



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

ACTIVATE: Purpose-Passion-Potential

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Opportunity Knocks at Battlefield FFA



**Chapter
Spotlight**

JILL PALMER
Pa. FFA State Reporter

Gettysburg is home to many historical sites from days gone by, including the location of the Battlefield FFA Chapter. With 52 members, this FFA chapter is leaving its mark on the agricultural industry.

This FFA chapter offers a variety of coursework like animal science, horticulture and welding. Classwork isn't just about papers being due or learning through a textbook;

it's about hands-on work and real life experience that is preparing these young students for their future. If you love vet science, be fully prepared to dissect an entire cow. If you love working in the greenhouse, be ready for that big spring sale that this chapter operates.

Opportunity also knocks for these students in their blue and gold jackets. As the students work hard in their classes and log into their Supervised Agriculture Experience, or SAE, they begin to see that hard work pays off and find a few more awards sitting on the shelf.

Two members of Battlefield FFA received their keystone degree, the highest award bestowed to a member in the state of Pennsylvania, at the 2017 Pennsylvania FFA mid-winter convention held during the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Eight other members received their FFA jackets through the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Jacket Campaign.

At the National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, one member received her American Degree. This degree is the FFA's most prestigious as less than one percent of FFA members in the country receive it.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture are familiar to this FFA chapter as one of its past members holds a unique role.

He grew up in Gettysburg, was a Battlefield FFA member, keystone degree recipient, and even a state officer after graduation. He is Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding.

The secretary prides himself on sticking to his roots in the Battlefield FFA and is a lifelong supporter of the state association as he works diligently to serve not only FFA members but also the state.

Whether it is the exceptional list of members in this chapter or the coursework, these members are still



Battlefield FFA members gather around the Nittany Lion at last year's state competition.

striving to better their community and themselves.

"When I first joined FFA, I never dreamed that I would be the upcoming vice-president of our chapter. FFA has helped my establish my goals and reach them. It isn't always easy, but the support system within my chapter is one like no other. I see them as not friends or fellow members. I see them as family," Battlefield member Kenzie Easter said,

Bree Arentz also said, "The FFA jacket has helped me make so many new friends. I find myself talking

to new people at each and every conference and competition that I go to. At national convention, I met so many people from all around the United States. Each conversation that we share, I gain more insight on what chapters from around the USA are like compared to mine." Communication, diligence, loyalty and laughter are all qualities chapters strive to have, and Battlefield is leaving their legacy as they activate purpose, passion, and potential in all who come across their paths.



submitted photos

Battlefield FFA members pose at the National FFA Convention.

Stationed Together, Forever

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

To sit here and say that this year is almost over seems so bittersweet, and so unbelievable at the same time. Our team is sad to see the end approaching, but we are looking forward to many more bright and adventurous years in the agriculture industry. Saying goodbye to something that has made who you are, seen you at your best and at your worst, and has given you the most remarkable journey of your life is never easy. However, like they say, when one door closes another door opens.

To you, our dedicated



JILL PALMER

Lancaster Farming readers, we want to say thank you. In the spirit of gratefulness and love, we would each like to leave

you with one final message.

"This year has been a year to remember with the experiences I would not have had outside of this blue corduroy jacket. I would like to thank all of those who have followed our team this year and support agriculture and the Blue and Gold not only in our state, but the nation," — Tricia Hojnowski, State Chaplain

State Sentinel Garrett Jenkins once said, "Whatever

your dreams may be, put your heart into it," and he couldn't be more correct. His final message to all of our readers: "Work hard with passion and determination, and anything is possible. Always remember where you came from and who helped you get there. Even in life's most unforgiving times, find something to be proud of."

She's all about adventure, and loves to take them in her Subaru if possible — State Treasurer Maddy Buss. When she was asked what her final message would be to all of you, our dedicated readers, she simply said, "Never forget where you come from. In life, we will all go on amazing journeys and chase our craziest dreams, but no matter what, don't forget where you came from. Don't be afraid to follow wherever life takes you because we only regret the opportunities we didn't take."

Growing up in the city of Lancaster, State Secretary Sarah Gonzalez found agriculture and let it have a positive impact on her life, forever changing it. For that, she couldn't be more thankful. "Thank you for all of the memories this year, and for always reminding me to listen to my heart. I'm so thankful for all of the friends I have made this year, and our readers have been a vital part in the support to get me to that point."

"This year has flown by, and I am so grateful for all of the lessons learned and relationships I have made. Thank you,

readers, for your continuous support of Pennsylvania's largest industry, agriculture. Thank you for also following along as we have spent our year activating the purpose, passion, and potential inside of everyone we meet." — State President Libby Baker-Mikesell

Growing up on a dairy farm in Lebanon County, Vice President Jacob Kline learned a lot of things about life and how to live it. One lesson that has become a huge part of his life has simply been to be yourself, because that is more than enough. "It's been a pleasure serving this organization. Thank you for reading our pages as we have journeyed through our adventures here in the Pennsylvania FFA Association."

My teammates and I are so happy to be able to leave you with our final thoughts. For me, Lancaster Farming has become a huge part of my life over the past year. I've been so blessed to be able to share with you all year long, all of the incredible things that this year has brought for not only my team, but our over 12,000 FFA members across the state. Thank you for your dedication to this page, and may you always find happiness in the little things life brings along for us.

Editor's note: Jill Palmer is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.



Day of Service at WB Saul High School

On Friday, May 5, more than 40 employees of New Holland Agriculture participated in an Ag Impact Day at W. B. Saul High School in Philadelphia. The volunteers worked on specific projects, including painting the interior and the exterior of the dairy barn at the farm, painting the new aquaponics laboratory, and doing landscaping in preparation for Country Fair Days on May 12.



The 2016-17 Pennsylvania FFA state officer team, clockwise from left, is Garrett Jenkins, Tricia Hojnowski, Jill Palmer, Jacob Kline, Libby Baker-Mikesell, Maddy Buss, and Sarah Gonzalez.