



## A Note From Our President:

As I reflect on this past year, I'm filled with amazement. It's impossible to single out just one favorite event or experience. Every opportunity I've had, along with our incredible volunteers, to engage with and serve our community has been a true highlight. Each experience has been unique.



One thing we have learned is that if we want children to engage and pursue careers in agriculture, we must represent the career of agriculture well! If we want lasting change in how people choose and value food, we must educate every generation about the importance of local, homegrown foods. This is at the heart of everything we do. Take a moment to enjoy the accomplishments of this past year. Close your eyes and picture the children and families whose lives were touched by these opportunities. Visit our facebook page and scroll through the pictures to see these events in action. It is with deepest gratitude that I thank you for being a part of agriculture advocacy, volunteer work, and financial support.

Thank you for trusting us to represent agriculture well.

Warm winter wishes,  
Denise Bosworth

## 2025 Agriculture Education Summary Rohrbach's Farm & Seeds of the Future

"Seeds Of The Future." The focus of this non-profit is mainly agriculture education. In 2025, we achieved some significant accomplishments through grant funding, generous community donations, fund raisers, and most significantly - volunteers! In 2025, we logged over 200 volunteer hours.

For 2025, we had four goals for **Seeds Of The Future**.



*Our first goal was to host seven social / learning experiences for Special Needs & Abilities Guests, ages 12 & over.*

Mission Accomplished! A special thank you to Matilda's Heart, who generously funded all seven programs in entirety! All events revolved around social experiences on the farm, sharing a meal together, and completing a project or craft. A core group of four volunteers consistently facilitated the programs with additional volunteers providing experiences like cookie decorating.

In November, over 70 people attended the Friendsgiving meal that was prepared by Columbia Montour Vo-Tech students under the direction of Chef Edmondson. The high school students also assisted our guests with making apple crisp for their families to enjoy. Under the leadership of teacher Renee Noll, horticulture students assisted guests with making their own pumpkin centerpiece to take home for Thanksgiving.



*Our second goal was to reach 5,000 students with agriculture related education (in collaboration with Rohrbachs' Farm & partners like the Columbia County Traveling Library and the Bloomsburg Children's Museum)*

Mission accomplished! In 2025 we impacted 6,239 children and 983 adults. This is a significant increase from 2024 where our impact for youth was 4,019.

*Our third goal was to create a Community Pollinator garden.*

Mission accomplished—thanks to the collaboration of different people and organizations!

The **Roaring Creek Valley Conservation** group provided a \$1000 grant towards this project. This provided for the pollinator seeds, planted by Ron Rohrbach, of Rohrbach's Farm. In addition, it provided support for Ben Gearhart, local student and boy scout who took on this endeavor for his Eagle Scout project. Ben resourced locally and received a tremendous amount of support from businesses and local organizations. **Flook's Landscaping** voluntarily dug out the space that created the canvas for a pathway and the place for benches and a center garden. Brookside Nursery provided the stone and resources that were needed at an incredible discount. Ben organized a group of **Boy Scouts** and leaders who created wheelchair accessible stone pathways. Ben also custom built and added four benches to the area. The



pollinators bloomed perfectly in time for guests at the farm to enjoy the space all of September and October. In addition, a Sharing Library was built & installed by local resident Paul Keough. The library was in use by Fall and stocked with free books!

In spring 2026, a wheelchair accessible raised bed will be added to the garden space. This was a previous project funded by the Degenstein foundation and completed by Columbia Montour Vo-Tech Horticulture students.

*Our fourth goal was to create & install educational plaques throughout the Pollinator Garden.*

This will be completed in spring of 2026.

In addition, we accomplished the following educational experiences:

1. We attended “**Agriculture Awareness Day**” at the Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, which is organized by local farmers, “Future Farmers of America” programs, local agriculture organizations and community support programs. We planted seeds while teaching participants how to care for their new seedling and resulting plants. This was made possible in part by abundant seed donations from Burpee and Harris Seed Companies. These donations allowed us to provide seed planting at this event and several other spring programs.



2. At **Central Columbia Elementary School**, we participated in the Central Columbia “Youth in Philanthropy” program through the Community Giving Foundation. We presented *Healthy Soil*, *Healthy Kids* and *Is Pumpkin Pie Really Made from Pumpkin?*, and baked 73 butternut squash pies using Rohrbach’s homegrown squash—each one met with enthusiastic approval! Through this partnership, a collection of agricultural books was also donated to their elementary school library.

3. We supported the Title I program at **Shamokin Area Elementary School District** through two seasonal family-focused events. In the spring, we hosted a planting event where families chose to plant tomato and basil seeds or peas and lettuce seeds. Each family received growing, care, and harvesting instructions, with 55 planting kits distributed. In the fall, we held an Apple Night to share how apples grow on a farm and to highlight the importance of apples as healthy snacks. Participating families received a bag of apples and an apple slicer. This program was funded by the Shamokin “Youth in Philanthropy” through the Community Giving Foundation.
4. We participated in **Agriculture Literacy Week**, during which a Seeds of the Future representative read *The Soil in Jackie’s Garden* and led a seed-planting activity for students to take home. This program reached students in Jackson Elementary in Williamsport, Southern Columbia, Shamokin, Mount Carmel, and the Bloomsburg Children’s Museum “Homeschool Hang Out.” Seeds of the Future also sponsored books that were donated to participating classrooms and to the Museum.
5. We held our second **Summer Book Club**, made possible through the **Dollar General Summer Literacy Funding program**. Through this initiative, students received a total of 400 hours of educational engagement. Seeds of the Future met its goal of hosting 20 Summer Book Club sessions across two age groups: Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade.

Each week, every child received a book to take home. Summer Book Club sessions focused on reading together, encouraging children to read aloud to build confidence and expand vocabulary. Each session also included a hands-on activity and a snack.

One session featured a local author who shared her book and guided the children through related activities. During another session, we welcomed a local farmer who reinforced the concepts from that week's book by bringing the lessons to life in a very tangible way.



At the end of each session, children shared their favorite learning moment. At the conclusion of Summer Book Club, they reflected on their favorite experiences and chose their favorite book.



Parents were asked to complete an assessment at the conclusion of the book club. Of those who responded, 100% reported that their child enjoyed the program, and 80% indicated their child read more over the summer as a result of participating in the book club.

6. **Shikellamy Afterschool Steam Program.** Through Youth in Philanthropy (Community Giving Foundation) grant funding, a representative from SOTF visited the afterschool program in the spring and again in the fall. In addition, a summer field trip for the children to visit our Farm for a “Cow Encounter” and farm scavenger hunt was funded. SOTF is intentionally working with the STEAM teachers to have a three-year rotation of curriculum that will provide foundational agriculture curriculum, healthy farm raised food exposure and on-farm experiences to foster an interest in food choices and agriculture careers.
7. We welcomed the **Shenandoah ESL Summer Program** for our first-ever English as a Second Language field trip. Twenty-two students, whose first language is Spanish, visited the farm for a Cow Encounter and a farm scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt was translated with Spanish and English side-by-side, and our staff intentionally practiced Spanish words while interacting with the students to encourage learning and connection.
8. We were proud to sponsor two students for their **Future Farmer’s of America** jackets through the Southern Columbia Agricultural Program. One of those students is a seasonal employee at the Farm!



These impacts were achieved both on our farm and off-site throughout the region. We brought agricultural education into numerous schools while also hosting a wide range of on-farm experiences, including guided farm tours, weekly summer workshops, a week-long Agriculture Camp, and cooking classes focused on healthy ingredients and sourcing local food. We engaged students from preschool through high school, including cyber school students, homeschoolers, and participants from 17 different schools across our region.

We’re already looking ahead to 2026! Save the date for our 2nd Annual **Nacho Average Fundraiser** on Friday, April 10th, from 5:00–7:30 pm. Our first event was so much fun! We enjoyed amazing food, great music, and exciting prizes...all for a great cause. We hope you’ll join us. Stay tuned—more details coming soon!