



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Cumberland Valley Cultivates Success

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MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — The Cumberland Valley FFA Chapter hosts a six-acre community hunger garden to connect the people of the community to the fight against hunger. The garden is located right beside Rich Valley Road next to the school.

Last year, the members planted potatoes, strawberries, corn, tomatoes, peppers, and squash. The corn was packaged and taken to the local grocery store, Wegmans, in exchange for a profit. The rest of the food was taken to Project Share to help people in need.

The chapter started the Hunger Garden in April 2012. Nick Crain, Sean Bower, Brian Kirk, and many of the chapter members helped with the garden project.

The Cumberland Valley FFA took the community hunger garden one step forward by hosting the first ever A-Day last May. During the school day, the chapter invited fourth graders from the Cumberland Valley School District to visit and learn about the garden. During the day, the students had a ground breaking

ceremony, inviting the community to the hunger garden.

A second A-Day was hosted on Oct. 6.

The chapter put this garden together to make a positive difference in the community that would benefit the chapter in return. Members worked in the garden. For those who may not have the ability to work on a farm, the garden provided knowledge and skill of gardening/farming. Also, the garden got the word out about agriculture and the significant and essential part it has in the home, community, and world.

The FFA members are thinking about putting together a CSA, or community supported agriculture, program in the future.

This garden is about educating the community and including them in the fight against hunger. CSA, gardens also help people with learning the importance of nutrition.

The members of the chapter have learned about leadership and agriculture from putting events together to gardening. Through all of this we keep in mind the mission statement of, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

FFA Officers Visit Centre County Dairy



Photo by Mike Brammer

In their continuation of visiting agricultural business and industry in Pennsylvania, the state FFA officer team recently met with Evergreen Farms, located in State College, Pa., to learn about their dairy operation and meet the Harpster family. The farm is a family partnership milking more than 2,800 cows and has 5,500 acres.

Tyrone FFA Hosts Recognition Banquet

TYRONE, Pa. — The gavel rapped and the annual Tyrone FFA Awards and Recognition banquet was called to order by John Lewis, chapter president, on April 4 in the high school cafeteria. There were more than 130 FFA members, parents, FFA alumni, school board members, and local supporters in attendance.

The first recognition of the evening was Tanner Adams for participating in the safe tractor driving and skid loader contests at the Huntingdon County Fair. Adams placed first in skid loader event. He was also recognized for his participation in the Pennsylvania FFA Record Book Evaluation Contest in February.

Three FFA members who competed in the area FFA public speaking contests were recognized. They were extemporaneous public speaking, John Lewis; junior prepared public speaking, Shaye Loose; and conservation prepared public speaking, Brandon Harpster.

Ashley Walters presented the first Forever Blue Award to Conrad Farms. This award is presented to a member or business who believes in advancing the agricultural education program at Tyrone Area High School and assisting students in developing their leadership abilities and career success.

"This family truly believes in the positive influence these blue and gold corduroy jackets make on youth," said Walters.

Five middle-school students received the Discovery FFA Degree. This is a special degree for middle-school students who have a passion for agriculture and are enrolled in the Basic Principles of Technology Education course. Receiving Discovery FFA certi-



Three star farmer awards were presented at the banquet. From left are Carly Crofcheck, Star Chapter Greenhand; Shaye Loose, Star Chapter Placement; and John Lewis, Star Chapter Farmer.

cates and pins were Corey Hunter, Aaron Brown, Charles Beard, Chandler Mayhew, and Joseph Woomer. Charles Beard was recognized as the star chapter discovery member.

The Greenhand FFA Degree requires members to be enrolled in an agricultural education course, have plans for an supervised agricultural experience (SAE) program, learn the FFA Creed, motto, salute, and know the history of the FFA. Seventeen members completed the requirements and received their certificates and pins: Heidi Walls, Josh Rorabaugh, Jacob Damon, Andrew Bell-Bigelow, Brandon Decker, Carly Crofcheck, Zane Hertzler, Kaitland Lynch, Kenny Hunter, Derek Lehner, Hunter Confer, Dakota Fink, Cody Shultz, Lance Loose, Larry Kobuck, Brittany Sessamen, and Shelby Sorrick. Carly Crofcheck was recognized as the Star Chapter Greenhand member.

Tanner Adams, Shaye Loose, John Lewis and Brandon Harpster received their Chapter FFA Degree certificates and pins at the banquet. John Lewis was recognized as Star Chapter Farmer member and Shaye Loose was recognized as Star Chapter Placement member.

Dakota Fink and Charles Beard received FFA community service pins for their outstanding involvement in many of the community service events conducted by the chapter.

The Denise Shawver Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to Kenny Hunter.

The 2013-14 Tyrone FFA officer team was installed. They are president Shaye Loose, vice president Brandon Harpster, secretary Kaitland Lynch, treasurer Carly Crofcheck, reporter Elizabeth Conrad, sentinel Hunter Confer, and historian John Lewis.



Photo by Pa. FFA Association

The Pennsylvania State FFA Officer team accepts this year's scholarship fund check on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA at the 2012 Washington County Fair.

Range Resources Invests in the Future of Agriculture

HARRISBURG, Pa. — For the past three years, Range Resources has been partnering with the Pennsylvania FFA Association to award scholarships to FFA members across the state who are interested in furthering their education.

The scholarship fund was first established in 2011. Over three years, Range Resources has donated \$250,000 to be given to deserving FFA members. The recipients for the 2013 scholarship have been chosen and are now posted on the Pennsylvania FFA Association website, www.paffa.state.pa.us.

This partnership with the Pennsylvania FFA did not begin with the scholarship fund, it actually began several years before. The company has always been a big supporter of the organization, and has worked with the FFA to sponsor several of their

large events throughout the years.

Range Resources began by sponsoring the State Legislative Leadership Conference, where FFA members meet in Harrisburg to learn about the legislative process. Soon, however, the company realized they wanted to do something bigger for the future agriculturalists in the organization. Since then, Range Resources has been helping motivate young agriculturalists in the Pennsylvania FFA to continue their education through the scholarship fund.

To date, 250 Pennsylvania FFA members have received this scholarship and are reaping the rewards. "I have used the money to help me pay for most, if not all, of my books for classes. It's such a big help because it's another cost I don't have to worry about," says Renee Grove, a three-time recipient of this scholarship.