



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### BUILDING THE FUTURE

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

## Pa. FFA Officers Learn About Marcellus Shale Industry

LENA BIONI

Pa. FFA State Treasurer

WASHINGTON, Pa. — The Pennsylvania State FFA officer team took the trip to the western side of the state, the heart of Marcellus Shale drilling, to learn more about the natural gas extraction process. The officer team visited with Range Resources for an inside look at the drilling process.

The day started off with a tour of their newest office space in South Pointe, Pa.

Along the way, Range Resources communications manager Mike Mackin explained the pipelines that crested and crossed over from one hillside to the next and the steps his company has

taken to be the leaders in the natural gas industry.

For most of the officer team, the tour sparked a lot of questions. Most of the team lives outside of the Marcellus Shale region of western and northern Pennsylvania.

The tour stopped at a Patterson Rig drilling on a pad of six future wells.

Due to safety restrictions, the team could not climb atop the well but were able to see the workings of the well site from afar. Several employees from the site talked about their responsibilities on site. The next stop was to a reclaimed site after drilling is completed.

On the second day of our trip, the state officer team attended the Washington County Fair. Join-

ing members from the H.G. Parkinson FFA and McGuffey FFA, the state officer team accepted a check for \$50,000 from John Applegath, Range Resources vice president of the southern Marcellus Shale division. The money will be utilized for an FFA scholarship program.

Pennsylvania FFA members can apply for a \$1,000 scholarship, annually. They can receive a scholarship for four years of FFA membership, totaling \$4,000 per member. The scholarships are presented to those selected at the state summer convention. To date, Range Resources Company has donated more than \$250,000 in the form of scholarships to graduating members pursuing a college degree.



Photos by Pa. FFA Association

The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team and members from the H.G. Parkinson FFA and McGuffey FFA chapters accept a check from John Applegath, Range Resources vice president of the southern Marcellus Shale division. The money will be utilized for an FFA scholarship program.

State officers learn about the drilling process with their tour guide Mike Mackin from Range Resources.

## Ag Progress Days Roundup

KAYLA WALLACE

State Reporter

ROCK SPRINGS, Pa. — “Without labor neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much.” These words from the FFA opening ceremonies have rung true in the agricultural world since the beginning of time. Without labor and hard work to apply knowledge and wisdom that has been acquired over time, advancement can never be made. The state officer team had the chance to witness, first hand, the application of knowledge and wisdom through hard work at Ag Progress Days, Aug. 13-15.

Ag Progress Days is the largest agricultural exhibit held outdoors in Pennsylvania and contains more than 400 exhibitors from 34 different states and Canada.

The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation set up their annual food booth with offerings, such as the PA Preferred Pizza. The Foundation had the help of the state officer team and FFA chapters like Cumberland Valley and West Perry to help prepare food and serve customers.

Along with the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, the Pennsylvania FFA Association made their presence known at Ag Progress Days. The Pennsylvania FFA state officer team set up their booth in the youth and family building. Their booth was catered to teach those who visited it accurate facts about agriculture and the FFA.

Many FFA chapters made their appearance though the three days at Ag Progress days. They were competing in the FFA Knowledge Career Development Event and representing their chapters just by visiting the grounds.

## Kick-Off to Chapter Visits

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

During our year of service to the Pennsylvania FFA, our team has the opportunity to travel to FFA chapters across the Commonwealth and share our stories and journey through FFA with students enrolled in agriculture education courses. As FFA members and students involved in agriculture education classes prepared to return to school, the state officer team was busy preparing workshops to encourage students to participate in FFA activities within their chapters, county/area, and state. The highlights of our workshop include positive communications, opportunities in FFA, communicating as a confident leader as well as careers in agriculture.

To kick-off 2013-2014 chapter visits, on Sept. 5, our team traveled together to the Selingsgrove High School, home of the Selingsgrove FFA Chapter. There we spent



DEIDRA BOLLINGER

the day interacting with students and leading workshops with the variety of agriculture classes their school offers. The chapter visit, said Austin Shay, “was a great experience; it really helped me understand classroom dynamics and makes me look forward to the day when I can teach in my own classroom.”

As the day came to a close, we had the chance to have a question and answer session with the chapter officers that helped us to grow and learn, as we hope our workshops did for the students.

*Editor's Note: We invite all chapter advisers to contact Mike Brammer, executive manager of the Pennsylvania FFA Association, to set up a chapter visit at 717-705-9551 or c-mbrammer@state.pa.us.*

*Deidra Bollinger is the Pennsylvania FFA state secretary.*



Photo by Pa. FFA Association

Pennsylvania state FFA chaplain Michala Kulhman, leads a workshop for students at Selingsgrove High School.

*Ignite The Night*  
at the  
**10th Annual PA FFA Alumni**  
**Blue and Gold Ball**

Saturday, October 19, 2013  
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey  
4650 Lindle Rd  
Harrisburg, PA 17111

6:00pm Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres  
7:00pm Dinner  
9:00pm Silent Auction Closes

*\$50 per person    \$90 per couple*  
*Please RSVP by October 4, 2013*

All attendees receive complimentary State FFA Alumni membership for the coming year

Room Block Available:  
FFA ALUMNI