



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

DESIRE... ACQUIRE... INSPIRE

www.paffa.state.pa.us

ACES: 'Out of This World'

JENNA MOSER

State FFA Reporter

This year's FFA ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success) Conference was simply "Out of This World." Students from across the state came together to participate in this conference Feb. 11-12.

It was space themed and revolved around a NASA (Noticing Agriculture Students Achievements) theme. Members rotated through leadership workshops organized by the Ag Choice Farm Credit, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Ag Student Teachers, Mike and Penny Brammer, several past state officers,

and the state FFA officers. Some of the workshops were: global ag awareness; professionalism and personal skills; and leadership, communication and teamwork. Students went through six workshops, listened to the National President of the Young Farmers Association Carol Cornman, had an awesome time at the "Space Dance," enjoyed the time of inspiration led by Matt Dodson, created and presented agriculture awareness commercials, and finally, played FFA Space-O showing off the member's knowledge and skill of the FFA and Agriculture.

A second ACES Conference begins today.



The "Milk Duds" from Conococheague put together a great rap to show the importance of the dairy industry. They certainly won the crowd with their creativity and heart.



Students are enjoying a workshop about professionalism and personal skills.

SELC: Rockin' with the Heroes

SARABETH ROYER

State FFA Secretary

The Twin Valley FFA chapter hosted the 2012 SELC (South Eastern Leadership Conference) on Jan 24. Students from the Philadelphia, Tri-Valley, Little Dutchman, Garden Spot and Twin Valley FFA chapters attended the event. This conference is different from many other FFA events in that the location differs each year; every other year W.B. Saul High School in Philadelphia holds the conference. This allows students to experience two very different FFA high school programs, and to travel to different places.

This year's theme was "Hairband Heroes." Students went through several workshops led by Twin Valley HS students. Workshops ranged from "Crowd Surfing," talking about trust to "Discovering the Hero in You" led by two state officers. After students learned more about professionalism, communication, teamwork, and self-confidence, they were able to demonstrate their "rockin' air guitar skills!" in a healthy competition of the groups. After more classic rock games, and eating together, the students held a dance before closing ceremonies. The Hairband Heroes SELC Conference created ample opportunities for students to meet new people, learn new skills, and have fun together. It was a rocking good time.

Spring Ahead With Warm Weather ... in February?

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

On several frigid nights in previous years, I recall watching over newborn baby beef calves or goat kids during this time of year. Huddled in my insulated bib Carharts, jacket, gloves and muck boots, I witnessed the newborns in their sleepy slumber within mounds of straw being protected by their new mother. Making sure they were safe and sound, I would stay in my International Harvester folding chair, sipping my robust coffee, and staying well away of the observant



TYLER CLAYPOOL

to appreciate the smaller things in life, like a fragile calf stumbling to stand for the first time.

However, this year was slightly different. It's not freezing. As early as January, it has seemed like we have been getting spring weather already. So as all of us spring ahead

in our daily goals, we slowly get ahead of many of our tasks, wearing as little as jeans and a t-shirt. I never thought I would be pounding posts and putting up new lines of fence in February. However, I am and with the new warm weather my team and I have also been diligently working on the future events of the Pennsylvania FFA. Wrapping up the 83rd FFA Mid-Winter Convention, we hit the ground running for an "Outta this World" ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success) Conference, which were the second and third weekend of February. The team has also continued to organize the State Legislative Leadership Conference, or SLLC, that will be taking place in March. Also we have been going to industry visits with companies such as Journal Publication

Incorporated and we will be meeting with Pfizer soon. In addition we are excited to socialize with all of the tremendous FFA members at Meet Your State Officer at Hoss's Night coming up on Feb. 21.

We cannot wait to hear what all of you have been doing since we last met and hopefully we will even find out what all of the 147 chapters are doing for National FFA Week! Let's hope this abundance of warm weather will continue so that we can all thoroughly enjoy this week to celebrate FFA and its outstanding members. Possibly with a bale toss at an Ag Olympics?

I hope everyone will make productive use of all this gorgeous weather and enjoy it before the bitter winter returns.

Editor's Note: Tyler Claypool is the Pa. State FFA Sentinel.

Ag Awareness Food For All

MIKE WOODS

Cumberland Valley FFA Adviser

In an effort to raise awareness of agriculture's impact and the importance of locally grown food in Cumberland County, the Cumberland Valley FFA is hosting its First Annual "A-Day" for Agriculture Awareness Food For All... From Farm to Fork, which is slated for May 25.

The highlight of this event will be the ground breaking of a 6-acre community hunger garden and agricultural learning center on the campus of the Cumberland Valley Educational Park.

The vast portion of foods grown will be donated directly to charities like Project SHARE and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Hopefully, the remaining food can be sold by forming a partnership with local food merchants in order to provide venues of fresh, student-produced, Pennsylvania Preferred agricultural commodities that can benefit and be enjoyed by thousands in our community. Income generated by these partnerships will be used for the future growth of the garden so that we can better serve local hunger needs.

In turn, the garden will provide

learning opportunities for all areas of curricula at Cumberland Valley—and beyond. Agriculture students will be able to hone a wide variety of agriscience skills. Biology classes will have the opportunity to study native species of Pennsylvania trees, shrubs and plants in the arboretum. Math classes will be able to calculate the average crop yields. English students will promote literacy through outdoor learning labs. Chemistry students will determine proper soil nutrient balances. Special needs students will engage all of their senses through a fully accessible garden and landscape. All of

these students will be able to share what they've learned by working to incorporate educational centers and stations into the larger garden.

See what exciting things are already happening as we plan for this landmark event by visiting the "A-Day" website: www.cvschools.org/Aday

Please contact Cumberland Valley's agriscience department about sponsorship opportunities and general inquiries by contacting Mr. Michael K. Woods, CVHS agriscience instructor and FFA adviser at 717-506-3467 or mwoods@cvschools.org

Check out the FFA pages in Eastern Dairy Reporter on pages E15-17.