



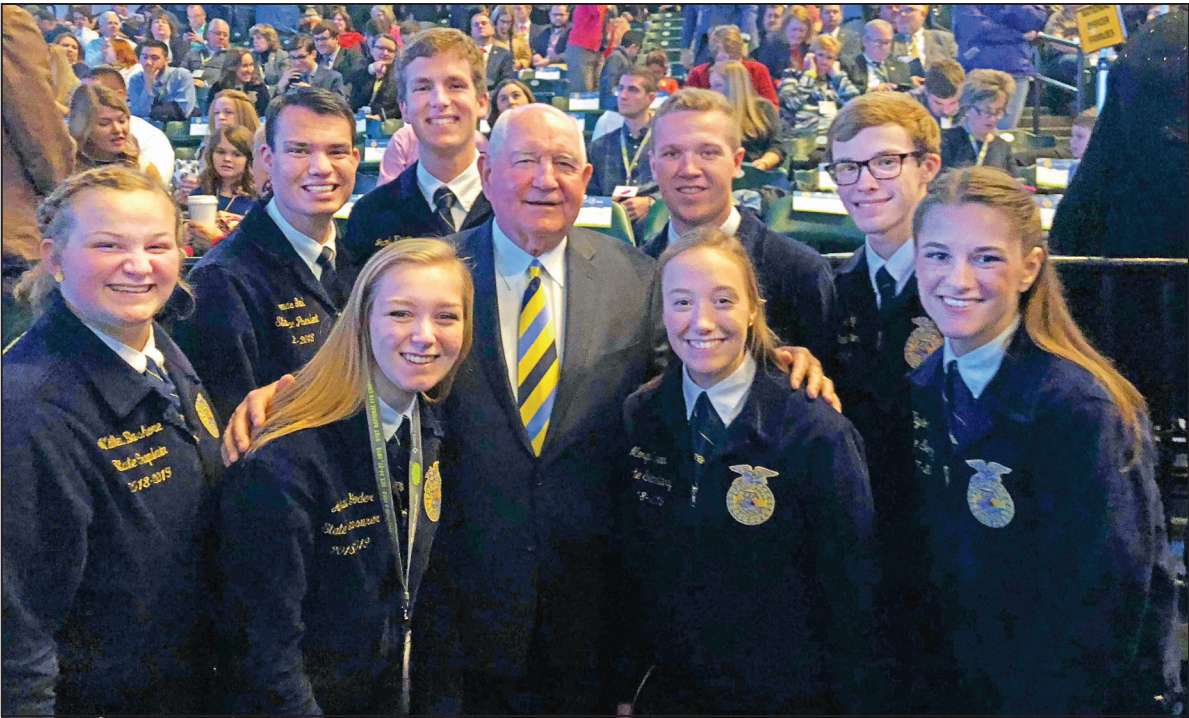
BLUE AND GOLD

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Pennsylvania FFA Happenings
www.paffa.org

Pennsylvania FFA Members Represented at 91st National Convention

The 91st annual National FFA Convention and Expo was held Oct. 24-27 and was heavily attended by Pennsylvania FFA members. The state officer team began delegate work on Monday, Oct. 22. All seven officers worked among six committees to look at different issues proposed by both national FFA and individual states. The state officers weren't the only busy ones. Multiple Pennsylvania FFA members represented the commonwealth in Indianapolis, competing in a multitude of different events throughout the week. A complete list of event placements can be found at www.paffa.org. Performing for a sold-out crowd, Garth Brooks kicked off the convention and packed nearly half of Lucas Oil Stadium with FFA members.



The Pennsylvania State Officer team met with Ag Secretary Sonny Perdue at the National FFA Convention.

honorary American Degree from the National FFA officers. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the president of the United States spoke at the National FFA Convention. Every year an invitation is sent to the sitting president, and President Donald Trump accepted. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue also spoke to the nearly 70,000 FFA members gathered. The National Nominating Committee also selected the 2018-19 National FFA Officer team: President Luke O'Leary of California; Secretary Layni Leblanc of Louisiana; Eastern Region Vice President Adrian Schunk of Michigan; Western Region Vice President Shea Booster of Oregon; Southern Region Vice President Jordan Stowe of Alabama; and Central Region Vice President Ridge Highbanks of Oklahoma.

Become the Inspiration You Need

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

My name is Sam Loy and I am serving as the 2018-19 state FFA reporter. We are getting closer to the time of year that state office applications go live. Now, normally, most people have decided that they want to run for state officer earlier in the school year and can't wait to submit theirs. However, I decided that I would like to run a little later than most. As in, three days before the application was due. I guess that isn't totally honest, as I had run for state officer once before. When seven names were announced at State Convention a week after my senior year of high school ended, mine wasn't one of them. I was disappointed, but I quickly became excited to begin my summer classes at Penn State and pushed state office out of my mind. Fast-forward 10 months and there I was again, preparing for a state office position, starting with a Skype interview. I got the normal questions such as "What is your ag experience?" and "What is your definition of leadership?" About 10 minutes in, I got this question: "Why do you want to serve as a state FFA officer?" While this was a pretty standard question, it was one I had put a lot of thought into. Of course, I wanted to give back to the organization and be a role model for members, but everyone running



SAMUEL LOY

for state office wants to do that. It's part of what makes our organization so great. But I wanted to stand out, so I gave some thought as to what had really inspired me to want to be a state officer. Seven years ago in my first ag class, my teacher Mr. Clark had introduced himself by standing on top of a table and imitating a squirrel call, something that I found hilarious and a little puzzling. I, along with a lot of other teenagers, have something called attention deficit hyperactive disorder, commonly called ADHD. Growing up, I was constantly told things like "quiet down" and "you have to behave," but here was a teacher that everyone liked standing on a desk making squirrel noises. And I also thought about my second FFA adviser, Mrs. Pontius, playing Garth Brooks over the speakers of our classroom and singing every word at the top of her lungs. I realized that my desire to become a state officer was because of my two ag teachers. They taught me that even though I couldn't sit still and talked too loudly, I could still be that inspiration to the kids just like me and help start them down the FFA path that so positively changed my life. And so I encourage my fellow FFA members to dance around, talk loudly and be yourself, because there are kids like me all over, who need kids like you to be an inspiration to them.

Berlin FFA Members Create Elephant Feeders for SAE Project

Members of the Berlin FFA chapter recently were challenged with a big problem. After touring the Pittsburgh Zoo, zookeepers suggested that the members could attempt to build a feeder for the elephants. Adviser Dan Miller took the idea and turned it into a Supervised Agricultural Experience project for the students.

The point behind the feeder was to give the zookeepers a way to feed the elephants safely and without actually having to enter the pen. Berlin FFA members approached this by creating a crane that could be attached to the fence. Members worked in their chapter's metal shop to create the project, and even added some FFA blue and a laser-cut elephant into the top.



Berlin FFA members work to complete their elephant feeders for an SAE.