



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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

## Countdown to FFA Mid-Winter Convention

**MARIS WILSON**

*Pennsylvania FFA State Reporter*

HARRISBURG, Pa. — It's time to break out the gloves and scarves, winter is officially here! For many this means the looming threat of snow-covered roads, but for FFA members this means Farm Show is right around the corner.

On Jan. 7, during Farm Show, the Pennsylvania FFA will host the Mid-Winter Convention in the large arena. This event is to present qualifying FFA members with the highest degree that the Pennsylvania FFA can award — the Keystone Degree. In order to qualify for the Keystone Degree, members must have invested 300 hours or \$1,000 in their supervised agricultural experience projects. This year, the association is proud to award more than 250 members with this prestigious award.

Many first-year members will also be awarded with something just as special — their first blue corduroy jacket. In order to receive one of these jackets, students must fill out an application and write an essay about what impact the FFA

had on a former member. Those who are chosen are given the jacket, free of charge, from the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association.

Not only will members and guests watch the Mid-Winter Convention, they will also have time to explore the Pennsylvania Farm Show. One stop that is a must-see in the complex is the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation Food Booth, where FFA members work to earn some money to help pay for FFA expenses. Once again, the food booth will be home to PA Preferred Pizza that was a big hit with Farm Show attendees last year, along with staple food items such as fried cheese cubes.

Whether you are there for the animals, the atmosphere, or the food, be sure to watch the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention to see all of the amazing accomplishments of members across the state. The convention will start at 2 p.m. in the large arena on Jan. 7. For more details, visit [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us) or contact Mike Brammer at [c-mbrammer@pa.gov](mailto:c-mbrammer@pa.gov).



Photo by Canton FFA

FFA members wait patiently to receive their first FFA jacket at Mid-Winter Convention.

## State Officers Visit Moniteau FFA

Pennsylvania State Officers, Casey Shawver and Shannon Copeland, middle, visit with the Moniteau FFA Chapter Officer Team in November.

Photo provided by Casey Shawver



## Greenwood FFA, Grange to Host Hunger Banquet

**KRISTA PONTIUS**

*Greenwood FFA Adviser*

MILLERSTOWN, Pa. — Everyone on Earth has the same basic needs; it is only our circumstances—where we live and the culture into which we are born that differ. Some are born into relative prosperity and security, while millions, through no choice of their own, are born into poverty. One in seven people go hungry every day, but hunger is not about too many people and too little food. The results are illiteracy, poverty, war, and the inability of families to grow or buy food. Few experiences bring to life these inequalities more powerfully to reality than an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet.

On Jan. 18, the Greenwood FFA will partner with the Perry Valley Grange to host an Oxfam America Hunger Event at the Perry Valley Grange in Millerstown, Pa.

When guests arrive, they will

draw tickets at random that assign them to a high, middle, or low-income tier, based on latest statistics of people living in poverty. Each income level will receive a corresponding meal. When the meal is finished, guests will be engaged in discussion about hunger issues and presented with information to inform, enlighten, and inspire.

Although not all participants will leave with full stomachs, they will possess a greater understanding of hunger and poverty issues in Perry County, Pennsylvania, the United States, and beyond and hopefully will be motivated to action.

At the end of the evening a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Perry County Food Bank. We will accept the first 150 reservations for the event. Reservations can be made by calling the Greenwood Agricultural Department at 717-589-3116 x 1209 or emailing [kpontius@greenwoodsd.org](mailto:kpontius@greenwoodsd.org).

## FFA Members are Star Quality

**DIANNA JAREMA**

*Bermudian Springs FFA Adviser*

YORK SPRINGS, Pa. — Three members representing Adams and York Counties met at Bermudian Springs High School recently to be interviewed for FFA awards based on their supervised agricultural experience programs.

The interviews were first of a series the students must complete as they compete for the ultimate award - to be chosen as the "star" in their expert area. FFA members must first enroll in agriculture education courses while in high school and submit plans for a project related to agriculture. Many students

select animal or plant related production projects, but some also work at area farms or agribusinesses.

The state and national FFA recognizes star award areas in production agriculture, placement (employment), agriscience and agribusiness. Students present records of their projects over the past three to four years and explain them during the interview process.

Representing Adams County were Jocelyn Riser of Conewago-New Oxford FFA (Dairy Production) and Kendall Wilkinson (Ag Placement) from Gettysburg. Jordan Sommers, from the Kennard-Dale FFA, was proud to explain his production SAE, as well.

All students were selected to advance to the Regional Star Selection held in Carlisle on Nov. 19.

Though they were not selected as a Regional Star, all candidates were proud of their planning and accomplishments and mentioned how FFA and completing an SAE project had made them more responsible, helped them set and attain goals and become better prepared for their future careers.

*Editor's note: Winners for the state star awards will be announced at the Mid-Winter FFA Convention at the Pennsylvania Farm Show on Monday, Jan. 7 beginning at 2 p.m. in the Large Arena.*



Kendall Wilkinson of the Gettysburg chapter, Jordan Sommers of the Kennard-Dale chapter, and Jocelyn Riser of Conewago/New Oxford chapter submitted their supervised agriculture experience programs for the regional star award.