



BLUE AND GOLD

Unlimited

Pennsylvania
FFA Happenings
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The Second Half

ROARKE MILLER
Pennsylvania FFA Sentinel

The first six months serving the Pennsylvania FFA Association has brought so much to our team. From the feeling when our names got announced at the third and final session of the 89th Pennsylvania FFA State Convention and Activities Week, to our weekends spent with about 1,500 FFA members at the 2019 ACES conference.

In those first six months, we have learned how we can better serve the association and its members and have gotten to witness first-hand what our members can accomplish when they set their minds to something. Our team has completed over 100 chapter visits that have taken us from Erie down into Philadelphia. Each member that I have come into contact with has taught me what it means to be a better person.

Fall Leadership Conference taught us that it is the history that shapes how we move forward. Mid-Winter convention taught us, "If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." And, ACES taught us that no matter where we come from, all it takes is love to move forward.

Personally, I have learned that there are unlimited opportunities for us in the agricultural industry. I have learned that each and every member is full of amazing ideas as to what our organization can become. I've seen first-hand that our generation is prepared to shape the future.

So what does that leave for the remaining six months of our term?

I hope it means more. More hands to shake. More memories with my team. More experiences with our awesome members. More opportu-



Roarke Miller, Sentinel of Pennsylvania FFA Association.

nities to impact others. And more love for an organization that impacts almost 670,000 students nationwide.

We are excited to work alongside six outstanding Second Year Scholars

to put on our State Legislative Leadership Conference. This conference is one that I am particularly excited for. It allows the attendees to dive deep into our legislative process and dissect and amend current legislation in the Pennsylvania House and Senate. Additionally, members have the opportunity to discuss those bills with their legislators at our legislative breakfast that we host on the final day of the conference.

Following SLLC, we start our preparation for the 90th annual Pennsylvania FFA State Convention and Activities Week. But for my team, that means it will be time to pass the reigns to seven, new, bright minded individuals for the next year.

While there are many words to finish the statement, "Unlimited _____", one that will not work is time. FFA has been a huge part of shaping who I am as a person. As I grew, time seemed to go faster and faster. At this point, I would give anything to be a first-year member again. To compete in the Creed contest. To be able to experience many "firsts." But as my time as an officer and an FFA member comes to a close, I realize how big of an impact the blue and gold has had on my life.

Pennsylvania FFA, thank you for being the best and allowing me to serve as the 2018-2019 Pennsylvania FFA state sentinel. I'm excited to see where the remaining months in the FFA jacket will lead.

Editor's note: Roarke Miller is currently serving as the Pennsylvania FFA Association's Sentinel.

FFA Chapter Fights Hunger

Pennsylvania FFA Association

The Greenwood FFA and the Perry Valley Grange will be packaging around 50,000 meals through an organization known as "Meals of Hope" for their community.

The event will take place at Greenwood Middle-High School on March 1 from 5p.m. to 9p.m. The evening will be split into two shifts, one at 5-7p.m. and the second at 7-9p.m. All the meals will be packaged at the high school by volunteers, and will be donated to the Perry and Juniata County food banks. The Grange will provide the volunteers with a light supper. The goal is to reach 50,000 meals, for which both organizations have been working to raise \$12,500 to undertake. Through the generosity of community members and various school fundraisers, which included a sandwich and pie sale, Greenwood FFA is getting closer to the goal. Funds that are received prior to Feb. 20 will be used to secure additional meals. Funds received afterward will be donated directly to the food banks.

Doug Bonsall of the Perry Valley Grange believes that it "helps those in need, but also provides an outlet for people to contribute to the community." In past years, the Greenwood FFA and the Perry Valley Grange have hosted similar "hunger events" that engage and educate community members about the issue of hunger. The hunger banquet is a favorite, where community members are invited to have dinner for the evening, but do not know what they will be dining on. Some attendees receive full three-course meal, while others only receive rice and beans for dinner. The event opens up a discussion on food insecurity, and illustrates the severity of how those issues affect the community.

Perry Valley Grange will also be observing its centennial anniversary during the event. For more information contact Krista Pontius at 717-385-6015 or kpontius@greenwoods.org.

The Importance of FFA to Tyrone Area Students

KAYLEE UPDIKE
Tyrone FFA Reporter

FFA is much more than the farming stereotype. Students who have not been enrolled in an agricultural class or have limited knowledge about agriculture might think that same idea about FFA members.

They may think that they are all going to be farmers to produce our much-needed food supply.

Think again. Yes, some members may return to farms to provide our food, but many will not.

"There are more than 300 jobs related to agriculture, and farming is just one," said a report by AgriGrowth.

"The industry has been around for thousands of years and, according to Ag Day, approximately 22 million Americans are involved in agriculture-related industries."

FFA members may enter into careers of agribusiness, animal systems, environmental service, food products and processing, natural resources, plant systems, and structural and technical systems.

According to the latest UN projections, world population will rise from 6.8 billion today to 9.1 billion in 2050.

There are thousands of jobs provided by the agricultural industry and FFA links students to that job knowledge.

FFA helps shape students into leaders that career fields are looking for.

FFA members are taught to interact with other students, community and officials at conferences.

Although seeming cliché, students learn to be better leaders of the future.

They are also being taught that no matter what stage they are in within in their lives, they are not alone. The program is there for them to fall back on.

We are no longer just a chapter; we are a family to aid in the success of others.

Students get the opportunity to help others even without the aid of an adviser.

The classroom is seen as a therapeutic place and safe for anyone who has something to say.



Tyrone FFA members participate in an outdoor activity.

Overall, the most reassuring part of the chapter is that anyone fits in.

School life can be hard, but the amount of variety in our chapter allows for everyone to work.

"FFA isn't just a club, but a family that sticks together," said sophomore member McKenna Chronister.

As seen by the freshman and new students of the program; they now feel welcome with open arms and feel a part of the chapter.

"Although I am a first-year member of FFA; I really have to come to enjoy it. We get to help each other, interact with the community and make new friends. I definitely will be back next year," said Morgan Garman, sophomore member.

Each student has their own impact, a portion to this chapter and are valued for their unique characteristics.

This is what makes our FFAfamily so special!



A 'selfie' of the group from at the second weekend of ACES held at the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton hotel with state Vice President Jacob Kinzer.

ACES in Review

Pennsylvania FFA Association

The final weekend of the ACES conference—Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success—is today, Feb. 16. The conference hosted by Pennsylvania FFA Association is a three-weekend event that offers new FFA members their first taste of what the association is all about, while still providing a worthwhile and educational time to older members.

Held at the Harrisburg/Hershey Sheraton, FFA members arrive Saturday morning, and spend the first half of the day going through leadership workshops held by state officers, former state officers, and different agricultural representatives, such as Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the Penn State Teach Ag! Avengers. The workshops this year covered topics like how to deal with issues and problems you might encounter, "elevator speeches", mini Ag labs, how a first impression can impact someone and advocating for your agricultural story. During weekend two, Secretary of

Agriculture Russel Redding spoke to the members and advisors gathered. The conference also, hosted a dance for members and the night is concluded with reflections from the state officers, which aims to tie together what was learned from the workshops with thinking points, which energizes the students as they prepare for the end of the conference.

On the final day of the conference there was a time of inspiration. Pennsylvania FFA members took part in a community service activity. Members designed placemats which will be distributed by Meals on Wheels in the central Pennsylvania area. The placemats featured the members' artwork, as well as agricultural facts about Pennsylvania.

The ACES conference was attended by approximately 1,450 FFA members over three weekends, and continues to provide an incredible FFA experience for the members who attend.