



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### BUILDING THE FUTURE

[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

# The Farm Show Experience

## FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

There's nothing like the feeling of walking in to the Farm Show complex and being overwhelmed by a sea of blue corduroy jackets during the Monday of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. For a lot of members, Farm Show is one of the highlights of their FFA career.

Members get to be in a fair-like atmosphere, wear street clothes most of the day, compete in different events, and still get to attend the largest convention that the Pennsylvania FFA holds, the Midwinter Convention, with more than 6,000 people in attendance. Midwinter Convention and the Pennsylvania Farm Show are major highlights every year for the members.

When you walk in to the Weis Hall in the Farm Show Complex, the first thing you see is the food court. If you keep walking past the food, the tractors and the livestock trailers, you come across an area that makes it quite evident that the Pennsylvania FFA has a home at the Farm Show. This area had landscape displays, hard-scape displays, window displays, and Agriscience fair displays. In the stage area, FFA chapters conducted demonstrations regarding a topic of interest. Several chapters also competed in the Farm Safety and Health Quiz Bowl.

FFA members use Farm Show as an opportunity to show off what they are learning in their agricultural education classrooms and compete against each other. But the competition doesn't stop there. Pennsylvania has awesome members that compete in the High School Rodeo, show champion animals and even enter other goods to compete.

When Midwinter Convention rolled around on Monday, the Large Arena was filled with present and past FFA members and supporters of the jacket. A total of 351 Keystone degrees were issued. The Keystone Degree, or the State Degree, is the highest degree that the Pennsylvania FFA Association can bestow on an FFA member. After 300 hours of working on a Supervised Agricultural Experience, investing at least \$1,000, being a member of the FFA for at least two years, being a senior in high school, and showing leadership in the organization, a member is qualified to apply for his or her Keystone Degree. The Keystone Degree opens the door to receiving the American FFA Degree, the highest degree an FFA member can earn, and allows members to be eligible to run for state office.

Another 356 first-year members of the FFA received their first FFA jackets. The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni hosts a Jacket Scholarship Campaign, the largest of its kind in the nation. At the Midwinter Convention, first-year members had the chance to put on their very first blue corduroy FFA jacket and zip it to the top in the jacket ceremony. This year was the highest number of recipients that have ever been awarded.

Midwinter Convention and the Pennsylvania Farm Show were a big success this year. We would like to take the chance to thank everyone who made it possible.

*Editor's Note: Kayla Wallace is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.*



**KAYLA WALLACE**



Photo by the Pa. Department of Agriculture

The Franklin County CTC entered this display at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

# Building the Future With a Strong Foundation

**CHRIS TOEVS**  
Pa. FFA President

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation has been working hard since the 2013-2014 school year started. Beginning with their annual golf outing to their PA Preferred pizza stand at Ag Progress Days, the Foundation's goal is to help raise money and support for agricultural education.

Most recently, Foundation volunteers have been working hard at the Foundation food booth at the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The food booth sold PA Preferred Pizza, the fried mozzarella cheese cubes, apple cider and Hatfield products. The money raised from the booth will go back to benefit FFA chapters and agricultural education programs across the state of Pennsylvania. Chapters from all around had the chance to work at the Foundation to earn money for their chapters. Members from the West Perry, Cumberland Valley, Wellsboro, Shippensburg, Chapters and even

some from Penn State made appearances to help out this year.

The Foundation thanks all FFA chapters who worked the booth and looks forward to a successful 2013-2014 school year.

By establishing business connections, the Foundation promotes partnerships to enhance resources used by agricultural education programs and the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

## Supervised Agricultural Experience Grant Winners

Four Pennsylvania FFA members received a \$1,000 grant for their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) from the National FFA Organization.

The Elizabethtown FFA chapter in Lancaster County is the home of two of the grant winners, Carmen Becker and Garrett Jenkins. Kevin Dressler from the Selinsgrove FFA chapter in Snyder County received a grant. Grand Canyon FFA Chapter member Tim Kaltenbach Jr. at the Wellsboro High School in Tioga County received a grant for his SAE.

In order to receive the \$1,000 grant, FFA members must show that they have goals to grow and improve their SAE.

## KEYSTONE NATIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP

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Advance Sale Adult \$13.00	Advance Sale Adult \$18.00	Advance Sale Adult \$18.00	Advance Sale Adult \$23.00
Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$6.00	Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$9.00	Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$9.00	Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$11.00
Gate Sale Adult \$15.00	Gate Sale Adult \$20.00	Gate Sale Adult \$20.00	Gate Sale Adult \$25.00
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