



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

ACTIVATE: Purpose-Passion-Potential

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Farm Show Memories

Top left: The Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention was held in the New Holland Large Arena on Jan. 9. At the convention, 467 first-year members received FFA jackets. Thanks to the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association, each year first-year members fill out an application and have the chance to stand in front of thousands of people to zip up the blue and gold jacket for the first time.

Top right: Four teams competed for the gold during the FFA Farm and Health Safety Quiz Bowl on the *Lancaster Farming* stage at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. The Big Spring FFA chapter was able to lock in first place. From left are Zoe Marinacci, Hannah Martin, Rebecca Webster, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Fred Strathmeyer, Mason McCullough and Tucker Williams.

Right: Gov. Tom Wolf and Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding toured the Weis Expo Hall on Jan. 7. Wolf, left, and Redding stopped by the Albion FFA chapter's restored tractor display.

Bottom left: The Central Penn Institute of Technology placed first this year at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in the FFA landscape exhibits competition. They created a deer-resistant landscape. The FFA chapter focused on not only its design but also on the plants that were involved.

Bottom right: Each year FFA members have the opportunity to create a display on anything agricultural and science related. Projects in the past have included insulation, public opinions on genetically modified organisms, and meat marketing. This year the winning chapter was the Upper Dauphin Area High School with its display on protecting waterways.



Tioga County FFA Alumni Earn Alumni Legacy Grant

The National FFA Organization is all about growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture through their scholarship programs. The Grand Canyon FFA and Tioga County FFA Alumni of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, were a recent recipient a National FFA Alumni Legacy Grant.

In filling out the grant application, Stacey Coolidge, president of the Tioga County

FFA Alumni, created a plan of action, answered how the \$500 grant would impact the community, and adopted a budget.

A harvest dinner was organized to recruit people.

During the dinner food was available, as well as apple bobbing and a bonfire. The plan was to spread the word about FFA and the work of the local FFA chapter.

Coolidge said, "It doesn't seem like a lot

of work filling out an application and answering a few questions, but it took a lot of time and thought. I'm very competitive, and I knew to win this grant and grow our chapter, it had to be a great application. The work paid off and our chapter won the first National FFA Alumni Legacy Grant."

The \$500 was used to give jackets to the two chapters that the alumni association supports. Receiving an Alumni Legacy

Grant proves that dedication can go a long way. When asked about her adventure in pursuing the scholarship, Coolidge said, "Each member can grow our chapter and allow us to do wonderful things for the FFA members that we support. I can't wait to see what great things we can do for the FFA."