



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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## Kauffman Family Celebrates Third FFA American Degree

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AND MAXINE BODNARI  
Cloister FFA Co-Reporters

Indianapolis hosted the National FFA Convention from Oct. 25 to 28 with a record attendance of 67,006 registrants. The Kauffman family of Reinholds was part of the crowd to celebrate a unique milestone for their family. Harold and Ann Kauffman's youngest daughter, Kelli Kauffman, became the third member of their family to receive the FFA American Degree. Less than one-half-percent of all FFA members earn the American Degree. While earning the American is an accomplishment in itself, Kelli Kauffman is the third of the six Kauffman siblings to receive it.

Harold Kauffman was in the FFA when he was in high school and earned the greenhand, chapter, and Keystone Degree, but never went on to apply for his American. Following in his footsteps, all six of the couple's children, Scott Kauffman, Stephanie Smith, Toni Grube, Terri Shirk, Kirsten Martin and Kelli Kauffman earned their Keystone Degree. Stephanie, Terri, and Kelli Kauffman went beyond to set a tradition of their own by earning their American Degrees in 2010, 2012, and 2017 respectively.

This year, Kelli Kauffman was one of 81 in Pennsylvania to earn the degree. Kelli



Proudly displaying her American degree, Cloister FFA alumnus, Kelli Kauffman, stands along with her parents, Ann and Harold and her sister Terri Shirk and husband Paul.

Kauffman said, "I made getting my American Degree a goal when my oldest sister received it, and when another one of my sisters received it, I knew I had to get it." Both parents attribute the achievement to their children's

determination and perseverance, saying, "it was more of their decision (and not ours)." When asked how she felt FFA was beneficial to her children, Ann Kauffman said, "public speaking really encouraged leadership and

brought confidence (in them)."

In order for Kelli Kauffman to accomplish this goal, she had to fill out an application verifying that she had completed at least three years of agriculture education, earned at least \$10,000, or productively invested \$7,500, or worked 2,250 hours and invested \$2,000, participated in 50 hours of community service, and demonstrated outstanding leadership. Additionally, applicants had to have graduated from high school 12 months prior to the convention when they received their degrees. Adviser Sarah Stauffer said there are unique challenges of the degree application. "Students receiving the degree graduate in June, but the application is due March of the following year; with college and/or work, it isn't their first priority anymore and applicants have to make time and be persistent. Usually we have several rounds of revisions before the final copy of the application gets sent to the state for approval."

Recalling the experience, Kelli Kauffman said, "It may have been a lot of work to get it, but it was definitely worth it."

Kelli Kauffman encourages all FFA members to continue working hard and to go above and beyond by aiming to get their American Degrees. "It's pretty rewarding knowing you went all the way and didn't just stop when you graduated."



Bradford County FFA members participated in a livestock judging program at Fairview Farm.

## Bradford County FFA Evaluate Livestock in Troy

JENNA HARNISH  
Bradford County FFA Reporter

On Nov. 17, the Athens, Canton, North East Bradford and Troy FFA chapters came together to evaluate, place and give reasons on various breeds of livestock at Fairview Farm in Troy, Pennsylvania. Judging classes included goats, horses, pigs, prospect breeding heifers, prospect steers and sheep.

When judging any class of livestock, an FFA member had to begin by evaluating all four animals within the class. The members would evaluate each species using their livestock scorecard.

Next, an FFA member had to

place the livestock from first to fourth based on evaluated characteristics such as size, structure and soundness. They would write their placings on the official judging card and turn it into the class official.

Members had to prepare a set of reasons for their prospect heifer and horse class, and explain them to the judge.

New for this year, every FFA member had to take part in a Livestock Industry Evaluation Test. This test allows kids to demonstrate what they know about the various livestock industries while challenging them with new information.

## Troy FFA Attends Environmental CDE

Troy FFA Chapter

On Oct. 13, Troy FFA members attended the Bradford County Land Use Career Development Event at Mt. Pisgah County Park. Also in attendance were the Canton, Athens and Northeast Bradford FFA chapters.

The FFA members were divided into four groups that rotated between soil evaluation, forestry identification, wildlife knowledge and an aquatic exam.

At the soil evaluation station students evaluated the pit for soil quality and then determined what that soil would be best used for. At the the forestry identification, students identified pests, trees, and took an exam. At the wildlife station, students took a test about wildlife and they identified various wildlife based on tracks, pelts, scat, skulls and feathers. While taking their aquatic exam, students had to identify various aquatic species native to Pennsylvania. Once students



Troy FFA members competed at the county environmental event.

completed all the stations, they ate lunch with their fellow FFA members and classmates. After lunch,

students went back through the stations with their instructor and went over the correct information.



Bradford County FFA members at Mt. Pisgah County Park.

