



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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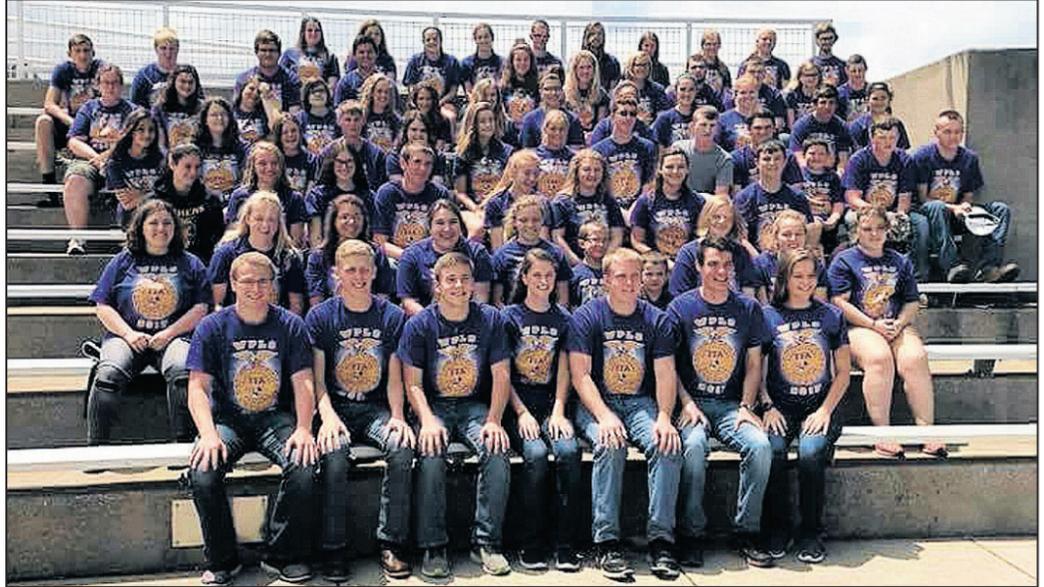
## Pennsylvania FFA Members 'Splash Into Leadership'

On June 29, FFA members from the western region of Pennsylvania met at Presque Isle in Erie. During this two-day conference, participants started off by engaging in leadership activities on the beach and learning about scuba diving from retired Albion agriculture teacher William Guyer.

The members also learned about the history and environment of Presque Isle with instruction provided by staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Later that day, they visited the nearby indoor water park, Splash Lagoon.

On Friday morning, students set out to learn by doing by visiting the Tom Ridge Environmental Center Presque Isle, where they volunteered their efforts to maintain the landscape and toured the facility, gaining insight on invasive species and the diverse career opportunities in agriculture.

The last stop for the students was the Erie Maritime Museum located along Lake Erie. FFA members learned about the Flagship Niagara and the role Presque Isle played in America's history.



FFA members attended the Western Pennsylvania FFA Leadership conference June 29-30.

### OFFICER'S STATION

## Meet Your New State Officers

*Editor's note: The 2017-18 Pennsylvania State officer team was announced on June 15 at Penn State University. Here are their introductions to Lancaster Farming readers.*

My name is Nathan Moyer and I am from the Selinsgrove FFA chapter and the 2017-18 state president. In the coming year, I look forward to meeting the members that make up Pennsylvania FFA during chapter visits and hearing their stories. I cannot wait to get to know each member that I meet. During my FFA career, I enjoyed senior prepared public speaking, speaking about eating insects, and attending the Eastern States Exposition. In the fall of 2018, I will be attending Penn State University majoring in wildlife and fisheries science. I plan to become a wildlife biologist and researcher.

My name is Thomas Gabel from the Newport FFA chapter, and I will be serving as this year's Pennsylvania FFA state vice president. I am looking forward to a multitude of different things, but in particular, I am excited to meet almost 13,000 amazing Pennsylvania FFA members. Whether it be at a chapter visit, banquet, convention or any other location, I look forward to interacting with members from all across the state. In the future, I plan on attending Penn State, majoring in agricultural and Extension education with a minor in political science.

Greetings! My name is Taylor Halbleib and I am serving as the Pennsylvania FFA state secretary. I hail from the Elizabethtown chapter in Lancaster County. So far in my FFA career, my favorite event has been going to National Convention.



The 2017-18 Pennsylvania FFA state officer team, front row from left, Taylor Halbleib, Nathan Moyer and Kelsey Stewart. Top row, from left, are Justin Kurtz, Thomas Gabel, Philip Winklosky, and Brody Coolidge.

This event puts into perspective how diverse and large this organization is. During this year of service, I look forward to inspiring as many members as possible to take advantage of all the opportunities the FFA has to offer. In the future, I plan to go to Wilson College to obtain a degree in veterinary medicine.

My name is Brody Coolidge and I am serving as your state treasurer

this year. I live in Wellsboro, a small town in Tioga County. My home chapter is Grand Canyon FFA. I am looking forward to serving Pennsylvania FFA every opportunity I get. I am most excited to meet all of the unique members from across the state of Pennsylvania, all while traveling and exploring this amazing state. I can't wait to do chapter visits and

speak at chapter banquets this fall and spring. My absolute favorite event would have to be National Convention. My future plans are to attend Penn State University majoring in ag education and Extension, with the hopes of becoming an ag teacher here in Pennsylvania and becoming the adviser of an FFA chapter.

Hello everyone! I'm Kelsey

Stewart, the Pennsylvania FFA state chaplain. I'm from the Conococheague FFA chapter in Mercersburg. My favorite memories are from public speaking van rides with my chapter because of all the games we would play. This year I cannot wait for chapter visits so I can get to know so many of our amazing members. After I retire from office, I plan on going to Wilson College and majoring in nursing with the intention of working as a pediatric trauma nurse. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for the upcoming year.

Hello everyone! This is Philip Winklosky from the Derry FFA chapter and your Pennsylvania FFA state reporter. I am looking forward to serving all the Pennsylvania FFA members, getting to know the diverse group of members through chapter visits, conferences and events, all while growing myself as a leader. My favorite FFA event would be National Convention. Seeing the diversity of not only FFA but also agriculture as a whole was an amazing experience. My future plans are to major in aviation with a minor in agronomy or plant science.

Hello! This is Justin Kurtz, coming to you from the State College Little Lions FFA chapter. This year I am excited to be meeting fellow members at chapter visits and events such as the Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success conference. After my time as a state officer, I plan to attend Penn State University majoring in plant science and minoring in agribusiness management. I look forward to a blue and gold year serving as your state sentinel.

## Washington Leadership Conference Instills Importance of Leadership

FFA members from across the country have been traveling to Washington, D.C., to attend the Washington Leadership Conference.

More than 2,300 students are registered for the 2017 Washington Leadership Conference. This national conference teaches students to find their purpose, value diversity, advocate for a cause, and live a legacy. Students can attend one of the seven week long sessions that continue through July 29.

FFA members will experience the history of the nation's capital and tour landmarks includ-

ing the Washington Monument, the National Mall, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol.

FFA members will spend the week under the guidance of professionals and FFA staff. In workshops, seminars and small groups, members will focus on identifying and developing their personal strengths and goals while undergoing comprehensive leadership training that will help them guide their local FFA chapters. The capstone of the event will be a civic engagement activity where participants apply

what they have learned to a hands-on activity.

While attending a hunger banquet, students learned to value diversity and find strength in our differences. Students learned to live a legacy through service by packaging over 59,000 meals to help those in the D.C. area.

All week while members were finding their purpose they were developing their "living to serve plans." Members analyzed the needs of their communities, developing community service initiatives and implementing their plans with the help of their FFA chapters.

All week students met other FFA members from across the country and were inspired to "do what we can, where we are, with what we have." Members had an opportunity to participate in congressional visits during the week.

Many Pennsylvania FFA members were able to experience this extraordinary national conference thanks to the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni.

For more information, visit [FFA.org/WLC](http://FFA.org/WLC).