



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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# 83rd National FFA Convention Trip Shows ‘Infanite Potential’

KIRSTEN KAUFFMAN  
Cloister FFA Reporter

More than 56,800 people registered to the 2010 National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Ind. While at the convention, FFA members can participate in general sessions, competitive events, a career show, volunteer activities, leadership activities, educational tours and more. In line with this year’s theme, these experiences allow members to unlock their infinite potential.

This year eight Cloister FFA members had the privilege of attending this event. Members who attended were Terri Kauffman, Emily Good, Megan Ackley, Kirsten Kauffman, Kayla Buckwalter, Erica Fox, Patrick Rehm, and Trent Lehman along with chapter advisor, Miss Sarah Quigg. The group departed on Oct. 18 stopping in Wheeling, W. Va. and visiting the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, Ohio.

While in Indianapolis, FFA members had several different activities planned. They toured the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The tour included visiting the museum, track, and the different buildings used by the media and racers. While at the FFA convention, members also visited the career show looking at different careers and colleges. College recruiters and potential employers were there to help give out information and help educate students about possible college majors. The Cloister FFA also chose to volunteer in activities for National Days of Service at Jamestown Camp. At this camp, FFA members helped to clear tree saplings in an overgrown oak plot. The manager of the Jamestown Camp remarked, “If the FFA organization wouldn’t have volunteered to clear the saplings, it would have never been done.”



The Cloister FFA members stand in front of the Lucas Oil Stadium. Front row, from left, Trenton Lehman, Barry Saylor, Billy Saylor, Joshua Ackley, Stephanie Kauffman, and Patrick Rehm. Back row, from left, Kayla Buckwalter, Erica Fox, Emily Good, Kirsten Kauffman, Megan Ackley, and Terri Kauffman.

Cloister FFA also attended several general sessions. In the opening session, keynote speaker, Josh Shipp talked about challenges he faced in his own life and told members, “don’t be average.” Despite the serious message, he still kept the mood light by interjecting jokes and punch lines throughout his speech. Perhaps the most notable was his suggestion to randomly end sentences with the phrase “and a goat.” After the session, it was not uncommon to hear statements like, “We rode in a van, so it took us about 8 hours...and a goat” or “Let’s go out for pizza...and a goat.”

During the seventh session, Judson Liapply was the keynote speaker. At the end of his speech, he performed his famous “Evolution

of Dance” routine, made famous by his video on YouTube.

At the ninth session, American Degrees presented and the Cloister FFA chapter had four of their own post-high school members receive this degree. Cloister FFA American Degree recipients were Joshua Ackley, Stephanie Kauffman, Barry Saylor Jr. and William (Billy) Saylor. All four needed to complete an application verifying that they had received at least three years of agriculture education, earned at least \$7,500 or worked 2,250 hours and invested \$1,500, and demonstrated outstanding leadership. Out of more than 500,000 FFA members across the United States, less than one percent ever go on to earn their American Degrees.

# Unlocking the Fullness of Life FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

The lights come up, the crowd goes wild, blue jackets fill the air, and you begin to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. There are more than 55,000 members from across our nation and nearly 800 members from the state of Pennsylvania in one city. Words cannot begin to explain the impact, excitement, and endless experiences that one will have during that week. Just a few weeks ago FFA members from across our nation united in Indianapolis, Ind. for the 83rd National FFA Convention.

As I personally begin to evaluate what FFA members and myself had just experienced, I realize that convention is what you want it to be. The people that impacted my life from friendships to motivating



KERRI WICKARD

keynote messages and retiring addresses, all have forever changed my life. It reminded me that everyday life can be what you want it to be. The people that come into our lives every single day are here for reason, the words that inspire us can change our lives, just as convention changed mine, but that is only if you allow it.

As schedules are filling up, we fill our lives with the FFA experiences and upcoming events that are just around the corner such as Farm Show, and ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success), but remember those events that fill our schedule this time of year, every year, such as Thanksgiving. I see this time of year as one of the best seasons to realize what we

have, what we’ve been given, and what we’ve experienced throughout our lives. The state officers are grateful for the opportunity to serve this year, but we challenge you to take this time to reflect. Whether it’s reflecting on words that left an impact on you or an experience that will never be forgotten, remember how it affected you. This reflecting, take time to stop, thank, and say THANK YOU for things that have changed your life.

Melody Beattie once said, “Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more.....Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

These words have changed my life and caused me to reflect in gratitude for what I have, for what I’ve been given, and for the experiences I have had this year. I challenge you this thanksgiving season to allow it to change your life as your actions of gratitude today create not only your vision but your impact for tomorrow.

**Editor’s Note: Kerri Wickard is the Pa. FFA state president.**

# Little Lions Start Soybean Hydroponic Greenhouse System

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — State College Little Lions FFA Chapter is starting a new project this fall by researching and growing soybeans (Edamame varieties) on what are called “Harvest Columns.”

These columns are five feet high and use a hydroponic trickle irrigation system to fertilize the plants. Members filled an eight-inch diameter silt sock with a green roof growing media. A three-inch PVC pipe is placed in the middle of the sock and supports the column. The column is put above an 18-gallon plastic tub to serve as a reservoir and has a pump and tubing to complete the trickle system for the column. Plants will grow on the outside of this sock and be supported with woven fence material encircling the column about 10-inch to 12-inch from the column.

Members planted three vertical rows on the outside of the sock (8-inch row spacing). The fence trellis will support the plant. One of the goals is to increase traditional production by 300 percent and grow protein for human consumption.

Chapter members are working closely with Craig Altemose, Centre County extension director, with this project. Altemose is doing research on Edamame variety development for Pennsylvania. All aspects of production including planting and harvesting; processing; and food preparation will be evaluated. The selected seed variety will be used to study possible greenhouse production. Little Lions FFA members have built the “Harvest Columns” and planted the soybeans in horticulture. Germination and plant



State College Little Lions FFA members Elaine Brown and Shawn Patton are planting germinated soybean plants on the “Harvest Column.”

growth rates have been tabulated. Fertilizer types have been researched and have been calculated for the desired plant populations. They will also be using soybean inoculants in the fertilizer solution. After plant production is completed, members will harvest and process the soybeans for consumption. The school’s Culinary Arts Program will take the Edamame and prepare various dishes for evaluation.

For more information on Edamame, Altemose has prepared an Edamame Fact Sheet available from Penn State. Members will share research findings as they work with Altemose on this Agriscience and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) project. Lastly the chapter hopes to show that this growing method will expand urban agricultural opportunities that also may be used in buildings to serve as air filtration and conditioning.

# Northern Lebanon FFA Activities in High Gear

STEPHANIE LONG  
Northern Lebanon FFA Reporter

This past week, the Northern Lebanon FFA collected money and food items from all the senior high school homerooms at Northern Lebanon. Each year the chapter conducts a food drive to benefit those less fortunate in Lebanon County. This year, FFA members will donate the items to the Lebanon Rescue Mission.

Last month, the chapter sent nine of its members to the National FFA Convention. While at the convention members saw various sessions with different speakers. They also enjoyed the career show and a visit to the Indianapolis Zoo.

On Oct. 28th, the Lebanon Coun-

ty FFA held a county get acquainted night. The Krall Family allowed the county FFA to use their farm for the event. Members participated in ice breakers and different games like train wreck. The evening ended with a hayride around the area.

On Nov. 2, it was time for Area Leadership Conference held at the ELCO (Eastern Lebanon County) high school. This is where the greenhands can show their knowledge on FFA history and facts. Steven Patches got second place in this contest. Two state officers were in attendance bringing greetings from the state officer team. Leadership sessions were organized by the county officer team.