



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### Success...One Step at a time

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# Selinsgrove Member Selected for National Wildlife Contest

BRITNEY A MARSH  
Pa. FFA Reporter  
SELINGSGROVE, Pa. — Selins-

grove FFA member Brian Gray will represent Pennsylvania this October at the National FFA Conven-

tion. Gray submitted his wildlife placement proficiency application to the national competition. He was the only member from Pennsylvania to be selected to compete at the National Convention Oct. 19-26 held in Indianapolis, Ind.

Since Gray's freshmen year, he has been working to improve wildlife habitats. He started out building birdhouses and hanging them up around his farm. The following year he made brush piles for small animals to live in. He continues to

maintain these wildlife shelters as well as putting food plots out for the larger wildlife.

This is Gray's first year submitting the Wildlife Placement Proficiency. Last year he submitted one for Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources and won first in the state.

Gray said, "I was surprised to be selected as a finalist. I am very excited and proud to be representing Pennsylvania. I have worked hard on my wildlife record book for the

last four years. I have spent hundreds of hours improving wildlife habitats and learning all that I can about wildlife and natural resources." Gray has his hands full protecting the wildlife but he does a lot more than that. Gray is involved in soccer, track and field, ice hockey, band, hunting, fishing, and working on the family farm as well as at Tractor Supply Company.



Brian Gray is maintaining the birdhouses he hung four years ago, which won him a spot at National Convention as Pennsylvania's Proficiency Finalist.

# Cloister FFA Students Building Garden Chairs

EPHRATA, Pa. — The members of the Cloister FFA Chapter are constructing garden chairs as a fund-raiser to jump start their chapter for the 2008-2009 school year. The Ephrata High School students are handcrafting decorative chairs with branches, sticks and moss.

In the days when "Made in America" products are becoming increasingly more difficult to find, these garden chairs are made right here in Ephrata. The chairs come with a unique look, and no two are alike. The proceeds will support the Cloister FFA Chapter.

"We are having a great time working together. We want to

plan several events and activities this school year and need to boost our bank account to make them happen," said Laura Morrison, Cloister FFA president.

The chairs will be for sale this week at the Cloister FFA display at Tent City during the 2008 Ephrata Fair. In addition, orders can be placed through the Cloister FFA Website at [www.easdp.org/ehs/departments/Agriculture/default.htm](http://www.easdp.org/ehs/departments/Agriculture/default.htm) or by contacting any Cloister FFA member. The chairs are being sold for \$25 each.

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# FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



ANDREW FISHER

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Pa. FFA State Treasurer

The month of August was a bit less hectic with school not yet in session. The annual Hoss' Fore FFA Golf Tournament was held in Huntingdon County on Aug. 11. The golf tournament was played at the Huntingdon Country Club where more than 100 golfers spent their day. On behalf of the FFA members in Pennsylvania, I would like to congratulate the Big Spring team, which consisted of Doug Latsbaugh, Doug Knol, Wade Black, and Dwain Messersmith, who won the administration challenge and Mike Raley, John Jentry, Jack Laret and J.P. Stultz won the overall team competition. Thank you golfers for your generous support of the FFA. The proceeds from the golf tournament will go to support the CDEs (career development event) held across the state.

Ag Progress Days was Aug. 19-21. Throughout the week, the officer team rotated between working at the FFA food booth, working the FFA's youth display and we had the opportunity to mingle with many visitors and exhibitors. Our youth display was a big hit for the kids. The theme was "What's in Your Backyard?" The kids could color the different animals they see in

their backyard or make the animals out of pipe cleaners.

September has been filled with chapter visits, board meetings and participating in several national agriculture events. Our second board meeting was in Bedford on the fifth, followed by the team's first chapter visit at the Bermudian Springs FFA Chapter Sept. 8. Last week, the officer team went north for the "Big E" or the Eastern States Exposition in Massachusetts, where the team assisted with the various FFA competitions.

This week the team spent the four days in Harrisburg at the Farm Show Complex for the All-American Dairy Show. After the show, we will head home and prepare for a leadership conference. The Adams, Franklin, and York leadership conference will be taking place on Thursday at the Gettysburg High School.

Our second chapter visit will take place on Sept. 29 and 30. This will be at the W.B. Saul FFA chapter in the city of Brotherly Love, Philadelphia.

We are so excited that the school year has started because now we can spend more time with you, the members.

# Manor FFA Member Will Participate in Young Farmer Institute

BRITNEY A MARSH  
Pa. FFA State Reporter

LANCASTER, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Young Farmer Association (PYFA) has selected Amanda Harrington, a 2008 graduate of Penn Manor High School, Lancaster County, to attend the National Young Farmer Educational Institute in Baltimore, MD, Dec. 11-13.

Harrington will participate in the Young Ag Leaders Event (YALE), a leadership training program for the next generation of agricultural leaders.

This is the second year PYFA has sponsored young people to attend their national meeting as a way of forging closer relationships.

Linda Krall, PYFA president, said, "We look forward to having participation by FFA youth, providing them the opportunity to gain a national perspective about agriculture while they learn about potential career opportunities."

A member of Manor FFA, Harrington was chapter historian and competed in floriculture in the county career development contest, placing second. She showed lambs at the Lampeter Fair and the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and will show a steer at Lam-

peter Fair this fall. She was chair of the West Lampeter Pig Chase Committee.

Having received the FFA Keystone Degree in January, Harrington attended the National FFA Convention. She will major in agriculture education at Texas Tech University, beginning with the spring semester.

She credits her relatives with giving her opportunities on their farm and speaking positively about the benefits of being an FFA member. She furthered her interest by enrolling in the eighth grade agri-

culture club, then joining FFA. She said, "FFA is literally a life-changing experience."

She said she will use her opportunity to attend the NYEFA Institute to create a stronger relationship between the two organizations, and will share the knowledge gained there with local FFA members and FFA Alumni.

Also attending the national Institute will be Britney Marsh, Cumberland County, state FFA reporter, who represents FFA on the PYFA Board.



Amanda Harrington

