



BLUE AND GOLD

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Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Hard Work Pays Off For Manor FFA Poultry Team

Pennsylvania State FFA Association

In October, Manor FFA’s very own Poultry evaluation team got to compete at the National FFA Career Development Event Competition in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team earned 11th place which is a gold medal ranking. The gold medal ranking was an opportunity to go to Atlanta, Georgia for the International Production and Processing Expo. All of the teams that competed in the contest that earned the gold medal status could attend the IPPE trip, which was sponsored by the U.S. Poultry Foundation.

The team consisted of four Manor FFA members: Renee Eshbach, Sarah Bleacher, Megan Reen, and Morgan Harnish. The girls prac-

ticed very hard every week so they could earn a trip to compete in the National Competition. When they found out they were going to have the opportunity to go to the expo in Georgia as a team, they were ecstatic because they knew all of the long hours and long nights truly paid off in the end.

In February, the poultry team packed up their bags and got on a flight for Georgia. The expo highlighted agribusinesses dealing in areas such as poultry genetics, housing, and processing. During the expo, there were many opportunities for the girls to learn about leadership, career readiness and poultry opportunities. This information was presented through informational sessions, guest



From left: Renee Eshbach, Sarah Bleacher, Doug Metzler, Steve Main, Morgan Harnish, and Megan Reen

speakers and activities that were also coordinated by the U.S. Poultry Foundation. Member Sarah Bleacher said what stood out to her most on the from the sessions was

that “People take time and work hard to get to a well-paying job. Working hard benefits you in the long run.” While in Georgia, the team had

the opportunity to visit many places other than the expo. The team got to visit the World of Coca Cola, Georgia Aquarium and other city sights of Atlanta.

FFA Chapter Holds Kiss a Cow Fundraiser For a Member in Need

HAYLEIGH HIGHLANDS
AND ANDREW LONG
Shippensburg Area
Highschool FFA Chapter

In January, the new year presented many new difficulties for students at Shippensburg Area Highschool, as they learned of an accident that had occurred involving student Maryelis “Mary” Matos. Matos was in a detached garage that caught fire and quickly exploded. Matos received the brunt of the damage and it was later discovered that over 30 percent of her body was badly burned. She was rushed to Holy Spirit Hospital; and due to the extent of her burns, she

was then transferred to the Lehigh Valley Regional Burn Center. Her doctors and family members were left with the decision to put Matos into a medically induced coma, to help her cope with the excruciating pain that burns cause to their victims. Members of the Shippensburg Area High School found out about Matos injuries from a Facebook post made by her aunt Kimberley Sclaro. FFA advisor and teacher Mrs. Bier who has supervised Matos for multiple years recalled how she found out about the incident. “I originally heard about Maryelis’s accident through Facebook. I could not believe that she was injured. I was in shock.”

Mrs. Bier was not the only one shocked by the story, two other members of the FFA had similar reactions which led them to conduct various fundraisers for their close friend. Matos’s aunt also created a GoFundMe account which currently has over \$15,000 worth of donations to help with medical costs and other expenses. The account is still active for donations. FFA members Chelsey Wise and Jessica Diehl said, “Maryelis is a member of the FFA and she deserved a fundraiser to help her out with medical costs.” The FFA partnered with the Social Activism Club to arrange the Kiss the Cow event, which allowed students to put money into jars located in teachers rooms, with the teacher who raised the most money having to kiss the cow. Through these donations, they were able to raise \$226.30. Martos surgeries began in the days following her accident. Miraculously, Matos fought the coma that she was put into and within three weeks, she was released from her medically induced coma, and she began talking and regaining function in her hands and legs. Only about a month after Matos was admitted, she was sent back home. Today she continues to express gratitude and many thanks for the money raised, and the continued support from her fellow peers, and educators during her time of need. When asked about how she felt about the fundraisers, Matos said, “I was definitely shocked, I couldn’t believe how many people supported me in fundraisers. All of the money everyone raised for me was just amazing.” Matos still has a long road of recovery ahead of her. However, with all the support of the school and community, her future is bright.



Shippensburg FFA’s Kiss a Cow fundraiser raised over \$220 for a fellow member injured in accident.



It’s almost State FFA convention time.

State Convention Countdown

Pennsylvania State FFA Association

As the school year wraps, our state officer team has begun to look towards June, and with it the arrival of the 90th Pennsylvania State Convention.

State Convention is held this year at Penn State, University Park, from June 11 through June 13. The Convention consists of three days of FFA activities, including state career development events and state leadership development events, and sessions run by the state officer team. These sessions will focus on recognizing students for their achievements throughout the year by recognizing CDE and LDE winners, state proficiency’s, and individuals and families who have been key to the success of Pennsylvania FFA. Keynote speakers will share their message at each session, including Shea Booster, National FFAWestern Region Vice-President, Erica Baier, former National Secretary, and others.

The state officer team is excited to be able to see all that Pennsylvania FFA members have accomplished this year, and to see the friends they have made over these very short 365 days. They also look forward to seeing the future of Pennsylvania FFA, and all that our members will accomplish over these next 12 months.

The 2019-2020 State Officer team will also be selected and inducted into their new positions. If you are interested in applying for State Office, you must be a graduating senior or graduate, have earned your Keystone State Degree, and fill out the State Officer Application found on paffa.org.

Talk to your advisor about attending state convention. Although only in April, the state officer team has already begun preparations for state convention, writing scripts, creating reflections and assembling all the music that makes up FFA’s three days of Penn State. We hope to see you there!