



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story

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Pa. FFA Alumni Association Welcomes New Members

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association has announced that at the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show in January they will be awarding 553 first-year FFA members with their blue and gold corduroy jacket.



The jacket program has been the signature of the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association for the past 10 years.

The vision of the National FFA Alumni Association is to be the premier champion for agriculture, agriculture education and FFA.

In addition to the jacket program, the FFA alumni are busy throughout the year providing scholarships to the Washington Leadership Conference, supporting state officer preparation training, supporting the Penn State Teach Ag! Society, sponsoring career development events, and offering other forms of support to Pennsylvania FFA members.

Agriculture teachers around the commonwealth rely on alumni members for help with recruiting students, raising funds for chapter activities, advocating for program needs and providing financial support to individual students.

The number of Pennsylvania FFA alumni is growing each year. Members did not have to be an FFA member in high school to be part of the organization; anyone who supports the future of agriculture education through premier leadership, personal growth and career success may join.

There are a few steps to take to begin an alumni affiliate group. There must be at least 10 members, a constitution and bylaws, elected officers, and a completed and submitted application for chartering.

If interested in starting an FFA alumni chapter, visit www.paffa.org/alumni.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
— Winston Churchill



Derry FFA to Use \$5,000 Grant for Hydroponic System

Left: The agriculture department of Derry High School in Westmoreland County recently applied for and received a grant for \$5,000 from the National Farm to School Network. The grant was part of the Seed Change program that promotes local foods.

Right: The Derry FFA in Westmoreland County is using a \$5,000 grant for a large hydroponics system taking over the small greenhouse located in their building. The purpose is to supply their cafeteria with fresh produce all year-round.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Barnhart

FFA Members Attend White House Agriculture Meeting

An event held in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 1 brought together FFA members, tech students and officials from several government agencies in an effort to boost interest in the study and research of agriculture.

FFA members from three states — Kentucky, Maryland and Virginia — joined National FFA adviser Steve Brown and National FFA CEO Dwight Armstrong for the meeting at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next to the White House.

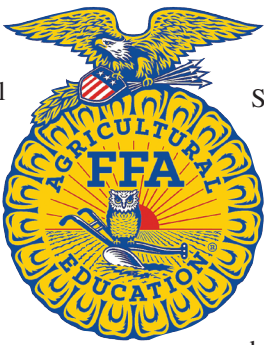
The representing organizations were the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department.

During the meeting, the FFA representatives, policy makers,

food researchers, and industry personnel talked about bolstering agricultural science and getting more students interested in sustainable food and energy production.

The official list of FFA attendees included:

- Jordan Newman, eighth-grade student and Cumberland FFA member at Cumberland Public Schools in Cumberland, Va.
- Henry Paris, retired agricultural education instructor and FFA adviser.
- Sarah Burton, 10th-grade stu-



dent and North Harford FFA member at North Harford High School in Pylesville, Md.

- Gabrielle Roeder, 10th-grade student and North Harford FFA member at North Harford High School.
- Marisa Roeder, North Harford FFA chaperone.
- Ruth Ann Myers, designated collegiate student panelist to speak on behalf of the National FFA Organization and retired National FFA officer.
- Steve Brown, National FFA adviser.
- Dwight Armstrong, National FFA CEO.

- Riley Pagett, National FFA director of government and non-profit relations.

Jordan Newman, Sarah Burton and Gabrielle Roeder were invited to the event in recognition of their success in the National FFA Agriscience Fair.

Newman, from Virginia, earned a bronze medal at the 2015 National FFA Agriscience Fair in Louisville, Ky., for his project titled "Who's Lamb Gained the Most?" in animal systems division one.

Burton and Roeder worked together in the animal systems division to earn a silver medal for their project titled "Analyzing the Effect of Temperature on Motility and Number of Protozoa."