



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

INITIATE, CREATE, ILLUMINATE

www.paffa.org

Discovering FFA's Potential at Fall Leadership Conference

The Pennsylvania FFA Association hosts a conference for first year members and chapter officers. This conference is a one-day event. The members participate in workshops and community service projects to develop premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Fall Leadership Conference, or FLC, is a conference designed to help younger members initiate their potential within FFA and to help chapter officers initiate their potential as leaders within their local agriculture program. This year, the conference was Oct. 2. Approximately 400 members attended this year's conference.

The state officers, chapter advisers and student teachers from Pennsylvania State University were also at the conference.

During FLC, the students take part in educational workshops.

The first-year members learned all about diversity, career and leadership development events, official dress, and FFA history with this year's state officers. Each topic was emphasized with hands-on activities to keep the students engaged.

FFA chapter officers were broken into groups based on their elected position. Student

teachers led officer-training sessions. Officers learned about the specific duties and their role as an officer.

First-year members and chapter officers alike were reunited for closing group activities.

Chapter teams competed in an "Amazing Race" contest completing different tasks centered around cooperation and communication.

Each member attending FLC participated in community service project, designing holiday cards for patients in Johns Hopkins Children's Hospital.

FLC is often the first conference members of

the Pennsylvania FFA Association attend within their high school career. First-year members are able to decide what they wish to pursue within the program, chapter officers grow to become better role models for their peers and each member has a blast making memories and building stronger relationships.

Through participation in events such as FLC, members are truly able to initiate their careers within FFA, create memories and relationships in the process, and illuminate the opportunities that FFA has to offer every student enrolled in agriculture education courses.

A Life-Changing Class

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

I never realized that an agriculture sciences class would change my life, but it did.

As a freshman in high school, I enrolled in the introductory agriculture class just to check it out. I figured this was the class for me since I had been working on a farm.

We started learning about this group called the National FFA Organization. I had heard about it before, but I wanted to know more. At that time, I was just "that kid" in school with no place or direction for that matter. I learned about how incredible agriculture is and how this FFA group associated with it was just as awesome. I wanted to become more involved.

I told my ag teacher and adviser "I can't wait to see what FFA can do for me," and he responded with "I can't wait to see what you can do for FFA." At that moment, I went from being "that kid" to being Justin Kurtz: proud FFA member.

This organization gave me a purpose through agriculture education. That's why I wanted to be a state officer. My goal is to promote this message and help students find their purpose as they see what they can do for FFA. A few months into my state officer term, I have gained



JUSTIN KURTZ

so many awesome experiences. The most rewarding is getting to work with fellow members.

It is an incredible spectacle to see members come together for events and interact with

each other. It is almost as if we all have friends everywhere around the state and even the country because the blue jacket ties us all together.

There are about 13,000 members in Pennsylvania. The best part is that our numbers continue to grow. It's all due to our passion and dedication to the future of agriculture and agriculture education.

In the future, I plan to attend Penn State majoring in agriculture education and Extension. I am so excited to see where this journey takes me because so far agriculture education has taken me down a path I never could have imagined before stepping into the agriculture sciences classroom. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your FFA family.

To learn more about FFA you can go to the National FFA Organization's website at www.ffa.org or visit Pennsylvania FFA Association's website at www.paffa.org

Editor's note: Justin Kurtz is the Pennsylvania FFA state sentinel.

Pa. Tops KILE Stockman's Contest



Bedford County Technical Center Team G was selected as the winning top team at the 2017 Stockman's Contest at the 2017 Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg. Pictured are all students from Bedford County Technical Center which attended the competition.

Anderson, Dull Named Outstanding FFA Youth at Keystone International Livestock Expo

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Four Pennsylvania teens were named Outstanding FFA Youth during the 61st Annual Keystone International Livestock Expo, held in Harrisburg on Oct. 5. Nominated by their agricultural education teachers, respectively, each honoree excels in agricultural activities and serves as a model member of their respective organizations.

Mikara Anderson, daughter of Gerald and Holly Anderson from Three Springs, Huntingdon County, was named an Outstanding FFA Youth Award winner. A member of the Southern Huntingdon FFA Chapter, Anderson focuses on sheep production, and maintains three flocks of registered Hampshire, Montadale and Natural Colored sheep. She also raises and sells market lambs. She is a student at Southern Huntingdon High School, and plans to pursue a career as an agricultural lawyer, to apply her passions for working with people, agriculture and public speaking to help-

ing farmers and agriculturalists.

Travis Dull, son of Larry and Karen Dull from Manheim, Lancaster County, was also named as an Outstanding FFA Youth Award winner. A member of the Manheim Central FFA Chapter, Dull centers his FFA involvement around cattle, originally showing dairy beef and working his way up to showing a market steer from his own herd, a personal goal he was proud to achieve. A graduate of Manheim Central High School, Travis recently purchased a farm in partnership with his father, and hopes to begin selling club calves to other youth getting started in the beef industry, eventually raising a herd of market steers on his feedlot and transitioning into becoming a fulltime farmer as a career.

For their accomplishments, each winner received a plaque and \$250 cash award and were recognized during the opening ceremonies of the 2017 Keystone International Livestock Exposition.

Pennsylvania's Outstanding Collegiate Exhibitors Awarded Scholarships

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Six livestock enthusiasts received \$6,000 in scholarships rewarding their leadership development, show ring success, scholastic merits, an interest in the livestock industry as a career path and participation in the Keystone International Livestock Exposition during the 61st show's opening ceremonies Oct. 5, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg.

The scholarships were given to collegiate exhibitors by the Pennsylvania Livestock Association. Recipients are Caleigh Anderson, Samuel Bacon, Heidi Barkley, Claudia Hissong, Emily Mattocks and Delbert Voight.

Caleigh Anderson is the 18-year-old daughter of Bob and Jeanie Anderson of Saltsburg. A sophomore at Penn State's New Kensington campus, Anderson is an animal sci-

ence and food science major with a minor in equine science and pre-law. Anderson is working toward a career as a corporate lawyer in agriculture. While in high school, she was the president of Mock Trial, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) vice president, a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), a therapeutic riding volunteer, Sunday school teacher, and a vacation Bible school volunteer. Anderson also has been a 4-H member, serving in several officer roles, participating in Teen Council, equine, rifle, goat and poultry project areas.

Samuel Bacon is the 19-year-old son of Eric and Sally Bacon of Brogue. He is a sophomore attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science. Bacon is studying to be a reproduction specialist. While at college, he is active in the Meat

Science Club, intramural football and softball teams, and has earned Dean's List honors. During his 4-H and FFA career, Bacon belonged to the York County 4-H Lamb Club and Exchange Club and the Red Lion Area FFA Chapter, earning his FFA Keystone Degree in 2016.

Heidi Barkley is the 18-year-old daughter of Brian and Melanie Barkley of Manns Choice. Barkley is a freshman at Penn State's Altoona campus, majoring in animal science with a business focus. While in high school, she was active in FBLA, tennis, ski club, and was a Pennsylvania Junior Beef Ambassador. Barkley was a member of the Allegheny Foothills 4-H Club and the Bedford FFA Chapter carrying sheep projects in both. A highlight of her accomplishments came in 2016, when she was awarded the Keystone Junior Stockman of the Year award.

Claudia Hissong is the 20-year-old daughter of Spencer and Regina Hissong of Greencastle, Pennsylvania. She is in her junior year at Kansas State University where she is majoring in agricultural economics with a specialty in pre-law. Hissong would like to become an agricultural lobbyist in the future. While in college, she is a College of Agriculture Ambassador, a member of Block & Bridle and participates in the Animal Science Quadrathlon. Her time as a 4-H member included sheep, pig, goat, and cattle projects. Hissong is a past Pennsylvania Angus Princess.

Emily Mattocks is the 18-year-old daughter of Ryan and Lisa Mattocks, Guys Mills. She is a freshman attending Cedarville University majoring in allied health and biology. Mattocks' future career plans are to be a physician or physician assistant. While in high school, she was active

in orchestra, ballet, fencing, ski, and snowboarding. Mattocks held several offices within the Cross-Trainers 4-H Livestock Club where she carried beef and swine projects. This year she was named Outstanding 4-Her of Crawford County.

Delbert Hunter Voight is the 19-year-old son of Delbert and Wilhelmina Voight of Fredericksburg. He is in his sophomore year at Penn State's Berks campus, studying agricultural science with plans to minor in agronomy or wildlife science. In high school, Voight was actively involved in baseball, winter track, concert band, church youth group, 4-H, Pennsylvania Junior Angus and National Junior Angus Associations. In 2016, he was awarded the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association's Outstanding Boy award.

Scholarship winners each received a \$1,000 scholarship.