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New Changes Bring Success to Livestock Sale

JILL PALMER

Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. — On July 30, the Shippensburg Livestock Sale made history.

In previous years, the sale was set up on two different nights. 4-H members would sell their own animals, and FFA would sell theirs another night. Recent deliberation and voting changed this tradition to a one night sale that Saturday evening. The first year of the Junior Livestock Sale was a success for those involved, especially two FFA members who served their first term as a livestock showman and one who served his last.

The future of Whitney Johnson's show career began her week at the Shippensburg Fair. A Cumberland Valley FFA member, Johnson said that she learned a lot this year. "I liked to see how my animals were so different in and out of the ring. My most stubborn lamb did its best, so it was a great behavioral learning experience for me." A senior this year, Johnson looks forward to still staying active with her lambs and participating in the fair again.

As challenges arise in every situa-

tion, Whitney said that clipping was the most difficult part of her journey with her Suffix and Hampshire crosses. "I'm very much so looking forward to next year. Getting a hands on learning experience can be difficult at times, but is always worth the effort put into it." Whitney will further her education at college after this school year, while still remaining an active FFA member to show her lambs again.

As we know livestock sales do not happen without the support of a community and its agriculture members. This is one thing that Greencastle Livestock takes pride in each year. Jeff Craig has been coming to the Shippensburg Livestock Sales for more than 30 years. "My father was involved in the livestock business, which then inspired my role as a buyer and seller. We come to this fair each year and other youth sales to promote their success as showman and the future of agriculture. It's always been about supporting them in their endeavors and making sure that we encourage the future leaders who will then take our places." Craig has always been committed to those who are committed to agriculture just like



Photo by Jill Palmer

Whitney Johnson was one of the first-year showman at the Shippensburg Fair.

those in his business. With the animals going very well for the first year of the combined sale, Greencastle Livestock bought nearly 30 homegrown animals in support. "We always want to give the showman a base price, and if someone bids higher and we don't get it, than we at least know that we

would've given them something. We are all about providing equal opportunity for each student involved."

Success also was around the corner for Cody Bear that afternoon. Four National Conventions after high school graduation is usually the saddest for those FFA members. This is the year of aging out, a year in which after it comes to a halt, one can no longer be an FFA member. This National Convention in October will bring the time of aging out for showman Cody Bear, making this sale his last. A Big Spring FFA chapter native, Bear said, "This is a really bittersweet moment. I've thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it." Each year, Bear averages about four animals per year. As he's been showing for the last 15 years, he's truly been a contribution to the Shippensburg Livestock Sales.

Bear said that his favorite thing about being here each year is of course the food, but also the environment. He stated that seeing everyone around him doing what they love and supporting agriculture makes it all worth it and is something you can't replace. In a small farewell message Bear said, "I want to thank everyone who's ever supported me. My family,

and parents have made this an experience that I am really going to miss."

Working on a local dairy farm, he plans to continue with this profession as he feeds and does field work. He also farms nearly 70 acres of land while raising his own beef steers. While this was a year of great change to the Shippensburg Livestock Sale, it was a success in all. A very big thank you goes out to all of the buyers at the sale, and those who were involved in putting it together. The Junior Livestock sale is truly an example of just how much one community can come together to better the future of its agriculture.

The sale averages were steers, \$2,479.29; dairy feeders, \$1,085.42; lambs, \$489.64; goat, \$602.21; and swine, \$539.27.

The champion winners are as follows.

Champion Market Goat: Brayden Myers
Champion Market Hog: McKenzie Myers
Champion Market Lamb: Brayden Martson
Champion Market Steer: Mikayla Kutz
Champion Dairy Feeder Calf: Sheldon Kutz
Reserve Champion Dairy Feeder Calf: Maverick Gettys
Reserve Champion Market Goat: McKenzie Myers
Reserve Champion Market Hog: Morgan Bear
Reserve Champion Market Lamb: Grant Wickard
Reserve Champion Market Steer: Madison Wickard

Certifiably Agricultural Education

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Advancing the FFA Chapter, visiting student's Supervised Agriculture Experience projects, preparing for fairs, writing curriculum, working in the shop, prepping CDE teams for National Convention and one hundred other things. Probably not what you think of when you picture a teacher in July, right?

More than 85 agriculture teachers from across the state took a week off from their regular summer duties and spent a week in Snyder County for the Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators Summer Conference. Members attended workshops and tours and met to further advance agriculture education in Pennsylvania. This year the conference was hosted at Middle West High School in Middleburg, Pennsylvania, from July 11 through 14.

The PAAE Conference's theme was "Certifiably Agricultural Education." The focus was on how agriculture teachers and programs can provide industry recognized certifications to students in the classroom. Pennsylvania Department of Education has deemed this important and agriculture teachers have taken on the challenge.

More than 30 workshops, in five core subject areas, were offered for PAAE members. They included instruction in certifications such as Pet CPR and First Aid, Pork and Beef Quality Assurance programs, Career and Technical Education certification exams, the Accredited Parliamentarian Exam, the National Safe Tractor and Equipment Operation Program, Dairy Leaders



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of Tomorrow, Pesticide Applicators License updates, and a certification in horticulture. Other workshops and information sessions focused on implementing

new classroom strategies into agricultural education, agribusiness systems, global agriculture, FFA programming, record keeping, Career Development Event changes and implementation.

On Wednesday, teachers chose from four tours that focused on central Pennsylvania agriculture and local agriculture programs. The Animal Systems tour visited Eos Therapeutic Riding Center, the Weis Center for Research Geisinger and Central Columbia High School. The Power, Structural and Technical Systems tour stopped at Kreamer Feed Mill, WoodMode, Inc. and Selingsgrove High School. The Plant/Natural Resource Systems tour had stops planned for Bald Eagle State Forest, Creative Landscapes and Mifflinburg High School. The Food Science Systems group toured Furmano Foods, Shade Mountain Winery and Mifflinburg High School.

In addition to workshops and tours, PAAE held business meetings and committees worked to ensure that agriculture education stays strong in Pennsylvania. Teachers were invited to participate in the Ideas Unlimited contest sponsored by the National Association of Agriculture Educators by bringing their best, most innovative ideas to share with peers. Darla Romberger, agriculture teacher at Cumberland Valley High School, was selected as



Photo by Jill Palmer

Nick Isenberg, left, accepts the PAAE president's gavel from outgoing president David Bittner.

the Pennsylvania representative and will present her Smartphone Magnifying Glass at the Region VI conference later this year. On Wednesday evening, PAAE members gathered for their annual banquet which was held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. They were able to recognize the accomplishments of their members and followed the formal dinner with an auction to benefit the PAAE scholarship and the NAAE Relief Fund.

New and Beginning Teacher sessions were offered for first through fifth year teachers and NAAE conducted the XLR8 program for fifth-15th year teachers. Both programs are intended to provide support to teachers as they manage personal and professional responsibilities, inside and outside of the classroom.

The conference did include some down time and kicked off with a social at the Isle of Que Guest House in Selingsgrove, Pennsylvania, on Monday evening. Teachers and their families and guests gathered to relax and prepare for the busy week. A chicken barbecue lunch, prepared by local ag teachers, was served on Tuesday and was a nice way to break up the workshops. Tuesday evening after dinner at Country Cupboard, a group of teachers painted with Barn Owl Art Studio

to raise money for the NAAE Relief Fund.

According to Valerie Fry who teaches at Selingsgrove, "The conference provides a way for teachers to refresh and share new ideas as they prepare for the upcoming school year." Next year's conference will be hosted by W.B. Saul High School in Philadelphia.

Special thanks to the conference planning committee and our sponsors: Educators, Inc., Pennsylvania Beef Council, National Pork Board, Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence, AgChoice Farm Credit, Center for Professional Personnel Development, the Education Resource Center, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, The Society for Agricultural Education Parliamentarians, National FFA, ACTE, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Briggs and Stratton, Penn State University, Ag Safety and Health Extension Program, Penn State Extension Pesticide Education, Keystone Elk Country Alliance, Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association, Pennsylvania Forest Products Association, Bucknell University, DuPont and the National Association of Agriculture Education.

Editor's note: Valerie Fry is the Selingsgrove FFA Chapter Adviser.

Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Hits the Green

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Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter

With a mission to secure resources for the future of agriculture education and student leader development, the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation achieved that goal on July 21 during their annual golf tournament.

Each year the Foundation reaches out to business and industry partners to put on a day of golfing and support of Pennsylvania's future in agriculture. This year, at Fox Chase Golf Club more than 30 teams of two and four golfers hit the green to support agriculture education.

Teams included New Holland Agriculture, Fulton Bank, Cargill and Seneca Resources. The morning began its start with golf cart after golf cart filled with clubs from teams at registration. Players were able to purchase raffle tickets for a drawing, and were given a good start to the day by partaking in lunch. With 18 holes to play, the game started quickly and teams were on a mission to success. Some holes were played as normal, and others included a twist.

One hole was labeled the grenade hole. When players began their tee-off, they were given the opportunity to purchase a grenade at which time players could pick the ball up and throw it as far as possible. A small putting game was in the mix of the day's activities. Golfers had the opportunity to take one shot to be entered into a raffle that evening.

When all players were finished, dinner was served and the banquet began. A small auction featured a quilt, handmade cornhole boards and a weekend trip to the Wengers of Myerstown cabin. Afterwards, teams and individuals were recognized for their success on the course either by distance or overall teamwork.

A thank you of course goes out to all who made the golf outing a success. Thousands of dollars were raised in order to better the future of agriculture education and its leaders, proof that hard work can come a long way and relationships will always matter.