



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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### ‘Steering’ an SAE Project in the Right Direction



My name is Brianna Barnhart and I am a senior at Derry Area High School. I have been an active member with the FFA for four years. On April 6, 2016, my show steer was born. From the second I saw him I knew I wanted him as my supervised agriculture experience project. After a few months had gone by it was time to bring him in the barn and start working with him. Nov. 1 is when I started my bond with George. My daily routine started out with feeding a grain mixture of corn, oats, soybean and other added minerals and giving him a timothy and alfalfa hay mixture.

As time progressed, I started to halter break him and two weeks later we were walking side by side. Nov. 15 rolled around and it was tag-ins at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds, where he weighed a mere

410 pounds. Considering he has to be 1,000 pounds by August, I felt pretty overwhelmed at this point. From that day forward it was all hard work and determination to get George ready for show. I worked with him for hours to make him listen and walk perfectly. There were days where I thought I couldn’t do it and just wanted to give up but continued to persevere.

George and I started to work together during our practices. I would walk him up and down my driveway even in the heat, the rain and even sometimes at night. I even tried tying him to our hay wagon and took him on a mile walk. Some days I would just tie him outside for a couple hours while I cleaned his stall or brushed him out. I started giving him baths in May and at first he hated it, until he realized it cooled him off.

If we fast-forward to current times, George now loves walks and baths so much that when I go to take him out he’s already waiting at the gate. Sometimes, before I’m even ready. On June 6, my FFA adviser Roy Campbell came to my house for the annual SAE visit. Campbell brought a scale to see how much weight my steer has gained since tag-ins. George weighed 960 pounds which was still not what he needed to be for fair. I felt proud that he had gained 550 pounds in six months but I still was nervous because he still wasn’t 1,000 pounds yet. Two months later my adviser came back to weigh him and he is currently 1,115 pounds and is ready for show.

This SAE project has really taught me many valuable lessons and given me a bond which I will never forget. On Aug. 21, my steer will be sold at the Westmoreland Fair and even though I will miss him dearly I understand that in the agriculture industry, we make leaps and bounds for the animals we care about to feed our world.



Brianna Barnhart walks her steer George.

## Introducing the State Reporter

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

My name is Philip Winklosky, the 2017-18 state reporter. I am from the Derry chapter in Westmoreland County. I was raised on a small farm in Derry, Pennsylvania, with my two brothers, sister and parents.



PHILIP WINKLOSKY

My family is very involved with my chapter. My dad, Paul Winklosky, was a state officer in 1981-82. My mom, Gretchen Winklosky, is the county Farm Bureau president and helps plan the annual chapter ag week for the elementary students. My brother Stephen was a state officer in 2013-14 and is studying agriculture systems management at Penn State. My sister Elizabeth was also a state officer in 2015-16 and is attending Penn State for agriculture and Extension education, and lastly my little brother James, even though he isn’t old enough to be a member, still comes to every event he can.

On our farm, we raise hogs. We also grow hay and corn. I have been showing pigs for nine years through the 4-H and FFA. These pigs are my supervised agricultural experience in the FFA. My plans are to expand my SAE to include boar semen collection and sales.

Through my time in FFA, I have competed in several CDEs including small gas engines, safe tractor driving and nursery/land-

scape, which I was able to compete in at the national level. I also have competed in various leadership development events including creed, parliamentary procedure and extemporaneous. I was the chapter secretary for two terms and chapter president my senior year. At the 2016 FFA Summer Convention, I was able to participate on the state’s nominating committee. This past year, I ran for a state office after being influenced by a number of state officers and watching my brother and sister.

I was given my opportunity to serve and represent the members of Pennsylvania FFA and gain new experiences. As a state officer, I will get the chance to meet with business and industry leaders, conduct conferences and conventions, and lastly, the thing I’m looking forward to most, is interacting with FFA members.

I have been known as the “black sheep” of my family since I am going to Ohio State University majoring in aviation and a minor in plant science with the hopes to become an agricultural pilot. I hope to serve the members of Pennsylvania FFA and leave a positive impact in the organization.

*Philip Winklosky is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.*

## Celebrate the Corduroy on Sept. 23

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni will host a celebration of corduroy, a Swine and Wine event, 5-9 p.m. on Sept. 23. Formerly the Blue and Gold Ball, the casual evening will be hosted at the Winery at Hunters Valley just off Route 15 in Liverpool, Pennsylvania.

Join FFA friends and family for wine tasting from the Winery at Hunters Valley’s extensive offering of wines.

Throughout the evening, the alumni will provide entertainment including yard games, pub-style trivia, a silent and live auction, wine tasting, scavenger hunt and more.

The meal will be available from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The buffet will feature Mason Dixon BBQ Services East prepared pork, donated by Warrington Farm Meats in Dillsburg, and Southern-style barbecue dinner accompaniments prepared by the Perry Valley Grange.

Proceeds from the event benefit the alumni’s annual jacket scholarship campaign, which provides more than 350 corduroy jackets annually to first-year members. The program empowers young students to participate in con-

### PENNSYLVANIA FFA ALUMNI



tests and take their steps toward a career in agriculture through FFA engagement and classroom instruction.

“Often, FFA members need a corduroy jacket to complete official dress, which allows them to compete in contests with confidence,” said Sherisa Nailor, Pennsylvania FFA Alumni president and high school agriculture educator. “The alumni’s program helps reward those first-year members with a classic blue corduroy jacket

with their name embroidered on it and we cannot think of a better way to initiate their FFA career.”

Tickets are available for \$35 per person and include a meal, commemorative stemless wine glass, wine tasting and a drink ticket redeemable for one glass of wine or bottle of beer. To purchase tickets or discuss sponsorships, email Krista Pontius at [kpontius@greenwoodsd.org](mailto:kpontius@greenwoodsd.org). Special group packages are available for sponsors and local alumni affiliates.

## Baker-Mikesell Named Star Finalist

The National FFA Organization selected 16 students from throughout the United States as finalists for its 2017 top achievement awards: American Star Farmer, American Star in Agribusiness, American Star in Agricultural Placement and American Star in Agriscience.

Elizabeth Baker-Mikesell of the Greenwood FFA Chapter in Pennsylvania was selected as a finalist for American Star in Agriscience. The American Star Awards represents the best of the best among thousands of American FFA Degree recipients.

The award recognizes FFA members who have developed outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through the completion of a supervised agricultural experience program. A required activity in FFA,

an SAE allows members to learn by doing.

Members can own and operate an agricultural business, intern at an agricultural business or conduct an agriculture-based scientific experiment and report the results.

Other requirements to achieve the award include demonstrating top management skills; completing key agricultural education, scholastic and leadership requirements; and earning an American FFA Degree, the organization’s highest level of student accomplishment.

A panel of judges will interview finalists and select one winner for each award at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo, Oct. 25-28, in Indianapolis.