



# BLUE AND GOLD

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Pennsylvania  
FFA Happenings

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The 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo was held Oct. 30-Nov. 2 in Indianapolis.

## State FFA Competes for Pennsylvania at the 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo

Once a year, nearly 70,000 FFA members, advisers and guests gather in Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention and Expo.

Members from Pennsylvania take a road trip across the countryside to interact with other members from the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

While visiting, students can interact with the countless industry representatives and displays, along with the many colleges that wish to reach the students of FFA.

Trying to see everything there is to offer at the national FFA convention is a daunting task in itself.

Ninety-eight students who make this trip are our top-placing teams or individuals at the state level, ready to compete against the nation's best. Competing in 27 different events, our students can either place bronze, silver or gold nationally.

This year our bronze-placing teams and individuals were: Garden Spot FFA, Ag Issues Forum; Cumberland Valley, Agronomy and Marketing Plan; Tyrone, Farm Business Management; Dover, Horse Evaluation; Wilmington, Livestock Evaluation; Oley Valley, Meats Evaluation; Cowanesque Valley, Poultry; Emma O'Toole from the West Perry chapter, Creed Speaking; Timber

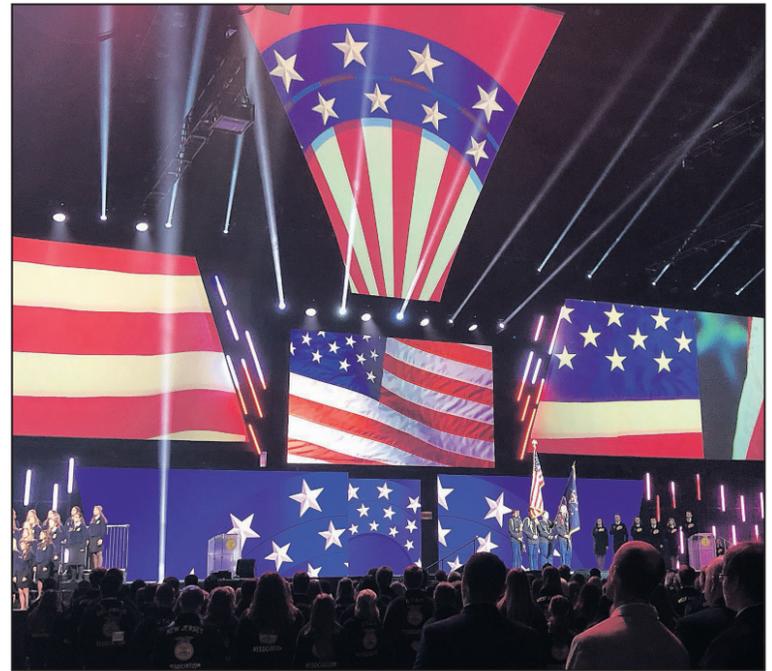


Thebes from the West Perry chapter, Extemporaneous Speaking; and Alayna Harrell from the Little Dutchmen chapter, Prepared Speaking.

Pennsylvania teams and individuals placing silver were: Cumberland Valley, Ag Communications; Manheim, Ag Sales; Central Mountain, Ag Mech/Tech; Blue Juniata, Conduct of Chapter Meetings; Hannah Martin from the Big Spring chapter, Employment Skills; Kutztown, Floriculture; Troy, Milk Quality and Products; Manor, Nursery and Landscape; Greenwood, Parliamentary Procedure; Upper Bucks, Veterinary Science; and Kara Frantz and Curren Shesniak from the Conrad Weiser chapter, Agriscience.

Our gold-placing teams and individuals were: Manor, Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation; Kathryn Longnecker from Central Cove FFA, Dairy Cattle Handlers; Oley Valley, Food Science and Technology; Grand Canyon, Forestry; Karly Diebold from the Tyrone FFA, Agriscience; Mikara Anderson from Southern Huntingdon FFA, Agriscience; and Hayleigh Monroe from Conrad Weiser FFA, Agriscience.

We would like to congratulate all participants for their hard work and dedication to represent Pennsylvania proudly at the 92nd National FFA Convention and Expo.



Pennsylvania FFA members received their American degrees at the event.

## Connecting with Members Through Chapter Visits

As Pennsylvania FFA state officers, our goal is to serve our nearly 13,000 members the best that we possibly can. With only seven of us, it is hard to interact with all the members throughout the commonwealth at times.

One of the responsibilities as a state officer is that we conduct chapter visits throughout the fall, winter and spring. Out of 148 chapters in Pennsylvania, we try to reach as many as possible so we can interact with our members on a more personal level.

During our chapter visits at least two officers will take over the adviser's classes for the school day. Our visits are fun as well as educational.

This might be the only chance that we get to interact with some of our members throughout the year, so we make sure to use our time wisely.

With a slew of workshops in hand, we enter the class in the morning and get the

students up and out of their seats doing fun activities that are based around leadership development and FFA.

This is also when we try to build personal connections with our membership. Pennsylvania FFA prides itself on being a student-led organization that listens to its membership's priorities.

So on these visits when we talk to our members, we can get suggestions to help us change our organization for the better. The connections that we make with the students can also give guidance to many members inside our organization and create friendships that would've never been possible.

Our chapter visit season is one of the most important things that we plan as a state officer team.

This is the best way to connect with members — the most important part of the organization — and hear their suggestions, create friendships and enhance their leadership skills ... all in just one day.

## Officers Corner: What Does This Year of Service to PA FFA Mean to You?

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Fulfilling a state office position has been the most wonderful and most challenging time in my life.

As a team, we Pennsylvania officers are tasked with entertaining the public while educating them on agricultural topics. As an officer, you are expected to present yourself and uphold a standard.

Visiting schools and FFA chapters fills me with fear and excitement. While we are in those chapters, I fear that I will fail them or not meet their standards.

Our world is dependent on agriculture, and if I fail these members, I fail the future of agriculture.

My time as a state officer is already a quarter completed and I will say that I do not know where the time has gone. I can still feel my



TIMBER THEBES

heart pounding as I awaited the slate of officers to be unveiled at the 2019 State Convention.

It was only a couple of years ago that I was sitting within the sea of blue corduroy jackets, idolizing the state officers before me. I had a fondness for all that they accomplished and how beautifully they completed

everything.

I hold that inborn fondness for agriculture and my world has been changed. I see the world through new eyes.

I, Timber Thebes, will serve agriculture and its future, in all forms, through all days, because that is what being a state officer means to me.

*Timber Thebes is the Pennsylvania FFA state president.*