



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Bye Bye Birdies

Cloister FFA Chapter

EPHRATA, Pa. — On Dec. 21, students in Sarah Quigg's animal science course at the Ephrata High School said goodbye to the broiler chickens that they received as fertilized eggs back in September.

Greg Martin, a Penn State Extension specialist, gave an overview of embryology when he brought the eggs and helped the class set up two different incubators. Over the course of the 21-day incubation period, students were able to use candlers to watch fetal growth. The district's information technology department was also able to hookup a webcam that broadcasted the hatch.

Once the chicks hatched, they were divided into three groups and fed different diets so that the class could observe the effects that feeds can have on animal growth. The class was not initially told that the feeds were different, so they needed to predict causes for the difference in weight. Sarah Quigg said, "raising the broilers is such a great way to integrate math and technology, and they also make the topic of nutrition much more accessible. Instead of talking about what nutrients do, students can actually watch firsthand how they impact growth."

Although not all students enjoyed handling the birds when they

reached adult size, they were able to make important observations about their behavior every week.

Emily Zimmerman liked the weighing process, explaining "I enjoyed...seeing the changes in the chickens and, oddly enough, the data collection." In addition to using math skills to calculate averages and weight change and graphing the data using Excel, the class also wrote letters to thank various contributors to the project.

Additionally, a small, dedicated group of students was responsible for providing basic care throughout the entire project which included turning the eggs, checking on the birds, feeding them, giving them new water, cleaning their cages/pens, and making sure they were all healthy. Crew members included Jessica Hochreiter, Miranda Means, Meredith Michel, Michele Minnick, Laura Pastrana, Emily Pfeiffer, Laura Reinert, Zoe Homan, Lindsey Collemacine, Brittany Copenhaver, and Dana Deamer.

On Dec. 22 several members went to Eberly Poultry to pick up the processed birds and brought them, along with food the class had collected, as well as some leftover fruit from the FFA citrus sale over to Ephrata Area Social Services. Martin also returned to help the class wrap up the project by dem-



Submitted photo

Laura Pastrana, Jess Hochreiter, Meredith Michel, and Miranda Means stand outside of Eberly Poultry with the class's processed chicken halves.

onstrating carving a cooked chicken and also showed how to break down a whole raw bird into various cuts of meat that are found at the grocery store. Overall this project gave the

class a new perspective of where their food comes from and an appreciation for the processing that is involved to get it from the farm to their forks. As senior Emily Giffen

explains, "I really enjoyed the process of seeing how my chicken is 'made.' ...I have never been around farms or poultry at all, and I just thought it was truly awesome."

Pizza Anyone?

FFA members happily worked at the PA Preferred Pizza Booth at the Farm Show. The booth was a new addition to the 2012 Farm Show and raised funds to benefit state FFA programs.



Submitted photo

Susquehanna County Farmer Wins Trailer Benefitting FFA

Along with celebrating the accomplishments of 282 Keystone Degree recipients and awarding 252 Freshman FFA Jacket Scholarships, attendees at the 2012 Mid-Winter FFA Convention on Jan. 9, congratulated Susquehanna County farmer Jim Garner for his winning Eby Utility Trailer raffle ticket.

M.H. Eby, Inc., donated a 5-foot by 10-foot Aluminum Utility Trailer and the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Board of Trustees sold raffle tickets from June to December 2011. The endeavor raised almost \$3,000 for the Foundation and will go directly to offsetting FFA Association costs for leadership conferences, Career Development Events (CDE) and trip expenses for teams to attend the National FFA Convention.

State Officer Industry Visits
Representatives from the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation have also supported the Pennsylvania FFA Association and state

officers through participating in industry visits throughout the fall months of 2011. Visits to Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Fulton Bank, AgChoice Farm Credit, and Hoss's Steak & Sea House corporate headquarters have allowed

STEPHANIE SHIRK



PA FFA FOUNDATION

the state officers to learn about different segments of agriculture and business.

The PA FFA Foundation and State Officers will continue business and industry visits this spring for the current team to experience a variety of agriculture aspects.

Save the Date - The 20th Annual FORE FFA Golf Outing
The 20th Annual FORE FFA Golf Outing is scheduled for July 18 at Foxchase Golf Course in Stevens, Pa. The 2012 outing will include both a morning and afternoon flight of golfers. Contact Stephanie Shirk at 717-201-6753 or sshirk@paffafoundation.org for more information.

Editor's Note: Stephanie Shirk is a member of the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation.

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Thursday March 22 6:00PM
Advance Sale Adult \$13.00
Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$6.00
Gate Sale Adult \$15.00
Gate Sale Child (8-12) \$8.00

Friday March 23 6:00PM
Advance Sale Adult \$18.00
Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$9.00
Gate Sale Adult \$20.00
Gate Sale Child \$10.00

Saturday March 24 11:00AM
Advance Sale Adult \$18.00
Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$9.00
Gate Sale Adult \$20.00
Gate Sale Child (8-12) \$10.00

Saturday Night Finals 6:30PM
Advance Sale Adult \$23.00
Advance Sale Child (8-12) \$11.00
Gate Sale Adult \$25.00
Gate Sale Child (8-12) \$12.00

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