



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

**BUILDING THE FUTURE**  
[www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us)

## Agriculture Plants Its Seed

**KAYLA WALLACE**

*Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter*

WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) sponsors 100 students representing FFA, AFA, 4-H and Student National Agri-Marketing Association from across the country to participate in National Ag Day on Capitol Hill. This year, Deidra Bollinger, state secretary, and Kayla Wallace, state reporter, participated in the activities put on by the ACA March 23-25 and helped to share their story of agriculture.

Upon arrival at the National 4-H Center students were introduced to what National Ag Day represents and Ag Day activities. The following day was filled with forums discussing current issues that agriculture faces, such as communicating what we do and how to

show people that agriculture is important.

Students also had the opportunity to sit down with other states and discuss issues in agriculture that are specific to their state and two rounds of round table discussion. The first round focused on how to speak with legislators. The second was with USDA employees to get a better sense of what their jobs are all about. After a long day of preparation for Tuesday, students went on a night tour of Washington, D.C.

The following morning, students had the opportunity to meet with their legislators to spread their message of agriculture. Bollinger and Wallace had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Glen "GT" Thompson, David Goldfarb from Sen. Pat Toomey's office, and Carson Middleton from Congressman Joe Pitts' office.



Submitted photo

Deidra Bollinger and Kayla Wallace had the opportunity to meet the United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at the National Ag Day Festivities in March.



Submitted photo

The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team met with New Holland representatives on March 27 and toured the facilities in New Holland, Pa.

## Building the Future in Blue: Officer Team Visits New Holland

New Holland has long been a supporter of the agricultural industry since its founding days in 1895. Since then, the company has grown in leaps and bounds, yet it has always had an eye out for its founding roots in agriculture. If time travel were possible, it would be amazing to see the beginning days of New Holland, but something equally as cool and eye-opening is experiencing the assembly line tour at the New Holland Plant in New Holland, Pa. Take it from the Pennsylvania FFA state officers, it was a tour worth seeing.

We visited the plant on March 27 and to be honest, we did not know what to expect. The tour began with a look at the part fabrication. Our tour guide walked us through the processes of several small parts that go into the balers made in the plant. At this point, the tour guide emphasized that the plant workers are encouraged to learn all parts of their industry. If a worker is punching out parts for the round baler, then they learn how the part is bent and later attached with other parts to form the arms that pick up the hay, but this is only the beginning.

Once we saw how the smaller parts were made, it was on to the combination and painting. Following along similar assembly line protocol, workers are tasked with specific part applications till the final baler is formed. Some of the parts come already painted while others need to be put on the baler before it is all painted.

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



**CHRIS TOEVS**

The painting alone is an awesome process. It brought back a lot of memories of chemistry class and in particular, the positive or negative charge of an object. One of the painting methods involves negatively charging the part that is to be painted. Positively charged paint dust is then sprayed into the air around the part where it is attracted to the negative charge. The result: an even coating of paint that only needs some heat to cook right on to the part. Who knew that chemistry class would come back to haunt us?

After we finished touring the completion of the round balers that were being produced, we made our way to the corporate headquarters to meet with the people who help run the plants and make decisions regarding the future of the company. New Holland has long been a supporter of both the National and Pennsylvania FFA. In order to better understand all it takes to run a multibillion dollar corporation and show our appreciation to this company for their support, we wanted to personally thank New Holland with a visit to their plant and corporate office.

After the day was over, the state officers looked back on the day and thought about the best parts of the tour. The officers were thankful for the first-hand look at the inner workings of New Holland. On top of that, the chance to personally thank the executives who donate money to the FFA Organization meant that much more.

*Editor's note: Chris Toevs is the Pennsylvania FFA state president.*

## Building Relationships While Building the Future

**AUSTIN SHAY**

*Pennsylvania FFA State Sentinel*

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — On March 28, FFA state officers from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania gathered to meet with Rob Kelly, senior vice president of the cattle and equine branch, and Jean Lonie, manager of Zoetis, a global animal health company. With a staff that boasts more than 30 percent FFA alumni and multiple internship opportunities, Zoetis is a platinum sponsor of the National FFA Organization. This company gave FFA members a detailed presentation about the future of farming, or rural entrepreneurship as the company refers to it, and the opportunities for future employment.

Zoetis has five core beliefs that are very similar to the be-

liefs of the FFA. These beliefs are: colleagues make the difference, always do the right thing, customer obsessed, run it like you own it, and we are one Zoetis. These core beliefs fit right alongside some core values of the FFA; the members are at the core of the organization and they are the ones who truly make a difference.

In the FFA, we are trained to always do the right thing and that the customer is always right. Run it like you own it stands true to the motto of the FFA: Learning to do, Doing to learn, Earning to live, and living to serve.

Zoetis also has a YouTube channel called "Vets on Call" that could be used as a teaching component in classrooms. These videos follow veterinarians around on their daily calls. They also talk about medical procedures and the effects of medication on different livestock species.

## Let There be Banquets

**MICHALA KUHLMAN**

*Pennsylvania FFA State Chaplain*

"No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." Finally spring is here, and with spring means one thing to the Pennsylvania state FFA officer team: banquet season. This is the time of year when chapters reward their student for their hard work throughout the year. Some students will be awarded for a job well done in career development events, while others will receive recognition for degrees they have earned. While the spring is a sign of new life, this is also a time for new chapter officer teams to be elected and for senior members to have their final hoorah with the members of their chapter.

While the trophies, plaques and other awards the members

will receive at their banquets are great honors, they mean so much more. These awards are a symbol of the things the students have learned throughout the year. FFA members have an immense opportunity to learn life skills each time they enter their agriculture education classroom. The Pennsylvania state FFA officer team has set a goal for current, freshman, sophomores and juniors to continue to learn as much as they can at every FFA event. For the current seniors, the goal is to build upon everything that they have learned in the FFA.

Many members have already been rewarded with the best award of all, the opportunity to wear the blue jacket. Congratulations to all 12,000 Pennsylvania FFA members, from the entire state FFA officer team for a year well done.

