



## Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture

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### 2018-2019 Program of Meetings

The Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture has been in continuous existence since 1785. Over these 234 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 2018/2019 Activities Program reflects the eclectic interests of the Society throughout 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 or at venues in the surrounding region, 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 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. Users can find there many connections to our collection of historical documents housed at *The University of Pennsylvania*, as well as topics of current interest in agriculture and food systems. Society members can access a variety of member services, including reserving luncheon tickets.

### 2018 – 2019 Program

#### Theme: Agriculture Sustainability, Conservation and Innovation

##### 9.06.18 Union League

Jerry L. Hatfield, Director  
National Laboratory for Agriculture and the Environment - Ames, Iowa  
**"The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture in the United States, Building Strategies for Climate Resilience."**

Climate affects all agricultural systems in the United States through the regions in which we produce different crops and animals and the variation in the production among years. The overall goal of climate resilience is to provide an environment that maintains each species within its optimum temperature range to ensure maximum efficiency in growth and production.

##### 10.04.18 Lancaster County Field Trip: **"Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum**



We will journey back through time to get a glimpse of Pennsylvania German rural life in the 1700 and 1800's. The progression of our agricultural history will come alive and we will appreciate the accomplishments of early farm families. Mike Brubaker, former Pennsylvania Senate Chair of the Agriculture and Finance Committee, invited to reflect on his experience.

##### 11.01.18 Union League

Professor Thomas Daniels, University of Pennsylvania

##### **"Preferred Patterns for Farmland Preservation"**

State and local governments and private, non-profit land trusts have been "preserving" farmland through the purchase of conservation easements for over 40 years. The typical measures of progress in preservation have been the amount of money spent and the number of acres preserved. These measures, however, say nothing about the pattern of land preservation, which is more important for the long-term continuation of agricultural operations. This presentation looks at the progress in Lancaster County, PA toward forming large contiguous blocks of permanently preserved farmland.

(see back pages)

### 12.06.18 Union League

William Woys Weaver, PhD. Director, Keystone Center for the Study of Regional Foods and Food Tourism  
**"The Roughwood Seed Archive for Food Studies: Seed to Table, the Future of Regional Cuisine"**

Our speaker is an internationally known food historian and author of sixteen books including A Quaker Woman's Cookbook, a study of a 19th century domestic book by Elizabeth Ellicott Lea, America Eats and The Christmas Cook, a 300-year history of the American Christmas. Weaver has been featured on such national programs as "Good Morning America" and has appeared in many special food documentaries, including "Terrapin," which won an Emmy in 1993, and more recently, "Open Sesame: The Story of Seeds."

### 1.03.19 Union League

John Fulton, Associate Professor Ohio State University, Food, Agriculture and Biological Engineering  
**"Big Data and the Agriculture Industry"**  
Digital agriculture is evolving globally with aspects such as technology, prescriptive agriculture, data and digital tools being utilized at the farm today. With consumer devices and internet connectivity being heavily utilized, information is more readily

available while data collection at the field level has increased rapidly in the past few years. This presentation will overview the development of digital agriculture and how it is impacting both farm operations and agriculture as a whole.

### 2.07.19 University of Pennsylvania Professor Lori Lynch, University of Maryland, Agriculture and Resource Economics **"Adaptation of Agricultural Systems to Improve Resilience to Climate Change"**

Professor Lynch is doing her part to address these critical issues with her current research project. Dr. Lynch has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, and will be conducting research based in Cali, Colombia beginning in August 2017. She will visit PSPA immediately after her return.

### 3.07.19 Chester County

#### **Field Trip to Stroud Water Research Center and the Farm at Doe Run**

Since 1967, the Stroud™ Water Research Center has focused on one thing — fresh water. Scientists at the Center seek to advance knowledge and stewardship of freshwater systems through

global research, education, and water shed restoration. They will speak about "Water Conservation".



The Farm at Doe Run, prize winning artisan cheese makers, is in the rural heart of Chester County, the Farm was purchased in 2008 by Pennsylvania native Richard Hayne, founder of Urban Outfitters. What began as a hobby farm quickly grew into a serious operation, renowned for producing some of the country's best cheeses. The Farm at Doe Run takes great pride not just in their award-winning cheese, but in being careful and attentive stewards of the land.

### 5.1.2019– 5.2.2019 State College PA Field Trip to Penn State School of Agriculture



This two-day trip will include research talks on dairy reproduction, pollinator

colony collapse, lantern fly, Tom Richard- Institutes of Energy and Environment, Jim Shortle- Environmental and Natural Resource Institute, and Matt Royer- Ag and Environment Center. Farm tour focusing on sustainable cropping and brewing and distilling. Then a second day featuring lab tours: bed bug research, animal diagnostics, cocoa, apiary and infectious disease. An outstanding dinner at the Special Events Building is included as well as transportation on campus and overnight accommodations. This will be a specially priced event.

### 4.6.2019 and 6.6.2019 are open dates Topics: TBA

**Invited for one of the two remaining open dates:**  
Julia Freedgood, Assistant VP Programs, American Farmland Trust **"Farms Under Threat: The State of American Farmland"**

Are we conserving enough farmland to protect our legacy and ensure food security for future generations? American Farmland Trust (AFT), in collaboration with Conservation Science Partners, has launched a multiyear initiative, Farms Under Threat: The State of America's Farmland, that will address that question.