



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story

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Pa. FFA Officer Team Selected

On June 16 at Penn State Main Campus, seven passionate individuals were selected to serve a one year term as a Pennsylvania FFA state officer.

The members of the team are as follows.

President Libby Baker-Mikesell is a member of the Greenwood chapter. Baker-Mikesell said that her favorite career development event has been parliamentary procedure because it challenged her both individually, and as a team member. Her future plans are to attend Penn State with a major in agriculture education and Extension. "I'm really excited to work with members across the state this year and experience all of the diversity of Pennsylvania FFA and learn from all that it offers."

Vice president Jacob Kline is from the Eastern Lebanon County chapter. Kline's favorite career development event has been dairy evaluation and management. He said, "I grew up working with dairy cows and showing them, so judging them helps me develop an eye for the traits I would like to see in my herd. So far this year, the plan is to continue on my family's dairy farm alongside my brothers." Kline said he is excited to get to know members across the state who have many different interests. "Through FFA, many people have influenced my life and I hope to create friendships with as many FFA members as possible and help them have the time of their life in FFA."



Submitted photo

The 2016-17 Pennsylvania FFA state officer team from left are vice president Jacob Kline, president Libby Baker-Mikesell, secretary Sarah Gonzalez, treasurer Madeline Buss, reporter Jill Palmer, chaplain Tricia Hojnowski and sentinel Garrett Jenkins.

Sentinel Garrett Jenkins is from the Elizabethtown chapter. "My favorite career development event was marketing plan. It ties together business, writing, and presentation skills all into one competition. It's exciting to prepare the written plan prior to the contest and then prepare to present." Garrett plans to attend Morrisville State College in New York for a degree in dairy science. "I am excited

to give back to an organization that's given so much to me."

Reporter Jill Palmer is from the Warfordsburg chapter. Her favorite career development contest over the years has been public speaking because, "It taught me how to be confident in myself and think on my toes." She plans to attend Penn State to major in agriculture Extension and education with a minor in agribusiness.

"I'm most excited to meet members and get involved. I've always loved making new friends and I can't wait to see so many more new faces."

Treasurer Madeline Buss is from the Somerset chapter. Buss favorite career development event was conservation public speaking. "I always loved talking about the importance of conserving our environment and the future of our planet," Buss said. She

will be attending college in the future for a field in agriculture. "I am so excited to reach out to members and be a voice for them. It's important that they know they all have a place in this organization and are all needed in the future of our industry."

Secretary Sarah Gonzalez is from the Manheim chapter. "My favorite career development event was definitely agriculture sales. I didn't think that I would have as much success in it as I did, so it was good to know that hard work truly does pay off." Sarah plans to attend Penn State with a major in agriculture education and Extension with a minor in ag communications. "I am so pumped for ACES. It was always my favorite conference and I loved learning about myself and developing my full potential. So now that I can help do that for other members makes me even more excited for the conference."

Chaplain Tricia Hojnowski is a member of the Troy chapter. Hojnowski said her favorite Career Development Event was environmental and natural resource because it tests the knowledge on topics in the environment, team collaboration, and presentation of environmental issues. She plans on continuing her education at Penn State with a major in toxicology. "I'm excited to travel across the state and see the different views of agriculture in and outside of the classroom."

Ag in the City: Western Leadership Conference

On July 7 and 8 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, more than 150 FFA members, advisers, and guests took to the streets to experience "Ag in the City." The Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference is hosted each year by the Western Region Agricultural Educators, and this year had the largest attendance to date.

During this conference, students were given the opportunity to learn about the natural gas industry, train with state officers and Teach AG! Avengers about leadership, and tour city landmarks.

On July 7, students and their advisers arrived at Range Resources Washington County Office. They were able to experience the Mobile Education Energy Training Unit that focused on natural gas and other energy sources, which was provided by the Drake Well Museum.

After lunch, FFA state officers and Victoria Herr, an AG Avenger from Penn State engaged the members in workshops to help students get to know one another. Later that evening, students boarded the Gateway Clipper for a dinner cruise along the river.

Tours kicked off the next day and included a trip to Phipps Conservatory, thanks to our Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, to learn about urban agriculture and how a city thrives off of its agriculture and various green efforts. This visit included tours through a butterfly garden and production greenhouses. PNC Park also treated the students with a behind the scenes tour of the facility. This tour focused on the history of the park as well as turfgrass management. Students were able to experience how grass and turf are able to make an exponential field for baseball players to compete on by walking out on the field.

The FFA members thanked Range Resources, Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, Murphy Family Incorporated, Lowry's Farm, Western Pennsylvania agricultural educators, and all of our other local Washington and Greene County partners who made this conference possible.



Submitted photo

FFA members attended the Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference on July 7 and 8.

Washington Leadership Conference Instills Importance of Growth, Leadership

INDIANAPOLIS — Thousands of FFA members from throughout the country converged on Washington, D.C., this summer to analyze their personal skills and interests, develop leadership skills and create a meaningful community service plan that will make a difference in their home communities.

More than 2,100 students are registered for the 2016 Washington Leadership Conference, the second-largest student experience that the National FFA Organization hosts each year. Created in 1969 and held annually in Washing-

ton, D.C., this year's conference began June 7 at the Shoreham Hotel.

Since 1969, the National FFA Organization has hosted this student leadership event. From June 7 to July 30, members will spend a week under the guidance of professionals, counselors and FFA staff members. In workshops, seminars and small groups, students will focus on identifying and developing their personal strengths and goals while undergoing comprehensive leadership training that will help them guide their local FFA chapters.

Students will also analyze the needs of their communities back home, develop a wide-ranging and high-impact community-service initiative and implement their plan with the help of their FFA chapter upon return home. Students in recent years have promoted agricultural literacy, brought awareness to abuse, collected and distributed shoes to individuals in Haiti, created an awareness plan on hunger, and more.

During their time in D.C., FFA members will also experience the history of the nation's capital, touring landmarks including the Wash-

ington Monument, War Memorial, the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol, among others. Students will also have an opportunity for congressional visits during the week.

The 2016 Washington Leadership Conference is sponsored through the National FFA Foundation by title sponsors Monsanto and CSX and weekly sponsors, Farm Credit, Growth Energy and Express Professional Employment. For more information visit www.ffa.org/WLC.