



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Dare to Be Unstoppable, Dare to Be Like Penny Brammer

FROM THE OFFICER'S CORNER



GRACE BRAMMER
SENTINEL

Penny Brammer was an incredibly strong person. She got diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 when she had three grandchildren. Over the next eight years, she had two more grandkids and went through many rounds of chemo and radiation to fight the cancer.

She was also really involved with the Pennsylvania FFA. She would travel with the state officer teams to different events like the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, the Big E in Massachusetts, the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and the State Convention in State College. She helped those teams by sharing her knowledge. Even when she was sick, she rarely missed any events where FFA members or state officers were present. She was an inspiration to many people, both inside and outside the FFA community. You could often see her rolling around on her scooter at events. She loved being around students and drew energy from their company. There was a time when her doctor said she should not go to the Pennsylvania Farm Show because

her immune system was weak. She laughed it off and went anyway because she didn't want to miss being with the students. Penny Brammer's story shows that no matter what challenges you face, you can stay strong and make a positive impact on others. She was truly unstoppable. I strive to be just like her. I was truly blessed to be able to call this amazing woman Nana. Every single day, I strive to be just like her, and I strive to make her proud. I was taken aback when my nana passed away in December 2017, but her passing has pushed me to be the best person I can be and to be an unstoppable individual just like she was. I dare you to be like Penny Brammer.



Submitted
A young Grace Brammer, right, sits with her nana, Penny Brammer.

Ag Industry Rallies When It's Needed

REESE BURDETTE
Conococheague FFA
Agriculture makes an impact. Reese Burdette is a member of the Conococheague FFA chapter, where she set her foundation of family in the blue and gold. In her life, she has learned that no matter the challenges she faces, she has an industry strong enough to help. My name is Reese Burdette, and I am a part of the Conococheague FFA. In May 2014, I was injured in a house fire at my grandparents' house in Virginia. I ended up suffering from burns on 35% of my body, but my biggest issue was



Submitted
Reese Burdette
lung damage that I developed after breathing in the fire and smoke. I ended up spending 662 days in

the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital. For several months, I was in an induced coma, but in late October, doctors started bringing me out. From there, the hard work started. I was in daily therapy sessions, and surgeries and procedures continued, but schoolwork also started up again. I had a tremendous foundation with my family who never left my side. I was always with someone. Whether it was my mom, dad, grandmother or aunt, someone was always there advocating for me. Any farmer knows the day-to-day work required on dairy farms and can assume the strain this puts

on my family and the farm. People from all across the country offered to help assist us on the farm so that my parents could be with me. The agriculture community is like no other out there. We stick together when times are tough. It was the agriculture community that kicked in and started many fundraisers for me. There were heifers donated in sales with proceeds going to my medical expenses. There were Pampered Chef parties, 5Ks, painted milk cans donated to auctions and so much more. Many farm wives and moms spent their weekends in the kitchen to bring home-cooked meals to my

family at the hospital. A meal train was started at home to help feed whichever parent was there and my sister too. The agriculture community kept others updated on my progress and stopped and prayed when it was critical. I cannot imagine being a part of any other industry. Agriculture is close knit and sticks by its own. I feel blessed to be a part of this nation's and the world's agriculture industry. I know they took care of my family when they needed it most, and we will spend forever paying it forward.

Chapters Collaborate to Teach Students About Ag



A student with Laurel FFA holds a calf for a fourth grader to pet.

Every single fourth grader in Lawrence County had the opportunity to learn where their food comes from. On Oct. 3 and 4, members of Laurel FFA, Wilmington Area FFA and Mohawk FFA hosted an event to teach students where their food comes from. They had over 850 kids in attendance. Wilmington Area FFA members gave a lesson on dairy cows and where their milk comes from. They also focused on chickens, explaining the different parts of an egg that a hen produces. Mohawk FFA prepared a variety of lessons about lambs and demonstrated how to show a lamb. The Laurel FFA chapter prepared lessons about goats, explaining the differences between dairy goats and meat goats. They also thought that it was important to showcase the difference between beef and not beef and showed various cuts of beef. The chapter lessons were paired with a showcase about the importance of agriculture. We commend them for their hard work and dedication to advocating for the future of agriculture.



Submitted photos
Mohawk FFA students demonstrate how to show a lamb.



Wilmington Area FFA students present about cows and chickens and what they produce for people to eat.