

BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

BUILDING THE FUTURE
www.paffa.state.pa.us

Littlestown FFA Restores 1963 Allis-Chalmers

Littlestown FFA Chapter

LITTLESTOWN, Pa. — On May 28, the Littlestown FFA unveiled their newly restored 1963 Allis-Chalmers D-17 tractor at their annual banquet. The project started in March of 2013 when assistant principal Christopher Fultz asked Littlestown FFA advisor Jesse Brant what he wanted to do with extra money from the Carl Perkins Grant the Littlestown School District received.

Brant suggested the chapter restore a tractor. Fultz agreed to the idea.

In May 2013, the tractor arrived. During the 2013-14 school year, four Littlestown FFA members worked after school one night a week on the tractor project. The students were Justin Redman, William Eckard, Taylor Hahn, and Nick Krans. This was a joint venture between the Littlestown FFA members as well as Jody Brown, a Littlestown FFA alumni who was the lead technician, and Fied Dickmeyer, owner of Wertz Farm Equipment of Glen Rock, Pa. Dickmeyer and Brown provided technical assistance to the students to help complete the project. Ben Stonestorfer, another Lit-



The Littlestown FFA chapter unveiled the restored Allis-Chalmers tractor at its May FFA banquet. It was also featured on RFD-TV this month.

tlestown FFA alumni, helped the students complete the project.

To complete the project many parts needed to be replaced, such as

gaskets, clutch, brakes, seals, fenders, wheels, and muffler.

Several of the students in the agriculture classes never thought the



The Allis Chalmers D-17 tractor before its restoration.

project would be completed. One claimed it wouldn't be done until the year 2017. To these students' surprise, it was completed and un-

Submitted photo

A New Team, New Possibilities

MATTHEW BRAKE

Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — At the third general session of the Pennsylvania FFA State Activities week, the 2014-15 Pennsylvania FFA State Officer Team was announced. The eight-member nominating committee selected seven individuals to serve as this year's state officers. The state delegates approved their recommendations.

The 2014-15 FFA officer team is as follows.

President Katie McLaughlin
 Katie McLaughlin is from the Juniata FFA Chapter. Her Supervised Agricultural Experience, or SAE, is beef breeding. She competed in several Career Development Events, or CDE, at the State Convention. McLaughlin competed in the state creed speaking, junior prepared, senior prepared, and extemporaneous public speaking events, along with job interview and most evaluation and technology. She advanced to the national convention in job interview. McLaughlin said she is excited about "spreading agriculture awareness and making a difference in the lives of others" during her time as a state officer.

Vice President Tony Rice
 Serving as the vice president, Tony Rice is from the Mid-West Chapter. At past State Conventions he competed in the public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and FFA knowl-

edge CDEs. Rice's SAE projects included beef production and farm employment. Rice is looking forward to meeting all of the unique members that the organization has.

Secretary Victoria Herr
 This year's secretary comes from the Manor chapter at Penn Manor High School. Victoria Herr has competed in the poultry evaluation, meat evaluation and technology, and junior prepared public speaking CDEs. She

represented Pennsylvania at the national convention for both poultry evaluation and the meat evaluation CDEs. Her SAE projects were raising dairy beef and market swine. "Having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students I meet and growing personally through my experiences" are some of Herr's goals for the year.

Treasurer Lisa Boltz
 The treasurer for the year is Lisa

Boltz. She is from the Northern Lebanon FFA Chapter. Her SAE project was working with her horses. She competed in the horse evaluation and parliamentary procedure CDEs at State Convention. Boltz is excited to meet the members of the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

Sentinel Mara Tate
 Mara Tate was elected to serve as the sentinel for this year. She comes from the Athens FFA chapter. Tate's

SAE was gardening and quilting entrepreneurship. At the state convention she competed in the land use and management CDE. She is looking forward to "meeting as many members as possible that make up our association and to give back to an organization that has truly helped me grow into the person I am today."

Chaplain Grant Carlton
 The Chaplain, Grant Carlton, is from the Greenwood FFA. Grant competed in the ag issues, marketing plan, and parliamentary procedure CDEs at states, and advanced to Nationals in the parliamentary procedure CDE. Carlton's SAE is in the area of agriculture services. Carlton is ready to meet FFA members and assist them to become premier leaders.

Reporter Matthew Brake
 Matthew Brake is from the Conococheague FFA chapter at the James Buchanan High School. One of his SAE projects was dairy farm employment at his family's dairy farm. His second SAE was obtaining his pilot's license. Brake participated in the farm business management, ag issues, and ag sales CDEs. He represented Pennsylvania at the National Convention for all three. Brake is eager to serve such a wonderful student-lead organization and be able to network with students, teachers, and business professionals.



The 2014-15 Pennsylvania FFA state officer team was announced on June 12 at the Eisenhower Auditorium at Penn State. Team members are, from left, Katie McLaughlin, president; Lisa Boltz, treasurer; Matthew Brake, reporter; Mara Tate, sentinel; Victoria Herr, secretary; Grant Carlton, chaplain; and Tony Rice, vice president.

FFA Officers Attend the PAEE Annual Conference

TONY RICE

Pennsylvania FFA State Vice President

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, Pa. — For most teachers, summer is a time where they have a chance to relax and recharge for the coming school year. Yet, for agricultural education teachers, visiting students' homes and reviewing their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects, supervising summer FFA meetings, and attending the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators (PAEE) annual confer-

ence define summer. On July 8-10, more than 75 agricultural advisers registered for the 2014 conference and the Pennsylvania State FFA officers attended to help.

The general purpose of the conference is to provide the teachers with workshops on new curriculum ideas that they can relay to their students when teaching. Workshops ranged from Tree and Shrub Identification to Safe Tractor Driving to Butterfly Farming. The wide variety of workshops is reflective of the ever-expanding

agricultural community and industry. Diversity in student projects and backgrounds requires teachers to have a well-rounded knowledge of the entire agricultural industry.

On Wednesday of the conference, PAEE members had a chance to build upon their knowledge by participating in various tours in Western Pennsylvania. Some of the locations included the Homer City Coal Plant, a farm with a methane digester, WyoTech College, several greenhouses, and a wind turbine. In-depth tours

gave the teachers a real-world experience in several new technological advances in agriculture.

Other highlights of the conference included business meetings and the annual awards banquet. Teachers who excelled in the classroom during the past year were recognized, as were retiring teachers. Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture George Gieg was recognized for his significant contributions to the PAEE organization. The banquet was followed up with a benefit auction.