



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

BUILDING THE FUTURE

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Pa. FFA Officers Attend Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



Submitted photo

HERSHEY, Pa. — The Pennsylvania FFA state officers had the chance to attend the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Conference from Nov. 18 through Nov. 20. The officers had the chance to perform the opening ceremonies in front of attendees, meet with the Pennsylvania Young Farmers and Ranchers, and listen to issues currently afflicting the Farm Bureau.

Learning About ‘Today’s Ag’ Exhibit



Submitted photo

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania state FFA officers visited with PennAg Industries on Nov. 7 in Harrisburg. The team had the chance to discuss and get an inside look at the Today’s Agriculture exhibit for the 2014 Pennsylvania Farm Show. The Today’s Agriculture exhibit will be located in the exhibition hall and an educational exhibit for Farm Show visitors to learn about modern agricultural practices.

Planning for the Pa. Farm Show

FROM THE OFFICER’S STATION

For many farm families, a summer vacation does not fit into the summer schedule. Between planting and making hay one cannot simply sit on the beach knowing all the work that needs to be done at home. But once all the crops have been harvested and the weather turns much colder and not as much production can be accomplished, Pennsylvania agriculturalists and their families take a yearly trip to our states capital for the Pennsylvania Farm Show. This January, tradition has become a place of gathering for everyone from those following the show circuit to the milkshake junkies. This is a trip my family looks forward to all year. From preparing a steer to show to posing for pictures in front of the butter sculpture and every FFA event in between, it may not be a beach but a “stay-cation” at the Farm Show is OK with me.

Pennsylvania hosts the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the country, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 300 commercial exhibits. This gives the rural and urban families the chance to see the latest advancements our number one industry will be seeing in the future. Kayla Fusselman, a graduate member of Kutztown FFA, said, “The Pennsylvania Farm Show is so great because it has something for every person, agriculture associated or not. For those involved in agriculture, they can connect with other ag people, businesses and organizations. For people who don’t normally associate themselves with agriculture, it is a time and chance to be educated on agriculture and the impact it makes on everyone’s life.”

When school should be resuming for most students after

Christmas break, a sea of blue jackets will fill the exhibit halls and arenas of the Farm Show Complex. These FFA members will gather on Monday with their advisers, friends

and families to take part in the Mid-Winter Convention for the Pennsylvania FFA. Select first-year members will begin their FFA experience by earning their first official FFA jacket, like Rachel Wilkocy and Sara Jess from Twin Valley FFA chapter, and Ellie Klink from Conneaut Area FFA. These three students were honored at the Mid-Winter Convention in previous years and will be returning to see their peers from across the state have the same experience. Others will be in attendance to be awarded the highest degree a FFA member can earn in Pennsylvania: the Keystone Degree. This award commemorates those graduating members for their dedication to the FFA and the work they have put into their Supervised Agricultural Experience.

This January will be a year of firsts for senior Kendra Semple of the Captain Jack FFA. Not only will she be receiving her Keystone Degree, Semple will exhibit her first market goat and compete in the square dance competition.

From livestock to shopping and text tiles to Pennsylvania commodity food booths, the week of Jan. 4-11, 2014, is sure to please the commonwealth. Whether celebrating agriculture, competing in a high-quality show environment, or reconnecting with old friends, this year’s family “stay-cation” is sure to be one for the books. Share in the experience of agriculture; you won’t be disappointed in the setting you will find yourself emerged in. For more information, visit www.farmshow.state.pa.us.

Editor’s note: Lena Bioni is the Pennsylvania FFA state treasurer.



LENA BIONI



Nailor, Richwine Named ‘Teachers of the Year’

SHIPPENSBURG, Pa. — Sherisa Nailor of Big Spring and Carol Richwine of Northern York were each honored with the award of Teacher of the Year from Shippensburg University on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

Submitted photo

