

**PENNSYLVANIA GUERNSEY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION**

190 Seal Road  
Eighty Four, PA 15330



**BLUE HALTER SALE**

Bedford County Fairgrounds  
Bedford, PA

April 18, 2026 • 12 NOON



August 11-13, 2026

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee for 2026 consists of Cindy Johnson, Troy Hill and Holly McCarty as chair. We present Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade, David Blake, Bernetta Gable and Grant Itle for election to the board of directors for a three-year term. Each candidate has presented a brief introduction for your review. Voting for three vacant seats will take place during the Annual Meeting to be held at 1pm Friday April 17th at the Quality Inn Bedford.

**Charlene M. Shupp Espenshade** is a fourth-generation dairy farmer, milking registered Guernseys and Holsteins, on her husband's dairy farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Off the farm she has worked as a reporter for Lancaster Farming (receiving state and national journalism awards), the National Grange as a youth director and currently is the executive director of the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, where she oversees the operation of the ag literacy foundation focused on connecting schoolchildren and Pennsylvanians to where their food comes from through educational experiences. Espenshade is also involved with several agricultural education and outreach organizations including the All-American Dairy Show Foundation, Pennsylvania Ag Discovery Center Board, Wyoming-Lackawanna Counties Dairy Princess Committee, Elizabethtown Area Grange, and Elizabethtown Fair Dairy Show. She is an active member of the Wyoming-Lackawanna County Farm Bureau and past winner of the Excellence in Agriculture Award. Charlene has a bachelor's degree in dairy science and minor in communication studies from Virginia Tech.

**David Blake** a United States Navy veteran stands as a rare breed in the coaching world, blending the tireless work ethic of a Guernsey breeder with the cutting-edge strategy of a modern football coach. As one of the most followed football coaches in the country, he has mastered social media marketing to build a massive digital brand that drives elite recruiting, fundraising, and business development. His daughter, Scarlett, carries on the family tradition, representing Pennsylvania's Dairy Quiz Bowl team at the National Convention in Washington and shows Guernseys in 4-H. Whether he is navigating the high-stakes world of college football or mentoring tomorrow's leaders, Coach Blake applies the same grit he learned on the farm to dominate the gridiron. He proves to the agricultural and athletic communities alike that success is built on a foundation of strong roots and relentless innovation.

**Bernetta Gable** is no stranger to PA Guernsey. She has served multiple terms over the years as a board member and has helped grow the association to what it is today. Her Husband, Brad, her son, Aaron and herself are the owners of Sniders Homestead. Sniders Homestead has been recognized at the State and National levels for producing high quality Guernsey's (in the show ring and production). She is a long-time promoter of the Guernsey cow and has played a major role in ensuring the success of the Blue Halter Sale on the selection committee.

**Grant Itle** is from Cambria County, PA and works on his family dairy farm, Vale Wood Farms. They milk 250 registered Brown Swiss, Guernseys and Holsteins and process their milk into a full line of dairy products. They also run their own delivery trucks specializing in old-fashion home delivery. Outside of the farm Grant serves as the sale manager for the Cambria County Fair Livestock Sale, is a board member for Pennsylvania Holstein Association and on the barn management team for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. In his free time, he enjoys breeding, developing and showing his own herd of Guernseys and Brown Swiss Cattle. He also enjoys working with and mentoring 4H Dairy Youth.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 94th Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association will be Friday, April 17, 2026 at the Quality Inn in Bedford, PA (4407 Business Route 220). A block of rooms has been reserved for meeting attendees. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 814-623-5188. A full schedule appears in this newsletter.

The Annual Meeting will convene at 1:00PM in the Keystone Room located in the lower level of the hotel. Committee reports and election of board members will occur during this time. This is your opportunity to learn first-hand about the workings of your state Guernsey association and become involved. Youth meetings, contests, and quiz bowl tryouts will take place at the same time.

Please join us Friday night at the PGBA Awards Banquet. We will recognize adult and youth award winners at the Bedford American Legion. Later that evening the Youth Fun Auction will take place.

On Saturday morning you are invited to attend a seminar led by AGA President Victoria Baker regarding the AGA Strategic Plan. There will also be a brief tour of the Omni Bedford Springs for those interested in seeing the site where we will be hosting the 2027 National Guernsey Convention. Our weekend filled with Guernsey activities will conclude with the 46th annual Blue Halter Sale at the Bedford Fairgrounds. Sale starts at 12:00PM.

I hope you join us the third weekend of April in Bedford, PA for a weekend of Guernsey fun and fellowship.

**Chris Reichard**  
PGBA President

### PENNSYLVANIA GUERNSEY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT  
**Chris Reichard**  
717-816-4816

VICE-PRESIDENT  
**Troy Hill**  
724-699-2650

SECRETARY  
**Cindy Johnson**  
717-324-8416

TREASURER  
**John McMurray**  
724-263-1552

#### DIRECTORS

**Catherine Blauser**  
814-229-1052

**David Henisee**  
717-928-3044

**Debbie Liggett**  
724-557-3824

**Holly McCarty**  
813-523-1168

**Eric Poole**  
724-771-2417

#### YOUTH COORDINATOR

**Cassie Rassau**  
724-730-4368

## AGA UPDATE

PGBA members,

Your AGA board has been very busy since our winter meeting. Recently, we adopted a five-year strategic plan based on the input from our membership last fall. Thank you to everybody who participated.

We have rolled out the plan to some stakeholders and a few committees and the remaining committees will get a sneak peek before our annual AGA meeting in July. Additionally, Robin and I will be presenting the plan on Saturday in Bedford prior to the Blue Halter Sale. AGA is currently developing job descriptions and we look to hire additional staff this year. Watch for our announcement on social media and on our webpage. It was obvious from the survey that Guernsey breeders find value in Guernsey milk. We will be focusing on helping our members market Golden Guernsey milk, make it an asset to do business with and grow the Guernsey breed. New staff will allow Robin to focus on areas of growth.

When I look back at the last nine years as serving as your AGA director, I am amazed at how far we have come. I am extremely thankful for the support of Pennsylvania members and the Pennsylvania Board of Directors. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. As my term as your director draws to a close, I encourage each of you to consider volunteering your time on a committee or as a director with AGA either now or in the future. I look forward to seeing everybody in Bedford in April and encourage you to attend our national convention in Syracuse, NY on July 1-4.

Vickie Baker – AGA President – 724-331-4814

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**PGBA Youth Production applications due – March 31, 2026**

**PGBA Annual Meeting and Banquet – April 17, 2026**

**Blue Halter Sale – April 18, 2026**

**National Guernsey Convention – July 1-4, 2026**

**Ag Progress Days – August 11-13, 2026**

Hello,

Spring is in the air and the annual meeting in Bedford is right around the corner!

The Youth Schedule - 12:30 Annual Meeting, Lunch, & Contest Sign Up 1:00 Contests to start and Folding Displays due for judging, 1:30 Quiz Bowl Tryouts

New this year, the first place winner of each age division in the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest will be eligible to receive a ticket package to the National Convention. Other contests eligible for ticket packages are Quiz Bowl team members, first place in each age division of Prepared Public Speaking, Folding Display, Pennsylvania Outstanding Youth (National Outstanding Youth Candidate), and Pennsylvania Guernsey Queen.

Also new this year is a change in the rules for the Production contest. All entries must submit a copy of the cow(s) registration paper, with a completed application and individual production record with the cow(s) 305 day production.

Applications for the National Outstanding Youth contest and National Guernsey Queen contest are due to myself and the AGA by March 31st. Please let me know if you are interested in running for PA Guernsey Queen or Outstanding Youth as soon as possible.

The deadline for the Production Contest, Essay Contest, and Photo Contest is March 31st.

If you need an application or the rules for any of the contests, please reach out to me.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting in April!

Sincerely, Cassie Rassau  
PA Guernsey Youth Coordinator  
Cmrassau@gmail.com • 724-730-4368

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

All Youth Contest Applications are due by March 31st.

National Convention July 1st-4th

Junior membership must be paid by December 31, 2026 to qualify for 2026 Junior Production and Junior All-PA Awards.

## YOUTH ASSOCIATION

# Banquet RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Tickets \$30.00

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Tickets (12 & under) \$15.00

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please RSVP by April 1st.*

Make checks payable to Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association  
Mail RSVP to Holly McCarty, 3763 Dark Hollow Rd, Hughesville, PA 17737  
or email to paguernseyassociation@gmail.com



**PENNSYLVANIA GUERNSEY BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION**

*94th Annual Meeting & Banquet*

**APRIL 17TH**

Quality Inn Bedford: 4407 Business Route 22

Room Reservations: To reserve your room call 814-623-5188. The room rate being offered is \$79.99 per night. You must mention you are with Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association to receive room rate.

## SCHEDULE

### Friday, April 17th

11:30am Registration & Hospitality Open  
Quality Inn Bedford - Hallway by Keystone Room

1:00pm Annual Meeting  
Board Meeting to Follow  
Quality Inn Bedford - Keystone Room

5:30pm Social Gathering  
Bedford American Legion Downstairs Banquet Room

6:00pm Youth & Adult Banquet  
Bedford American Legion Downstairs Banquet Room  
**Youth Auction following banquet**

### Saturday, April 18th

8:00am AGA Strategic Planning Seminar  
Quality Inn Bedford - Bedford Room

9:00am Tour of Bedford Springs  
Please Carpool

12:00pm Blue Halter Sale  
Bedford County Fairgrounds

## YOUTH SCHEDULE

### Friday, April 17th

Youth activities held at  
Quality Inn Bedford - Bedford Room

12:30pm Annual Meeting  
& Pizza Lunch

1:00pm Prepared Public Speaking  
Contest & Interview Contest

1:00pm Folding Displays Due

1:30pm Quiz Bowl Tryouts