



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### Learners Today — Leaders Tomorrow

[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

## Learning By Doing: FFA Members Visit State Capitol



Photo by PA FFA Association

Pennsylvania FFA members gathered in Harrisburg this past weekend for their State Leadership Legislative Conference. FFA members participated in a mock legislative session, debating several key bills under review in the state General Assembly. Acting Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding visited with the students on Tuesday.

## Impact

### FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

"Thanks for helping me become a better leader!" I will take many memories away from this amazing conference." As I read over the comments from over a thousand FFA members that recently attended the Pennsylvania FFA's ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success)

Conference, I am overwhelmed with the amount of positive responses. Some say that this conference has helped them "break out of their shell" or "learn what it really means to be a leader." For three weekends in February, my teammates and I have had the opportunity to present personal development workshops to FFA members that gathered in our capital for a common goal — to build their character and grow as an individual. As I stood in the midst of 50 or so members in my workshop room, looking at me with anticipation, I was transported back four years to my first ACES conference, where my passion for the organization was sparked. It was at this point that I realize that these conferences are much more than just a learning opportunity, they are a doorway to personal growth.

This personal growth was evident in our



TONY RICE

members during FFA Week when chapters across the state held numerous teacher appreciation breakfasts, lunches and pig roasts.

While attending a particular breakfast at Greenwood High School, I had the chance to speak with a school board member that attended the event. He expressed that he was "confinitely impressed with the dedication that the FFA members have toward serving others." Throughout my year as a state officer, it is the comments such as these that encourage me and I am again reminded that the members I serve are serving others and making a noticeable difference. Once again, I am taken back into that workshop room with the members surrounding me and I realize that this may be where it all begins. Just like I had been encouraged four years ago, perhaps I could make a difference in someone else's life as well. In the words of Richard Costello, "Not only can you not plan the impact you're going to have, you often won't recognize it even while you're having it."

*Editor's note: Tony Rice is the Pennsylvania FFA state vice president.*

## Pa. FFA Foundation Plans 2nd Sporting Clays Event

After the success of the first event, the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation is hosting another Sporting Clays Event. The event will be at the Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge and Kennels in Houtzdale, Pa. The event will start at noon with registration. After a safety meeting, the main event will begin with 100 sporting clays. A steak dinner will wrap up the evening. There will be prizes for the top three teams and the highest shooter. The event is open to 20 teams

comprised of five members.

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation is hosting this event to raise funds for the state association to use for state leadership conferences, scholarships, awards and conventions. For more information, registration or sponsorship details, contact Sarah Sparks, executive director of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, at 717-781-5780 or [sparks@paffa.org](mailto:sparks@paffa.org).

### The Tulpehocken FFA Proudly Presents The Fight for Farmers

## 5k Mud Run

Saturday, April 18th, 2015 @ 9:00 A.M.



Where: The Tulpehocken Jr./Sr. High School, 430 New Schuylkilltown Rd., Berwyn, PA 19001. Course and registration is the outdoor sports area. Course: Hilly, rough terrain made up including obstacles. Run through the school's woodlot and across School Road.

Awards: Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers of each class.

Classes include: 19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70 and over.

Entry: All pre-registrations posted after March 25th are guaranteed one shirt and will be \$30. Pre-registrations without a tee shirt will be \$20.00.

Race registration and entrance pick up will be at 8:00 A.M. Race day registration will be shirts as they last will be \$35.00. Race day registration without a tee shirt will be \$27.00. Race tips follow 5k. We ask that participants exit course within two hours of 5k beginning. Flat tips are free but will not be timed. We encourage anyone to come out to our race and spectate. We will be providing a wash station and hydration station. Great water/light concessions will also be sold. Tanning at finish line will be provided by Treet City Spa.

Optional online registration also available at [www.paffa.org/ffasites](http://www.paffa.org/ffasites)

(Practical processing fee applies. Pre-registration closed Wednesday, March 25th, midnight)

Mail checks payable to "Tulpehocken FFA" and from below to 430 New Schuylkilltown Rd., Berwyn, PA 19001.



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Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age on race day: \_\_\_\_\_  
M | F | Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle  
or: 5k race with short sleeve tee shirt \$30.00 D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
5k race without tee shirt \$20.00 Tee Size: S | M | L | XL

In consideration of your promising me to participate in this event, on behalf of myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, I hereby waive and release all rights and claims for damages which I may have against you or your agents, municipalities in this event course, or anyone connected with the event, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, for any and all injuries or illness which I may suffer as a result of taking part in the event. I grant my permission to my name or any audio or visual recording for any lawful purpose. Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Any questions or concerns, please contact the Tulpehocken High School Agriculture Department at 610-481-6286 Ext. 1149 or [cwilliams@tulpehocken.org](mailto:cwilliams@tulpehocken.org)

## Octorara Agriculture, Business, Environmental Science and Technology Expo

In an effort to increase awareness of thriving local agriculture and the larger agriculture industry, the Octorara Area School District has partnered with a number of local businesses to showcase the highlights of the community at the Octorara Agriculture, Business, Environmental Science and Technology Expo.

Shining a light on all the opportunities the agriculture industry has to offer, OABEST will take place May 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the Octorara Area School District campus. Local farmers and agriculture leaders will gather to demonstrate farming procedures and the industry.

Herb's Foods, Wawa and many other organizations have joined OABEST to bring light to the future of farming and its employment potential. Some local businesses are joining the expo with a variety of interesting demonstrations guaranteed to pique the interest of all members of the community. Penn State's Master Gardener Pro-

gram will be present to answer questions about gardening and offer tips for your own backyard, with Home Depot, which can help get those raised bed gardens up and running.

For those interested in antique tractors, local collectors will be on hand with a sampling. Atlantic Tractor is also expected to jam in on the fun. Other local industry leaders will be in attendance with demonstrations to answer questions including: Chester County Conservation District, Penn State Extension and the local Farm Bureau to name a few. The Mobile Ag Classroom, an educational agriculture science interactive lab, as well as the Pennsylvania WoodMobile, a traveling exhibit that provides information on our state forest resources and industry, will also be present.

The Octorara FFA will host a meet and greet of former and current FFA Members. A hayride and games will also be available.