BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Pennsylvania FFA Heads to Nationals

MATT BRAKE
Pa. FFA State Reporter

In less than two weeks, Pennsylvania highways will be filled with school vans and buses making a mass exodus to Kentucky. These vehicles will be filled to the roof with excitement, career development event supplies, science fair boards and luggage for four days of casual attire and official dress. More than 900 Pennsylvania FFA members will joining the estimated 60,000 FFA members who will swarm the city of Louisville, Ky., to attend the National FFA Convention, on Oct. 29-Nov. 1.

The National FFA Convention provides many activities for FFA members. Some members will go to represent their state association in career development events, listen to the four keynote speakers, attend one of the two concerts, or even watch the Three Hills Rodeo.

Members and teachers also have the chance to attend leadership and career development workshops, along with winnessing FFA members be recognized for their achievements, and the election of the new national officer team. National Convention is a time to network with members from other states, meet with industry and education representatives, and exhibit knowledge in career development events.

Pennsylvania will be well represented in several different convention activities.

Pennsylvania FFA is proud to be sending representatives in more than 20 career development events. These members placed first at the Pennsylvania State Convention in June and will compete in events ranging from parliamentary procedure and public speaking to dairy judging and veterinary science. They have the potential to compete against teams or individuals from each of the other 49 states.

Also representing Pennsylvania FFA will be two members of the National Chorus, Adrienne Beck of the Easter York FFA Chapter, and Luke Byers of the Shippensburg FFA Chapter. Haley Young, Eastern York FFA chapter, will take her spot in the National Band. DeAnne Dickerson from McConnellsburg FFA and Katie Elder from State College FFA will show off their talent during the National Convention.

There will be six science fair projects on display from Pennsylvania members. Ruby Moats of the Shippensburg FFA chapter was also selected as a agriculture proficiency finalist.

The American Degree is the highest degree that can be awarded to a member. To receive the degree, members must have already received their Greenhand, Chapter, and State degree; been a member for at least three years, completed three years of agriculture education; kept detailed records of their supervised agriculture experience, and have earned and productively invested over $7,500 in their SAE. A total of 59 Pennsylvania FFA members will be receiving their American Degree. Greenwood FFA member Katie Osborne's American Degree application was chosen to be a National Star Finalist in agriculture.

Topping off the representation from Pennsylvania is the national officer candidate, Shannon Copeland. Shannon was the 2012-2013 Pennsylvania FFA secretary. She is in contention for one of the six spots on the National Officer Team.

Pennsylvania FFA has a lot of great representation heading out to the National Convention in Louisville, Ky. Good luck to all that are competing, and safe travels to all. If you would like to watch any of the National Convention, check out www.thisigh.com/ffa. Look for results in the next edition of the Blue and Gold Pages.

File photo

The 2014-15 Pennsylvania FFA state officer team will be joining more than 900 FFA members at this month's National FFA convention in Louisville, Ky. From left are Katie McLaughlin, president; Lisa Boltz, treasurer; Matthew Brake, reporter; Mara Tate, sentinel; Victoria Herr, secretary; Grant Carlton, chaplain; and Tony Rice, vice president.

Submitted photo

Shannon Copeland will represent Pennsylvania as the 2014 national officer candidate.

Prepping for National Convention

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

SHANNON COPELAND

Have you never been at a point in your life where you just thought to yourself "How in the world did I ever make it this far in my life?" This happened to me not to long ago. I was in Stephenville, Texas, laying in the grass staring up at the stars with 30 other individuals running for National FFA Office. Each one of those stars symbolized an obstacle, a motivator, study session, a fail, and a success.

Running for National FFA Office wasn't always easy and there were a lot of obstacles to overcome and a lot of studying to do to make sure that I would succeed. There were plenty of obstacles like all of the times that I had been quizzed by friends or family members that I had failed but I started over and did it until I got it right. At the end of the day I have realized that nothing comes easy and that you have to work hard for absolutely everything you have. I realized sometimes you must fail to see how much you care about something and that you can find your drive from simply being passionate.

At that moment, I realized all of the risks and obstacles I have overcome to achieve what I have today. If it wasn't for my drive and passion for the FFA, agriculture and agriculture education I would not have witnessed all of the amazing moments I have experienced while running for National FFA Office. While lying there looking up at the stars, I realized that the stars I was looking at were a lot like the people that have motivated and helped me throughout my life and especially throughout my FFA career. Just as I was looking up to those stars I look up to those people. From my home chapter FFA advisor, my parents, all of the state staff and so many more; but most of all one the Pennsylvania FFA members.

The members are the ones that gave me my drive to success and who have built my passion for the FFA, agriculture education and agriculture throughout the years. Throughout the years I have watched as my passion has grown due to the members impacting me and my passion has become my drive. Without the members' impact, my drive would not be as strong as it is today. I have to give a big shout out and "thank you" to each and every FFA member in Pennsylvania. You have helped me become the person I am today and even more you have helped me get to where I am today. You are the heart of this organization and have give up on any of your dreams no matter what they may be. As I continue to study and prepare for National FFA Convention, I will be thinking about all of you and know that I will do my best to make you proud! Thank you to everyone that has helped me throughout this process and throughout my life because without each person I truthfully don't know where I would be. I hope to see all of you at National Convention and remember the stars are not the limit.

Editor's Note: Shannon Copeland is the 2014 national officer candidate from Pennsylvania.

Sporting Clay Event Supports FFA

The first sporting clay event held at Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge and Kennels was a success. There were five teams in attendance with a total of 26 participants. Although there was a slight chill in the air, participants enjoyed the day full of fun.

The winners were as follows. First place team and highest shooter was Best Vet Solutions and CEVA. Placing second was M&T Bank. Rounding out third was the team of Scott and Luke Zimmerman, Christopher Sparks, and Cory Rilk.

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation would like to express their thanks to those who came out and supported the fundraising efforts. Monies raised will go to benefit the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Keep an eye out for more events from the foundation.

Reporter Matt Brake, left, and Secretary Victoria Herr, right congratulate the winning team of Best Vet Solutions and CEVA at the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation sporting clay event.

American Degree Winners Announced

The American FFA Degree is awarded to FFA members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA. A total of 3,765 FFA members will be recognized during the eighth general session of the 87th National FFA Convention and Expo in November.

Regional winners are as follows.

New Jersey

Kyle H. Clement, Salem County Vocational Technical School.
Kristianna M. Dowd, Freehold Township.
Stuart T. Fence, Allentown.
Lauren Abigail Fitzbrown, Phillipsburg.
Delaney Maria Gray, Freehold Township.
Shane M. Grace, Newton.
Jonathan R. Hester, Newton.
Anna Lubas, Allentown.
Caitlin M. Lubay, Newton.
Jared W. Martz, Newton.
Nichole Ondy, Allentown.
Stephanie Tarlowe, Warren Hills.
Emily Christine Ventura, Newton.
David P. Watts, Penns Grove.

Pennsylvania

Austin Albright, Elizabethtown.
Jacob Eric Andrew, Conneaut Area Senior High.
Katherine L. Andrews, Hans Herr.
Matthew Aument, Solanco.
Brittany T. Bair, Huntingdon.
Royal L. Bashore, Northern Lebanon.
Tyler C. Baumes, Manor.
Brady Alan Baumgardner, Somerset Area.
Christopher Nicholas Bedillion, McGuffey.
Dennis J. Bogo, Jr., Mifflinburg Area.
Casey Boyer, Somerset Area.
Courtney Jill Brant, Meyersdale.
Eddie Buck, Somerset Area.
Kevin Patrick Callahan, Albion.
Alex Paul Cantag, Manor.
Michelle Renee Carbonara, Penns Valley.
Ashley Marie Carter, Mifflinburg Area.
Shannon M. Copeland, Albion.
Rebecca Davis, Huntingdon.
Elizabeth Dixon, Meyersdale.
Sara R. Feidt, Upper Dauphin.
Brittany Lynne Fenstermacher, Albion.
Mikael Fréklas, Moniteau Area.
Misty J. Fisher, Captain Jack.
Justin Anthony Fogal, G. Fulton High School-Warfordsburg.
Michael Ellis Fogal, S. Fulton High School-Warfordsburg.
Amber Nicole Gabel, Newport.
Ashley Lyn Gabel, Albion.
Jazmine Marie Gabel, Albion.
Jasmine Cheryl Gabel, Hans Herr.
Douglas Harnish, Solanco.
Makayla Hawbaker, Southern Huntingdon Co. School District.
Luke E. Hershey, Hans Herr.
Caleb S. Hess, Manor.
Jessica L. Kaler, Mifflinburg Area.
Nancy A. Kammerer, Bethlehem.
Miranda Kane, Twin Valley.
Devon A. Kerger, Albion.
Michala N. Kuhlman, HE Bradford.
Alexa Marie LaCrone, Juniata Valley High School.
Richard T. LaCrone, Juniata Valley High School.
Jacob C. Mabus, Mifflinburg Area.
James R. McMahon, Juniata Valley High School.
Kristin Michael, Meyersdale.
Kaytee Elizabeth Morris, North Bedford.
Katie Osborne, Greenwood.
Cassandra Leigh Peters, Albion.
Tiffany Pheasant, Central.
Erin T. Rishel, Mifflinburg Area.
Jared R. Robinson, Conococheague.
Lindsay Jane Royer, Elizabethtown.
Sarabeth Christina Royer, Elizabethtown.
Austin Michael Shay, Milton Hershey.
Karlie L. Shriver, McGuffey.
Kelly A. Slater, H.G. Parkinson.
Christopher Adam Toews, Cumberland Valley.
Shawna Marie Walker, West Perry.
Seth Yoder, Grassland.
Erin Nicole Yeast, McGuffey.