



# BLUE & GOLD NEWS

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

www.paffa.org



## Hear From New FFA Chapter

### Lebanon County CTC FFA

When arriving at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center, the class as a whole had no idea that we even had a chance of being part of FFA.

After a few weeks, our adviser had discovered that the landscape technology course was an agriculture-certified class, which meant we could start our own FFA chapter.

It was then discovered that a dormant FFA chapter had existed over two decades ago. After starting the chapter with no funds, we started to get school administrators involved, which gave us a huge boost with getting our new banner and entering us in local career development events.

In the Lebanon County competitions we competed in ag mechanics and landscape/nursery. Even with our limited experience, time and

preparation, two of our members placed very high in the landscape/nursery, and another placed fourth in ag mechanics.

Our next challenge was participating in the Pennsylvania Farm Show. The first project that came to mind was the landscape design competition, where we excelled at designing, hardscaping, and detail work. We won third overall and received the award for best nonliving material.

Our adviser proposed the idea for two of our members to participate in the log splitter competition at the Farm Show so they could gain hands-on experience in their interests.

The two members did a lot of material repurposing in this project by collecting scrap metal, incorporating wheels off a '40s Jeep, integrating a hydraulic piston from a '70s Ford garbage truck, and creating a hydraulic reservoir from an antique gas can.



Pennsylvania FFA

Lebanon County Career and Technical Center receives its FFA charter at Mid-Winter Convention on Jan. 9 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg.

They created a record book, video and presentation, which they had to present at the Farm Show. The members finished first overall along with best video, best presentation and

most creative log splitter design. A few members also competed in mini landscape designs and floral designs.

Our chapter is excited to compete in other FFA events as well as

creating our own FFA events at the LCCTC. Officers have been focused on organizing fundraisers to raise more money and to spread the word of the LCCTC FFA mission.

## First-Year Member Scores in Auctioneer Contest

### JEREMY ROSE

Pennsylvania FFA Reporter

Andrew Appleby from Huntingdon County FFA spent his first year competing in the auctioneering contest at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

"My experience at the Farm Show and the auctioneering contest was



Pennsylvania FFA

Andrew Appleby, from Huntingdon County FFA, raises his hand in triumph after placing third in the auctioneering contest held in January at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

nothing short of amazing. Competing in the contest against three other future auctioneers was very helpful in improving my auctioneering knowledge, experiences and friendships with other auctioneers in my generation," Andrew said.

With the judges of the contest being certified professional auctioneers, the participants were able to learn what they excelled at and what they could improve.

Andrew has been studying and practicing auctioneer skills for about six years. He believes that auctioneering is a God-given talent, and bettering his auctioneering abilities takes dedication and determination.

Andrew thanks Brian Oberholtzer and the auctioneering contest leaders for holding the contest to give him and the others who competed a chance to showcase their knowledge, skills and bid-calling abilities.

"I am proud to have placed third in the state in auctioneering and plan to return next year to compete again," Andrew said.

Ty Uplinger from Williamsburg FFA placed first, and Garrett Kaltenbach from Grand Canyon FFA placed second.

## Conference Prep Coming Up ACES

The FFA officers are in full swing, preparing for their most-attended leadership conference of the year, the Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success Leadership Conference, better known as ACES.

The officers are blessed but also anxious to head into their conference weekends with record-breaking numbers. This year, over 1,900 members and advisers are registered for attendance.

The team has prepared for workshops, and night and morning activities, and has networked with past state officers to ensure that

the ACES conference is nothing short of success.

The intent of the leadership conference is for members to improve their leadership skills and professionalism, meet members from across the state, and make connections that will have a positive effect on their endeavors.

The officers are excited to be able to offer nothing short of excellence in the upcoming leadership conference of ACES and hope to see as many members there as possible. Stay tuned in March for the exciting result.

## The Journey From the Plow

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



### BENJAMIN TORREY VICE PRESIDENT

My name is Benjamin Torrey and I am proudly serving as your 2022-2023 state FFA vice president. My story started when my family bought a dairy farm in Potter County five generations ago, making my generation the sixth. Growing up in agriculture helped me pave my way in FFA.

Becoming a member in the Headwaters FFA in eighth grade, I started taking agriculture classes and learning about animal and plant sciences, mechanics and business management. I also discovered career and leadership development events, which are competitions in different skill areas for members.

Through these events I found my love for public speaking. I loved the idea of advocating my passions in agriculture. I was able to turn my experience from working on the family farm into a supervised agricultural experience in FFA. This record book helped me to earn different degree levels in the organization as well as connect with others who shared a similar passion.

Throughout high school, my favorite events were leadership conferences. These opportunities allowed me to connect with members from other chapters. I learned from these relationships that agriculture is very diverse, even across the com-

monwealth. All of these experiences led me to my own pivotal moment in life. I decided that I wanted to be a driving force in bringing the opportunities I had to others who could benefit from them.

I wanted to connect students from across the state with different agricultural backgrounds. I desired to be an advocate for agriculture using my public speaking skills. This passion led me to run for state office. Going through the interview process for state office taught me a great deal about myself and what motivated me to reach my goals. Becoming a state officer has enabled me to pursue those goals of providing opportunities, connecting students and advocating for agriculture.

I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported me and continues to do so, thank you to FFA for providing me with this opportunity, and thank you to all the students who have made these last months impactful and inspiring.

## State Fair Queen Credits FFA Experiences

Hello, my name is Chloe Bomgardner and I am the 2023 Pennsylvania fair queen. I am a senior serving as the Northern Lebanon FFA vice president, and I have been involved in FFA since my ninth-grade year.

Since joining FFA, I have enjoyed competing in many leadership development and career development events, with my favorites being parliamentary procedure and prepared public speaking.

My current supervised agricultural experiences include my job working for a local dairy farm, and my dairy breeding herd. I raise Holstein heifers on my small farm and take them to multiple county fairs as well as a few state and national shows throughout the year. Then I breed them, and when they're about to calve out I send them to my cousins' farm where I then milk for them in exchange for boarding.

My supervised agricultural experience relates immensely to my involvement at my fair as well as at many other local county fairs. I chose to run for Lebanon Area Fair queen because of my passion for the agriculture industry and to use my voice to



Pennsylvania FFA

The FFA state officer team stands with the 2023 Pennsylvania fair queen after her crowning in Hershey on Jan. 21. From left, are Callie Whiting, Grace Benton, James Winklosky, 2023 Pennsylvania Fair Queen Chloe Bomgardner, Jeremy Rose, Ben Torrey and Zaleigh Wade.

promote it and the importance this industry has on my community.

As much as FFA has shaped me into the person I am today, I would not have been able to grow as much as a person without my advisers. They have truly impacted my life tremendously throughout my FFA journey, and I am extremely proud to call Mrs. Marron and Mrs. Balmer my advisers.

Their passion to help us succeed has impacted me tremendously and I am truly honored to be more than just an exhibitor this coming summer, as I will also have the opportunity to attend multiple county fairs across the commonwealth representing the state's rich agricultural heritage and serving as an ambassador for the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.