

NYFEA UPDATE

May 2016



Why Get Involved?

As farmers and agribusiness men and woman we often tend to keep our connections and activities close to home. Let's face it...our cows need to be milked {at least} twice a day, animals need to be fed, acres need to be cultivated, our stores and shops rarely close, our clients need to be attended to, and our families activities keep us very busy...it doesn't leave much time to get out and see beyond our farm gates. However, it really "does a person good" to get involved with organizations, such as NYFEA, that offer you the opportunity to see what is happening outside of our communities and states.

My husband, Ken, had been a local member since he was 18. When we were recognized for our community service by our local chapter we attended the state convention to be awarded the state honor. We had a blast, enjoyed the tours, made a few new friends, and got involved with the planning of the next convention since our local chapter was the host. Things spiraled from there and I became involved with our state board. When I think of the opportunities that we would have missed, had we stayed within our local community, I am grateful for the nudge we were given to attend a state event. I am so glad that we stepped outside our comfort zone and took advantage of the educational experiences, the life-long friendships, the tours of both agriculture and non-agriculture facilities, and for me, the leadership development.

Ken and I started attending NYFEA events when our youngest son was just born. It was an ideal time as we could bring him along with us, as he wasn't in school yet. All of those opportunities that we have enjoyed on the state level, were also available to us on a national level. Throughout the past 14 years we have traveled to many states, learned about different components of agriculture and about the challenges and triumphs that our fellow agriculturists faced with the environmental conditions and cultural society of their regions. I have often been heard saying "much of the education we gained {while on Young Farmer tours} was from fellow attendees while we traveled on buses to tour sites". We made connections with people with similar interests, and we built relationships with them that get reignited each time we meet up again.

After 15 years of leadership, within the Pennsylvania Young Farmers and NYFEA, my advice is...open up those farm gates...walk out the door of your business that supports agriculture locally and take advantage of the opportunities that your state and national organizations offer you. Grow as an individual as you realize that you are not alone in your struggles... there are resources available to you and will benefit you, your

family, and your business. You will return back to your farm and business a better person....with a fresh outlook...relaxed and ready to take on new challenges and try new concepts. And when you come...bring a friend or two. Invite the recent college graduate who just gained a ton of knowledge to see first-hand what is happening in your state and country. Share and experience the opportunity with someone else. Trust me...you, and they, won't regret it.

Denise Sanner, Past President, NYFEA



**Tampa, FL in 2016 -
"The 50th Institute"
www.nyfea.org**

Plan to attend the Institute in 2016. Brochures are available online. Also, if you are a former National Institute chair or national officer, please contact NYFEA at (nyfea-main@nyfea.org)

We are seeking your address and phone number to send you a personal invitation to a special event in Tampa at the 2016 Institute. Join the Celebration!



**Collegiate Mentoring
and
Agricultural
Leadership**



The multi-year partnership between NYFEA and the University of West Alabama continues in 2016 as an agricultural leadership development and mentoring program. Over the course of the past several years, the program has developed into a unique opportunity for individuals to spend a day on a college campus, understand key issues in agriculture and learn about opportunities for their personal educational growth. Individuals from around the United States are welcome to attend. The program will provide a unique chance for a high school sophomore or junior to be exposed to "how a college degree" can be applied to agricultural opportunities. For more information, contact NYFEA at nyfea-main@nyfea.org.