



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Tractor Day Raises Funds for a Fellow Member

KRISTA HAWN
Blue Juniata FFA Chapter

ALEXANDRIA, Pa. — If you were running late to work, wouldn't it be just your luck to get behind a farm tractor? This was a problem for some people on April 9 because it was tractor day at the Juniata Valley High School.

The Blue Juniata FFA Chapter organized the tractor day so students had the opportunity to drive their tractors to school and raise money for their fellow FFA member, Clay Allison.

Clay is 15 years old, in ninth grade, and was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in his ankle in February of this year. Osteosarcoma is the most common form of bone cancer which affects the soft tissue connections in the joints commonly found in the knees. Clay had no signs of this except swelling in his ankle. He is a third year member of the Blue Juniata FFA chapter and active on the parliamentary procedure and dairy judging teams.

Students who wished to drive their tractor to school paid \$5 to participate. The money raised was donated to Clay.

Raylene Russell, chapter advisor said, "We wanted to help Clay and a tractor day was a fun way for us to do that. I hope tractor day becomes an annual event to help others in need. I was happy to see how supportive the school and administration was of the idea."

There was a total of 23 tractors on display in the high school parking lot for the event. When others in the community saw the tractors, they stopped by to see what it was all about and some made donations. Through the participants in tractor day and the donations of staff and the community, the FFA managed to raise \$700; and donations are still rolling in.

Juniata Valley student Nick Boonie stated, "Tractor day was fun for everyone. The smiles on the elementary students faces when they saw all the tractors made me feel good."

The students at Juniata Valley are continuing to host fundraisers and dinners for Clay. Clay has had to take the rest of the year off of school and is traveling to Pittsburgh for treatments. Several teachers have been traveling to Clay's home to give him lessons and catch him up on the school he has been missing.



A wide variety of tractors were driven to school to raise funds for FFA member Clay Allison.

Clay has a lot of support from his friends and neighbors in the community. Juniata Valley student Zach Hetrick said, "It was great to see all the tractors and participants come to school Wednesday morning. I hope tractor day becomes a tradition to help others in the community." William Hawn helped his kids and their friends get ready for tractor day and he said, "It was nice to see how much Clay's classmates really want to help him. For a small

school, they have a big heart." Tractor day was a very successful event and it shows how a little school can make a big difference.



FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

TIFFANY GROVE
Pa. FFA President

April showers bring May flowers, and the beginning of planting season, and chapter banquets, and more chapter banquets, and believe it or not state convention preparation. This is one of my favorite times of year, the weather is perfect —usually— and much of what we do with FFA is in full swing.

Through out the past month the team has attended more than 15 chapter banquets and we have approximately 10 more before the end of April. But your state officer team is not the only group working hard this time of year. There are numerous FFA members across the state practicing and preparing for county, area, and regional CDE (Career Development Event) Competitions. Whether you are competing in parliamentary procedure, public

speaking, land judging, ag issues, livestock judging or any of the other Career Development Events, your state officer team would like to wish you all the best of luck!

Now with all of this preparing and competing where do you go if you advance? You go to State Activities Week of course! This by the way is going to be held at Penn State from June 10 through 12. There will be so much more than 1,400 members competing in CDE's; each day you will have the chance to meet other members from across the state as well as spend time having fun on the Penn State Campus by visiting the Creamery, going swimming in the outdoor pool, or attending the dance held on Wednesday immediately following the second General Session.

General Session...what happens there? Each day the state officer team and the over 1,400 FFA members that attend will assemble in Eisenhower

Auditorium. There the sessions are packed start to finish with fun and excitement. Over the three sessions we will recognize all of the state career development event winners, hear from a few amazing motivational speakers, and introduce you to the FFA members that are willing to spend the next year serving the Pennsylvania FFA State Association as the next state officer team. Then on Thursday, at the third and final general session your state officer team will hang up their jackets, and walk to center stage one last time. You will then get to witness the election of the 2008-2009 Pennsylvania FFA State Officer Team.

With all of these fun and exciting things happening I hope that you all will attend, remember the deadline for Activities Week is May 9, so everyone sign up to attend and make this the largest State Convention ever!

Just a reminder, if you and your FFA Chapter have an exciting story that you want to share, remember to submit it to the state so that it could be published right here in the Blue and Gold Pages of the *Lancaster Farming*. I hope that you all enjoy the last few months of school, and your state officer team looks forward to seeing you at your chapter banquet and State Convention. Take care and God Bless!!!

East Juniata FFA Shows Off Bull Knowledge



East Juniata FFA members were proud to bring home the winning plaque from the Pennsylvania Bull Test Sale Quiz Bowl.

SHANNON SODER
Chapter Secretary

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — On March 28, the East Juniata FFA and agricultural students attended the Pennsylvania Bull Test Sale at Penn State. In the week before the sale the students evaluated the bulls' EPD data in the classroom to see if the calculations on paper compared to reality. Students observed the 116 bulls for sale, all of which were eligible for bid.

Student Lance Auker said his most memorable experience was the Quiz Bowl that was after the Bull Test Sale.

The Quiz Bowl tested senior participants from ages 14-21 on their knowledge of beef cattle. This was a public event. Auker answered a few questions but fellow students Sam Strawser, Ethan Peoples, and Mike Brubaker, answered most. There were eight teams at the Quiz Bowl and two of them were from East Juniata. One of the East Juniata teams won first place. The team received a plaque that is on display in the Agriculture Department at the school.



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