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## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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## Jarema Will Serve Pa. Agricultural Education

*Pennsylvania State FFA*

**YORK SPRINGS, Pa.,**— Dedicated, driven and passionate is how students describe her. A motivated lifelong learner and supporter of agriculture education is how she describes herself. This year’s president of Pennsylvania’s Association of Agriculture Educators is a 25 year teaching veteran who began her experiences in agriculture in rural Crawford County.

An avid outdoors person, Dianna (Ertman) Jarema spent her youth raising and showing horses, beef cattle and learning about life on the farm. “My parents didn’t make their living from the farm, but we made our lives on the farm. I will never regret the hard work, early risings and late nights we spent in the barn, delivering calves and foals or the hours training the animals to prep for shows. The experiences were worth every second,” said Jarema.

She credits her uncle for providing the best exercise, baling hay; her dad, for her mechanic skills; her mom, for her love of horses; and her brother, Ted, for her love of beef cows.

It was the influence of those experiences and an agricultural teacher who made a comment to a determined Jarema who was interested in being at veterinarian at the time that changed her mind. “My Ag teacher, Mr. Charles Mostoller, didn’t let girls in the shop. I told my dad and he encouraged me to bug Mr. Mostoller until he’d let me, at least, push the broom,” she said.

One day, the elder teacher told Jarema she ‘might become a good ag teacher one day.’ Jarema said that she never really thought about it until then. Focused on 4-H at the time and just beginning to get involved in the FFA. She then, considered some options and was chosen to attend the first Pennsylvania Governor’s School for Agriculture in the summer of 1986 and the rest, as some say, is history.

“I was very shy and reserved, not the most outgoing person in the room. I had to work hard to realize that what I had to say was important and it seemed to come easier working with youth,” she said.

Jarema holds a Bachelors and Masters in Education from Penn State, as well as three CASE curriculum certifications. She was also a member of the Penn State Collegiate FFA, Block and Bridle and Delta Theta Sigma professional agriculture fraternity.

She is currently working on a science certificate from LaVerne University and recently became an adjunct professor in welding at Harrisburg Area Community College. Jarema strives every day to provide endless opportunities to for her students at Bermudian Springs. “I want students to know they have options to choose, to learn, to grow,” she said.

As for her appointment to serve PAEE, she is honored to serve the state in agricultural education. “I’ve had several mentors that helped shape me into the person and teacher I am today. This is part of my way of thanking them, by serving and representing Pennsylvania agricultural education to the best of my ability. I also love experiencing new venues to meet new people who have such an influence in our industry,” said Jarema.

The appointment is a three-year commitment beginning as a president-elect, then as president and finally as a past-president. Serving as a vice-president in the south-central region provided great leadership experiences for Jarema who also served in leadership capacities during her youth in 4-H and FFA.

She has been blessed to be a part of her student’s successes from every Greenhand Degree, Keystone Degree, Proficiency Award, American Degree and CDE award because of the ability to watch her students grow into leaders in their respective passions of agriculture said Jarema.

“Through my appointment as president of our association, I hope to share some of my experiences to strengthen agriculture education,” she said.



Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators President Diana Jarema.



Gifford Pinchot FFA chapter held a signing day for their senior FFA members, with parents, teachers, and government officials attending.

## FFA Members Sign Letters of Intent

*Gifford Pinchot FFA Chapter*

**DILLSBURG, Pa.,**— Every year hundreds of high schoolers sign letters of commitment to attend colleges with the promise of competing in sports or honors programs. Because of this, we often overlook the students graduating with the intent to go directly into the workforce or to continue their schooling in agriculture.

The Gifford Pinchot FFA chapter decided to change that. While hosting a visit from the PA Secretary of Agriculture, Russell Redding, multiple seniors from the Gifford Pinchot FFA Chapter signed letters of intent to enter the workforce, technical schools, and four year bachelor programs. They were joined by parents, future employers, and college professors. Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding viewed the signing, and said that it made him happy to see young people who wish to pursue careers and

educations in the agricultural industry. Students that signed letters of intent to go directly into the workforce included: Megan Cromer who is committed to becoming a full time employee of Leer Electric, Cameron Rodgers working full time for H. L. Stoneberger and Josh Roy committing to Thomas Trucking. Skylar Wetherbee signed a letter of intent to attend Pennsylvania College of Technology to study plant production. Students who signed letters of intent for colleges and universities included Taylor Hoverter who will be attending Wilson College for animal science, Amber Fogelsanger who will attend Messiah College for environmental science, Jessica McKay with plans to travel out to Colorado State for agricultural business, Mary Secord who will be attending Penn State for agricultural business, and Ian Budzinski with plans to attend State University of New York — Cobleskill for applied fermentation science.

## Youths Attend Ag Safety Expo at Penn State

**GARIN HOY**

*Tyrone Area FFA Chapter*

Agriculture consistently ranks among the most hazardous occupations, with high rates of injuries and fatalities, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In 2016, there were 417 farmers and farm workers who died from a work-related injury in the United States.

The leading causes of deaths in this industry, such as machinery- and animal-related accidents, are largely preventable with proper instruction said Michael Pate, Nationwide Insurance Associate Professor of Agricultural Safety and Health in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering.

“Often times, it boils down to an unsafe act or an unsafe condition,” he said. “People can be educated to avoid unsafe acts and how to avoid or improve unsafe conditions.”

The Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences held the second annual Ag Safety Expo on Feb. 22 at the Ag Snider Arena. Tyrone Area High School students enrolled in the agricultural power and technology, leadership and communication, and animal sciences courses, along with the FFA chapter officers took part in the 11 different demonstration and displays.



Tyrone FFA members participate in large animal rescue at the ag safety expo in the Ag Snider Arena.

Students participated in activities such as ATV rollover and tilt able demonstration, tractor safety strategies, large animal rescue simulation, flowing grain hazard, chainsaw safety and Penn State woodsman team demonstration, pesticide education, corn harvest hazard simulator, and fire extinguisher simulator. Along with head, eye, and foot protection, farm hazard hunt display, and learned

about AgriAbility.

The students were then whisked away to the Penn State Creamery to enjoy lunch and some of the famous ice cream. They also met with Derek James about major and minors in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

“The information session at Penn State really made me think more about my future. It changed my idea of agriculture because it has many

advantages in the program at Penn State,” said Bree Weaver, senior.

“I am interested in vet tech, animal science, food science, and biological engineering. I liked how he [Derek James] told us different things. It changed my view with what studies are considered agricultural,” said sophomore Carissa Hamp.