



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

**GROW ... LEAD ... SUCCEED**

**www.paffa.state.pa.us**

## ACES 2013: Sprouting Possibilities



Photos by Mike Brammer

FFA Members learn about the opportunities they have if they attend the Washington Leadership Conference.

### SHANNON COPELAND

*Pa. FFA State FFA Secretary*

HARRISBURG, Pa. — “Sprouting Possibilities?” What does that mean? Well, sprouting possibilities was the theme for the 2013 ACES Conference. Last weekend and this weekend, there were approximately 1,300 members, advisers and guests at the Harrisburg Hershey Sheraton Hotel.

There were five different types of leadership workshops including communication, social media, team building, Teach Ag, and Washington Leadership Conference.

The Teach Ag workshop was taught by our Teach Ag Avengers who are enrolled in agriculture and Extension education at Penn State. The Ag Avengers talked about why members should consider becoming an agriculture teacher. The Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) workshop was taught by FFA members who had attended WLC. They talked their experiences participating in the conference and why other members should attend.

Two dinner keynote speakers took FFA members on an inspirational road trip Saturday evening. Dr. Daniel Foster, a professor of agriculture Extension and education at Penn State, and Matt Reutlinger, a student at Penn State majoring in agriculture Extension and education, discussed the importance of becoming an agriculture educator. After dinner, the members attended a dance.

Sunday morning seemed to come bright and early for many members. A church group called Oasis of Love performed different skits and songs about making the right choices when it comes to their own life. After breakfast members were able to show off their talents to the entire group during “FFA’s Got Talent,” and were quizzed on the knowledge



FFA Members from Cumberland Valley and Bellwood-Antis share their ideas in the Teach Ag workshop during the first weekend of ACES.



Agriculture Education teachers receive certification in first aid at a workshop hosted by the Pennsylvania Association of Agriculture Educators (PAAE).

they gained at the conference during “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire - FFA Edition.”

Members certainly sprouted pos-

sibilities these two weekends, and will hopefully begin to use those possibilities back in the home and community.

## Grow, Growing, Grown

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Now that the rush of the 84th Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention and Farm Show is over and in the books, members can take this time



MIRANDA KANE

to relax from showing animals, competing in contests, working at the FFA food booth, and other Farm Show events. Now they can focus on new projects, new classes, and developing themselves as leaders in other ways. After all, it’s important to remember that we will not grow if we have nothing to grow from. Think about it: someone who wishes to be a doctor does not just start performing surgeries without having studied the profession first.

Therefore, we must start by growing ourselves. Though it feels as if it is too late because more than half of the year is over, anytime can be a good time to grow. I personally find myself seeing areas that need improvement or simply finding places that I can change to make myself a better leader all of the time. The first step to growth is noticing that a change is needed to eventually succeed. Once that is acknowledged, the process can practically take care of itself with a little perseverance and motivation, of course.

Personal growth aside, there is another reason why growth is a hot topic for this month. As members, we come together every year to celebrate in our own little week-long holiday: National FFA Week. This week represents the continual growth and development of our organization since the very first day we began. We reflect on what our organization represents and listen

to stories and the history of the FFA. Young students learn from their teachers what it meant to be an FFA member in 1928, or how their own chapter was chartered. Members get into the spirit by dressing up in wacky costumes,

participating in recreational events, or doing activities with the school to promote FFA.

We never forget how we are still growing as a chapter, a state, or even as a nation as we expand into other parts of the world and promote agriculture and agricultural education to others which is why this week is important to us. As our improvements increase every year, our appreciation for the organization does as well.

Every day, many are learning and interacting with agriculturalists to understand how agriculture is important to them. Members engage themselves in workshops similar to our conference, which wraps up tomorrow, ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success). Here, they obtain social and communicative skills, as well as develop their team building and leadership. They even meet with a few of our specialists on agriculturally related topics and workshops.

Whichever way you look at it, our reoccurring theme seems to focus on growth. Members are constantly finding ways to grow within themselves, are forever growing with their chapters as they learn of our rich history, and have grown by deepening their leadership skills and potential. As you go on the rest of this month, keep in the back of your mind the ways in which you grow for you, agriculture education, and for your community.

*Miranda Kane is the Pa. FFA state treasurer.*

## Eastern York FFA Earns Ethanol Contest Award

*Eastern York FFA Chapter*

WRIGHTSVILLE, Pa. — Members of the Eastern York FFA Chapter decided to answer the question, what are the economic benefits to ethanol? Their video answer earned the chapter a second place finish in a National FFA video contest.

The chapter received second place out of 34 entries across the nation. FFA students planned, filmed, and edited the video. Par-

ticipants included Sherri Barr, Haley Young, Katie Grim, Adrienne Beck, and Brianna Elicker. The video is called “Where Does All the Money Go?” and can be viewed on YouTube (<http://youtu.be/NpK64ga4dG8>).

The video was judged based on two primary criteria; creativity in telling the ethanol story, and describing the important of ethanol to your community. New Holland Agriculture sponsored the contest.

## Meet Your State Officer at Hoss’s Night

HARRISBURG, Pa. — It’s that time of the year again, National FFA Week. To celebrate, on Tuesday, February 19 at 6 p.m., several Hoss’s around the state will be welcoming FFA members, advisers, and supporters to a Meet Your

State Officer night. This year’s locations are Enola, Elizabethtown, Lititz, DuBois, Huntingdon, Meadville, and Williamsport. Bring your administrators, community leader, faculty, family and friends. We hope to see you there.

