



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Act Today - Impact Tomorrow

www.paffa.state.pa.us



Nevin Brubaker explains to Pennsylvania FFA state officers how solar panels are used on farms to help offset rising utility costs.

Pennsylvania FFA State Officers Tour Solar Energy Facility

EPHRATA, Pa. — The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team gathered in Lancaster County on May 6 at MVE Group to learn first-hand about a growing energy aspect for agriculture. The team toured MVE’s warehouse and facility along with a solar system being installed on a poultry farm.

With solar energy advancing as a more widely used energy source, many agriculture businesses are installing pv solar systems on their roof or land to offset rising utility costs.

Converting sunshine into electricity is complex, and the state FFA officer team was excited to get a more in-depth understanding about the details of this growing renewable energy source.

MVE’s Commercial Energy Consultant Nevin Brubaker guided eight FFA state officers, FFA Foundation Past President Bruce Miller and FFA Founda-

tion Administrative Director Stephanie Shirk, around MVE’s facilities in Ephrata before taking the group to the nearby Buckwalter Farm, where solar panels were near completion on two of the six chicken houses.

“Many agriculture-related business owners and farmers are realizing solar energy can largely offset rising energy costs. Large buildings typically already exist on their property. By utilizing their roof space to install solar panels, they can generate electricity which will offset their costs and produce energy credits which can be sold back to the utilities,” Brubaker said.

The FFA state officer team asked a variety of questions regarding current financial benefits and legislative issues regarding solar energy, along with the technical concerns about how solar energy is converted.



Pennsylvania FFA state officers visit Buckwalter Farm in Ephrata, Pa. to learn first-hand about solar energy use for agriculture businesses. From left, Caleb Grove, state reporter; Jillian Gordon, state vice president, eastern region; Adam Folk, state vice president, northern region; Kerri Wickard, state president; Stephanie Shirk, Pennsylvania FFA Foundation director; Benjamin Shughart, state chaplain; Nevin Brubaker, MVE Group commercial energy consultant; Howard Poole, state treasurer; Cassie Gutshall, state secretary; Matthew Reutlinger, state vice president.

One for The Ages

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Salutations, from the officer’s desk. This year, the state officer team has had some great experiences, but as May comes along, our year just keeps getting more and more exciting. As of now we are in the midst of going to the chapter banquets. I can speak on behalf of all the state officers when I say that so far it has been a blast to go to them. It’s a great chance for us to not only interact with the members, but in some cases, we also get the opportunity to share some inspirational words with them. We encourage all chapters, that if they want a state officer to attend their chapter banquet, to contact Mike Brammer, the Pennsylvania state FFA executive secretary.

While we’re enjoying banquets, we are looking forward to one of the biggest events of the year; the Pennsylvania 82nd Summer Convention on June 14-16. We have been hard at work these past few weeks preparing for what we consider the most fun, and exciting, three days of our year. But the great thing about The State Convention is that there is something for all members. Let’s say you enjoy wildlife and fisheries. Then you might want to compete in one of the Career Development Events. Career Development Events, also known as CDE’s, has competitions that involve different types of tests on the knowledge of a certain area of interest. There are lots of CDE’s to involve yourself



in. We have CDE’s ranging from tractor safety and floriculture to public speaking. While the CDE’s are a great way to have fun and meet new friends, I have always enjoyed the beautiful campus of Penn State, where our convention is held. It’s great to be able to see a college with such a wide range of majors in one area.

After the CDE’s are done for the day, we all go to sessions at the Eisenhower Auditorium for the sessions each night. The sessions are our chance to recognize deserving individuals for all the work they do in the FFA. This also is our chance to have our guests come up on stage and share some of their inspirations with us. But we don’t stop there, while members are working on their CDE’s, state officer candidates are busy going through interviews and knowledge tests to determine who is the best of the best, and so on the June 16, we can find out who will be the 2011-2012 State Officer Team. So, sign up as soon as possible, for a great three days at the State Convention.

I hope every member enjoys the rest of their school year and success to all the seniors who are moving on to bigger things after high school. I hope to see you all in June. If you have an article for the Blue and Gold, or any questions for the State FFA, Contact Mike Brammer at c-mbrammer@state.pa.us

Editor’s Note: Howard Poole is the Pa. FFA State Treasurer.



19th Annual Hoss’s FORE FFA Golf Outing & Charity Auction

Monday, June 27, 2011

Participating Golfer \$100.00
My Foursome Includes:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Includes: lunch, steak dinner, fun day of golf, cart, refreshments on the course, and raffle drawings.

Sponsorships Available!
Proceeds benefit Pennsylvania FFA.

Register online at
www.paffafoundation.org

For more information or to submit your interest, contact Stephanie Shirk, PA FFA Foundation Administrative Director
Phone: 717-201-6753
Fax: 717-303-3457
E-mail: sshirk@paffafoundation.org



Where your family wants to eat!

ONLY THE FIRST 144 entries will be accepted. *The spots will fill up fast so please send your reservations early.*

The PA FFA Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

