



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Meyersdale FFA Sells Indian Corn for a Cause



Meyersdale FFA members prepare Indian corn to be put in bunches and sold.

JOSH WALKER
Chapter President

MEYERSDALE, Pa. — October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Did you know that breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the U.S.? According to the American Cancer Society, it's estimated that about 178,480 women in the U.S. will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer in 2007. Right now there are slightly more than 2 million women living in the U.S. who have been treated for breast cancer.

Here at Meyersdale Area School District, one of the school employees was diagnosed with breast cancer in July 2007. The Meyersdale FFA decided to do something for her. The chapter discussed it as a group and chose to order cancer awareness bracelets to sell and give all the proceeds to the school employee to help defray the costs of her treatments and travel. In addition,

the parents of two of the FFA members donated a small field of Indian corn to add to the fundraiser.

A group of members and some of their family members went out to the Richard Coughenour farm in Salisbury to begin the project. The members picked the corn from the fields and pulled the husks back on around 1,100 ears of Indian corn. The corn was placed in the agriculture shop over the weekend to allow it to dry out. During the next week, Meyersdale FFA members put the corn in bundles of three and began to sell the corn. The chapter asked for the school and community support in this project and after one week, well over half of the Indian corn was sold. All the profits from this project will be going to the school employee with cancer. The chapter goal is to raise around \$1,000 to help with one women's fight against breast cancer.

Over to Serve as National Nominating Chair

SUZANNAH J. MELLINGER
State Reporter

INDIANAPOLIS — If you look at Kelly Over's state officer profile from last year, you will read that one of her most challenging experiences in her FFA career was serving on the 2005 State Officer Nominating Committee. Over successfully met that challenge, and now is taking on the even bigger challenge of serving as the chair of the 2007 National FFA Officer Nominating Committee this week at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

Over, a member of the Williamsburg FFA Chapter said "The nomination (to the National Officer Nominating Committee) was a complete surprise to me and a complete honor."

Over was nominated to the National Nominating Committee in early August and had to submit an application detailing her FFA experience and why she wished to serve on the committee by mid-August. During the first week of September the phone call came, telling her that she had not only been selected to serve on the nominating committee but that she had been chosen to chair the committee. When asked about her reaction to her selection as chair, she said she felt "very excited, and after five minutes I began to feel the responsibility placed on me."

Along with Over, eight other FFA

members from around the U.S. have been studying the applications of the 39 National Officer candidates during the past six weeks and learning about the qualities that the National FFA Organization requires of its officers.

As of presstime, the nominating committee has started its training. The actual National Officer selection process will begin on Monday, Oct.

22 and lasts until Oct. 25, however, the 2007-2008 National FFA Officer Team will not be announced until the final session of the convention, when Over presents the names of the new team to the delegate body for approval on Oct. 27.



Kelly Over of the Williamsburg FFA will serve as the chair of the National FFA Officer Nominating Committee this week.

Over added that her committee will not get much free time to see the rest of the National

FFA Convention or to sleep, however they will get to spend time with the National Officer Candidates outside of the interview rounds at the convention sessions and at a casual event.

Then Pennsylvania FFA Association would like to congratulate Over on her accomplishment and wish her well at the National FFA Convention. We also want to wish good luck to Zach Biddle, Pennsylvania's National Officer Candidate. And finally, good luck to all of our members in their respective Career Development Events (CDE).



Hello, FFA members one and all! Chapter visit season is in full swing and if we have not visited you yet, we will be coming to see you soon. We have met many FFA members and so much has happened since the last "Officer's Station."

I am Kristie Folk from the Central Columbia chapter. I am very thrilled to serve you as the North Central Region vice president. If I did not get to meet you at the Big E, please don't hesitate to introduce yourself at any other FFA gathering. If you have

never visited the Eastern States Exposition (Big E) in Massachusetts, I strongly encourage you to do so. I had never been to the "Big E" before this past September. It was very interesting getting to experience the eastern U.S. I also got to meet FFA members from across the eastern U.S. I was fortunate enough to meet quite a few FFA members from Pennsylvania while we were visiting West Springfield and competing in the Big E. Congratulations to all of you who competed in career development events (CDEs). You have made Pennsylvania proud!

I am looking forward to traveling to Indianapolis, Ind. where FFA members from across the country come together for the National FFA Convention. I have never been to National Convention, but I am looking forward to having a blast! If you have time at National Convention, I would encourage you to stop and visit our state display. This year, we are taking a look at the top agricultural products produced in Pennsylvania. I will not reveal the theme, so you will have to stop by and take a peak! For those of you competing at National Convention, I wish

you all the best of luck in your respective career development events.

Don't forget to check out next month's Blue and Gold page for another "Officer's Station" and results from the National Convention. Let us know what your FFA chapter is up to by sending Blue and Gold articles for November to c-mbrammer@state.pa.us by Nov. 7. Until we meet again, I wish you a safe and happy fall and want to share a quote from Winston Churchill: "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm."

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