In 1862, the school's name was changed to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania and the school was designated as Pennsylvania's land-grant institution through the passage of the Morrill Land-Grant act, with the directive to teach agriculture and mechanic arts (the predecessor of engineering).

In 1864, the name changed again to Pennsylvania State College.

In 1882, the school was broadened to include engineering, sciences, and liberal arts. It is out of this history that agricultural engineering developed.

Penn State was founded as the Farmers’ High School of Pennsylvania in 1855.

In 1892, “Rural Engineering” was established in the Department of Agronomy.

First correspondence courses developed.
- 1892: “Tile Drainage” by G. C. Watson
- 1899: “Heating and Ventilation” by L. E. Reber
- 1901: “Farm Mowers” by W. W. Cooke and G. C. Watson

“Agricultural Engineering” first appeared in the 1904–1905 Penn State General Catalog.

In 1895, All Agriculture students were required to take “Agricultural Engineering Lectures” course.

“Rural Engineering” courses were required by four-year Agronomy students.
- Agro 10, “Barns and Out Buildings”
- Agro 11, “Farm Machinery and Drainage and Irrigation”

In 1908, “Rural Engineering” courses were required by four-year Agronomy students.

1904: All Agriculture students were required to take “Agricultural Engineering Lectures” course.

1907: American Society of Agricultural Engineering (ASAE) was established.

“Rural Engineering” courses were required by four-year Agronomy students.
- Agro 10, “Barns and Out Buildings”
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In 1880–1890 Mule-drawn combines were introduced.

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In 1880–1890 Mule-drawn combines were introduced.
1910–1915 Big open-geared gas-powered tractors came into use.

Inexpensive internal combustion engines were developed during WWI.

1913 - R. U. Blasingame appointed first agricultural engineering instructor in agronomy.


1919 - G. M. Foulkrod appointed instructor in farm mechanics.

1920 - J. R. Haswell appointed assistant professor of farm mechanics extension.

1920 - R. U. Blasingame appointed head of the Department of Farm Machinery.

1925 - E. G. Lantz appointed instructor.

1925 - H. B. Josephson appointed assistant professor.

1920: Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Department of Farm Machinery with R. U. Blasingame as head.

1920: Gas-powered tractors were replacing horses and mules on farms. Steam-powered tractors were declining in use on farms. Tractors were used on 3.7% of Pennsylvania farms.

1911: Agro 11 renamed “Farm Machinery” and was required of Ag Ed majors.

1914: Agro 11 renamed “Farm Motors and Machinery.”

1920: Beginning of the Agricultural Engineering Extension program.

1925: First formal research study, titled “A Study of the Power and Labor Factors Involved in Crop Production in Pennsylvania.”

1927: Pennsylvania Public Service Commission ordered utilities to supply rural customers with electricity.

1918: Two engineering-related courses added to the Agronomy program.

Agro 22, “Farm Sanitation”

Agro 25, “Horticultural Machinery”

1910–1915 Big open-geared gas-powered tractors came into use.
1930: Department of Farm Machinery changed to Department of Agricultural Engineering.

1930: Agricultural Engineering major approved.

1930: Tractors were used on 15% of Pennsylvania farms.

1930 - J. E. Nicholas appointed associate professor.
1930 - E. G. McKibben appointed associate professor.
1930 - R. U. Blasingame appointed head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering.
1931 - A. W. Clyde appointed associate professor.
1931 - D. C. Sprague appointed instructor.
1931 - H. M. Stapleton appointed instructor.
1932: First B.S. degrees in Agricultural Engineering awarded to J. G. Huda and J. H. Walker.
1933: First M.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering awarded to D. C. Sprague.
1935: M. G. Huber appointed instructor.
1936: E. W. Schroeder appointed instructor.
1937 - R. S. Peterson appointed assistant professor in extension.
1940 - W. F. Ackerman appointed assistant professor.
1942 - R. I. McCall appointed assistant professor in extension.

1935 - E. G. McKibben appointed associate professor.
1936 - E. W. Schroeder appointed instructor.
1937 - R. S. Peterson appointed assistant professor in extension.

1940: Agricultural Engineering Building was dedicated.

1940: First graduate courses offered by the agricultural engineering department.
Ag E 500, "Advanced Electro-Agriculture"
Ag E 501, "Advanced Farm Machinery"

1939 - John McCurdy, B.S. 1939
Died in action, WWII, 1942.

1946: Zero graduates due to WWII. After the war, the number of students increased to peak at 22 in 1951.

1930: Agricultural Engineering Building was dedicated.

1930: Agricultural Engineering was established.

1930: First B.S. degrees in Agricultural Engineering awarded to J. G. Huda and J. H. Walker.
1933: First M.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering awarded to D. C. Sprague.

1935 - M. G. Huber appointed instructor.
1936: E. W. Schroeder appointed instructor.
1937 - R. S. Peterson appointed assistant professor in extension.
1940 - W. F. Ackerman appointed assistant professor.
1942 - R. I. McColl appointed assistant professor in extension.

1940: First graduate courses offered by the agricultural engineering department.
Ag E 500, "Advanced Electro-Agriculture"
Ag E 501, "Advanced Farm Machinery"

1940: Agricultural Engineering Building was dedicated.
1950

- H. V. Walton appointed instructor.
- C. H. Bingham appointed instructor in extension.

1951

- B. S. Home appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.
- H. Brannaka appointed instructor in extension.
- W. L. Kjelgaard appointed instructor.
- R. N. Jones appointed instructor.

1952

- H. Brannaka appointed instructor in extension.
- W. L. Kjelgaard appointed instructor.
- R. N. Jones appointed instructor.
- B. S. Home appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.
- H. Brannaka appointed instructor in extension.
- W. L. Kjelgaard appointed instructor.
- R. N. Jones appointed instructor.

1953

- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.
- H. Brannaka appointed instructor in extension.
- W. L. Kjelgaard appointed instructor.
- R. N. Jones appointed instructor.
- B. S. Home appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.
- H. Brannaka appointed instructor in extension.
- W. L. Kjelgaard appointed instructor.
- R. N. Jones appointed instructor.

1954

- F. W. Peikert appointed head of the department.
- J. N. Walker appointed instructor in extension.
- M. D. Shaw appointed instructor.
- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
- R. R. Yoerger appointed associate professor.
- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
- W. C. Arble appointed assistant professor.
- A. R. Carlson appointed instructor in extension.
- K. Q. Stephenson appointed associate professor.
- N. N. Mohsenin appointed associate professor.
- L. H. Snyder appointed instructor in extension.
- R. A. Aldrich appointed associate professor.
- R. A. Keppeler appointed associate professor.
- A. L. Myers appointed instructor in extension.
- L. S. Click appointed assistant professor in extension.
- J. R. Boshe appointed instructor.
- G. R. Bodman appointed instructor.
- B. S. Horne appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1955

- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
- R. R. Yoerger appointed associate professor.
- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
- W. C. Arble appointed assistant professor.
- A. R. Carlson appointed instructor in extension.
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- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1956

- F. W. Peikert appointed head of the department.
- J. N. Walker appointed instructor in extension.
- M. D. Shaw appointed instructor.
- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
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1957

- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
- W. C. Arble appointed assistant professor.
- A. R. Carlson appointed instructor in extension.
- K. Q. Stephenson appointed associate professor.
- N. N. Mohsenin appointed associate professor.
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- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1958

- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
- W. C. Arble appointed assistant professor.
- A. R. Carlson appointed instructor in extension.
- K. Q. Stephenson appointed associate professor.
- N. N. Mohsenin appointed associate professor.
- L. H. Snyder appointed instructor in extension.
- R. A. Aldrich appointed associate professor.
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- J. R. Boshe appointed instructor.
- G. R. Bodman appointed instructor.
- B. S. Horne appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1959

- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
- R. R. Yoerger appointed associate professor.
- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
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- J. R. Boshe appointed instructor.
- G. R. Bodman appointed instructor.
- B. S. Horne appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1960

- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
- R. R. Yoerger appointed associate professor.
- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
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- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.

1965

- R. P. Prince appointed instructor.
- M. E. Schroeder appointed assistant professor.
- R. O. Martin appointed assistant professor.
- H. D. Bartlett appointed associate professor.
- R. R. Yoerger appointed associate professor.
- A. J. Swearingen appointed instructor.
- O. A. Kimmell appointed assistant professor.
- W. C. Arble appointed assistant professor.
- A. R. Carlson appointed instructor in extension.
- K. Q. Stephenson appointed associate professor.
- N. N. Mohsenin appointed associate professor.
- L. H. Snyder appointed instructor in extension.
- R. A. Aldrich appointed associate professor.
- R. A. Keppeler appointed associate professor.
- A. L. Myers appointed instructor in extension.
- L. S. Click appointed assistant professor in extension.
- J. R. Boshe appointed instructor.
- G. R. Bodman appointed instructor.
- B. S. Horne appointed instructor in extension.
- E. A. Myers and appointed instructor.
- P. M. Anderson appointed instructor.
- A. W. Clyde appointed department head.
1968: R. M. Butler appointed instructor.
1969: D. O. Norman appointed instructor.

1968 - S. P. Persson appointed associate professor.
1968 - R. M. Butler appointed instructor.
1969 - D. O. Norman appointed instructor.

1974 - W. J. Elliot appointed instructor.
1974 - A. R. Jarrett appointed instructor.
1974 - W. R. DeTar appointed associate professor.
1976 - H. V. Walton appointed professor and head of the department.
1976 - D. W. Johnson appointed instructor.
1976 - D. J. Murphy appointed instructor.

1978 - J. W. Hilton appointed assistant professor.
1978 - G. R. Bodman appointed assistant professor.
1978 - J. W. Garthe appointed instructor.
1979 - M. J. Kern appointed instructor.
1980 - D. J. Meyer appointed assistant professor.
1980 - D. J. Meyer appointed assistant professor.

1982 - D. E. Brune appointed assistant professor.
1982 - R. E. Graves appointed associate professor.
1982 - P. N. Walker appointed associate professor.
1982 - T. G. Pierson appointed lecturer.
1983 - K. M. Mancl appointed assistant professor.
1983 - V. M. Puri appointed assistant professor.
1983 - C. A. Zuritz appointed assistant professor.

1984 - J. M. Carson appointed assistant professor.
1985 - H. B. Manbeck appointed acting department head.
1985 - D. E. Buffington appointed professor and head of the department.
1987 - P. D. Rollillard appointed assistant professor.
1987 - J. M. Hanleff appointed assistant professor.
1987 - T. G. Pierson appointed instructor.

In 1970, a new Mushroom Test Demonstration Facility allowed researchers to develop multidisciplinary techniques rooted in agricultural engineering, economics, and the biological sciences.

1976: Ag Safety became a formal program through extension.

During the 1980’s, Penn State began to be recognized nationally and internationally as a leader in agricultural research.

1983: Master of Agriculture degree program in Agricultural Mechanization was approved.

1985: College of Engineering co-op program began.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>R. C. Brandt appointed lecturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>P. H. Heinemann appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>D. R. Buckmaster appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Department name was changed to Agricultural and Biological Engineering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Ag Mechanization (Ag M) name was changed to Agricultural Systems Management and Technology (ASMT).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>E. F. Wheeler appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>R. D. Shannon appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>H. B. Manbeck appointed interim department head.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>D. G. Wagner appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>J. Liu appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Roy E. Young appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>R. E. Young appointed professor and head of the department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>A. Demirci appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Agricultural Engineering (Ag E) name was changed to Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>ASMT name was changed to Agricultural Systems Management (ASM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Department received the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>This was awarded to the Organics Materials Process program, which created high-grade compost from food waste on campus. This innovative approach was to focus on preservation of our environment and concern for our planet's welfare. The program has had an impact across Penn State to this day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>T. L. Richard appointed associate professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>W. G. M. Schneider III appointed instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>J. M. Catchmark appointed associate professor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>D. E. Ciolkosz appointed extension associate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>H. M. Sarts appointed assistant professor.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2010 - P. H. Heinemann appointed head of the department.
2010 - M. N. Marshall appointed instructor.
2010 - S. C. Knight appointed instructor.
2012 - J. J. Janowiak, professor, joined the department.
2012 - J. H. Michael, professor, joined the department.
2012 - N. R. Brown, associate professor, joined the department.
2012 - P. M. Smith, professor, joined the department.
2012 - D. W. Hofstetter appointed research assistant.
2013 - H. E. Gall appointed assistant professor.
2016 - C. Raj appointed assistant professor.
2017 - M. L. Pate appointed Nationwide Insurance Associate Professor.
2017 - D. Choi appointed assistant professor.
2018 - L. He appointed assistant professor.

2013: Wood products faculty joined the department as a result of the College of Agricultural Sciences restructuring.

2013: Agricultural Systems Management program was changed to BioRenewable Systems; graduate and undergraduate major was approved.

2013: Plans for a major building renovation were approved.

2018: New Agricultural Engineering Building was completed.

“Our department is advancing the engineering sciences, business, and technical management of biological and agricultural systems, to build a greener, more sustainable world.”

~ Paul Heinemann,
Department Head, April 2018

Developed and designed by Dr. Albert Jarrett and Peggy Newel.
Photos courtesy of the department and the College of Agricultural Sciences.