



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

INITIATE, CREATE, ILLUMINATE

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Industry Tours Showcase Ag Diversity

THOMAS GABEL

Pennsylvania FFA State Vice President

Pennsylvania's agricultural industry has a wide range of career options as showcased in a recent state officer industry tour. The state officer team was able to learn about what skills are required for each of these businesses.

The team started its tour with a visit to Brookside Sales in Bethel Park. Ed Norman discussed the company's history and its product lines. The team was able to see several demonstrations about new and innovative car lubricants. The day concluded with Norman taking the state officers to a Pittsburgh Pirates game. Several team members met Pirates manager Clint Hurdle.

A visit with long time FFA supporters Bill and Nancy Campbell of Hoss's Steak and Sea House showcased a tour of their meat processing facility and a behind-the-scenes look at their brewery,



FFA state officers enjoyed a dinner with Robert Boulware of Seneca Resources.

Marzoni's. The team also visited with Cargill touring its meat processing plant.

The officers started another day at Mid-Penn Bank learning about ag lending and bank operations. Later, the team visited with Plainville Farms in New Oxford, which included learning more about turkeys and seeing the

company's processing plant. The evening concluded with a dinner with Robert Boulware of Seneca Resources and a discussion about the natural gas industry.

Up next was a handful of meetings at the Adams County Extension Office. The morning included discussions about opportunities available through Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service



The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team toured the Cargill Protein meat processing plant.

Agency and conservation.

Later, at Wengers of Myerstown, seeing countless parts organized efficiently really showed how that business has stayed successful.

On the last day of visits, the team toured the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School at New Bolton Center. There, they learned more about the changing

technology in veterinary medicine and science. They also saw many different facilities and even watched a horse running on the treadmill. The week concluded with a stop at Chester Downs where the team met one of the nation's top drivers, and even got to see horse racing up close and personal as they rode in the start car.

Lawrence County Chapter to Be Chartered at Convention

KELSEY STEWART

Pennsylvania FFA State Chaplain

The Pennsylvania FFA Association will present its third charter of the year at the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention and Activities Week in June. At January's Mid-Winter Convention, Honesdale and Avella received their charters. Lawrence County Career and Technical Center will receive its charter at the state convention.

A school must offer continuous agricultural education courses to charter an FFA chapter. A teacher should contact the Pennsylvania FFA Association's executive secretary, who will work with the chapter to verify their qualifications. The board of directors has to approve the chapter.

FFA does not exist without agricultural education. The National FFA Organization describes the education of students with three circles. The first circle is classroom instruction. This is important because the classroom is where students learn all of the foundational information that they will need for later in life. Whether learning how to arc weld, sow seeds or splint a dog's leg, agricultural educators teach students a vast array of skills so that students are more marketable when competing for jobs.

The second circle in the model is supervised agricultural experiences. SAEs are hands on projects in which students try different career opportunities and develop skills within an industry. They are given the chance to apply occupational and academic skills in a workplace environment. Through these strategies, students take what they are learning in the classroom and apply that knowledge to transition into a world of college and/or careers.

The final circle is FFA leadership. The mission statement of National FFA is, "The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education." The FFA strives to have agriculturally literate students, as well as well-rounded individuals who can advocate for the industry. Through conferences, chapter visit workshops and competitions, members are given opportunities to initiate their potential, create their vision of tomorrow and illuminate the world with their passion.

With the chartering of Lawrence County Career and Technical Center, Pennsylvania has 151 chartered programs. The association's numbers have increased in the past several years.

For those interested in seeing agriculture education in their school district, the association says the first step is generate community support including local businesses and legislators. Residents should attend school board meetings. With time and persistence, it is possible to charter a local FFA chapter and bring agricultural education into a school.

Want to Be a State Officer?

THOMAS GABEL

Pennsylvania FFA State Vice President

Four regional State Officer Candidacy Schools were offered to students interested in running for state officer. At SOCS, students learn about the interview process and officer expectations.

To qualify, an FFA member must be a high school graduate and have earned the Keystone Degree.

Potential candidates will submit an application to the nominating committee for review before the Pennsylvania FFA State Convention and State Activities Week.

The 12-member nominating committee is comprised of eight FFA members, two from each FFA region, and four non-voting adult consultants. The state FFA officers are elected by their peers.

In the weeks leading up to state convention, candidates can attend Gold Toe SOCS, an event organized by the

Pennsylvania FFA Alumni, for additional advice and visit with other the state officer candidates.

At convention, candidates will take an FFA knowledge exam. In the first round of interviews, they will have five minutes to present an opening statement to the nominating committee. The next phase is round robin interviews where they will meet with individually with nominating committee members. For the second round, each candidate will be presented a topic and then receive five minutes to prepare their thoughts and present to the committee.

After the three rounds, the committee will decide if an additional round of interviews or callbacks are needed.

The committee will deliberate and present the new state officer team at the final session at convention.

A new journey will begin for seven officers who will serve the state association and its membership for the year.

Looking for Past Pennsylvania FFA State Officers

Calling all past Pennsylvania FFA state officers who finished their year of service in the years ending with a three or eight. This year would be a reunion year for you. Not sure what year you served? Check out the past state officer listing on our website at <http://www.paffa.org> Click on Association and then State Officers. These officers are invited to attend the 7 p.m. ses-

sion of the 89th Pennsylvania FFA Convention on June 13. The session will be at the Bryce Jordan Center at the Pennsylvania State University at University Park.

Please contact Mike Brammer if you can attend or have additional questions at mbrammer@paffa.org or 717-705-9551.

National FFA Presents Bill to Amend Federal Charter on House Floor

INDIANAPOLIS — A new bill amending the charter of the National FFA Organization was introduced in the House on April 24 by Reps. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., and Jim Langevin, D-R.I. Sens. Todd Young, R-Ind., Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., James Lankford, R-Okla., and Doug Jones, D-Ala., introduced legislation in the Senate in February.

The charter, which originally passed as Public Law 81-740 in the 1950s, publicly acknowledges the role FFA plays as an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The most recent version of the FFA federal charter, Public Law 105-225, passed in 1998 as a technical revision. The FFA charter also specifies that the U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set the direction for National FFA as a service to state and local agricultural programs.

H.R. 5595, which was forwarded to the House Judiciary Committee, seeks to make some changes to Public Law 105-225 as requested by the National FFA Organization and the U.S. Department of Education.

The National FFA Organization believes the revised

federal charter will provide needed flexibility for its board of directors and allow the organization to maintain strong ties with the industry of agriculture. The revised charter grants the board power to appoint the chair and the National FFA Advisor, and provides that the FFA board consist of individuals representing education, agriculture, food and natural resources. This involvement will guarantee the relevance of agricultural education in our nation's schools and prepare students to fill the 235 unique careers in agriculture.

Another proposed revision allows the organization to consider an expansion of the number of national officers representing the organization's growing membership, should the need be realized.

"The amendments set the stage for FFA in the 21st Century and allows us to bring FFA and our operations into the future," said Mark Poeschl, CEO of the National FFA Organization.

National FFA Organization