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Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Officers Corner: What Does This Year of Service to PA FFA Mean to You?

THOMAS STRONG
Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter

This year serving as the Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter is something that I have wanted for my entire high school career. As a graduate of Greenwood High School in Perry County, Pennsylvania, I was one of 52 students who were in my graduating class. Coming from a small school like this, you definitely learn the importance of having a strong community. I was involved in many school activities other than FFA such as, band, chorus, Peer Helpers, Rocket Club, Student Council and National

Honors Society. All these groups and the individuals within them are what made me who I am today.

Throughout these first few months, one thing that we keep hearing that will happen this year is the growth that each one of us officers will experience. Growth can mean so many things, but I have already seen growth and the impact that I can make in my community. Each week that I am home I run into people in town who know exactly who I am and congratulate me on achieving this office. It means a lot to my small community that they have an individual who is taking the initiative to better the

youth not only here in my hometown, but across the state.

I want to use this year to surpass the expectations that I have set for myself and grow as a leader for my community and country. The platform that I have been honored to be selected on is one that only a few get the opportunity to have and I cannot take it for granted. I want to be able to go home in June after this year of service is over and look back knowing that I did everything that I possibly could.

This next year is going to be one wild ride, but I am beyond excited to be in this position with six of my newest and closest friends.



Photo provided by Pennsylvania FFA Association

“This next year is going to be one wild ride, but I am beyond excited to be in this position with six of my newest and closest friends,” Thomas Strong said.

Government Playing a Role at Ag Progress Days

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Pennsylvania FFA Reporter

In mid-August, the annual Ag Progress Days were held just outside of State College, Pennsylvania.

For those who have never heard of this event, Ag Progress Days is the largest outdoor agricultural exposition and is sponsored by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences. Businesses come in from across the country to show their innova-

tion within the agricultural industry. Organizations such as 4-H also use this event in order to display what they have been doing over the past year and teach the public about our industry. All in all, Ag Progress Days helps educate citizens to what is new inside the agricultural industry.

An aspect of Ag Progress Days that is very important is the government officials that attend. These individuals provide meetings and listening sessions not only to tell their constitu-

ents what they are doing in office, but to hear their struggles and concerns. One example of this was members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate Agriculture committees coming to Ag Progress Days and holding a joint session that was open to the public. This talk about biosecurity and the African swine fever better educated the House and Senate members, but also the full auditorium that was in attendance. Farmers and other agriculturists were able to listen to speakers and learned

what they can do to help prevent African swine fever from ravaging our swine population.

Many other listening sessions were also provided with members of both the Pennsylvania and national government. Even Gov. Tom Wolf was able to take time out of his busy schedule to attend Ag Progress. While there he spoke of how the first PA Farm Bill will help the industry and what he believes is important to the future of the ag community as a whole.

Ag Progress Days was a success just like in years past. It informed the public about the state of the agricultural industry, but also encouraged them to innovate and change for the better. If you have never been to Ag Progress, try to make some time for it next year which will be held Aug. 18-20.

The officer team is looking forward to seeing just how much the agricultural industry will change over the course of this next year.

Discovering Pennsylvania’s Hardwoods

Pennsylvania FFA Association

Do you know the most sustainable forest in the entire world? If you guessed Pennsylvania’s forest you would be correct! In fact, since the 1950s the amount of harvestable wood in Pennsylvania’s forest has grown five times its size. While visiting with representatives from the Hardwood Development Council, the Pennsylvania FFA state officer team got to tour some of the ways that our local forests are being used in today’s market. The council is responsible for the development, expansion and promotion of the hardwoods industry in Pennsylvania. This is not only done by informing citizens across the commonwealth, by means like their

traveling Woodmobile exhibit, but also by advocating for Pennsylvania hardwoods across the globe.

The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team began its day of tours of northern Pennsylvania out in the forest to watch first-hand how trees are felled and the intricacies of being a logger. From the extensive amount of safety equipment that is used to the absolute skill that loggers have to cut down trees, it was all very eye-opening. The officers also learned that each worksite has its own management plan in order to keep our forests flourishing.

The tours continued as we visited local businesses that covered a variety of hardwood products. Having the chance to visit a lumber mill,

hardwood flooring factory, veneer manufacturing and flooring, and a pellet mill was very insightful. The many means of innovation that these sites are using to better themselves to provide better quality products for their customers is fascinating. Seeing all these manufacturing sites only within miles of each other showed the officer team how crucial hardwoods are to the agricultural industry of Pennsylvania.

Next time you drive through the beautiful forests of Pennsylvania you can be sure that there are many hard-working men and women who are using and sustaining these forests for our own uses and for the next generation.



Photo provided by the Pennsylvania FFA Association

State officers learned first-hand how hardwood floors are made.



Photo provided by Delaware FFA Association

George Class-Peters Jr. of the Smyrna FFA Chapter was selected as the chairman of the National FFA Officer Nominating Committee from a pool of candidates that represented each state across the nation.

DELAWARE FFA

George Class-Peters Jr. Makes Delaware FFA History

Delaware FFA Association

For the first time in Delaware FFA history, a Delaware FFA member was selected to chair the National FFA Officer nominating committee during the 92nd national FFA Convention and Exposition to be held in Indianapolis from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2.

George Class-Peters Jr. of the Smyrna FFA Chapter was selected as the chairman of the national FFA officer nominating committee from a pool of candidates that represented each state across the nation. Keeping with the traditions of a student-run organization, a committee of nine FFA members was selected to carry

out the responsibility of interviewing and selecting the national officer team. Being a part of this unique group requires a sense of commitment to the betterment of the organization and a heart for service. The committee will put in many hours in preparation for the National FFA Convention & Expo.

Class-Peters was born in New York, moved to Central Delaware at 8 years old and became involved in the National FFA Organization in middle school. Through his time in the FFA, Class-Peters has developed a variety of leadership skills and public speaking abilities. He credits FFA for helping him develop intrapersonal

interaction etiquette, presentation and leadership skills, and tractor driving skills.

Class-Peters participated in multiple career development events such as parliamentary procedure, agriscience fair, horse evaluation, farm business management, and safe tractor operations at the state, regional and national levels. His supervised agriculture experience program included dog production, managing the Smyrna High School greenhouse, and completing his agriscience fair research. In 2018, he received his state FFA degree and was named the Delaware FFA State Star in Agriscience Research.

He is a sophomore honors student at the University of Delaware studying medical diagnostics. Last year he served as Delaware State FFA Association treasurer. He is actively involved in the alumni portion of current state officer development and encouragement.

“This immense honor and opportunity to chair this committee is not lost on me. I know that this work is of the utmost importance, and I plan to give it my undivided attention and passion. I cannot wait to work with all the amazing individuals who will be involved in this process with me,” Class-Peters said.