



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story

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Pa. FFA Members Earn American Degree



Pennsylvania FFA members are pictured with their American Degree certificates at the National FFA Convention last month. The American FFA Degree is awarded to members who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to FFA and made significant accomplishments in their supervised agricultural experiences. Approximately 3,500 American FFA Degrees are handed out each year. That number represents less than half of one percent of all FFA members, making it one of the organization's highest honors. In addition to their degree, each recipient receives a gold American FFA Degree key.

Let's Take a Step Back at the Sentinel's Door

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

Wow, November already. This year is flying by super-fast, and I feel like it was just yesterday my six teammates and I got elected. In just five months of being state officers we have traveled from Massachusetts to Kentucky. We have been busy conducting chapter visits, conferences, attending both National FFA Convention and The Big E, and getting to meet members. These past five months have been the best five months for me because I got to talk with members every day to share my story as well as hear theirs. This year has been so fast paced that I haven't had time to just think.

Let's take a step back and look at how we became who we are today. Think about, what did I do? Where did I come from; and how far did I get? Who did I meet on the way? Who was the person who inspired me or motivated me to do the things I did and accomplish those goals I set? These answers just did something that you did not realize. They just created a small part of your story that you can tell the public, friends, family, and new members. Ironically, the Pennsylvania FFA theme this year is "Telling Our Story."

So besides FFA there are a few more things that I am passionate about, and they are motivation, determination, and education. I am passionate about these things because without them I would not be who I am today. Motivation is the key to getting started with a project or finding what road you should travel, metaphorically speaking. It is what makes the ball start rolling, and you depend where you want to go and



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how you want to do it. Motivation is what makes the goals that you want to achieve. Once we have the motivation we need determination. Determination is where you find your passion

for whatever project or goal you are trying to achieve so you stick to it. If we let our determination fail we will not finish the project or reach that goal. Our determination is what fuels our education. Throughout the process of finishing that project or reaching a goal we are educating ourselves not on just that specific topic, but also how to overcome obstacles that hinder the progress we make as well as learning more about how we can use our successes to help more people to do something that they love.

Motivation, determination, and education, these three words have quite a bit of meaning behind them, and we as community members, FFA members and advisers, and the general public can create a story with them. Once we create our story, we can then tell it to so many people to "amplify to boost our impact." Our story shows who we are as a person, but our stories together show who we are as a community, nation, and an organization that makes a lasting impact on a member's life even after he or she hangs up that blue corduroy jacket. Pennsylvania FFA members, alumni members, and supporters, start telling your story, and Amplify!

Editor's note: Luke Kerstetter is the Pennsylvania FFA State Sentinel.

Pa. Delegates Participate in National FFA Convention



submitted photo

Each year Pennsylvania gets the opportunity to represent the state association. This year, the Pennsylvania FFA had 10 delegates who stepped in to tell Pennsylvania's story to influence changes within the National FFA Organization at this year's national convention. These delegates were from left, Grant Carlton, Victoria Herr, Luke Kerstetter, Elizabeth Winklosky, Lily Guthrie, Tyler Watkins, Katie Sharrer, Rachel Greig, Johnathan Noss, Katie McLaughlin, and accompanied by Pennsylvania's National Officer Candidate, Tony Rice.

Pa. FFA Members Earn Proficiency Awards

Pennsylvania FFA members earned their national proficiency awards at the 88th National FFA Convention and Expo. The winners are listed by name, chapter, award area and rating.

- Brooke Ostrander, Troy Area FFA, Agricultural Education-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Bronze.
- Lynn Finkenbinder, Big Spring FFA, Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems, Bronze.
- Timothy Kallenbach, Jr., Grand Canyon FFA, Beef Production-Entrepreneurship, Gold.
- Casey Baxter, Troy FFA, Dairy Production-Entrepreneurship, Silver.
- Nickolas Crain, Cumberland Valley FFA, Dairy Production-Placement, Bronze.
- Eric Shoop, Middle-West FFA, Diversified

- Agricultural Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Gold.
- Michael Long, Northern Lebanon FFA, Diversified Crop Production-Entrepreneurship, Bronze.
- Makenzie Yorlets, Cumberland Valley FFA, Diversified Livestock-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Gold.
- Tricia Hojnowski, Troy FFA, Equine Science-Entrepreneurship, Gold.
- Anna Rae Paulotta, Cumberland Valley FFA, Equine Science-Placement, Silver.
- Nathan Briggs, West Perry FFA, Forage Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Caitlin Cullum, Red Lion FFA, Goat Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Kayla Baker, Williamsburg FFA, Home and/or Community Development-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Bronze.
- Taylor Hemenway, Wellsboro-Grand

- Canyon FFA, Outdoor Recreation-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Bronze.
- Samantha Bleacher, Manor FFA, Poultry Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Bronze.
- Megan Myers, Cumberland Valley FFA, Sheep Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Tabatha Brooks, Grand Canyon FFA, Small Animal Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Carlie Jo DeLong, Middle-West FFA, Specialty Animal Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Jacob Paris, Big Spring FFA, Specialty Crop Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.
- Janel Baker, West Perry FFA, Swine Production-Entrepreneurship, Silver.
- Mikayla Barnhart, Conococheague FFA, Vegetable Production-Entrepreneurship/Placement, Silver.