



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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The FFA Makes a Big Impact in the Capitol



Bermudian Springs members made a display to set-up at CTE Week to show off their accomplishments.

BRITNEY MARSH
State Reporter

HARRISBURG, Pa. — State officers representing the numerous career and technical education programs flooded the Capitol Feb. 10-11. Members from the FFA, DECA, Skills USA and HOSA watched as Dr. Lee Burkett, director of Career and Technical Education from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, cut the ribbon marking the start of Career and Technical Education (CTE) week. Representatives from Pennsylvania's

groups set up displays in the Capitol to highlight their members' achievements.

The FFA State Officers were recognized on the House of Representatives floor Tuesday morning by Rep. Mark Keller. Keller spoke highly of the organization and stressed the importance of FFA week. The House unanimously voted to keep FFA week as Feb. 21-28. The following day the FFA State Officers were recognized on the Senate floor by Sen. Mike Brubaker. The Senate voted to keep FFA

week as well. CTE week was a terrific way to advertise FFA and the success of its members. W.B. Saul High School brought a display advertising their new food science department. Some of their members dished out ice cream to the attendees of the event. Bermudian Springs FFA brought a display showing their members' success through the FFA. The FFA is privileged to have such outstanding members. CTE week was a huge success for all of the Career and Technical Education groups in Pennsylvania.



W.B. Saul members dish out delicious ice cream to the attendees of CTE Week.

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Celebrating the Love for FFA

February can be considered the month of love and why wouldn't it be? National FFA week and other agricultural functions are held this month! You might think February is a romantic month because of Valentine's Day. Well I am here to tell you that it is because starting Sunday, FFA members all over the state and nation celebrate their love for the FFA and agriculture. If you want more proof just ask any member that skipped their high school Valentine's Day dance this month to come to the energizing Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success (ACES) Leadership conference. This is an exciting month full of devotion to the FFA.

The leadership conference, ACES, was held on two different weekends, February 14-15 and 21-22. A record attendance of more than 500 FFA members came to ACES each weekend. The theme for this conference was "Life is a Highway". Members went through five interactive workshops based around this theme. They covered professionalism, diversity, goal setting, community service and leadership. At the end of the day



HANNAH WENTWORTH

FFA members danced the night away. Then next morning everyone heard from a motivational speaker. Attendees learned to live life looking through the windshield

not the rearview mirror.

Affection for agriculture can be seen purely during National FFA week as local chapters put on different events. These events celebrate the FFA and show appreciation to the wonderful people in our community. Meet your State Officer Night is on Feb. 24 during National FFA week. State FFA officers will be scattered across the state at 10 different Hoss's Steak and Sea Houses. FFA members are invited to come out to meet your state officer, enjoy great food and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

Looking ahead to next month, the state officer team is busy getting prepared for the State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC) and the start of banquet season. Lots of love to everyone from the Pennsylvania FFA Officer Team. Remember, that it is the passion for the FFA that makes February enchanting.

Editor's Note: Hannah Wentworth is the state FFA eastern region vice president.

Linesville FFA Members Expand Horizons, Indulge in Sweet Treats

M. WOODS
Linesville FFA Student Teacher

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Each year, members of the Linesville FFA Chapter travel to Pennsylvania's largest agricultural show and exhibition, the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Over the span of several days, members have the opportunity to view the state's finest agricultural commodities, livestock and agricultural businesses. Additionally, students are presented with honors and awards at the annual FFA Mid-Winter Convention. Afterward, they spend the time touring Harrisburg and the surrounding areas. Since most members are from rural backgrounds, the trip serves not only as an educational experience, but as a cultural eye-opener as well.

On Jan. 12, at the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention, four Linesville FFA members received the highest award that can be conferred by the State FFA Association, the Keystone Degree. Those who received the honor were; Cody Blood, Sequoia Crytzer, Lukas Hindman, and Dillon Wheeler. The State FFA Association conferred 299 degrees in total. Another Linesville member, Rachel Snow, received her first Official FFA Jacket through the Freshman Jacket Program organized by the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association. Snow accepted her



Linesville FFA members enjoyed the agricultural exhibits at the 2009 Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

embroidered blue and gold corduroy jacket along with 210 other recipients from across the Commonwealth.

Tuesday, brought forth tours of the Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Company in York, Pa., followed by a sweet and indulging visit of the Wolfgang Candy Factory. A highlight for many members was a trip to the State Capitol Building where they had the chance to visit the House and Senate Chambers along with exploring the massive facility.

On the last day, Wednesday, before departing Harrisburg for Crawford County, members made a stop at the "Sweetest Place on Earth," Hershey's

Chocolate World. While there, students rode on the famous Hershey's Great American Chocolate Tour ride and enjoyed Hershey's Really Big 3D Show.

After an intensive, yet 'sweet,' trip to the Capitol area, members returned home to northwestern, Pennsylvania, with many fond memories. The knowledge and experiences gained are sure to leave an everlasting impact on those in attendance. Moreover, those who received awards at the Mid-Winter Convention should be proud of their accomplishments as younger members aspire to fill their shoes in years to come.