visit www.pspaonline.com today!

Successfully Meeting the Challenges in Agriculture in the 21st Century and Beyond
PSPA Meeting Schedule 2016/2017

September 1, 2016 – Successfully Meeting the Challenges in Pennsylvania Agriculture. The Honorable Russell C. Redding, Secretary of Agriculture for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, will discuss current and future challenges and opportunities for Pennsylvania's largest economic enterprise.

October 6, 2016 - Field Trip 1: Kimberton and Collegeville, PA. Morning: Lundale Farm, a sustainable farming community in Kimberton PA; Lunch at Kimberton Inn with noted international speaker on climate change, Mr. Richard Whiteford Afternoon: Greener Partners: Creating healthy communities through food, farms, and education, Collegeville PA.

November 3, 2016 - Protecting and Enhancing our Soil - the Foundation for Plant, Animal, and Human Life. C. Wayne Honeycutt, Ph.D., President and CEO, the Soil Health Institute will discuss the mission and activities of the new Soil Health Institute and why its activities are critical to the success of future US Agriculture.

December 1, 2016 - Deer Creek Malthouse, the First Commercial Malthouse in Pennsylvania Since Prohibition. Mr. Mark Brault, President and Chief Maltster, will discuss how Deer Creek is producing and supplying regional craft brewers and distillers with high quality, sustainably farmed, artisan malts that bring local character and innovation to the craft beverage tradition while creating new markets for locally produced grains.

January 5, 2017 – Challenges and Opportunities for a Young Farmer in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Cory Atkins, owner of Cory's Produce and farmer of 800 acres near Seaford Delaware, will talk about his efforts to farm in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. Cory was selected at the Northeast Region winner of the 2016 Conservation Legacy Awards by the American Soybean Association.

February 2, 2017 - On-Farm Bioenergy, Biofuels & Biochemicals Via FarmBio3 Fast Pyrolysis Mobile Technology Akwasi A. Boateng, Ph.D., Lead Scientist, ARS, USDA will describe his pioneering and award winning research program that is creating a mobile, sustainable process that can turn almost any type of crop residue or energy crop into "drop in" fuels, chemicals, and carbon-sequestering biochar.

March 2, 2017 - Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change with Regenerative Organic Agriculture. Kristine Nichols, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Rodale Institute. Implementing widely available and inexpensive regenerative organic management practices allows farms to maintain and even enhance productivity under climatic uncertainty by utilizing the resiliency of internal biological systems. Dr. Nichols will explain how we may sequester more than 100% of current annual CO2 emissions while capitalizing on the efficiencies of biological systems in crop and grazing lands.

April 6, 2017 – Genetically Modified Crops: Economical and Safe for Food and the Environment? Professor Richard Roush, Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State University will discuss implications of GM crops for climate change, conservation of soil and water resources, and feeding the growing world.

May 4, 2017 - Field Trip 2: Phoenixville and Honey Brook, PA – Seven Stars Farm Phoenixville PA, Lunch at Wyebrook Farm, PA followed by tour of Wyebrook Farm.

June 1, 2017 - Vertical Farming in Philadelphia. Jack Griffin, President of Metropolis Farms Inc. will discuss his venture which includes the development and implementation of vertical farming systems capable of producing fresh produce year round in urban settings.

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.