



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Chapter Visit Season Begins

MATT BRAKE

Pa. State FFA Reporter

The end of summer brings many things: Labor Day picnics, pumpkin-flavored foods and drinks, the beautiful fall scenery, and stores start putting out Christmas decorations. More importantly, the month of September means that school is in session. Although to some this may not be too exciting, for the state officer team this is the beginning of chapter visit season.

Since election in June, the state officer team has been planning chapter visit activities. Pennsylvania has 145 chapters across the state. Each chapter has the opportunity to invite two state officers to their school to spend the day and take over the classroom. The state officer team has prepared workshops and activities for students to participate in while they are visiting. Chapter

visits are a chance for members and state officers to interact in a one-on-one manner.

To start off chapter visit season, the entire state officer team went to Conneaut Area Senior High School for their first chapter visit. Mr. Frank Bizjak and Ms. Ellen Aurand are the two agriculture education teachers at the Conneaut Area Senior High School. Together, they teach classes ranging from agriscience to agriculture mechanics.

The state officer team cannot thank Mr. Bizjak and Ms. Aurand enough for allowing them to come to their school for the first chapter visit, and for inviting them to their chapter picnic following the visit. With the first visit under the state officers' belt, they are excited to visit more chapters and interact with members.



Photo by Pa. FFA Association
Katie McLaughlin presenting a workshop to the Conneaut Area Senior High FFA members during the team's first chapter visit.

Pennsylvania FFA Attends the Eastern States Exposition

The Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass., hosts an event after Labor Day each year. This is known as "The Big E," where more than one million people attend over the course of 17 days. Two of those 17 days are called FFA Day at The Big E.

During FFA Day at the Big E, students from the Eastern Region of the National FFA attend to participate and compete in career development events. Approximately 80 Pennsylvania FFA members qualified to attend the Big E from the State Convention in June.

The Pennsylvania FFA Big E results are as follows.

Farm Business Management: individual, 5th place, Kiersten Barr; team, 3rd place, Eastern York.

Ag Mechanics: individual, 6th place, Ethan Pecht; team, 4th place, Midd West.

Nursery and Landscape: individual, 9th place, Damian Zavala.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking, 2nd place, Katie McLaughlin.

Dairy Handlers: 1st place, Cody Eller; 2nd place, Cortney Hostetter.

Environmental and Natural Resources: individual, 4th place, Janet Piefer; team, 2nd place, Oley Valley.

Forestry: team 4th place, Littlestown.

Horse Evaluation: individual, 4th place, Cora Farley; team, 4th place, Elizabethtown.

Livestock: individual, 6th place, Mitchell Grove; team, 3rd place, Red Lion.

Agronomy: individual, 2nd place, Kaitlyn Bateman; 3rd place, Danielle Naill; team, 3rd place, Littlestown.

Job Interview: 1st place, Halee Wasson.

Creed Public Speaking: 1st place, Kelsey Stewart.

Poultry: individual, 1st place, Wesley Herr; 8th place, Kayla McInain; team, 3rd place, Manor FFA.

Safe Tractor Driving: individual, 5th place, Patrick Gaznik.

Prepared Public Speaking: 3rd place, Jacqueline Arbogast.

Ag Marketing: team, 2nd place, Conococheague.



Submitted photo
Conococheague FFA member Kayla Hartung tastes a sample of milk during the Milk Quality Career Development Event.

Pennsylvania FFA Foundation to Hold Sporting Clays Event

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation has a new event planned for Saturday, Oct. 4. For the first time ever they are hosting a Sporting Clays Event. The event will be held at the Warriors Mark Wingshooting Lodge and Kennels in Houtzdale, Pa. The event will start at 10:30 a.m. with registration, followed by a brunch.

After a safety meeting, the main event will begin with 100 sporting clays. A steak dinner will wrap up the evening along with the awarding of prizes. There will be prizes for the top three teams and the highest shooter. The event is open to 20 teams made up of five members.

The Pennsylvania FFA Founda-

tion is hosting this event to raise funds for the state association to use for state leadership conferences, scholarships, awards, and conventions. If you would like more information, want to enter a team, or become a sponsor, please contact Sarah Sparks, Executive Director of the FFA Foundation at 717-781-5780.

'Wenger Wagon' Log Book

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

It's hard to believe that we are entering our third month as a team. This month has been quite exciting. We continue racking up the miles in the "Wenger Wagon," as we've deemed the new van, from industry visits to our first chapter visit.



MARA TATE

We attended our first board of directors meeting. It was eye-opening to see all the "behind the scenes" action and decision making that take place to make Pennsylvania FFA the best it can possibly be for our members for the upcoming year.

We had four industry visits in August that were very unique. We started our industry visit with a tour of Leidy's Meats. It was interesting to see the pork process from start to finish and to learn that they try to make use of as much of the animal as possible. I did not know that the skin from the back of a hog could be taken off and used in the treatment of burn victims or that the jaws can be taken out for dental students to practice various procedures. Then, we visited the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau office in Camp Hill. At this visit, we learned just what the Farm Bureau has to offer their members, such as lobbyists at both the state and national level helping to keep the farmers in mind when passing legislation that could potentially affect them.

Next up we toured with Range Resources in Washington County, Pa. This visit was quite exciting to myself, being from a county that has the gas drilling industry. They took us to an active well site that was being drilled and a well pad that was producing natural gas. During our visit they answered

many of our questions about the facts and myths of natural gas drilling. Stermann Masser Inc. Potato Farms was our last industry visit for the month. We enjoyed walking through their facility and seeing all the processes involved in getting the potatoes we see in the grocery store.

We spent the second full week of August at Ag Progress Days in Rock Springs. It was great spending time with members that volunteered to help in the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation food booth. We got to spend some more time with members when we visited the Washington County Fair. Range Resources presented the Pennsylvania FFA with a check for this year's Range Resources Scholarship while at the fair.

The back-to-school spirit wasn't just in the air for the students but the team too. As a team we had our first chapter visit with Conneaut Area in Crawford County. This was as much a learning experience for them as it was for us. The five workshops we collectively came up with were done for the first time for the students. We enjoyed their patience and enthusiasm. As a team we were able to iron out any problems and become more comfortable with facilitation.

We look forward to visiting as many chapters as possible and being with the 12,000 members in Pennsylvania, because this year is about the members and helping them grow. We hope everyone's ready for the year ahead, because we sure are ready for our year with you.