



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Littlestown Wins Adams County Envirothon

JESSE BRANDT
Agriculture Teacher

LITTLESTOWN, Pa. — On May 2, the Adams County Envirothon took place at the Littlestown Fish and Game Club. There were 16 teams in attendance from six Adams County schools.

The Envirothon contest tests students' knowledge in five different areas — forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and a current issue.

This year's current issue was "Recreational impacts on the environment." Students work in teams of five to complete each test and the team with the highest score wins the competition with the winner going on to the state competition on June 19-20 at the Penn State research facility at Rock Springs.

The winning team in Adams County was the Littlestown Gold team. All of the winning team members are members of the Littlestown FFA. Team members were Jodi Klin-



The winning Adams County Envirothon team, from Littlestown, is pictured with their teacher Jesse Brandt and their award plaques and trophy.

edinst, Cassie Klinedinst, Rachel Roberts, Amanda Hansbrough and Sarah Hurlock. This team won four out of the five categories taking third place in aquatics to the other team from Littlestown. This year marked

the 12th consecutive year that Littlestown has won the Adams County contest. Littlestown's Team 2 took second place winning three second place awards and a first in Aquatics with a score of 93 out of 100.

Cumberland Valley Ag Students Raise Trout for Release

BRIANNA WILBUR
Chapter Reporter

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — The Cumberland Valley FFA Chapter has done something new and adventurous this school year thanks to the help of Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The agriculture department of Cumberland Valley High School applied for a \$500 grant from each group in order to have the resources to raise trout in the classroom. Cumberland Valley was ecstatic to have received the grant and eager to get started.

The project was authentic because it allowed students of all different grade levels and learning styles to get involved, and was a direct link to the education of aquaculture and wildlife management. It taught the students

responsibility, promoted teamwork, and endorsed the idea of ecological welfare of animals. Equipping and monitoring the big fish tank were very tedious tasks because trout are very particular with their environment.

After raising the trout from eggs to fingerlings, the students are sad to see them go, but ready to release them into local waters.

The students of the Cumberland Valley Agriculture Department plan to release the young fish into Children's Lake in Boiling Springs. Trout already reside in the environment there, making it perfect for the newcomers from Cumberland Valley's classroom. The students are grateful to have had an opportunity to work with the trout on such a personal level, and would like thank Trout Unlimited and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for all their support in this project.



FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

CHRISTINE OELLIG
State Sentinel

May already? This year with FFA has flown by so fast. With the weather warming up there is a buzz of excitement all across the state, especially in agriculture. Farmers are busy preparing and planting their fields, new animals a being born, and school is almost out, making for many excited students and teachers. For FFA members, the excitement is just beginning. We are in the middle of "FFA Chapter Banquet Season," which means as a state officer, I have the privilege of attending many chapter banquets to celebrate the achievements of each chapter's members.

Many of our members are also preparing their animals for FFA exhibits at their county fairs and studying for the team and individual Career Development Events (CDE's) at the state level. All of our state contests will take place at our 79th Pennsylvania FFA Summer Convention at the Pennsylvania State University in mid-June. This convention gives our members a chance to meet and compete with other FFA members from across the state and even advance to compete at the Eastern States Exposition in September or the National FFA Convention in October.

Also during our state convention, we hold three general sessions where we recognize the accomplishments of FFA members just like many of you who read this page and also celebrate achievements the Pennsylvania FFA as a whole has had. I know all those in attendance will also be excited to hear presentations from the National FFA Western Region Vice President, Kari Boettcher and from Rhett Laubach, a friend of the FFA and professional speaker and to see who will be chosen as the 2008-2009 State FFA Officers.

As my year as a state officer comes to a close, I look back and realize how blessed I am to be a member of the Pennsylvania FFA Association and look forward to seeing what our future members, chapter officers, and state officers will bring to the FFA. I feel that FFA has prepared me for whatever happens in the future and I am excited to make the most of the golden opportunities life brings me. I hope all of you will do the same through out your time as FFA members and the rest of your lives.

Ag Mosaic Unveiled at W.B. Saul Students, Officials Continue 30-Year Arbor Day Tradition



Philadelphia FFA President Tiffany Vargas checks out the mosaic with a cow.

PHILADELPHIA — Commuters driving along a busy city street may develop a greater appreciation for agriculture thanks to a highly-visible mosaic created by students at W.B. Saul High School of Agricultural Sciences in Philadelphia, unveiled Friday, April 25, by Agriculture Executive Deputy Secretary Russell Redding.

Redding joined Senator Shirley Kitchen and Representatives Kathy Manderino and Art Hershey to unveil a five-panel agricultural tile mosaic created by W.B. Saul students and staff and NetworkArts, a Philadelphia-based non-profit group dedicated to education through mosaics and creative learning.

The mosaic is on front of the school's dairy barn, visible from Henry Avenue, a well-traveled city road, said Redding.

"Today we celebrate the hard work of W.B. Saul students to help educate their neighbors about agriculture and the important role it plays in our lives," said Redding. "Through the education and opportunities available at W.B. Saul, the next generation of agricultural

leaders will include those born and raised in urban settings who have a true understanding of the work that goes into protecting our natural resources and feeding the world."

For more than five months, students worked with NetworkArts to develop a bright and engaging tile mosaic, which includes agriculture and environmental best management practices and technologies, and native plant and animal species from the local Wissahickon Valley. The mosaic is 125 feet long, by nine feet tall.

"Through the mosaic, W.B. Saul is building a strong relationship with the public, bringing attention to the important work done every day by those in the agricultural in-

dustry and this very special school," added Redding.

The mosaic was done with the support of the Fairmount Park Commission, which oversees the more than 9,200 acres of parkland throughout Philadelphia, including the 120 acres that make up the W.B. Saul campus.

Following the mosaic unveiling, Redding joined Senator Kitchen, Representatives Manderino and Hershey and officials from the Fairmount Park Commission, City of Philadelphia, School Reform Commission, School District of Philadelphia and the Roxborough Garden Club to continue the 30-year tradition of planting an Arbor Day tree on W.B. Saul's campus.



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