



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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[www.paffa.org](http://www.paffa.org)

### Pa. FFA Gains Two New Chapters

Taylor Halbleib  
Pa. FFA State Secretary

The Pennsylvania FFA Association has approximately 13,000 members in 150 local chapters. Recently, the number of local chapters in Pennsylvania grew as the association welcomed two new chapters into the Pennsylvania FFA family. Avella FFA resides in Washington County and Honesdale FFA resides in Wayne County. These two new chapters were awarded their charters at the 89th Pennsylvania FFA Midwinter Convention on Jan. 8 in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

During this year's program, Avella and Honesdale members walked to the stage and were presented their charters by Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera. School board members, advisers and chapter officers were cheered on by those in the audience as the association celebrated increasing the number chapters in the state of Pennsylvania to 150.

Establishing a new FFA chapter requires a lot of hard work, planning and communication between the chapter and state as well as



The Pennsylvania State officers welcomed the Avella and Honesdale FFA chapters to the state association at the 2018 Midwinter Convention.

national staff. Being able to grow in membership and numbers of chapters in the program ultimately means that there are more opportunities opened up to agriculture education students across the state. This means even more individuals with public speaking, leadership and communication skills will be able to enter into the work force and build a career in agriculture. The state officers are excited for the students of Avella and Honesdale FFA to begin their journey in the organization and wish them the best of luck in the creation of a new generation of agriculturalists.

FFA is an organization based off of agricultural education classes in high schools. It focuses on developing premier leadership, personal growth and career success in the students involved with the organization. FFA exists at the national, state and local level. Established in 1928, the National FFA Organization is comprised of 52 state associations. Each state association has different membership levels and traditions, however they each share the rules and bylaws put into place by the members.

Photo by Phil Gruber

### From the President's Desk

#### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

My name is Nathan Moyer, and I am serving as the Pennsylvania state FFA president. While six months have already gone by since my teammates and I have been elected, I am so excited to see where the rest of the year takes us.



NATHAN MOYER

As I have been travelling around the state, meeting with FFA chapters and industry leaders, one word has always come to mind: passion. When I first stepped into the field of agriculture as a young student, I immediately saw that agriculture is a diverse industry filled with passionate, hard-working people. Five years later, I still see that passion everywhere. I love being a student in agriculture education because I find more passion for FFA every single day. Wherever I go and whoever I meet in agriculture, I see that they have as much passion that I do.

Because I interact with so many FFA members, I often get asked questions. My favorite question to answer is, "Do you love what you do as a state officer?" Without hesitation I answer, "Yes! I love what I do." While serving as a state officer, I have come to love many things about the role, but I especially love interacting with the members of Pennsylvania FFA. I enjoy conducting chapter visits, while we build students' leadership, communication, and relationship skills. Most of all, I love sharing my passion for FFA with them, and hearing how passionate they are about agriculture

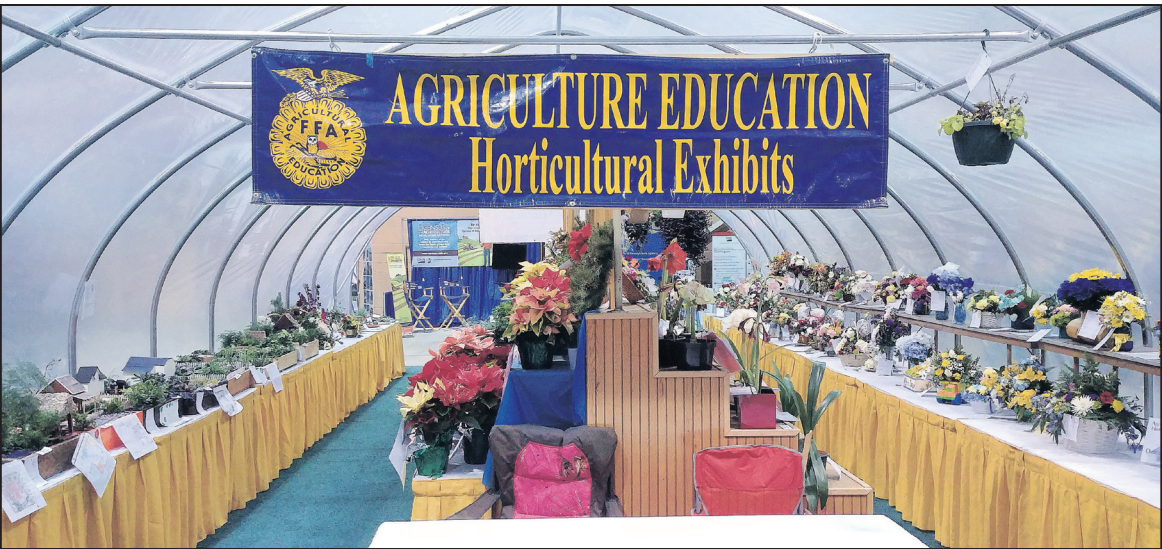
too. I love FFA because of its tendency to bring people together. While I love agriculture and ag education, my journey in agriculture didn't begin early in my life. I never grew up on a farm and wasn't

a member of 4-H. It wasn't until I was introduced to FFA in ninth grade that I experienced the world of agriculture. Because of the tireless effort and encouragement of my ag teacher, Mrs. Valerie Fry, I began my FFA career with a public speaking contest. After that, I realized how large and diverse the field of agriculture was and I saw how much I could grow as a person in FFA.

After serving as a state officer, I plan to attend Penn State University, majoring in wildlife and fisheries science with a minor in entomology. I plan to pursue a career as a wildlife biologist with a focus on reptiles and amphibians. I also plan to run my own business of breeding and selling insects as reptile feeders or pets.

I am so grateful for where this year of service has taken me so far, and I can't wait to see what the rest of the journey holds. I could not have made it without the support of my family and friends, and especially my ag teachers. I look forward to being a part of the future of agriculture and thank Pennsylvania FFA for this wonderful journey.

*Editor's note: Nathan Moyer is the Pennsylvania FFA state president.*



FFA members entered a range of flower arrangements for the horticultural display.

### FFA on Display at Farm Show

While attending the 102nd Farm Show, thousands of people were able to see a variety of projects on display, produced by FFA members.

Projects on display included display booths, landscape designs, horticultural exhibits, tractor restorations and agriscience fair displays. Projects ranged from an experiment on worms to a display on the world's carbon footprint. Each one of these projects gave FFA members the chance to learn new skills in their respective field such as laying out a landscaping plan to forming a hypothesis for a research project.

The variety of projects on display were a true testament to the theme of this year's Farm Show, "Strength in our Diversity." Giving students a wide variety of opportunities is something that FFA strives to achieve.

Members of Pennsylvania FFA are able to explore their in-



Canton FFA's landscape display entry.

terests in agriculture through these projects over the course of their FFA careers, and many members participate in multiple projects at the Farm Show. Members are encouraged to make exceptionally impressive projects in order

to gain the blue ribbon for first place in their respective category of projects.

All placings of the projects on display are available on the Farm Show website, [www.farmshow.pa.gov](http://www.farmshow.pa.gov).