About AG 101:

Understanding PA Farm Operations

*AG 101* is a series of online sessions that explore the many facets of farm types, operations management, economics, social aspects, and environmental considerations. The series looks at the multiple dials that Pennsylvania agricultural producers manage as they grow food, fiber, and fuel for their community, state, nation, and world.

*AG 101* was developed to enhance the work of conservation practitioners who are on the front lines supporting producers in choosing, planning, and implementing the best management practices that preserve soil, water, and air quality. However, many other professionals and citizens who interface with producers will benefit from *AG 101*.

Though Pennsylvania’s towns and cities are connected by vast agricultural landscapes, a majority of Pennsylvanians may be one or more generations removed from family production of food and fiber and less aware of the complex systems our producers manage. *AG 101* will familiarize viewers with the state’s primary agricultural operations, the economics of farming, animal and crop species, and the challenge that our producers face daily.

All AG 101 sessions are viewable at: http://extension.psu.edu/aec/conservation-training/ag-101/

AG 101 is an offering of Penn State Extension with support from and in close collaboration with the Pennsylvania Natural Resource Conservation Service. PennAg Industries and The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau also participated in the sponsorship of AG 101.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences research and extension programs are funded in part by Pennsylvania counties, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Visit Penn State Extension on the web: extension.psu.edu

Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

Penn State encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact [Name and phone number] in advance of your participation or visit.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.
1- Introduction to Pennsylvania Farms
This session explores the diversity, heritage, and current state of the Commonwealth’s agriculture including the types of farm operations, equipment, and landscapes.

2- The Pennsylvania Farmer
Pennsylvania’s producers are at the heart of the farm operation making management choices on a daily basis—each with economic, social, and environmental implications.

3- Livestock Production Systems
Pennsylvania animal systems for production of dairy, swine, beef, and poultry vary in size, approach, and even goals. This session explores feeding, health, welfare, wastes, products, operation scale, marketing, economics, and biosecurity issues.

4- Equine & Specialty Species
Equine operations and specialty species (alpacas, goat, bison, veal, etc.) are increasingly common across the Pennsylvania landscape and are often managed for reasons very different from the Pennsylvania livestock producers.

5- Visiting a Farm
Biosecurity and common sense are critical for visitors to Pennsylvania’s farms. Learn how to best reduce the chances of introducing disease to farms through proper preparation and protection.

6- Field, Forage & Grains
Crop production and its range of inputs, care, management, and monitoring are critical to ensure a successful harvest. This session explores the production and identification of forages, grains, and cover crops.

7- Pest Management
Pennsylvania farms are often the first line of defense in emerging pests such as weeds and insects as well as various diseases and are diligent in managing to reduce losses and ensure farm health.

8- Specialty Crop Operations
Pennsylvania’s specialty crops include vegetables and fruits—and are grown in greenhouses, fields, and orchards. This session focuses on the identification of key specialty crops and the management challenges associated with them.

9- Agroforestry & Woodlot Management
Pennsylvania farms are often home to critical forests that provide valuable ecosystem services to communities. Agroforestry combines forest and agricultural systems to improve the production of both.

10- Special Topics
Pennsylvania’s producers provide a number of services that are not always accounted for in the marketplace—including open space valued by society and critical groundwater recharge that improves availability of drinking water supplies.

All AG 101 sessions are viewable at:
http://extension.psu.edu/aec/conservation-training/ag-101/