



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story

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Strong Selected for Global Youth Institute

Samantha Strong of the Greenwood FFA Chapter will join approximately 200 high school students from around the globe to participate in a three-day conference hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. Strong will travel to Des Moines, Iowa, with her teacher to discuss the issues of food security and other agricultural issues with international experts and her peers. She will also tour cutting-edge industrial and research facilities and take part in discussions with global leaders in science, industry and policy.

She must research and write essays focusing on all aspects of food security to present and discuss her findings with international experts. Students will be placed in small groups to make it easier to discuss their research. These students have the opportunity to identify solutions to the

world's pressing issues with food security.

The students will tour industrial and research facilities such as Monsanto, Syngenta, DuPont Pioneer and Des Moines University's Global Health Program. These tours are designed to educate the students and hopefully spark their interest to continue learning how to solve the agricultural issues throughout the world.

The conference offers hands-on projects to encourage student involvement. These projects are based on community issues and problem solving. Students develop community-action checklists to help build a step-by-step list to achieve the end goal. Since 2009, students have participated in the Kids Care International Outreach training program. This

program has students package food aid for food-insecure populations.

At the end of the conference, Strong will attend the World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony. An award called the Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture will be awarded in recognition of the individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world. Strong will also have the opportunity to apply for the Borlaug-Raun international internship. This internship is an eight-week, hands-on experience, working with scientists and policy makers at leading research centers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

Pa. Proficiency Award Winners Recognized

INDIANAPOLIS — The National FFA Organization has announced FFA members who achieved an Agricultural Proficiency Award.

The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their supervised agricultural experiences, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.

Students can compete for awards in 49 areas covering everything from agricultural communications to wildlife management.

Placement proficiency awards are given to those whose supervised agricultural experiences, or SAEs, are related to employment, apprenticeships, or internships at an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization.

Entrepreneurship proficiency awards are given to those whose SAEs are related to ownership of an agribusiness or agriculture-related enterprise.

Proficiency awards are given out at the local, state and national levels.

Participants in the National Agricultural Proficiency Awards program will receive a rating of National finalist, gold, silver, bronze, participant or disqualified.

Four national finalists are selected for each of the 49 award areas and will go on to compete for a national proficiency award. National Agricultural Proficiency Award winners are announced onstage during the National FFA Convention and Expo. Each national finalist receives a \$500 cash award and a plaque. National winners receive an additional \$500 award and a plaque. The Pennsylvania winners select-

ed are as follows.

Agricultural Education - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Bronze, Brooke Ostrander, Troy Area

AgriScience Research - Integrated Systems: Bronze, Lynn Finkenbinder, Big Spring

Beef Production - Entrepreneurship: Gold, Timothy Lee Kaltenbach, Jr., Grand Canyon

Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship: Silver, Casey Baxter, Troy Area

Dairy Production - Placement: Bronze, Nickolas Crain, Cumberland Valley

Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Gold, Eric Shoop, Middle-West

Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship: Bronze, Michael Long, Northern Lebanon

Diversified Livestock - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Gold, Mackenzie Yorlets, Cumberland Valley

Equine Science - Entrepreneurship: Gold, Tricia Hojnowski, Troy Area

Equine Science - Placement: Bronze, Anna Pauletta, Cumberland Valley

Forage Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Nathan Briggs, West Perry

Goat Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Caitlin Cullum, Red Lion FFA

Home and/or Community Development - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Kayla Baker, Williamsburg

Outdoor Recreation - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Bronze, Taylor Hemenway, Grand Canyon

Poultry Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Bronze, Samantha Bleacher, Manor

Sheep Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Megan Myers, Cumberland Valley

Small Animal Production and Care - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Tabatha Brooks, Grand Canyon

Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Carlie Jo Delong, Middle-West

Specialty Crop Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Jacob Paris, Big Spring

Swine Production - Entrepreneurship: Silver, Janell Baker, West Perry

Vegetable Production - Entrepreneurship/Placement: Silver, Mikayla Barnhart, Conococheague

Full Steam Ahead to Fall

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

It seems that I just yesterday we were all standing in front of the stage at Penn State's Eisenhower Auditorium waiting to hear our names called so that we may be the next Pennsylvania FFA State

Officer team. However, here I sit in disbelief as we are surging through our fourth month as state officers. This month has been filled with many miles and just as many smiles as we traveled the Keystone state to our first industry visits and chapter visits and much more.

The last week of August was spent in the State College and Mechanicsburg areas. Aug. 27 was spent at Penn State University Park where we met with the associate deans of the College of Agricultural Sciences for lunch and some table time chatting.

Afterwards, we walked across campus and received a tour from two members of the Ag Advocates followed by a visit with College of Agricultural Sciences Dean Richard Roush. We learned more about the college and how Penn State promotes their agriculture college. I would like to thank the dean for meeting with us.

The following day we traveled to Mechanicsburg to spend the day with the staff at Ag Choice Farm Credit. The day was a cooperative learning effort as we tackled a new challenge of presenting



TYLER WATKINS

to Ag Choice. The officer team discussed the outlook of agriculture education and how we, as well as Ag Choice, could advocate for agriculture education.

After our presentation, the staff of Ag Choice spent the day answering our questions and telling us about their credit union and the various programs they offer.

Going into September, Luke Kerstetter, Lily Guhrle, executive director Mike Brammer and I found ourselves back up at Penn State University Park sharing the day with Dr. Daniel Foster's agriculture education class. We spoke with the class about the essentials of a successful FFA chapter and answered questions about the Pennsylvania FFA as well. Meeting with future agriculture educators left us with a sense of pride and ease knowing that agriculture education is still regarded as high importance and that there are college students who look forward to developing our nation's youth through agriculture education.

Speaking of spending time with classes, the Pennsylvania FFA officer team had our first chapter visits as we traveled to Crawford and Erie Counties to visit the Albion and Conneaut Area chapters.

We had a blast meeting with the members as we discussed topics of FFA knowledge, diversity, team building, communication and

personal growth. Getting to see chapters and programs that are different from the ones we came from was an enjoyable experience in itself.

The members made the day a total success as they shared their input and looked forward to a day with the state officers. Their spirit helped our first visit be a cooperative learning experience as we conducted our workshops and receive helpful feedback in the process. Overall, the visits went great and have us excited as chapter visit season is coming into full swing.

Fall brings several other fun events.

Fall Leadership Conference will be on Oct. 5, and will feature key workshops for first-year members and chapter officers alike.

We love spending time with the members and, with that being said, we cannot wait to visit the chapters in Pennsylvania, but in addition, National Convention is quickly approaching. With last year's attendance exceeding 60,000, it is an awesome opportunity for the Pennsylvania FFA members to meet other members from across the nation and members from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

This is going to be a great year to serve the 12,753 Pennsylvania FFA members. We hope that our members are as excited as we are and cannot wait to add more memories as we continue "Telling Our Story."

Editor's note: Tyler Watkins is the Pa. FFA state vice president.

Pennsylvania Chapters Earn State Star

INDIANAPOLIS — The National Chapter Award program recognizes FFA chapters that successfully complete an annual program of activities, which includes a series of activities designed to encourage its members

to grow as individuals, to work as part of a team and to serve others.

Each participant is given a gold, silver or bronze rating and receives a pin.

The winners are as follows.

Bald Eagle Area FFA - One Star
Central Columbia High School FFA - Two Stars
Cumberland Valley High School FFA - Three Stars
Danville FFA - Two Stars
Garden Spot High School FFA - Two Stars
Grand Canyon FFA - Two Stars
Greenwood High School FFA - Two Stars

Juniata FFA Chapter - Two Stars
Meysersdale High School FFA - Two Stars
Middle-West - Three Stars
Northern Lebanon High School FFA - One Star
Penn Manor High School Manor FFA - Two Stars
Tyrone Area High School FFA - Two Stars
West Perry High School FFA - One Star