



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### Act Today - Impact Tomorrow

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

## Athens FFA Tops Dairy Judging Contest

MARK ELSBREE  
Athens FFA

ATHENS, Pa. — On March 19th the Athens FFA dairy judging team traveled to Penn State to compete in Penn State's annual youth dairy judging contest. Teams from all over the state competed.

The Athens team, consisting of Bruce Learn, Nick Insinga, Mason Tate and Elliot Elsbee, placed first in the team division.

For the event, contestants had to judge six classes of Holsteins. The Holstein classes were different age groups ranging from yearling heifers to four-year-old cows. Oral rea-

sons were also presented on selected classes.

In the individual competition, Nick Insinga was the high individual overall. Elliot Elsbee had the highest reasons score.

The FFA team and the Bradford County 4-H Dairy judging team hosted practices as local farms since December in preparation for the March contest. Practices were hosted at the farms of Scott Walrath, Scott and Karen Nolt, Duane and Ellen Andrews, Aaron and Don White, Dean and Rebecca Jackson, Dan and Kim Hoppage, and Paul and Billie Jo Robbins.



The Athens FFA Team of Bruce Learn, Nich Insigna, Mason Tate and Elliot Eisbree was the first place team at Penn State's spring youth dairy judging contest.



## Battlefield FFA Donates to Heifer International

During FFA Week, the Battlefield FFA chapter had a fundraiser for Heifer International. They collected money during lunch period to promote Heifer International and FFA. This year, they collected \$210. With a chapter match, the donation total was \$420.

The chapter donation was submitted during the Dannon Yogurt donation match program. The grand total raised was \$840.

## April Showers

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

April Showers bring May flowers... As things turn from winter to spring, I am getting very excited about getting into the fields as the weather warms up. Before getting out in the fields with my tractors, I got to see how much power tractors can have at the Keystone Truck and Tractor pull this past month. The FFA helped the pulls out by selling tickets, programs, and 50/50 tickets, and taking tickets at the door. Thank you to all of the chapters that helped out with that event and thank you to all of the sponsors that helped support the pulls. The proceeds from this event benefit the FFA.

The team has been keeping busy with the end of the year banquets. We are proud of all of our members and it is great for each chapter to recognize outstanding members for their hard work throughout the year.

This past week we finished up the State Officer Candidate School, commonly known as SOCS. In SOCS we talk about the process of the interview for the candidates, we give them more information about being a state officer and suggestions for if and when they become one. Remember, if you would like to be a candidate for state office your applications are due May 1. If you missed the SOCS and want to



CALEB GROVE

be a candidate, that is not a problem. We have just the solution for you, download the SOCS book at the State FFA website, [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us).

If you have any further questions you can contact any of the state officers or Mike Brammer.

These candidates will be selected and installed at the summer convention at Penn State.

I am looking forward to seeing all the FFA members at the convention and I am sure that the members are working hard on their Career Development Events (CDE). It will be exciting to see all of your hard work pay off at the final general session and to see what changes might be coming about for the Pennsylvania FFA from the delegate sessions. The delegate issues were submitted and put forth before the FFA at SLLC and selected in order of importance. The most important issues are then brought before the delegates at state convention. Delegates are representatives from across the state from the different chapters.

Don't forget, if you would have any submissions for the Blue and Gold section of the Lancaster Farming please send them to Mike Brammer at [c-mbrammer@state.pa.us](mailto:c-mbrammer@state.pa.us) by the due dates on the Pennsylvania FFA website.

## Mifflinburg FFA Celebrates 81 Years

MIFFLINBURG, Pa. — The Mifflinburg FFA Chapter celebrated its 81st anniversary at the Annual Parent and Member Banquet at the Mifflinburg Area High School.

About 260 guests, members, and parents attended the program. Pennsylvania FFA Sentinel Cassie Gutshall was the guest speaker for the program.

Jennifer Boop, Joshua Eichenlaub, Alexandra Forbes, and Marissa Weindensaul were honored for earning the American FFA Degree this past year at National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. The chapter presented each with a blue corduroy plaque marking their achievement. Fred Emery, a 2010 graduate was recognized for being awarded a National Silver Forestry Proficiency Award.

DJ Boop, Michael Humphrys and Laura Radel were acknowledged for obtaining the Keystone FFA Degree. The Keystone Degree is the highest award that can be presented to a member at the state level. The members received their degrees during the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention in Harrisburg in January.

James Mapes of Mifflinburg was presented the Roberta Ann Walter Scholarship by Doug Walter of Northumberland. The \$1,000 scholarship will be used by Jim to continue his education at the Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Glenn Spangler was awarded the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree. He has served as one of the Mifflinburg chapter advisors since 1978. At the end of this school year, he will be retiring from education after completing more than 37 years of service in the educational field.

The Star Greenhand Plaque was presented to first year FFA member Olivia Dietrich. She is the daughter of Anthony and Brenda Dietrich of Mifflinburg.

The Star Chapter Awards are presented to second year members. This year Catrina Bollinger was named the Star Chapter Farmer. She is the daughter



of Craig and Crystal Bollinger of Mifflinburg. Jessica Kaler was named the Star Agri-businessman. She is the daughter of Alan and Crystal Kaler of Millmont. The Star Agricultural Placement award was presented to Sara Moyer. The Mifflinburg sophomore is the daughter of Steve and Judy Moyer of Laurelton. The Star Agri-Science Award was presented to Ashley Confer who is the daughter of Wade and Sabrina Confer of Mifflinburg.

Scholarship awards were presented to members meeting the chapter criteria. Members earning the award were Katelin Bedosky, Scott Benfer, Catrina Bollinger, DJ Boop, Taylor Boney, Megan Bush, Alexandria Bringer, Ashley Confer, Blair Digan, Sarah Eichenlaub, Robert Girvin, Seth Hixson, Amanda Klauer-Boob, Sara Moyer, Kyle Pletcher, and Ray Pletcher, and Bradley Whitmer.

The top Supervised Agricultural Experience award was presented to Dennis Boop, Jr., for having the best set of records in the Northern FFA Region. He will be awarded \$250 this June at FFA Activities Week. Sara Eichenlaub had the best SAE book from Union County once the regional winner was named. She was presented a check for \$50 from the Pennsylvania FFA Association for her outstanding records during the banquet.

The retiring officer team of President Michael Humphrys, Vice President Dennis Boop, Jr., Secretary Lacey Smith, Treasurer Sarah Eichenlaub, Reporter Erin Rishel, Sentinel Laura Radel, Chaplain Ray Pletcher, and Student Advisor James Mapes were honored with retiring officer plaques. The new officer team of President Sarah Eichenlaub, Vice President Ray Pletcher, Secretary Catrina Bollinger, Treasurer Allie Bringer, Reporter Erin Rishel, Sentinel Zachary Leitzel, Chaplain Jacob Mabus, and Student Advisor Ashley Confer were installed at the end of the banquet.