

# PENNSYLVANIA DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



-To Preserve, Protect & Promote the Deer Industry in Pennsylvania-

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 10

FALL 2011

No. 3

### Your Association at Work

#### FALL SALE HELD

The Fall Sale of the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association was held on September 9 & 10, 2011 in Altoona, Pa. The auction was conducted by Chupp Auctions in Shipshewana, Indiana. The final sale total was \$418,200.00, considerably higher than last year.

A fun day was enjoyed by everyone. \$425.00 was received in the 50/50 raffle. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the sale a profitable one. A big thank you to the Chupps for a great auction.

#### SUMMER PICNIC WAS GREAT

The Third Annual Deer Farmers Summer Cookout was held on August 12 and 13 at the Hostetter Picnic Grounds between Reedsville and Belleville. It was a great family event and the food was "out of this world." Over 350 people participated, which was coordinated by a committee of Big Valley Deer Farmers.

The children had a great time fishing in the creek, gathering up candy from the airplane candy drop and playing games on the lawn.

The fabulous food served was homemade pizza with homemade peach and vanilla ice cream for dessert on Friday evening. There was homemade doughnuts and coffee for breakfast on Saturday morning and for Saturday lunch, bar-b-que chicken, roast pig, chips, a salad bar with all the trimmings, and fifteen different kinds of home made pies for dessert.



Members of our organization often attend events for legislators who are friends of the PA Deer Farmers Association. Above: On Sept. 19, Ray Bunt of Milliron Associates and PDFA Vice President George Hazard met with Senator Kim Ward at a fundraiser luncheon held at the Milliron offices.

Below: George Hazard and Kelly Pittenger of the Membership Committee, met with Representative Frank Dermody on Sept. 21 at an event held at Zia's Red Door in Harrisburg.



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

by Steve Stem

Hello once again fellow Deer Farmers,

I write with an upbeat attitude due to recent positive news on the PA Game Commission response to deer farmers concerns across the PA and the nation, with regard to proposed regulations on CWD. In a September 6th meeting the Department of Ag, PA Game Commission, and the Governor's Office change in language seems to be satisfactory for all parties. These changes will allow continued deer farming in PA. to move forward without concerns or conflict in the everyday operation.

The Fall Sale in Altoona was a success. Although at this time, I do not have any final results, what a sale! The sale projections seem to indicate we may have improved in several areas. The overall feeling voiced by many, was of a positive event. Just to mention a few of the areas we heard positive comments in are: farmers who are putting more fence up, new deer farmers making purchases to improve their deer herd, better genetics at a fair price, all exemplify the reality of what the deer market is today. The help and support that was shown was a definite sign that PA Deer Farming is very much alive, thriving and moving toward our future.

Moving on to our new website I would ask all of you who have been attempting to utilize the website and are finding challenges once again we apologize for any and all inconveniences due to what I call growing pains that happen during any transition. Bev Gruber and Debbie in the executive office have done an admiral job with fielding each situation. Although we still have some work to do keep in mind that all good things take time. Thanks again for your understanding and continued support for Josh Newton to move forward in his development of the website!

A big thanks goes out to Kelly Pittinger who toured with Keith Warren for three days throughout PA to develop an educational documentary about PA Deer farming to be televised in the near future. The board and the farms to be featured are very excited about this production and can hardly wait. We certainly will keep you informed when this is going to be aired and hopefully you will be able to enjoy it. Thanks Kelly!

On October 25th, the PDFA met with Dr. Griswold and Dr. Schultz, along with others from the PA Department of Ag to discuss a proposed fee for CWD sample testing within the Commonwealth. As budgetary constraints continue to apply pressure on the Department, monies previously allocated for CWD sample testing have all but run dry. The federal grant money from the USDA for this program has been halted almost completely. In accordance with many other certified laboratories in the nation, a proposed fee of \$25.00 per sample is to be put into effect on January 1st of the upcoming year, pending approval from the governor's office. We will continue to work with the Department of Ag as well as NADeFA to ensure our CWD program continues to run smoothly.

Also new in 2012 will be an all new exciting Magazine in place of the PDFA newsletter. The board of directors and officers are very excited about the opportunities this 8.5 x 11 four color glossy magazine will bring to all in the deer industry who wish to advertise, tell stories, share deer knowledge or be a part of a first class deer magazine with your buck pictures, and so much more. Please refer to the ALL NEW PDFA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE ad in this FINAL newsletter for information on deadlines for Ads and Stories to be submitted to Elam Lapp Jr.

Continued success this fall in every aspect of your deer endeavors, whether it be urine sales, semen sales, AI'ing, or just the overall enjoyment of Whitetails is my wishes for each and every one of you!

Happy Holidays and May God Bless,

Steve Stem - President

P.S. The PA Deer Farmers next meeting will be held Nov. 10th at the Holstein Association Building on the Benner Pike, State College at 6:00 pm. Please plan to attend and contribute to our deer farming future.

*PDFA recently received the following letter from Dr. Craig Shultz at the PA Department of Ag. Please read it carefully.*



October 27, 2011

Dear Pennsylvania CWD Program Participant:

In early October, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture received notification from Dr. John Clifford, Deputy Administrator of USDA's Veterinary Services that as of December 31st, 2011 funding for CWD testing across the United States will cease to exist. Up until now, the cost of CWD testing for Pennsylvania farmed cervids has been completely subsidized by USDA funding. As of Jan. 1, 2012, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg will not be able to bill the USDA for CWD testing.

At the present time, the testing cost for CWD will be charged to the owner of the submitted animal. There is no alternative source of funding in which the Department of Agriculture can use to continue any type of support. Currently, the fee is in process for approval by the Governor's Office. Once a fee is approved, notification of that fee will be sent to deer farmers by email correspondence and through the Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association. We apologize for not being able to give you more advanced notice as this is not a situation in which we were able to anticipate.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will make every effort to establish a fee that is competitive and reflects only costs that are involved with performance of the CWD test. Despite the challenges of today's economy, our laboratory continues to strive to provide Pennsylvania's animal agriculture with the highest quality, most reliable and accurate diagnostic services possible. We will keep you informed to the best of our ability as this situation develops.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Craig Shultz  
Director  
Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services

## In Memory Henry A. W. Gruber



Henry A. W. Gruber, husband of Beverly, our Executive Director, passed away on Monday, October 31st, 2011 at their farm in New Tripoli, Pa.

Henry was an animal husbandry graduate of Penn State University. He was a farmer/owner/operator of the Compass Farm in

New Tripoli and a breeder of Purebred Hampshire and Yorkshire hogs. Previously he was employed by the former A&B Packing Co. of Allentown from 1958 until 1984 as head of procurement, being in charge of buying 600,000 to 750,000 hogs per year.

Surviving with his wife are son Seth Henry, husband of Emily Gruber of Greensboro, NC, brother Harry A.W. Gruber, stepsons Clay A., husband of Linda Snyder and Brett A., husband of Jessica Snyder and eight grandchildren.

*Happy Thanksgiving*  
*from the Office of the*  
*Pennsylvania Deer Farmers Association*



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## THE HARRISBURG PERSPECTIVE

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*Milliron Associates*

*John Milliron and Andrew Goodman*

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## THE HARRISBURG PERSPECTIVE

Milliron Associates

John Milliron and Andrew Goodman

What has the Association done for me? I hear that questions from time to time. It is difficult to put into an article, the issues that we've faced over the past 5 years. It would be impossible to put into words that past 10 years. Nonetheless, I want to discuss an issue that we've faced over the past 5 months that raised the possibility of deleting the victories PDFA has gained over the past 10 years. Regulations were proposed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission that outlined their response to Chronic Wasting Disease. The PGC, rightfully so, tried to ensure the Commonwealth's response to CWD is in line with the needs of state and feral deer. However, the proposed regulations could have been interpreted to include our farms and products. Nearly 10 years ago, the Association

worked with the Pennsylvania General Assembly to place Deer Farming entirely under the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. If the PGC's proposed regulations included Pennsylvania deer farms, it would have undone years of work and more importantly shut down a significant number of our farms.

So what has the Association done for you? It has done a lot. Through this summer and into early fall, the PDFA worked with the Department of Agriculture, PGC and the Governor's office to make sure the PGC's regulations are narrowed to only feral deer. We've done that. The PGC has agreed to add language that ensures their CWD response regulations are not tied to our farmed deer. The PGC was helpful in agreeing to add the language to

address our concerns. PGC now has a CWD guideline for its deer. The Department of Agriculture has its CWD guideline for our deer.

In the coming months and years, I challenge you to become involved. I know you care about your business, so show it. Come to a PDFA meeting or get to know your legislators. There are a lot of issues facing our Association; will you help us create an atmosphere for your business to thrive? I've provided a brief window into some of the key issues facing the PDFA. More are coming down the pike. Without your involvement, through financial or grassroots support, Pennsylvania deer farming will undoubtedly have future difficulties. I challenge you to take a stand for your business and become involved.

### SPRING MEETING SET

The 2012 Spring Meeting and Sale will be held at the Lancaster Host Resort in Lancaster, Pa. on Saturday, April 21. Please mark your calendar now so you are sure not to miss this important event. It will again be a benefit auction and Annual Meeting. Start thinking about what you want to contribute. We expect the trade show to be even bigger and better than last year.

The hotel for the event will be the Lancaster Host Resort. A block of 40 rooms has been reserved for Friday night. The double rate will be \$99 plus taxes. Cutoff date for the room is March 20, 2012.

### WE NEED NOMINATIONS

George Hazard, Nominating Committee Chairman, asks that board nominees be sent over to him by January 10, 2012 (our by-laws stipulate 90 days before the election).

Any PDFA member may recommend board members to the nominating chairman. We have no term limits.

- Up this year are:
- Amos Kauffman
  - David Lapp
  - Dianne Miller
  - Steve Stem
  - Harry Strawser



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## TRADE SHOW WAS EXCELLENT

We thank the following businesses for their participation in the Fall Trade Show:

Dream Ranch	King's Whitetails	Ivan Zimmerman
Bauer Whitetails	Honey Brook Whitetails	Whitetail Guide
Level Creek Deer Farm	New Rox Whitetails	Sunrise Supply
Powder Ridge Whitetails	National Insurance Program	Leatherwood Whitetails
D&K Whitetails	Foremost Whitetails	Stream Line Products /
Hickory Run Whitetails	Eau Claire River Whitetails	West Brook Whitetails
Browning Whitetails	Gap Ridge Whitetails	Glenn Dice Farms
O La Jo's	RDM Wildbunch	Jamie Troxel
Pine Hollow Whitetails	Tri Pod Acres Whitetails	ADM Alliance
Chupp's Premier Whitetail Auction	West Brook Whitetails	A & R & R - Larry Lehman
& Dutch Boys Whitetails	Swamp Creek Whitetails	Clover Leaf Whitetails
Optimum Whitetails	Red Ridge Whitetails	Valleyview Whitetails
Fertile Aid	Thunder Valley Whitetails	Dorneyville Pharmacy
Apple Creek Whitetails	Hillside Drive Whitetails	Head Gear
Griffith Bros.	Turkey Hill Whitetails	Antler Run Whitetails
Cervid Health Products	Battle Ridge Whitetails	Mississippi River Bottom
	Scenic Ridge Whitetails	Warren Whitetails
	Vern's Whitetails	
	Weaver Whitetails	

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## INFORMATION FOR NEW DEER FARMERS & NEW CWD FORMS AVAILABLE FROM PDA

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health & Diagnostic Services has released a handout for cervid farmers to keep on hand to distribute to their fawn buyers

next spring. It lists the basic steps that someone needs to take with PDA if they are new to raising cervids. The steps are listed below. Also released was an updated CWD submission form

and Chain of Custody form. All old forms should be discarded. If you would like a copy of the new forms, contact the PDFFA office at 610-767-5026 or email [lowhill@rcn.com](mailto:lowhill@rcn.com)

### New Deer Farmer Checklist

#### ❑ 8 Foot Fence

Sufficient perimeter fencing maintained to prevent ingress and egress of cervids. Fence height shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet, however a ten (10) foot minimum height is recommended.

#### ❑ Official Identification

At least two forms of PDA and USDA/APHIS-approved animal ID in cervids 12 months of age and older.

One form of identification must be "official" as defined by USDA, the other may be unofficial (such as a farm tag) or official identification as defined by USDA/APHIS and approved by PDA. The following forms are considered by USDA/APHIS as "official" forms of identification:

- Tattoo of a unique number approved by PDA and/or USDA/APHIS

- Tamper resistant ear tag (with or without RFID capability) bearing a unique 15-digit AIN or ISO compliant number
- An ear tag bearing a nationally unique number provided by USDA/APHIS
- USDA/APHIS-issued metal ear tag, bearing a unique number provided by USDA/APHIS
- Electronic implant device, such as a microchip provided that an appropriate reader is available

#### ❑ Contact Mary Martin to get a license

Mary Martin  
408 Agriculture Building  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408  
(717) 783-5309  
[marymartin@state.pa.us](mailto:marymartin@state.pa.us)



# ALL NEW PDFA QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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**Coming February 2012**

The PDFA is proud to announce  
**OUR VERY FIRST 8.5 X 11 FOUR COLOR GLOSSY MAGAZINE**  
**COMING IN FEBRUARY 2012**

to benefit and educate our members to the highest level!!  
This will be a fun to read magazine that you don't want to miss out on.  
With updates from PDFA, News from across the industry, Presidents  
letter, members section where the members can write stories about  
their farms and what is working for them, stories from some of top  
breeders on how to select your genetics and sires in your breeding  
program and much, much more!!

## **ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES**

This magazine will be sent out to every PDFA members plus an extra  
500 copies will be sent out to new potential members each quarter  
making it a very valuable place to advertise your farm and products for  
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Call or email us today to submit any stories, suggestions or ideas you  
may have for this exciting new adventure and to be part of one of the  
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***Deadline for all stories and ads is February 1, 2012.***

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# PDFA Newsletter

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## *Mark Your Calendar*

### **The tentative 2012 Board Meeting Schedule is as follows:**

Thursday, February 16  
Thursday, March 29  
Thursday, May 10  
Thursday, June 28  
Thursday, August 16  
Thursday, October 11  
Thursday, November 15

All meetings will tentatively be held at the PA Holstein Association Office in State Collegee

### **Chupp's Premier Whitetail Auction**

**Dec. 7-8-9, 2011**

Shipshewana Town Center  
760 S. Van Buren St.  
Shepshawana, IN 46565  
Free Food & Entertainment

### **2012 Midwest Select Sale February 16-17-18, 2012**

Roberts Centre Holiday Inn  
Wilmington, OH 45177  
*A Midwest Whitetail Deer Sale*

### **The 2011 NADeFA Annual Conference and Exhibition**

**March 15-16-17, 2012**

Sheraton Inn Dallas  
Dallas, Texas

For information contact  
651-345-5600

### **PDFA Spring Sale & Annual Meeting Saturday, April 21**

Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center  
Lancaster, PA

### **PDFA Fall Meeting September 14 & 15, 2012**

Blair County  
Convention Center  
Altoona, PA