

Pennsylvania FFA Association

Board of Directors Meeting

August 6, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Sarah Firestone at 1:00pm and the State Officer Team conducted opening ceremonies. In attendance were: Lexi Butler, Jonathan Bradshaw, Jaylene Everhart, Samuel Parks, Leah Flinchbaugh, Kevin Curry, Sherisa Nailor, Natalie Barkley, Jodi Hoover, Mike Clark, Jill Smith, Brandon Witmer, Neil Fellenbaum, Ron Frederick, Katie Ranck, Chloe Bomgardner, Sarah Sparks, Melanie Berndston, Alex Barzydlo, Curt Turner, Krista Pontius, and Michael Brammer.

Bombgardner/Ranck moved to accept the minutes presented from the May and June meetings. Motion passed. Bradshaw/Everhart moved to concur. Motion passed.

Reports of Officers/Staff

Executive Director Report

Brammer shared a 10 year membership comparison report and presented the financial report for the 2024-2025 year. The report will be filed for audit.

State Officer Report

The State Officer team shared a presentation of what they have been doing since their election. A written report was also provided.

Standing Committees

CDE/LDE Committee:

Barzydlo presented the report. Provided an updated list of CDE/LDE Committee members. Shared there was an error in scoring of the Nursery and Landscape CDE, resulting in place changes. Appeals committee was enacted and resolved the error.

Nathan Moyer is working on Spanish Creed Invitational; 2 spots are reserved for Pennsylvania, both currently.

Proposed changes to align to Nationals: Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management, Forestry, Milk Quality & Products, Poultry Evaluation, and Wildlife contests. Committee made motion to approve the changes with an implied second. Motion passed. Everhart/Bradshaw moved to concur. Motion passed.

Proposed changes to Ag Education CDE, Environmental & Natural Resources, Jr Prepared Public Speaking, and Small Gas Engines. Committee made motion to approve the changes with an implied second. Everhart/Bradshaw moved to concur. Motion passed.

No proposed changes to Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management and Floriculture at this time. Committee made motion to present the final proposals at the December meeting with an implied second. Parks/Bradshaw moved to concur. Motion passed.

Two proposals for changing the Senior Prepared Public Speaking LDE were presented. *Barzydlo/Bomgardner moved to accept option 1. Motion passed. Bradshaw/Parks moved to*

concur. Motion passed. THIS CHANGE allows ONLY FOUR competitors to advance from regionals in conservation/prepared speaking.

SAE Committee:

Nailor presented the final proposal for the Living To Serve Award. *Barzydlo/Clark moved to deny the request and refer it back to the committee for further reporting in December. Motion passed. Everhart/Bradshaw moved to concur. Motion passed.*

Reports of Special Committees

Middle School Programing Committee

Brammer provided an update that Dianna Jarema will take over chairmanship of the Middle School Programming Committee.

Competitive Events Creation/Development Committee

This committee has been dissolved.

National Chapter Award Committee

Berndtson provided a report on the National Chapter Award (NCA) Committee. A summer meeting was held to discuss a recommended timeline, additions to the PA FFA website regarding the NCA, and a survey for ag teachers regarding interest in NCA. *Motion to accept the report with an implied second. Motion passed. Bradshaw/Parks moved to concur. Motion passed.*

Chartering Committee

Brammer presented a new charter application from St. Mary's Area High School. *Everhart/Bradshaw moved to accept the charter. Motion passed. Bomgardner/Fellenbaum moved to concur. Motion passed.*

Human Resources Committee

Clark presented the report from the Human Resources Committee. Shared a recommendation to the board on hiring a full-time executive director as Brammer retires. *Motion to accept the report with an implied second. Motion passed. Flinchbaugh/Bradshaw moved to concur. Motion passed.* Human Resources Committee will now meet with finance committee to further discuss.

Leadership Conference Review Committee

Ranck shared that at this time there are no recommendations to the board from the Leadership Conference Review Committee. The committee will bring recommendations back to the December Board of Directors Meeting.

Policy Manual Revision Committee

No report.

Unfinished Business

Review - Convention & Activities Week

Brammer shared a review of convention & activities week. Brammer would like the board to consider the finances of state convention activities (contests). They are still investigating the total financial report from the state convention and activities week, and will report back to the board later.

New Business

Delegate Report Review and Recommendations

Evaluating Leadership Conferences

Flinchbaugh presented the delegate's proposal and proposed changes.

Flinchbaugh/Bradshaw moved to accept recommendation #4. Clark/Barzydlo moved to concur. SLLC will be limited to 10-12 grade students only.

Delegate Process

Everhart presented the delegate's proposal. No action is being taken at this time and a report will be brought back at the December Board of Directors Meeting.

Nominating Committee Process

Parks presented the delegate's proposal. *Parks/Everhart moved to accept **recommendation #1**. Motion passed. Bomgardner/Barzydlo moved to concur. Motion passed.*

*Parks/Bradshaw moved to accept the revised **recommendation #2**. Motion passed. Ranck/Clark moved to concur. Motion passed.*

*Parks/Everhart moved to accept the revised **recommendation #3**. Motion passed. Ranck/Bomgardner moved to concur. Motion passed.*

*Parks/Bradshaw moved to accept the revised version of **recommendation #4**. Motion passed. Clark/Barzydlo moved to concur. Motion passed.*

Parks/Butler moved to accept the recommendation that interview sessions be up to 7 minutes. Motion passed. Bomgardner/Ranck moved to concur. Motion passed.

Community Service at Conferences and Conventions

Butler presented the delegate's proposal. No action is being taken at this time and a report will be brought back at the December Board of Directors Meeting.

Alumni Relations

Bradshaw presented the delegate report on Alumni Relations. *Bradshaw/Flinchbaugh moved to forward all recommendations to the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni and Supporters. Motion passed. Fellenbaum/Ranck moved to concur. Motion passed.*

National FFA Honorary Degrees/Awards

Brammer presented the list of 5 individuals who will be receiving their National FFA Honorary Degrees and one person receiving the VIP Citation at the National FFA Convention & Expo.

Policy Change to State Officer Selection Process

Bradshaw presented a proposed policy change to the State Officer selection process. The proposal asks to change round robin interviews from 5 min to 7 min. *Bradshaw/Butler moved to accept the policy change. Motion passed. Clark/Witmer moved to concur. Motion passed. **This policy change will be brought back to the December board meeting for a second vote and official policy change.***

Steering Committee Delegation

Dr. Curry presented specific goals as created at the strategic planning meeting.

Ranck/Barzydlo moved to create a special committee comprised of the current committee chairs of each active standing and special committee, and one current state officer, to be determined. This committee is charged to identify strategic planning goals and then coordinate with the HR Committee/Management committee/FFA Board to progress through action steps with the identified goals. This committee will be chaired by Fellenbaum and will include Barzydlo, Nailor, Jarema, Berndston, Clark, Ranck, and Cambruzzi as voting members, with Brammer & Hoover as Ex-Officio non voting members. Motion passed. Butler/Parks moved to concur. Motion passed. This committee will bring a report back to the December meeting.

Good of the Order

Regional Coordinators

South Central - presented by Barkley: Regional PAAE meeting is October 9th

Eastern - presented by Frederick: Recently held a regional meeting and decided a date for Fall CDEs. Nov 5. Blue Mountain School Board was met with and is in the process of chartering a chapter.

Northern - presented by Turner: Regional PAAE meeting is October 15th. Regional star interviews are November 24th.

Western - Wallace not in attendance - Hoover stated nothing new to report.

PA FFA Foundation

Sparks provided an update. Foundation welcomed a new trustee, Jessica Wingate. Currently working on their own strategic plan goals. Their fundraising initiative this year involves Leadership programming. New sponsors: Hershey Co, Pioneer, Melhorn poultry, New Holland, Northeast Ag Ed Foundation, and Department of Agriculture. Working on promoting FFA day at the farm show. November 6th is next board meeting. There are some open seats on the board. Gretchen Dingman stepped up as a new teacher representative. Will be visiting various businesses and industries with the State Officer team later this month. Hope to have an all day golf outing in 2027. All spots are filled for this year.

Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence

No report from Chris Davis.

SAE Specialist

A written report was provided from Carole Fay.

PAAE

Nailor presented the report from PAAE. The next Ag Ed Family meeting is August 18th and will be virtual.

FFA Alumni

Nailor presented FFA Alumni written report.

Penn State Agricultural Teacher Education/Center Report

Curry presented the report. 4/6 graduates from this past spring have a job. Dr. Laura Rice will be Assistant Professor and will be taking over the intern program. Betsy Nelson is the new Administrative staff. Safety is the theme for their professional development workshops this year.

Announcements

Golden owl application is now live. Please share.

Future Board Meetings: 2025-2026

December 2, March 11, May 12 (All at the Country Inn & Suites - State College)

June 10 & 11 (PSU - Convention & Activities Week)

Other Events

FLC - October 7, 2025

Keystone Evaluations - November 8, 2025

Mid-Winter Convention - January 12, 2026

ACES - January 31-February 1, February 14-15, February 21-22, February 28-March 1, 2026

SLLC - March 22-24, 2026

State Convention & Activities Week - June 9-11, 2026

Closing Ceremonies were conducted by the State Officer Team. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Flinchbaugh
FFA State Secretary

Mike Brammer
Executive Director

CDE/LDE Committee

Report for PA FFA Association Board - August 2025

Members

<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity/Region</i>
Natalie Barkley	Board Representative - Regional Coordinator
Alex Barzydlo	Chair
Chris Davis	PDE Representative
Gretchen Dingman	Eastern Region
Valerie Fry	Northern Region
Nicole Hall	Northern Region
Dianna Jarema	South Central Region
Kaitlin Liszka	Western Region
Joanna McKelvey	Western Region
Nathan Moyer	South Central Region
Jon Seaman	PSU Representative
Adam Serfass	PAAE Representative & Eastern Region
Sarah Sparks	FFA Foundation Representative
Brandon Witmer	Northern Region

** Names in gray boxes indicate individuals required by Policy*

Following PA FFA Activities Week, it was necessary to implement the CDE/LDE Appeals Process and convene the CDE/LDE Appeals Committee to address a scoring error for the Nursery & Landscape CDE. This resulted in a change to team scores for the top 4 teams and adjustments in trip winners for both National Convention and the Big E.

A general report from the CDE/LDE Committee was given by Alex Barzydlo, Chair, at the PAAE Business Session at Summer Conference on July 10. The CDE/LDE Committee met on Thursday, July 10 during PAAE Summer Conference and held an additional meeting on Thursday, July 24 to finalize recommendations surrounding proposed changes from Chairs for competitive events.

Information to represent PA FFA for Spanish Creed at an Invitational taking place during the National FFA Convention was sent to teachers in July, following the PAAE Summer Conference, to meet the August deadlines provided by National FFA. Nathan Moyer is leading those efforts on behalf of the Committee with Mr. Brammer.

CDE/LDE Committee

Report for PA FFA Association Board - August 2025

Recommendations to PA FFA Association Board

The CDE/LDE Committee recommends the following proposed changes to CDEs/LDEs to **align with changes from National FFA** be approved:

1. Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management
 - a. Updated Tie-Breaker Order
 2. Forestry
 - a. Combine to 1 ID Practicum (equipment, disorders, products)
 - b. Team Activity to 400 Points
 - c. Rotating Practicum to 1 of 5 Choices - List from National FFA
 3. Milk Quality & Products
 - a. Add Bacterial Culture Test (100 Points) to CMT timeframe
 4. Poultry Evaluation
 - a. Further Processed Product: Boneless Scoring Criteria
 - b. Further Processed Product: Bone-In Scoring Criteria
 5. Wildlife **Environment & Natural Resources*
 - a. More information from National FFA ENR for GPS Practicum
-

The CDE/LDE Committee recommends the following proposed changes to CDEs/LDEs to **facilitate their completion at PA FFA Activities Week** be approved:

1. Ag Education CDE
 - a. Attire - Teacher attire permitted Wednesday
 - b. Topic Rotation - Align to National FFA Invitational
 - c. Updated Scope of Reflection Questions
 - d. Clarify all materials made during collaborative session will be submitted for judging
2. Environment & Natural Resources
 - a. Remove Individual Soil Component
 - b. Return to only awarding team plaques
 - c. Limit to 4 teams from each Region
 - i. Resources provided to Regional Coordinator by Jan. 1 to host a Regional CDE if desired (in person or virtual flexibility)
 - ii. Each Region may select their 4 teams as appropriate for the Region
 - iii. State ENR Chairs notified by May 1. - *Add to State Packet*

CDE/LDE Committee

Report for PA FFA Association Board - August 2025

3. Junior Prepared Public Speaking
 - a. Updated tie-breakers
 - b. Clarifies Cover Page and Authenticity Statement for Junior Prepared
 4. Small Gas Engines
 - a. Reflects clarifications for on campus contest
 - b. Updated Required Tools Checklist
-

The CDE/LDE Committee recommends the following CDEs be permitted to bring additional proposed changes to the Committee throughout the fall with a **final recommendation to the Board at the December meeting**:

1. Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management
 - a. Updated format pending but not yet determined by National FFA.
 2. Floriculture
 - a. An update email was submitted by the Chair, but with the current document attached. CDE Chair has not been reachable over summer months. Would like to confirm their intentions once school resumes.
-

The CDE/LDE Committee recommends the Board **consider the following proposals** for changes to the Senior Prepared Public Speaking LDE and make a determination for 2025-2026. The Committee feels this level of change should be dictated by the Board as a whole, not an individual committee.

** Neither option below is identical to what was proposed by the LDE Chairs.*

Option 1 - 1 Event, 16 Total Speakers

Reduce the number of speakers per Region sent to the state level from 6 to 4 and remove the stipulation regarding the number of speakers that advance from Senior Prepared Speaking and the number that advance from Conservation Speaking. Each Region will individually determine how their 4 speakers are selected.

Option 2 - 2 Events, 24 Total Speakers - 12 in each

Return to the separation of two distinct events at States with clarification that Conservation Speaking is a PA Event and does not advance to National Convention. The number of speakers sent to the state level from each region would be set at 3 for each event. The qualifications for content under Conservation Speaking would be defined with a reminder that environment and natural resources topics are permitted to be included in Senior Prepared Speaking.

CDE/LDE Committee

Report for PA FFA Association Board - August 2025

Upcoming Projects and Goals

1. Implement Policy and Procedure for new CDEs/LDEs for four previously introduced through Delegate Process (Fruit Judging, Horticulture, Hydroponics, and Spanish Creed)
 - a. Fruit Judging will be used to pilot the new Policy and Procedure
 - b. Information from Regional Coordinators on Horticulture, Hydroponics, and/or Spanish Creed events taking place in your Region at any level would be helpful
2. Continue to Update Competitive Events section of PA FFA Website with Chairs
3. Continue to refine Planning Committee Sign-Up Process for each individual CDE/LDE
4. CDE/LDE Programming for Middle School Members
5. Develop a list of “Best Practices” for Chairs and better account for areas of strength and growth to align with Policy

Submitted by Alex Barzydlo

The committee for **Evaluating All FFA Conferences** recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:

Recommendation #1: FLC and JAMS

The committee recommends that the Fall Leadership Conferences be combined with the Junior ACES for Middle Schoolers to include Middle Schoolers and Freshman at the event. These individuals would be able to attend the conference multiple times.

We are taking no action on this recommendation.

Recommendation #2: FLC Location

The committee recommends changing the location for the Fall Leadership Conference. The committee recommends the location be changed to a more centralized location to improve transportation issues. (Examples include Harrisburg, Penn State, Sheraton, etc.)

We are taking no action on this recommendation.

Recommendation #3: ACES

The committee recommends limiting Agriculture Cooperation Establishes Success (ACES) to High School Members only. This recommendation will help reduce the number of members overcrowding at the Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success conference while increasing membership at Fall Leadership Conference. The conference would continue to stay in two tracks of lower 9-10th and upper 11-12th.

We are taking no action on this recommendation.

Recommendation #4: SLLC

The committee recommends that the State Legislative Leadership Conference be limited to 10-12th grade members. This recommendation would allow the conference to be targeted to a more specific audience.

We concur with this recommendation.

We move to allow only 10th-12th grade FFA members to attend SLLC.

Further commentary:

- Each chapter should bring a maximum of 9 members to the Fall Leadership Conference. Helping with the potential crowding that may occur with the increase of interested members.*
- ACES conference should reassess the schedule to allow for more breaks between workshops to improve overall engagement from the members.*

We will take these items into consideration.

The committee on **Moving the delegate process to SLLC** recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:

Recommendation #1: Delegate Process & SLLC

The committee recommends that no change is made to the location of the delegate process, however to promote participation through creating a workshop focussed on the delegate process, facilitated during the State Legislative Leadership Conference.

Recommendation #2: Process Promotions

The committee recommends developing social media content that is posted throughout the year and displaying video content prior to convention sessions to convey the impact and benefit of being the changemakers of the organization.

Recommendation #3: Incentives

The committee recommends creating incentives for students to participate as delegates including but not limited to developing a delegate pin to be worn by members on FFA jackets, and support of delegate registration costs.

Recommendation #4: Resources

The committee also recommends improving engagement by providing delegate issue resources and research prior to convention after all delegates fill out the required documentation.

Further Commentary:

This issue should be reevaluated in five years following the growth of the delegate process. The possibility of a new conference, State Delegate Conference, was pondered but decided it has potential in the future when we achieve significant involvement or the equivalent two delegates participating per chapter.

In reviewing the committee report to move the delegate process to SLLC we would like to take more time to discuss as a team with the Delegate Process Coordinator, Abby O'Neill, and bring this committee report back with recommendations to the December Board meeting.

Evaluating the Nominating Committee Process and Policies

- **Recommendation #1: Application**

The committee recommends an additional question on the application in regards to outside of FFA involvement such as, community involvement, extracurricular, clubs, organization, employment and other leadership positions.

We concur

- **Recommendation #2: Letters of recommendations**

The committee recommends that the Nominating Committee applicant is required to submit two letters of Recommendation of their choice. Letters of recommendation include but are not limited to, teachers, coaches, administrators, community members, and employers. No letters will be accepted by family members.

We concur with the recommendation of one letter; currently there are none

- **Recommendation #3: Artificial Intelligence**

The committee recommends that all applications must be put through an artificial intelligence checker of the same standards as public speaking manuscripts. Details of this protocol will be stated along with the other commitments declared at the beginning of the application.

We recommend that there be a box to be checked at the beginning of the Nominating Committee application that confirms that both:

A. The work is the students and the students only

B. Up to 5 applications from each region may be run through an AI Checker

- **Recommendation #4: Interviews**

The committee recommends that all applicants are required to attend a virtual interview session within the selected days that are chosen by the Pennsylvania FFA Association. The interview panel will consist of one current state officer, two industry representatives, and given the option of one to two past state officers.

We recommend that up to 5 applicants from each region will move on into interviews reviewed by the assigned committee by the state officers

- **Further commentary**

Other ideas and recommendations of the committee include that other questions can be provided in the state officer candidate school manual for the interviews for the Nominating Committee applicants. The committee recommends that the online interview sessions are 10 minutes per candidate as well as that the current state officer is only providing perspective, may ask questions, and must be unbiased.

The committee requests that this be implemented for the 98th Pennsylvania FFA State Convention.

We concur with the questions provided in the state officer candidate school manual for interviews

We recommend that the interview sessions be up to 7 minutes

The committee for **Exploring possible community service events at Pennsylvania FFA Conferences & Conventions** recommends the following to the Pennsylvania FFA Association Board of Directors:

Recommendation #1: SLLC

The committee recommends adding community service to the beginning of SLLC. SLLC is the best fit because the upperclassmen and limited attendance for logistics and planning.

Recommendation #2: Location

The committee recommends for the first three years the community service to be held at the hotel to be more simplistic, and be able to gauge participation and interest.

Recommendation #3: Reevaluation

The committee recommends the board of directors reevaluate and extend the service depending on the success rate of the first three years. Giving us time to accumulate relationships and funds from sponsors.

Recommendation #4: Awards

The committee recommends adding the helping hand award which will be awarded to the chapter with the highest quantity of contributions from each region that will be awarded with a plaque. Additionally, the golden heart award will be awarded for the chapter who overall contributed the greatest amount, and will be awarded with a trophy.

Further Commentary:

An example of community service at the hotel could be a food drive where members just drop off cans and other food items.

We would like to study this proposal more and report back in December. No action at this time.

Recommendation #1: Educational Workshops

The committee recommends having a workshop at the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators (PAAE) Conference for teachers who are interested in more education on an alumni and supporters chapter.

Recommendation #2: Regional and Area Alumni and Supporters Chapters

We recommend chartering of regional and area alumni and supporters chapters. Their duties would include committees to fundraise and support at the local county levels. Networking opportunities within the region at regional competitions and the area will also be a vital component of the chapters.

Recommendation #3: Pennsylvania Alumni and Supporters Mentorship Program

We recommend creating an alumni and membership mentor program across the state to allow members to have guidance in their future career endeavors. Alumni write a biography providing their skills, location, availability, and career for FFA members to view. These biographies will be posted on the Pennsylvania FFA Website.

Recommendation #4: Annual County Alumni and Supporters Picnic

We recommend having an annual picnic in each county for alumni and supporters to mingle with FFA members so members, teachers, advisors, and alumni and supporters can build better connections and relationships. Each county will have their own interpretation of the event based on how many attendees are present.

After careful review of the delegate issue and recommendations on how FFA chapters and the State Association can improve connections and collaboration with Alumni and Supporters, we, as a team recommend the following:

Taking action on the above recommendations by forwarding these recommendations to the State FFA Alumni and Supporter group. To promote joint efforts in strengthening the bonds between our two organizations.

I move that the recommendations from the committee be forwarded to the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni and Supporters

Proposed Policy Change

After careful review of the policy concerning rounds of interviews for state officer candidates, we, as a team recommend the following:

State officer candidates are allowed only five minutes for personal one-on-one interviews with each member of the nominating committee. Due to the limited time spent in front of each member of the nominating committee members, members running for state office positions often feel overwhelmed during this process. Due to the officer candidates being moved through this round of interviews hastily, oftentimes state officer candidates are unable to answer questions fully and get caught between questions. This change in time allotted would allow for the state officer candidates to be asked more questions from the members of the nominating committee, and answer these questions. This would also allow for the nominating committee to learn more about the candidates running for a position, ensuring that the committee will have the best possible information for their deliberation.

As the Policy currently reads reads on Page 23, Section V.a.2 lines 25-28

25- There will be follow-up questions based on comments from the candidates speech

26- and application. These questions will be conducted with the entire committee one-on-one in a round

27- robin style with each member of the nominating committee spending five minutes with each
28- candidate.

The proposed policy, effecting time spent in the interviews on line 27

25- There will be follow-up questions based on comments from the candidates speech

26- and application. These questions will be conducted with the entire committee one-on-one in a round

27- robin style with each member of the nominating committee spending seven minutes with each

28- candidate.

I move to amend policy number V.a.2 by striking out five minutes on line 27 and inserting seven minutes.

SAE Specialist Report to the FFA Board

August 6, 2025

Good Afternoon!

- I am excited to be able to work with FFA Advisors and members, again this year as SAE Specialist! This position continues to be brought to you by the Center for Professional and Personnel Development at PSU, the Ag Ed Commission and PAEE.
- I am also excited with the new/proposed Living to Serve Award, this award will provide recognition to our FFA members who serve vital roles in all of our communities. I have reached out to AET for application and rubric information. I will offer some zoom sessions for advisors and candidates to help them to navigate the application process, this year. Kudos to Lacy Miles for spearheading this award!
- I joined an SAE For All Update Zoom meeting, recently, where participants could share their plans for SAE for All and how SAE for All is impacting award applications.
- I learned a couple of things that will be interesting for this group: Foundational SAE hours will not count in National Proficiency applications or American Degree applications starting in 2027. It's good for students to have Foundational SAE and use that project to determine Immersion SAE projects. Locally, completion of Foundational SAE projects can be recognized by a certificate, etc. similar to other degrees and awards.
- There are updates/changes on the horizon for National FFA Awards, this link will give you some insight on updates in the next 3 years.

<https://www.ffa.org/awards-recognition-updates/>

- **Farm Show Update**

The 2026 Premium book is posted!

<https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/farmshow/documents/pafarmshow/exhibit/rules-regulations/documents/departments%202026%20-%20agricultural%20education.pdf>

New this year: there are several categories that will recognize the country's 250th anniversary with special ribbons. All Farm Show entries will be online, this year. Read the instructions posted there and in the premium book for details.

- **2025 American FFA Degree Approved Candidate List posted Aug 15**

The list of officially accepted 2025 American FFA Degree Candidates will be posted to the American FFA Degree webpage of FFA.org on August 15. The following week,

congratulations messages with links to the orientation packets will be sent to the candidate, advisor and parent email addresses provided by each candidate.

- **2026 American FFA Degree Review Process**

In 2026, all American FFA degree applications submitted Jan. 1 - March 15 that do not pass the national-level review will have one revision opportunity. All applications submitted March 16-June 15 that do not pass national review will be rejected, with no revision opportunity provided.

I am going to ask for Feb 1 to be our due date for American Degree applications to be submitted for PA review. That will give me until March 15 to review and submit the to N. FFA for their review.

- SAE For All committee:

PAAE had a round table discussion session: Brandon and I represented the SAE For All session. The suggestion was made, there, to offer zoom sessions for teachers who have SAE For All questions. I am going to send a survey to see the best times/days for teachers to log in to those sessions.

Teachers also liked the idea of having someone at each leadership event in the state where teachers or FFA members could stop in to get help with: FFA questions/SAE questions/degree and awards help, etc. I can do that, just let me know when events will be in your area/region and I will try to be there or have someone who will be available.

Keystone Degrees/Stars

I will work with the State Star application/interview process this year. The Living to Serve Award interviews will be held at the same time. Since Star candidates will be able to compete for Living to Serve AND Star, I will be mindful of candidates who may apply for both when I schedule interviews and judges. State due dates/interviews will align with last year.

If you know of a new Ag teacher in your area, please let me know. When I get their name, I have been reaching out to them and starting their AET account.

On another note: in meetings/at PAAE, there is concern that schools/students are not using AET to it's full potential. Just like with students, teachers will use something that is "required" or strongly suggested... Keystone Degrees and other degrees/awards could require Foundational SAE projects, POA can be completed in AET, Rosters can be submitted through AET, Teacher journals can be kept in AET. Or, we can let the schools pay for it in their dues and let them decide if they use it or not.

Looking forward to working with everyone, again, this year!

Carole



**Report for
Pennsylvania FFA Board of Directors
August 6, 2025**

Summer Conference

We hosted our annual conference at Otto-Eldred High School in early July, welcoming nearly 80 agriculture educators, preservice teachers, and supporters. Attendees participated in a variety of high-quality professional development sessions, engaged in meaningful committee discussions, and enjoyed valuable networking opportunities with colleagues from across the state. Additionally, a scholarship auction was held, raising funds to support future agricultural education initiatives.

WINNERS!!

2025 NAAE Region VI Award Winners - The 2025 NAAE Award winners have been announced. Congratulations to the following PAAE members and supporters for their selection as NAAE Region VI Award Winners!

- Outstanding Agriculture Teacher - Michael Clark
- Outstanding Service - Dr. Daniel Foster
- Visionary Impact - Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Additionally, we want to congratulate Erica Teagarden for being selected as a NAAE Student Teaching Scholarship award recipient. Congratulations to all of these award winners! We look forward to celebrating them in Nashville at NAAE Convention this December.

Ag Ed Family Meeting

At the start of the summer conference, we held an Ag Ed Family Meeting focused on evaluating our program's strengths and areas for growth, while envisioning its future. Through hours of thoughtful discussion, attendees united around a shared goal: to support the association during its upcoming transition and to continue exploring innovative strategies for expanding staffing to strengthen Pennsylvania Agricultural Education. Meetings and discussions will continue into the future.



Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association
405 East Sunbury Street
Millerstown PA 17062
717.589.3116 x 1209

August 6, 2025

FFA Jackets

- Jacket information will be out to teachers by August 15.
Important deadlines:
Sponsorship HARD deadline is October 31 (postmarked or PayPal)
Google form completed to order jackets-November 14
Spreadsheet verification by November 25

New Charters

- Seven new charters were gifted either a chapter set of jackets or a set of station markers from in honor of Ron and Renee Frederick at the Mid-Winter Convention and State FFA Convention.

Washington Leadership Conference

- We supported 7 full scholarships for students to attend the Washington Leadership Conference this summer.

Banquet Grants

- Provided 20 scholarships at \$500 each

Additional Sponsorships

- Gold Toe SOCS
- Teach Ag Essay Contest
- FFA Knowledge CDE
- State Officer Scholarships
- PAAE - Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Service Awards

Membership Stats

- Currently have 15,832 members in 29 chartered chapters.



Pennsylvania FFA Foundation

 P.O.Box157 East Berlin, PA17316

 www.paffa.org

 ssparks@paffafoundation.org

August 6, 2025 – Reporting to the PA FFA Association

- Recent Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Activity
 - Welcome new trustees: Jessica Wingate
- Strategic Planning – continued efforts this year to reach the 4 goals
 - Foundation Identity and Outreach
 - Fundraising and Endowment Growth
 - Strengthen Relationships with Supporting Organizations
 - Trustee Recruitment and Retention
- Fundraising Initiative – 25/26 Leadership Support
 - Committed: \$40,000
 - Hershey Company – grant
 - Pioneer / Corteva – grant
 - Melhorn Poultry – sponsorship
 - New Holland – sponsorship
 - Northeast Ag Ed Foundation – grant
 - PDA – grant line in state budget
- Farm Show and MidWinter Convention
 - New! FFA Day at the Farm Show 2026
 - Career Expo – Jan 12, 2026 @ 10-1
- Next Board of Trustees Meeting – November 6, 2025
- BI Visits: Fall Tour
 - Farm Credit, PennAg, PFB, PDA, Forestry Association, Bender Farm, Martin's (chips), Cargill Protein of Camp Hill, Lancaster Farming
- APD Concessions – August 12-14, 2025
- Golf Outing – September 24, 2025 – Fairview Golf Course

