



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Learning to Do: FFA Members Learn Legislative Leadership

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Earlier this week, more than 400 FFA members gathered to participate in the Pennsylvania FFA's State Legislative Leadership Conference. They are pictured here in Strawberry Square in Harrisburg. During the conference, from March 10 to March 13, members debated bills that are currently passing through Pennsylvania's House and Senate. Members also had the opportunity to participate in community service at 22 locations around the Harrisburg area. On Tuesday, members were able to meet with their legislators at breakfast about what they had been doing all week.

Photo by Pa. FFA Association

Celebrating FFA

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

We just finished celebrating National FFA week in February. Many FFA chapters across Pennsylvania hosted numerous activities to celebrate. Most schools had a spirit week, which is where

members had the chance dress up and match each other to show their FFA pride. Members could dress like a farmer, wear blue and gold, or wear official dress to school.

The FFA members also had activities outside of school. Schools organized teacher appreciation breakfast or lunches. Some went bowling or held all-nighters at the school. I had the privilege to go back to my home school, Shippensburg, and visit with them at an ice cream social.

Many FFA chapters went out into the community to volunteer their time at places like nursing homes or soup kitchens. On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the state officer team and FFA members from chapters around Harrisburg went to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. We received 3,186 pounds of nonperishable food and packed 5,430 pounds of mixed groceries to distribute to local families.

It was a great opportunity to serve others, while making memories with the chapter members that were there. I enjoyed laughing and working with the students. It amazes me how the school students were willing to help out, and reminded me how each FFA member has the opportunity to serve in our community. Each hour that these members worked is estimated to be worth



RENEE GROVE

\$20 in labor costs, which is about 120 meals that can be distributed to those in need. With the 44 volunteers that day who worked about 3.5 hours, our impact on the community is over 18,000

meals distributed. Thank you to all of those who came out that day, you have helped make a difference in our community. It was a wonderful day, and reminded me of how Pennsylvania FFA members can live out the last line of the FFA's motto, "Living to Serve."

That same evening, we had a Meet Your State Officer at Hoss's night, where state officers, local chapters, teachers, and community members gathered at Hoss's Steak and Sea House locations around the commonwealth to celebrate National FFA Week. In total, about 400 guests enjoyed a meal that night. I traveled to the Huntington Hoss's. It was great to see some of the students I saw during chapter visits as well as meet new FFA members.

Thank you to everyone who participated in National FFA week. After National FFA week, our next big event to plan for is banquets. I am looking forward to going back to the schools I visited earlier in the year to see what fun and exciting things they have done since I last saw them. I can't wait to see how the members across the state have been growing, leading, and succeeding this year.

Editor's Note: Renee Grove is the Pennsylvania FFA state chaplain.

New Friends Arrive at Cumberland Valley

LAURA SHATTO

Cumberland Valley Chapter Reporter

MECHANICSBURG, Pa — The Cumberland Valley FFA chapter added a new member to their family when Mr. Mike Woods, the Cumberland Valley Agriculture teacher and FFA adviser, brought a pregnant Berkshire pig to the department. After about a week students finally decided on the name of Peaches the Pig. Throughout the school Peaches became the new topic to talk about. Mr. Woods saw the student reaction and decided to set up a live webcam so the community could see Peaches.

Peaches gave birth on Feb. 21 and had 14 pink piglets. During the labor, the agriculture department had its doors open and a webcam set up for the community to see the birth of the 14 piglets. This project raises awareness about agriculture to the community.

The 14 piglets will be sold to



Photo by Mike Woods

A Cumberland Valley FFA member cuddles with one of the piglets six days after their birth, to get them used to people.

the FFA members in the chapter. The students will then take care of the pigs until they are ready to be shown at Shippensburg Fair. This is a way to help kids who don't have the opportunity of living on a farm with animals to learn the responsibilities of livestock care.

Peaches and the piglets had an impact on the chapter, school, and community. Everyone enjoyed seeing the birth of the piglets and watching Peaches go through the last stages of her pregnancy.

Mr. Woods plans to breed Peaches in the future. This will give students a second opportunity to portray the importance of agriculture to our community and school.

For more information, contact Mr. Mike Woods, Cumberland Valley Agriculture Educator and FFA Adviser at mwoods@cvschools.org.

Cedar Crest FFA Receives \$2,500 Donation

NICK WENGER

Cedar Crest FFA Chapter Reporter

LEBANON, Pa — Each year the Monsanto Fund provides several grants to help improve the communities in which agriculturalists live and work. One of these grants is the America's Farmers: Grow Communities grant. This grant allows farmers to enter to win a \$2,500 donation for a community nonprofit organization of their choosing. One winner is selected per eligible county.

Thanks to Wen-Crest Farms, the Cedar Crest FFA chapter has received one of these \$2,500 grants. Wen-Crest Farms is a third generation farm that is owned and operated by the Wenger Family. Steven Wenger graduated from Cedar Crest High School in 1982 and was a member of the Cedar Crest FFA. His son Nick is in the Cedar Crest FFA and serves as the chapter reporter. Steven Wenger and his wife Bonnie also have two other sons, Brad and Brandon, who are also Cedar Crest FFA

alumni.

The Cedar Crest FFA will receive the grant at their FFA Banquet on March 21. A representative from the Monsanto Company and the Wenger family will be present at the banquet to present the check. The Cedar Crest FFA will utilize the grant money to attend leadership activities. Some of these activities include attending the Agricultural Cooperation Encourages Success (ACES) Conference, Penn State Activities Week and the National FFA Convention.