



PennState Extension

Columbia County Extension

DELIVERING EDUCATION YOU CAN TRUST

Penn State Extension Program Teams

Representing the Diversity of Issues Impacting Pennsylvania Agriculture and Rural Communities

4-H Youth Development

- Positive Youth Development
- Science
- Volunteer Management and Development

Agronomy and Natural Resources

- Energy
- Farm Safety
- Field and Forage Crops
- Forestry and Wildlife
- Master Watershed Steward
- New and Beginning Farmer
- Pesticide Education
- Urban Forestry
- Water Quality and Quantity

Animal Systems

- Dairy
- Equine
- Livestock
- Poultry

Food, Families, and Communities

- Family Well-Being
- Food Safety Modernization Act
- Health and Wellness
- Industrial Food Safety and Quality
- Leadership and Community Vitality
- Retail, Food Service, and Consumer Food Safety
- Vector Borne Diseases

Horticulture

- Business, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development
- Grape and Enology
- Green Industry
- Master Gardener
- Tree Fruit
- Vegetable, Small Fruit, Mushroom, and Pollinator



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Master Gardeners

Suann Leighow – Master Gardener Coordinator for Northumberland, Montour, and Columbia Counties -
sdn110@psu.edu

Outreach Highlights and Upcoming Events

- Seed to Supper at New Possibilities Resources & recovery
- Columbia County Master Gardeners continue to write articles for the following newspapers Sunbury Daily Item, Milton Standard Journal, Shamokin News Item and Bloomsburg Press-Enterprise.
- Will attend BEAD (Butterfly Education Awareness Day), Folks Farm in Nescopeck – June 6, 10am to 1pm
- Attending Central Susquehanna Counties 4-H camp at Camp Lavigne and present programming to the campers
- We are currently accepting applications for the Master Gardener Basic training program starting in October. We have 10 applications and started interviewing this month
- Plan to attend 2026 National Night out, Tuesday Aug 4, 5 – 8pm, Industrial arts building
- Columbia Master Gardeners are planning to have presence at Flight 93 Memorial in Somerset County in August for yearly renovation and clean up

2026 Gardening Series in Berwick & Ask A Master Gardener



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2026 Gardening Series in Berwick



Third Wednesdays

February through October 2026

6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Berwick Innovation Center

Suite 105, 134 W. Front St., Berwick, PA 18603

Enter through the rear door, please.

presented by

**Penn State Extension
Master Gardeners of Columbia County**

February 18	<i>Care of Winter Holiday Plants</i> by Mary Jo R. Gibson
March 18	<i>Pruning Trees and Shrubs</i> by Joe Mullen
April 15	<i>Let's Get Cool: Early Spring Planting 101</i> by Renee Noll
May 20	<i>The Humble Bean</i> by Mike Shepard
June 17	<i>The Bloodsuckers: Mosquito Management</i> by Mary Jo R. Gibson
July 15	<i>Composting</i> by Joe Mullen
August 19	<i>Rain Gardens</i> by Jen Whisner
September 16	<i>Prepping Your Gardens for Winter</i> by Jen Whisner
October 21	<i>Beds, Bulbs, and Bedtime: October in the Garden</i> by Renee Noll

Free and open to the public! No registration needed.



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Ask a Master Gardener



Second Saturdays 2026

May 9, June 13, August 8

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bloomsburg Fair Farmers' Market

in Fairgrounds near Barton House

Have a gardening question that you want answered? Feel free to stop by and ask us! From flowers to vegetables, trees to shrubs, insects to soils, and everything in between, it is our pleasure to assist you with your gardening and spotted lanternfly questions.

Free and open to the public!

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June, July, August Events

- **June**
- June 2 Tue Riverfront Park clean up. With Danville Rotary.
- June 6 Sat Ferry Street Growers market.
- June 6 Sat Annual BEAD, Butterfly Awareness Day, Folks Farm 10 – 1 PM
- June 6 Sat Power of Produce (Mt. Carmel Farmers Market)
- June 9-12 Seed to Supper New Possibilities Resource and Recovery Center
- June 13 Sat Bloomsburg Fair Farmers Market
- June 15 Mon Union County Library, John presents on Lawn to Pollinator
- June 15-20 4 – H Camp Master Gardeners presenting 16, 17 and 18
- June 17 Wed Gardening Series in Berwick: The Bloodsuckers: Mosquito Management
- June 22-24 Northumberland County Conservation District camp 9-3 Pm 228 Houser Rd, Sunbury
- **July**
- July 4 Sat Ferry Street Growers Market
- July 4 Sat Power of Produce (Mt. Carmel Farmers Market)
- July 11 Sat NO Bloomsburg Fair Market (Truck Show)
- July 15 Wed Berwick Gardening Series Composting
- July 27- Aug 1 Montour – DeLong Fair
- **Aug**
- Aug 1 Sat Ferry Street Growers Market
- Aug 1 Sat Power of Produce
- Aug 3 Mon M & N Meeting
- Aug 4 Tue 2026 National Night Out, Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Industrial building 5:00 – 8: 00 PM
- Aug 6 Thurs Flight 93
- Aug 8 Sat Bloomsburg Fair Farmers Market
- Aug 11-13 Ag Progress Days
- Aug 12 Wed Columbia MG Meeting
- Aug 19 Wed Berwick Gardening Series: Rain Gardens



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Animal Systems Unit

Emily Fread – Extension Educator – Dairy - evf5337@psu.edu



- Have conducted 26 farm visits so far this year

Animal Systems Unit

Past and Upcoming Meetings

- Organic Study Circle: 18 attendees
 - April 1 in Spring Mills
- Bedded Pack Management for Organic Dairies
 - March 31 in Troy
- Passing the Torch: Transitioning the Farm: 35 attendees
 - March 24 in Lewisburg
- Cow Comfort Around the Farm
 - July 22 in Millmont



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Agronomy & Natural Resources Unit

Anna Hodgson – Extension Educator – Field and Forage Crops -
akb226@psu.edu

Sign up for
Field Crops
News



Agronomy and Natural Resources

Past & Upcoming Guest Presentations

June 1, Rodale Institute Farmer Training – Webinar on Organic Insect Management, 10 attendees

July 10, National Association of County Agriculture Agents Annual Conference, Denver, CO

- Organic Study Circles: Lessons learned from peer-to-peer extension programming in PA

September 9, Northumberland County Conservation District Field Day and Twilight Meeting, Northumberland County

- Soil testing, pesticide safety & education, integrated pest management in agronomic crops

September TBD, Snyder & Union County 4-H Ag Adventures at Beaver Community Fair

- Agronomy, plant science, and soil science activities

October TBD, Montour County Farm Bureau Banquet – Montour County

- Pesticide credit presentations

Agronomy and Natural Resources

2026 On-Farm Research – Completed

Black cutworm trapping -- a pest in corn, the caterpillars cut down entire plants at the soil surface. We monitor adult moths with pheromone traps to predict egg hatches. Two locations, Columbia and Union Counties, Completed June 1

Slug monitoring -- a damaging pest in no-till crops with limited control options, slugs are monitored weekly to better understand and predict outbreaks. Anna leads this statewide project. Funded by the PA Soybean Board, one location Columbia County. Report updated weekly: <https://extension.psu.edu/2026-pennsylvania-slug-monitoring-project>, Completed June 9



Agronomy and Natural Resources

2026 On-Farm Research – Completed

Cover crop drone seeding project – sampling cover crops seeded into standing soybeans last fall via drone. Data is being collected across the state to determine best methods. Five locations, Snyder County – Completed June 1

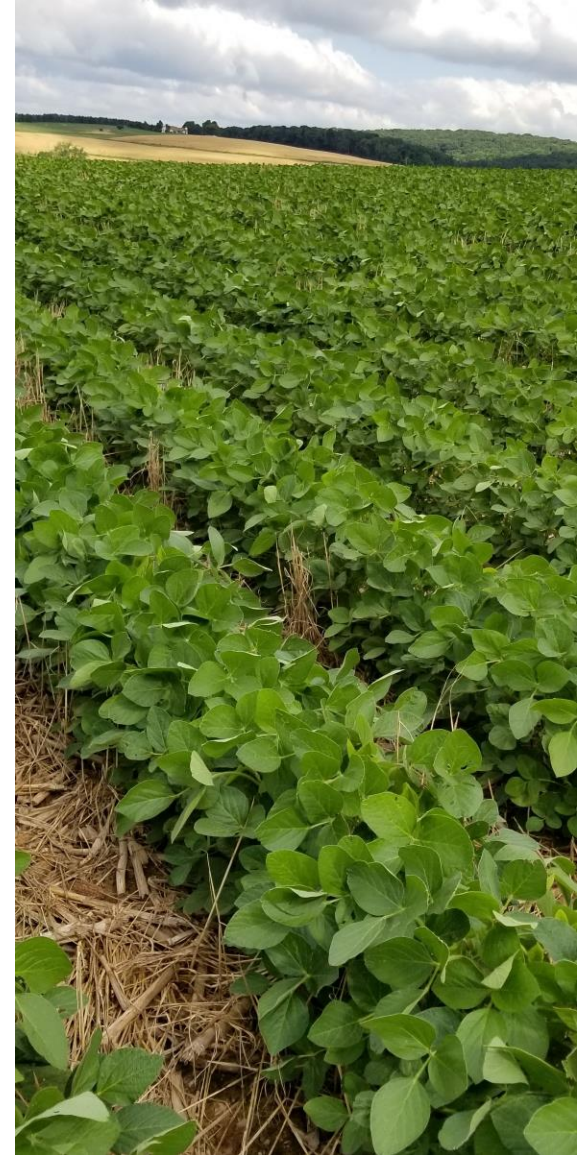
Agronomy and Natural Resources

2026 On-Farm Research – Ongoing

Soybean sentinel plot scouting – weekly scouting of local fields to monitor and report local pest outbreaks. Funded by the PA Soybean Board; locations in Columbia & Northumberland Counties

Corn sentinel plot scouting – weekly scouting of local fields to monitor and report local pest outbreaks. Locations in Columbia & Northumberland Counties

Western bean cutworm trapping – a late-season pest in corn, caterpillar feeding can cause yield loss and reduce grain quality. We monitor adult moths with pheromone traps to predict populations. Two locations, Columbia and Union Counties,



Agronomy and Natural Resources

2026 On-Farm Research – Ongoing

Deer monitoring – trail cameras will be set up in soybean fields to quantify deer feeding damage in soybeans. Funded by the PA Soybean Board; locations in Columbia & Northumberland Counties

Agronomy and Natural Resources

Upcoming Workshops & Meetings

TBD, Soybean Breakfast Meeting

- Informal breakfast meeting to get farmer feedback on issues in soybean production
- Funded by the PA Soybean Board

September TBD, Organic Twilight Meeting

- On-farm tour and peer-to-peer discussions

Montour County Crops Day -- *formerly in Union County*

- January 27, 2027 at the Pine Barn Inn, Danville
- Extension Specialists from campus and local Extension Educators will provide information and research results on relevant field and forage crops topics, pesticide recertification credits will also be offered



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Food Families and Communities Team

Sarah Freidhof – Nutrition Education Advisor, sek5502@psu.edu

Nutrition Links Program Updates

- Completed Programs this Spring:
 - Columbia County Family Center
 - Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit – ELECT program
 - Community Strategies Group
 - Busy Little Beavers Childcare
- Upcoming Summer Programs
 - Rohrbach's Seeds of the Future – summer youth program at Hillside Village
 - DACC - summer youth program
 - Berwick Area United Way – planning summer program for farmers market



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