

Amy Garges - Heritage Award 2024

Amy Garges has been actively involved in the Pennsylvania Livestock Association for the last ten years. After filling in as secretary when Harold Harpster was sick, she was officially voted in as the PLA secretary in 2018. In addition to her role as Secretary, she is the chair of the social media/promotion committee and has served on the youth committee. Amy also creates the sign-ups for the various PLA food booths, takes photos of the food and the stand for promotion on social media and helps to promote the scholarships as well. Tammy Weaver roped Amy into volunteering on the KILE Beef committee eleven years ago. Amy is always there all 5 days of the show to help, whether it is check in, lining up shows, running ribbons, making social media posts and more.

Amy graduated from Penn State with a degree in Animal Science in 2009. She was just as busy in college, holding a variety of offices in the Block and Bridle club and Dairy Science Club. She was also the founding President of the Penn State Collegiate Cattlewomen club and funding co-chair of Penn State's Meat IN Day. After graduation she worked for Lenape Limousin and helped with their show string at KILE and Farm Show. She then joined Clemens Food Group as a Food Safety and quality assurance technician before becoming the 4-H educator in Montgomery County for 11 years. As an educator, she has earned her Achievement in service award from the National Assoc. of Extension 4-H youth development professionals, National winner of the excellence in workforce development award for her virtual ag careers course, and next week she'll be accepting her distinguished service award in Boise, Idaho at the national conference..

At Farm Show, you can find Amy helping with the Junior market animal committee as the market lamb and goat chair. Amy has also been the secretary of the Farm Show Scholarship Foundation since 2021 where she helps to organize their clay shoot fundraiser. As you can tell, Amy is passionate about helping raise scholarship dollars for youth in agriculture and helping find them careers in agriculture. She is also a member of the PA committee of Targeting Excellence that raises scholarship dollars for students pursuing a career in the food animal industry.

Amy and her husband, Jacob, who she met in 4-H, reside in Telford, PA with their daughters Tayler and Eva. They raise and show Border Leicester and Lincoln Longwool sheep competitively nationwide. Both Amy and Jacob are longtime Montgomery County 4-H livestock club volunteers and have been running sheep and goat jackpot shows for 11 years. In 2022 they were both selected to attend the National Lamb Feeders Leadership school in Colorado. Amy also coaches the Montgomery Co 4-H potato judging team, Pork Day team, and the PA 4-H Champion Livestock Skillathon team (2023 NAILE). In her spare time, Amy has been co-chair of the Advent Lutheran Church annual Easter Egg Hunt for 15 years.