



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### GROW ... LEAD ... SUCCEED

[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

## FFA Members Visit Gro-Lan Farms



Submitted photo  
Pennsylvania state FFA officers and FFA members from Shippensburg meet with Gov. Tom Corbett and Secretary of Agriculture George Greig at Gro-Lan Farms in Shippensburg.

## FFA Foundation Golf Tournament Heats Up

**RENEE GROVE**  
*Pennsylvania FFA Chaplain*

The FFA Foundation’s 20th Annual Golf Outing was July 18 at the Fox Chase Golf Club in Denver, Pa. Forty teams came out to enjoy a nice hot day of playing golf while at the same time supporting the FFA. Four teams chose to play in the less humid morning hours, while the rest of the teams played in the afternoon until a nasty storm hit. It was a very hot day and rained a little but everyone still had a great day.

There was a silent and a live auction. The silent auction contained sports memorabilia, including signed Phillies and Eagles gear. The live auction included archery lessons, handmade coat racks, and even a plate of homemade chocolate chip cookies, which sold for a whopping \$120. Overall, the foundation raised \$44,000 for Pennsylvania FFA.

There are many sponsors that have made this possible year after year. Hoss’s Steak and Sea House, Wengers of Myerstown, Clemens Food Group/Hatfield Quality Meats, Fulton Bank, PennAg Industries, and Lancaster Leaf have sponsored this event for 20 years.

Thanks to all the supporters who came out and played golf, despite the heat, to help raise money for the future of the FFA.

## Back to School Never Felt So Great

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

It seems like yesterday that summer began and the 2012-2013 Pennsylvania FFA State Officer team was elected. Now it’s already August. Stores are running back to school commercials, stocking the aisles with backpacks and binders, and parents are counting down the days until their kids begin catching the bus in the morning again. Students may not be too excited about this prospect, but myself and my team certainly are.

The start of school means the start of chapter visits, and we absolutely cannot wait to meet with all the members across the state. The team is hard at work developing lesson plans for these visits to teach members some new ideas about leadership and agriculture.

We are also intensely working on planning the Fall Leadership Conference, which is held every year in Altoona. While I can’t spill any specifics about it, I do



**MARIS WILSON**

know students are bound to have a great time and learn something new they can take back to their chapters. Our summer has been filled with many amazing opportunities to meet those involved with making Pennsylvania FFA as great as it can be. We met with the great people at Wengers of Myerstown, worked with the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association at the Penn Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, and learned about the loan giving process at AgChoice Farm Credit in Mechanicsburg. Thank you to all of those who we met with the past few months, you have helped make this summer unforgettable. Now, we are off to use what we have learned to teach members about the great things they can accomplish in the FFA.

*Editor’s Note: Maris Wilson is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.*

## FFA Jackets Take Over Washington

**CASEY SHAWVER**  
*Pennsylvania FFA State President*

WASHINGTON — On July 23, more than 100 blue and gold jackets made their trek to our nation’s capital. State presidents and vice presidents from every state, including Puerto Rico, met in Washington to participate in the State Presidents Conference.

For an entire week, the state officers learned new and effective ways to tell their story about FFA and agricultural education to people who aren’t as familiar with agriculture. The officers had the opportunity

to meet with our congressmen and senators on Capitol Hill and discuss agriculture policy, but most importantly how important FFA and agricultural education is in our lives. Throughout the rest of the week attendees toured several national memorials and monuments.

Besides sightseeing and touring, the state officers also engaged in numerous activities and workshops focusing on how to be better communicators and leaders. Several workshops focused on “habitudes” which are stories and images that form leadership habits and attitudes. A highlight from the State Presi-

dents Conference is that state officers had the chance to meet, build relationships, share ideas and learn from each other. This was the most valuable experience of all according to many of the members that attended this conference.

Addie Guthrie of Virginia said, “The most valuable part of SPC was learning how effectively and emotionally tell my story. We each have a story relating to our FFA and agricultural experiences. At this conference I learned the importance of telling that story, and several different ways how to share it and leave an impact.”



Submitted photo  
Pennsylvania FFA State President Casey Shawver and Vice President Austin Albright, front, center, meet with the National FFA officers at the State Presidents Conference in Washington, D.C. last month.