



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Beyond the Blue

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FFA Members Gather in Harrisburg

KATHY ZIMMERMAN
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania FFA Association held the State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC) on March 14-16 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville, Pa.

Designed to give members the opportunity to better understand the workings of the state legislature, SLLC brings FFA members from across Pennsylvania to the conference where they spend their time debating three senate bills and three

house bills that are currently before the state legislature.

Geordyn Carter from the Beaver County AVTS FFA said he learned a lot about how bills are discussed in the legislature. “I really liked the debates, especially on Senate Bill 50,” he said.

Brittany Sisco, a 3-year attendee of SLLC and also from Beaver County AVTS FFA said that for her the most important part of SLLC is learning how the bills are passed because it allows students to see how government works. It is an experience that

will help her in the future, which is why she continues to attend SLLC each year.

Another highlight of the conference is the tours on Monday afternoon. This year members toured the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, Lebanon; Wengers of Myerstown, Myerstown; and Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Kleinfeltersville.

“The tours were my favorite part,” said Richard Beatty, Big Spring FFA. “It was neat to see how different places work, especially the waste management company.”

The conference closed with the SLLC Legislative Breakfast at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg.

At this event Heather Miller, state FFA treasurer, encouraged members to take this opportunity to talk with their legislators and to learn from them.

Russell Redding, state secretary of agriculture, spoke on the importance of FFA members gaining a new appreciation for the process used to pass laws.

“I gained an understanding of what legislators go through everyday, and

how your voice counts,” said Abby Finkenbinder of the Big Spring FFA when asked what one thing she would take home from the conference.

Molly Walmer, state FFA president, said that for her the best part was being able to see the FFA members’ excitement during the conference.

“It made all the hard work of planning the conference worth it. I hope the members take home a better understanding of how the government works and the changes that they can make,” Walmer said at the end of the event.

Service with a Purpose

Through Helping Those in Need

FFA Members Provide Food Bank Donations

KELSEY HENRY
West Perry Chapter Reporter

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Motos are no stranger to Pennsylvania FFA members. It is something each and every member instills within them and carries with them for years beyond high school and their agricultural education classes. Like the FFA Organization, the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank has a motto of their own — “No one should be hungry.” The food bank resides just outside the city limits of Harrisburg and provides supplies to 27 central Pennsylvania counties with supplies to support soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries.

As part of National FFA Week, members of the Big Spring and West Perry FFA Chapters donated their time to give back to the community by collecting canned goods and household items to donate to the food bank. In addition, they spent numerous hours sorting, organizing, and sifting through literally tons of goods donated to the food bank epicenter in Pennsylvania’s capital city.

To extinguish hunger in central Pennsylvania, members worked with the State FFA Officer Team, National FFA Central Region Vice



Members of the West Perry and Big Spring FFA Chapters along with the Pennsylvania Association showed that they believe in, “Living to Serve,” as they tirelessly provided many hands and smiles to the Pennsylvania Food Bank.

President Chase Rose of Montana, and Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding.

Upon arrival, members had a brief introduction with Food Bank representatives who explained the infrastructure of the organization. Additionally, Redding gave remarks about the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania and the industry’s support of food programs, such as the Central PA Food Bank. Redding also commented about the week long celebration

of National FFA Week and Food Check-Out Day.

Throughout the month of February, Pennsylvania FFA members held food drives within their respective schools and collected over 3,300 pounds of food and household items to donate to the charity. Needless to say, leaders at the Food Bank were elated to receive the goods donated by Pennsylvania FFA members and look forward to continuing this partnership long into the future.

VIPs, Blue Jackets and Socks?

FROM THE OFFICER’S STATION

Wow! It’s so hard to believe that it is March already! February passed quickly and ended on a great note with a visit from Chase Rose, National Central Region Vice President. While Chase was with us to celebrate National FFA Week he had the chance to visit several different high schools, meet with Secretary Redding and tour several of our local agriculture industries. He met with students from Milton Hershey High School, Pennsylvania State University and Lancaster Menonite High School (Hans Herr FFA) among hundreds of other. Chase also visited the Capitol, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture. Learning about Pennsylvania agriculture could be done no other way than by visiting businesses such as Lancaster Farming, Penn Ag Industries and Keystone BioFuels.

March flew as we geared up for and experienced the State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC), where more than



MOLLY WALMER

400 FFA members had the chance to form a mock Congress and debate six bills that are currently being discussed in our state Capitol. While at the conference, we had the opportunity to tour the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, Wengers of Myerstown and Middle Creek Wildlife Preserve. We learned the importance of conservation in our changing society and the continued importance of reusing the items we already have.

We are very excited for the upcoming months as we attend chapter banquets and see the many accomplishments made by FFA members across the state. We will also prepare for the four regional State Officer Candidacy Schools (SOCS) where we will have the chance to talk to those who want to run for state office about the fun and responsibilities of our positions.

Editor’s note: Molly Walmer is the Pennsylvania State FFA President.

Grade ‘A’ Breakfast

Members Serve Up Thank-You Meal

JULIA REYNOLDS
Tulpehocken FFA Chapter Reporter

BERNVILLE, Pa. — “Lead Out Lead,” exemplifies the talents demonstrated by FFA members as they prepared breakfast in honor of National FFA Week. A wholesome menu with eggs, bacon, sausage, pork roll, Canadian bacon, potatoes, pancakes and all the fixings was served. Guests included faculty, parents, bus drivers and supporting staff.

National FFA Week reflects the opportunity for local chapters in high school to showcase the number one industry in Berks County and Pennsylvania. Fresh eggs from Gentle View and Host Valley Farms were scrambled. Potatoes, provided by Tallman’s, were prepared by the Makoski family. Hatfield Quality Meats were grilled to perfection. Guests were also provided a variety of drinks including chocolate and regular milk and or-

ange juice, thanks to Clover Farms Dairy.

The FFA would like to thank all our sponsors for donating to our breakfast. Together the FFA members cooked and served breakfast for over 250 people. FFA secretary, Amanda Diem, served as chairperson for the event with the support of FFA officers and committee members.



Brandon Grumbine, left, and Aaron Hartranft were in charge of cooking bacon at the Tulpehocken Appreciation Breakfast.