



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

One Emblem, Endless Opportunities

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FFA Supporters Tee Off ‘Fore’ FFA

SUZANNAH J. MELLINGER
State FFA Reporter

LEBANON, Pa. — “FORE!!!” That word is usually a cue to take cover because there may be a golf ball flying towards you. Luckily, on July 27th the Monsanto Fore FFA Golf Tournament (pun intended) took place without any golf-related injuries. Approximately 240 sponsors, agriculture teachers, school administrators, and other friends of the Pennsylvania FFA participated in this FFA Foundation fundraiser which was held at the Iron Valley Golf Club and Fairview Golf Course.

After enjoying a light lunch,

participants teed off at 1 p.m. Despite a sunny start, a thunderstorm brought the tournament to a halt after twelve holes at Iron Valley, however the teams at Fairview were able to finish their game. The awards banquet and benefit auction followed the tournament.

During the auction various items from shelves crafted by local FFA members to an outdoor fire place to 8 hours of service from the State Officers were sold to raise money for the Pennsylvania FFA. Despite the rain, the attendees had a great time playing golf and enjoying fellowship with other supporters of the FFA from around the state.



FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

KERI SCHRIEVER
State Chaplain

Welcome to fair season! I hope that everyone is enjoying your time at your local fair, your animals are making weight and you are getting top dollar for all of your hard work over the past year.

Over the past month, your state officer team has been extremely busy. We have traveled from the far western part of the state, to the east, and from the north, the whole way down to Baltimore. To begin the month we attended our first board meeting, assisted with the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators (PAAE) Conference and had a breakfast meeting with *Lancaster Farming* to discuss the future of the Blue and Gold Page.

By the middle of the month, we were off to Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania Green Expo and then off to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to have our first interaction with the members at the Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference. Also, you may have seen some of your state officers at the Shipensburg Fair on the FFA sale

night. We also assisted with our second golf outing at the Iron Valley Country Club in Lebanon.

During the last week of July, your state officers spent the entire week in Baltimore for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO).

While attending this conference, we learned how to develop workshops, how to work as a team more effectively, and learned about a few of our sponsors. But the most important thing that we learned was the “secret ingredient” to life, customer service.

Remember to check our your next edition of the Blue and Gold Page for a new “From the Officer’s Station” featuring Ag Progress Days. Also keep those articles rolling in, tell us what is happening in your chapter and what you are excited for in the upcoming school year in your FFA program. For the September issue of the Blue and Gold Page, your articles are due to Mike Brammer at c-mbrammer@state.pa.us by Sept. 5. Good Luck to all with the new school year!

FFA Receives Funding at Ag Progress Days

ROCK SPRINGS, Pa. — Pennsylvania FFA may enhance their programs thanks funds awarded Tuesday by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA).

The FFA received the funds from Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff during Ag Progress Days.

“Our youth are the future leaders of Pennsylvania agriculture, our state’s number one industry,” said Wolff. “The FFA and encourage youth to explore the many opportunities in agriculture that are available to them. By supporting these programs, we can keep Pennsylvania agriculture growing for generations to come.”

State FFA officers accepted \$71,000 in fair funds, which will be divided among 139 chapters that are home to nearly 8,000 students.

Wolff chairs the Fair Advisory Board, which approves the funds yearly from the larger \$4 million Pennsylvania Fair



Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff presents a \$71,000 check to state FFA officers, from left, Kami Forgie, Suzannah Mellinger, Tiffany Grove, Kristie Folk and Ben Svonavec.

Fund. The fund helps the state’s 115 county and community fairs with annual operating costs and

offers financial support to youth organizations with an agricultural mission.

The ABC’s of the Pennsylvania FFA

SUZANNAH J. MELLINGER
State FFA Reporter

Acronyms — When you know what they stand for, they make perfect sense and save a little bit of time. However, if you are unfamiliar with acronyms that are constantly being used around you, it’s like listening to a different language. The FFA has plenty of acronyms — just look at our name! That is why we have created this “ABC’s” guide to the acronyms commonly used in the FFA. Whether you use these acronyms or not, we hope that this list will help you understand what it is that other FFA members are talking about!

ACES — (Agriculture Cooperation Establishes Success) A weekend leadership conference for any FFA member in Pennsylvania. This year’s dates are Feb. 9- 10 and 16-17 (your adviser will choose which weekend your chapter will attend).

B&G — Blue and Gold Pages. The thing you are reading right now. A page devoted to the Pennsylvania FFA and all the great things that you, the members are doing.

CDE — Career Development Events. Thirty different FFA contests designed to help members apply the skills they have learned in their agriculture classes.

FFA SAFE — FFA Saving Area Farms Effectively. A program designed for FFA chapters to map local farms so that if there is an emergency on the farm, first responders will know where hazards on the farm are located.

MWC — Mid-Winter Convention. Ok, so we don’t actually call it MWC, but it fit! Mid-Winter Convention is an afternoon convention held at Farm Show where we hold the Keystone Degree Ceremony.

PAAE — Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators. State organization of agriculture teachers. Your local agriculture teacher is most likely a member of this group.

PALS — Partners in Active Learning Support. Mentoring program that connects high school agriculture students with elementary students with special needs.

POA — Program of Activities. A chapter’s schedule of activities for the year as well as their goals for the year.

SAE — Supervised Agriculture

Experience. Individual projects or enterprises that FFA members have as a way to apply the knowledge they have gained from their agriculture classes. There are also SAE requirements for each degree of membership that an FFA member works toward.

SLLC — State Legislative Leadership Conference. A three day conference held in March where members simulate running a bill through the House of Representatives and the Senate as a way of learning about the legislative process.

SOCS — State Officer Candidacy School. Attend this conference to learn what being a State Officer is all about. Learn about the nomination process as well as what it takes to be a state officer.

WLC — Washington Leadership Conference. Leadership conference held in Washington D.C. that teaches personal development and goal setting skills, motivation and citizenship.

WPLC — Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference. Overnight leadership conference held during the summer which helps members develop teamwork skills and learn about opportunities available in the FFA.



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