



Penn State Ag Council Update

January 2008

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Time to Renew Your PSAC Membership

PSAC membership renewal notices were sent out in November for the 2008 calendar year. You should have received a CVENT email notice to renew your membership online with a check or credit card. Snail mail notices were sent to those who we do not currently have email addresses for. The strength of the Penn State Ag Council is in its diverse membership – please renew today! If you did not receive a renewal notice you can renew your membership online at [PSAC 2008 Membership Renewal](#), or contact the College Relations Office.

Mark Your Calendar - College Capitol Day Scheduled for March 18

This year's College Capitol Day will be held at the Capitol in Harrisburg and is sponsored by the Penn State Ag Council in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations. This event provides an ideal opportunity for the agriculture community to educate legislators on the importance of agriculture to the state and the importance of agricultural research and extension programs. The day will include a morning training session for advocates, followed by legislative visits. The group will then enjoy a Rally in the Rotunda to include the Penn State Blue Band before heading to an evening reception sponsored by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Penn State Alumni Association, Penn State Outreach, and Penn State College of Medicine.

To view the event details and register for legislative visits online go to [College Capitol Day 2008](#). If you will not be making legislative visits but would like to attend only the Rally and Reception, please click here [Register for Capitol Day Reception](#). Please plan on attending!

Mark Your Calendar – Spring Delegate Meeting Planned for April 10

The spring PSAC delegate meeting will be held on April 10, 2008, at Celebration Hall in State College. The program will be on "Ag Workforce Development: Issues and Opportunities." Registration notices will be sent out in early March.

Mark Your Calendar – Ag Action Network Training Planned for April 19

The Penn State Ag Council is sponsoring an Ag Action Network Training Session on Saturday, April 19, 2008 on the Penn State University Park campus. After the session, as a small token of our appreciation for your efforts, you and a guest are invited to join us for lunch in the University skybox and enjoy the Blue and White football game. Tickets are limited and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Registration notices will be sent out in early March.

2007 Research Tour Held on September 27th

The eighth annual Penn State Ag Council Research Tour was held on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at the Snider Ag Arena at Penn State. The tour this year highlighted research in Food Quality and Safety. The groups visited the new Food Science Building and the Berkey Creamery. They also had presentations at the Ag Engineering Building on Organics, Honey Bee Colony Collapse Syndrome, and Non-thermal means of Pathogen Destruction. We hope to see you next year!!

2007 Fall PSAC Delegate Meeting held on October 29

The Penn State Ag Council met on October 29 at Celebration Hall. The meeting focused on Industry input for the College Strategic Plan. Assistant Dean Ann Dodd gave an update on the strategic plan for the College. All attendees participated in focus group sessions and gave input on their choice of one strategic priority area including Renewable Energy, Environmental Issues, Pest Prediction and Response, Food Quality and Safety, or Job, Economic and Community Development. Each group reported out on the discussion to the council at large. Associate Dean Marcos Fernandez gave an update on the College's new recruitment initiatives at the campuses.

College Strategic Planning Process Update

Five emerging college program priorities were identified by the college leadership team in fall 2006 and updated in fall 2007 to reflect changing opportunities and, with comprehensive input from Penn State Ag Council members, stakeholder priorities. They represent opportunities that cross multiple functions, departments, and colleges. Next steps in the planning process include short term implementation teams that have been charged and will work through March 2008 to identify a short list of longer term implementation priorities on which to focus research, teaching and extension within their topic area. External stakeholders with expertise in each of these areas will serve on each of the programmatic committees. These group reports will be used to refine the recommendations from the 2004 strategic planning study groups to include emerging issues, stakeholder priorities, and trends that present new opportunities for college excellence crossing teaching, research and extension. Recommendations will be due to Dean Steele by March 30, 2008 and will be used to refine the next five year college strategic plan that is due to the Provost July 1, 2008. The Penn State Ag Council will continue to monitor the process and provide input as appropriate.

New PSAC Board Members Elected

At the October 29 delegate meeting council delegates elected four board members effective January 1, 2008, as follows:

Ferlin Patrick (2nd term), Food Industry Group; Marc Tosiano (2nd term), Nat'l Agricultural Statistics Service – PA; Cynthia Boyer Blakeslee, (1st term), Ag Law Committee of the PA Bar Assoc.; and Amy Bradford, (1st term), (filling unexpired term of Steve Ferrara), PennAg Industries.

The PSAC board of directors elected 2008 officers at their August board meeting as follows:

John Rodgers, President; Gregg Robertson, Vice President; Greg Kirkham, Secretary/Treasurer; and Past President, Jim Shirk.

Outgoing board members Steve Ferrara and Don Seipt were recognized for their contributions to the council and were presented a lion as a token of appreciation for their service.

PSAC 2007 Leadership Awards Presented

Jim Davis, Chair of the Membership Committee, presented the fifth series of leadership awards at the October 29 delegate meeting. Each recipient received a lion statue presented by Chair Jim Davis and his/ her name will be displayed on a permanent display in the Agricultural Administration Building.

The awards were created to recognize individuals in the agricultural community at large who demonstrate outstanding leadership, communications, and advocacy skills; exhibit the highest levels of professionalism, performance, innovation, judgment, and problem-solving skills encourage personal development, partnerships, collaboration, and respect; and serve as a role model, mentor, diplomat, and inspiration.

Congratulations to the following recipients:

Leadership Award, Sam Hayes

Youth Leadership Award, Rebecca Detwiler

Leadership in Action Award, PA Farm Bureau, Mobile Ag Labs

Dean's Industry Tours Update

The Dean's Industry Tours will resume in 2008. Any member organization that would like to host a tour should contact Mary Wirth at mfw10@psu.edu.

College Press Releases

If you would like to receive news releases from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences via electronic mail, send a blank e-mail message to join-agscinews-l@lists.cas.psu.edu, or call 814-865-6309 for more information.

Position Updates

Searches are currently underway for the following positions:

- Director, School of Forest Resources
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Turfgrass Management
- Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography
- Assistant/Associate Professor of Agricultural and Environmental Economics
- Assistant/Associate Professor, Synthetic Biology Engineer
- Assistant Professor in Vegetable Crop Pathology
- Assistant/Associate Professor Agricultural and Extension Education
- Assistant or Associate Professor of Agribusiness Economics

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar

March 18	College Capitol Day	State Capitol, Harrisburg
April 9	PSAC Board of Directors Meeting	State College
April 10	PSAC Delegate Meeting	Celebration Hall
April 19	Ag Action Network Training	State College
August 19 - 21	Ag Progress Days	Rock Springs, PA

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to mfw10@psu.edu and request to be taken off the list. This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.