

# BLU AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow

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

## 50 Days and Counting

**FROM THE OFFICERS STATION**

**F**ifty days. As I write, my teammates and I celebrate our 50th day in office. Within the span of these 50 days we have bonded so much as a new team and have laid what I believe will be a great foundation for our year of service.

We kicked off our year with BLAST OFF (Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers) training, a week of team bonding and building to prepare us for the year ahead and at the end of the week, we were given a huge surprise: a letter from my dear friend, Victoria Herr, the state officer for the Pennsylvania FFA Association and we cannot wait to share all the adventures we will experience in it. With the start of July came some free time for our team to celebrate the summer day followed by the Independence conference for the Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators, industry visits with Ag Choice Farm Credit and Lancaster Farming, the Western Pennsylvania Leadership Conference, the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation's annual golf outing, and most recently, the National Leadership Conference for State Officers.

This conference was held in Dover, Del. and gathered together the state officers from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, New Jersey, West Virginia and Maryland for a week full of learning, growing, and bonding. Our team learned how to work through trials and use them to grow stronger, as well as other important lessons on workshop preparation and delivery, and teamwork. My favorite part of this conference



**VICTORIA HERR**

was hearing more about the FFA programs in other states and how they differ from Pennsylvania, and being given the chance to build relationships with state officers from other states. Each state officer team was given the chance to perform flag-raising ceremonies or reflections, which I really enjoyed.

The flag-raising ceremonies were inspiring and really showed what a great country we live in and the reflections from other states gave us as state officers a few moments to pause and ponder life's biggest questions: How will you spend your time this year? What obstacles are standing in your way? And what will you do to make an impact? I loved hearing these life lessons from other states, as well as being given the chance to share with them in return. This was truly a wonderful conference and I look forward to using the skills I gained from it throughout the year.

The past few months have been so exciting and I cannot wait to see what else this year will have in store for us! This year throughout all the conferences, traveling, chapter visits, conventions and more, I know that my teammates and I will be given so many opportunities for growth and it is my hope that as we grow we will turn those opportunities around into growth opportunities for the members we serve.

*Editor's note: Victoria Herr is the Pa. FFA state secretary.*

## Pa. FFA Announces National Contest Qualifiers

Twelve Pennsylvania FFA members were selected to represent the state at five events at this year's National FFA Convention in November. The winners are listed as follows:

National Agricultural Proficiency Award Finalist: Ruby Moon, National Agriculture FFA Chapter, Pottsville, Pa.  
 National Agriculture FFA Chapter: Paige Pleasinger - Conococheague FFA; Jessica Burkholder - Greenwood FFA; Samantha Strong - Greenwood FFA; Elizabeth Baker-Missal - Greenwood FFA and Alyssa Smith - Cumberland Valley FFA.  
 National Chapter, Address Book: Eastern York and Latta-Spurr - Shipping FFA.  
 National Band Hall Young - Eastern York.  
 National Talent: Deanna Dickinson - McCormickburg and Katie Elder - State College.

## Carter Donating FFA Jacket to Smithsonian

In a special donation ceremony, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History received five FFA jackets into the collection. The FFA jackets will be part of the museum's upcoming business history exhibition, "American Enterprise," opening July 2015.

"Agriculture is a critical part of American history and there is no better example of youth preparation for the challenges of the field than participation in FFA," donated Peter Liephold said.

The jackets will be created by former President Jimmy Carter; Co-

ney Flomroy, director of the Illinois Center for Urban Agricultural Education; Karlee Lindow Krueger, American Star Farmer award recipient; Jesse Godbold, former Florida Cooperative Extension Service agricultural agent; and Mary Louie Reynolds, National Agricultural Library technical information specialist.

The jackets will individually rotate on display in an exhibition area focused on the role of agriculture in American business history. Nearby will be the "Farm to Table," a hands-on, multimedia experience in

## Wenger Foundation Donates Van

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Wenger Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that began in 1996, supporting religious, educational and community service programs. The foundation has been a longtime supporter of the Pennsylvania FFA.

To further show their support of the FFA, Carl and Margaret Wenger of the Wenger Foundation donated a van for the Pennsylvania FFA. The van will be used to transport the state officer team to functions and events and to the new enclosed trailer the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni recently purchased. The FFA emblem and the Wenger Foundation logo makes the van easily recognizable.

The key presentation took place during the 22nd Annual New Holland and Hoss's Steak and Sea House Golf Outing and Charity Auction. The Wengers attended and presented the keys to the state officer team.



Submitted photo  
 Carl Wenger and his wife, Margaret, present the van key to the new state officer team. Pictured, from left, are Carl Wenger, Margaret Wenger, Lisa Boltz, Victoria Herr, Mara Tate, Matthew Brake and Grant Carlton.

## Pa. FFA Foundation 22nd Annual Golf Outing and Charity Event

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation hosted the 22nd Annual New Holland and Hoss's Golf Outing and Charity Auction on July 24.

Proceeds will benefit Pennsylvania FFA Association. The event held at Foxchase Golf Course included 18 holes of golf and a charity auction. Golfers also participated in a hole-in-one, closest to the pin and longest drive contest. There were approximately 160 golfers and supporters at this year's event.



Submitted photo  
 Golfers of the 22nd annual New Holland and Hoss's Steak and Sea House golf outing claim their carts and prepare for the shot gun start. Around 160 golfers attended the event.

## State FFA Chapters Receive Star Awards

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — Multiple state FFA organizations have been awarded the National FFA Star Chapter awards.

Chapters that receive a gold rating by their state FFA associations are eligible to compete for National FFA three-star, two-star or one-star ratings. Each chapter that competes for these awards receives a multi-year plaque and a spur designating their three-star, two-star or one-star rating. They will receive additional spurs for each year they compete

and receive a rating from the National FFA Organization. Chapters that receive a national three-star chapter rating are eligible to compete for the National Model of Innovation, Model of Excellence and Outstanding Middle School Chapter awards.

The following chapters were awarded:

**Connecticut**  
 Housatonic Valley Reg. High School, three star.  
 Northwestern Reg. 7 High School, two star.  
 Wassaug Regional High School, one star.

**Delaware**  
 Dalmar High School, two star.  
 Lake Forest High School, three star.  
 Mildred High School, two star.

**Massachusetts**  
 Norfolk Co. Ag School, one star.  
**New Jersey**  
 Allentown High School, two star.  
 Northern Burlington Middle School, two star.  
 Penna Grove High School, two star.

**New York**  
 Albion Central School, two star.  
 Caserone Aggies, two star.  
 Jasper Township School, two star.  
 Plover High School, one star.  
 Tin Valley Central High School, two star.  
 Warren Geneva-Silver, two star.

**Pennsylvania**  
 Cedar Crest High School, two star.

Conococheague, three star.  
 Cret Columbus Valley High School, three star.  
 Cumberland Valley High School, three star.  
 Darragh Area, three star.  
 Garden Spot High School, three star.  
 Grand Canyon, one star.  
 Greenwood High School, three star.  
 Juniata, three star.  
 Mayersville High School, two star.  
 Middletown, three star.  
 North Lancaster High School, two star.  
 Penn Manor High School-Manco, three star.  
 Gettysburg High School, three star.  
 Ten Valley High School, two star.

**Virginia**  
 Abingdon High School, one star.  
 Appomattox Senior, three star.  
 Otter High School, three star.  
 Central, three star.  
 Chatham-Middle, three star.  
 Dinwiddie Senior High School, two star.  
 Eastern View High, two star.  
 Holden High School, two star.  
 Laurel Park Middle School, two star.  
 Layton Co. High School, two star.  
 Nelson Co. High School, two star.  
 Palan Co. Middle High School, two star.  
 Piner Mountain Middle School, one star.  
 Shenandoah High School, two star.  
 Signal Mountain Middle School, three star.  
 Spotsylvania High School, two star.

**West Virginia**  
 Buchanan Uphar High School, one star.  
 Buffalo High School, two star.  
 Hampshire High School, two star.  
 Jefferson High School, two star.  
 Mineral Co. Tech Center, three star.  
 Pendleton County High School, three star.  
 Woodlawn Middle, three star.

