



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story
www.paffa.org

FFA Week Begins



Submitted photo

On Feb. 8, the resolution for National FFA Week in Pennsylvania was introduced by Rep. Mark Keller and passed unanimously. The Pennsylvania FFA officer team was recognized in the House chamber. From left are Luke Kerstetter, Elizabeth Winklosky, Rachel Greig, Tyler Watkins, Lily Guthrie, Katie Sharrer, John Noss and Rep. Keller. Starting on Feb. 20, FFA members will celebrate the FFA. There are more than 620,000 members nationwide. Chapters across the state will take part in community service projects, meet-your-state-officer night at several Hoss's Steak and Sea House locations, and so much more.

Continue 'Telling Our Story'

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

"Telling Our Story" is the theme for the Pennsylvania FFA Association that my team members and I chose way back in June. I could not be happier with that decision. I believe that everyone has a story to tell,



JOHNATHAN NOSS

and that if we aren't telling our story, then we are not learning from each other. Also, it is very important to tell the story of agriculture and the FFA so that others know what we are all about.

Well, this month has been a lot of fun. For three weekends we have hosted the ACES, or Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success, Conference. Each weekend, approximately 500 FFA members were in attendance, making this the largest conference the state hosts. Workshop topics this year included Personal Growth, Our Story to Success, Taking Initiative, FFA History, and a workshop put on by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers. Members had the chance to go through all five workshops. Members made motivational cards for dancers at the Penn State Thon with the help from the Penn State

Perseverance, Character, Hope

The best advice I can give to anyone is to persevere. We have all been through hardships or will at some point in our lives. It's what we learn from those tough times that truly matters. If we have a negative mindset about what we are doing, then our goals, our life purpose and our daily activities will crumble. However, if we have a positive mindset about the things we are doing, then we might just be successful. A Bible verse to refer to is Romans 5:3-4. "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character hope." In all that you do, look to the future and never give up hope. And always remember to "Tell Our Story".

Editor's Note: Johnathan Noss is the Pennsylvania FFA state chaplain.

Greenwood FFA, Perry Valley Grange Host Meals of Hope Event

LUKE GORMAN

Greenwood FFA Chapter Reporter

Greenwood FFA and Perry Valley Grange teamed up with Meals of Hope for a meal packing event on Feb. 5. With donations from churches, organizations and individuals, the FFA chapter was able to raise more than \$12,500, including a \$6,000 donation from the Perry Valley Grange.

More than 200 volunteers arrived to help the FFA and the Grange with packing cinnamon-apple oatmeal. Community, FFA and Grange members packaged more than 47,000 meals for the Perry and Juniata County food banks, as well as Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg. They donated more than \$4,000 to the Perry and Juniata County food banks from community donations.

The Greenwood FFA thanked the Grange for their generosity and help with the planning and production of the meal packing event. It was an outstanding opportunity for the community to carry out the FFA motto "living to serve."



Submitted photo

FFA, Grange and community members package meals for the Meals of Hope program.

