



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

DESIRE... ACQUIRE... INSPIRE

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

## 54,000 Jackets Create an Unforgettable Sea of Blue in Indiana

**JENNA MOSER**  
State FFA Reporter

More than 54,000 people took over the streets of Indianapolis during the 84th National FFA Convention. The famous blue corduroy jackets seemed to be the only thing in sight and people from all across the nation were left saying one word — "Wow!"

The National FFA Convention is where some of the best members from every state come to participate in Career Development Events (CDE) and demonstrate their skill in a specific area. In addition, members can come to simply "take it all in", which includes attending sessions led by the National Officers, participating in leadership workshops and community service, as well as visiting colleges and various companies.

Pennsylvania was well represented during this week with many members receiving prestigious awards. There were 120 high awards presented to Pennsylvania FFA members for earning bronze, silver, or gold awards, as well as earning a National Chap-



**Laura Ritchey, second place creed speaker at National Convention.**

ter Award. The following teams and students received gold awards at the national level:

Agricultural Mechanics — Mifflinburg, team; and Andrew Martin and James Mapes, individuals.

Agricultural Sales — Kaitlin Mueller, Garden Spot, individual.

Creed Speaking — Laura Ritchey, Central, individual.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation — Chambersburg, team; and individuals, Rebekah Byers, Amy Martin, and Colby Wadel.

Environmental and Natural Resources — Oley Valley, team; and individuals, Katie Beekman, Matthew Beekman, and Matthew Hughes.

Floriculture — Reece Lauffer and Cortney Martin, Garden Spot, individual;

Food Science and Technology — Conrad Weiser, team and individuals, Peter Eisenhauer and Samantha Ha.

Parliamentary Procedure — Greenwood, team.

Poultry Evaluation — Victoria Herr and Katie Hess, Penn Manor, individual.

Pennsylvania is also proud to have a National Proficiency finalist in the area of food science and technologies, Emily Griswold from the Greenwood FFA Chapter.

In addition to competing in events there is also an opportunity for members to participate in a talent competition as well as the National Band and National Chorus. Pennsylvania was represented by Danielle Bean from Conneaut Valley who participated in

the National Chorus.

The highest award that an FFA member can achieve is called the American Degree. This degree recognizes the hard work and academic achievements of members and signifies that they have completed a minimum of 50 community service hours. Recipients must have also earned or worked the equivalent of \$7,500 through a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. Pennsylvania had 57 recipi-

ents this year of the American Degree. Three huge supporters of agriculture education programs and FFA received the Honorary American Degree: State Agriculture Secretary George Greig, Amy Morton, and Patrick Kerwin.

Overall the National FFA Convention was nothing short of epic for all of its attendees.

For more results from the nationals visit the Pennsylvania FFA website at: [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us).



**Pennsylvania American Degree recipients, listed alphabetically, are:** H. Allford, J. Bauman, C. Blood, K. Brookhart, L. Campbell, C. Clarke, B. Coughenour, S. Crytzer, J. DiMarzio, A. Dobbs, C. Fenton, A. Finkenbinder, K. Gearhart, J. Geib, J. Gordon, D. Hampton, D. Hanna, M. Hauck, J. Herr, M. Hess, L. Hetrick, J. Heyler, L. Hindman, A. Hoover, K. Hoy, A. Huber, B. Humphrys-Sullivan, C. Johnston, A. Kahler, J. Keefer, L. Kind, A. Klejka, B. LaVan, B. LeCrone, A. Little, R. Martin, D. Masser, M. McDanel, J. Mills, S. Moore, K. Morgan, S. Raffensperger, M. Reutlinger, D. Riley, K. Rishel, D. Romberger, C. Seaman, R. Seltzer, B. Shughart, M. Slates, K. Sterling, T. Thompson, S. VanDruff, M. Walmer, K. Wickard, H. Wilkinson, and K. Wilson.

## Having the Right Tools of the Trade

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

On a brisk Saturday afternoon in October, my older sister and I tinker in the tool shop trying to fix up some calf hutches before the full force of a Pennsylvania winter comes upon us. This old chicken house that has been converted into a machine shed is my father's favorite place on the farm. This is where he coaxes tractors into starting up again, where he woos skid-loaders into working for another 100 hours. This is where the magic happens.

As a young girl, I had a love/hate relationship with Dad's red toolbox, because it had every and any tool you could ever need, and therefore felt like it weighed about 100 pounds. I always got so jealous when my older sisters, bigger and stronger than me, could lift it while I could not. So, one day I shuffled that red toolbox onto a cart with wheels and easily pushed it to where it needed to be.

Now, imagine all of your strengths, talents, experiences, creativity, and imagination as if they were in a toolbox. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in how much bigger someone's toolbox is than ours, or how her's is yellow because she's always happy, and his is a lot deeper because he is a genius. Instead of trying to get your toolbox to match someone else's, realize that your toolbox, your strengths and talents are important for you. I did not have the physical strength to lift up the toolbox, so I got creative and thought of another way to solve the problem. When it



**SARABETH ROYER**

comes time to solve a problem, instead of thinking how another toolbox could get the job done, look inside yourself, see your own strengths and talents, your own experiences and thoughts. I guarantee you that it is possible to solve this problem with your

own toolbox.

This past month, my toolbox, along with those of my six teammates, grew in various degrees. Through the continuation of our chapter visits, we are meeting students throughout the state. We also went to celebrate the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Here, we met people with the same passion for agriculture, learning, leadership, education, and FFA from throughout the nation. Our toolboxes were filled with inspirational messages from the National FFA Officers and several guest speakers at sessions. Also, many Pennsylvania students added competing at the national level in Career Development Events and traveling throughout the United States to their toolbox. As my team and I gear up for more visits on our tour of the Pennsylvania FFA Chapters in November, we will keep in mind the things we have learned, the many people we have met, and the experiences we have tucked away safely in our toolboxes. Each and every person has the right tools of their trade, who is willing to go out in the world and use them?

*Editor's note: Sarabeth Royer is the Pa. State FFA Secretary.*

## One FFA'er's Amazing Summer

**OLIVIA MURPHY-SWEET**

Cumberland Valley FFA Vice-President

This summer was one of the greatest I have ever had. I went away for an entire summer to intern at Camp Friendship Stables in Palmyra, Va., as a junior counselor.

This camp is designed to help children further their education and experience in horseback riding skills, jumping and equestrian care. I heard about this amazing camp when I visited some old family friends who sent their children there ever since they could walk.

Camp Friendship staff included international students that came from Australia, England, and New Zealand to work at the camp. My responsibilities included morning feedings of the horses and barn chores. The day would continue with me teaching two horseback riding lessons to girls ranging in age from 6 to 16. We taught a horse management lesson which is designed to explain different ways to take care of your horse. Later, I supervised the girls during afternoon barn chores. After all the children left, I completed the remaining barn chores, evening feedings, and let the horses out into the pastures.

This job defiantly helped improve my FFA experience to a whole new level. I was able to work

with animals that I love and still use the experience for a record book. I am grateful to have had this experience because I learned management of a barn and discovered a passion of wanting to be an agricultural education teacher. I was able to work with kids all summer, watch them progress in their lessons, which in turn, made me enthusiastic about wanting to teach. I feel after working over the summer that it is crucial for FFA members to pursue internships on what they want to do. I learned different horse techniques and so much more that I can apply to my future.

I have been asked to come back as a senior counselor, which was a very big honor in my book. I was able to get out on my own to experience the challenges that come without having your parents there all the time. I know that all FFA members in my area are capable to do hard work through determination and motivation because they are in this amazing organization. They have the opportunity of a lifetime to do internships because of their SAE books. All they have to do is put the hard work in. This was an amazing summer experience and I am looking forward to working next summer as a senior counselor at Camp Friendship.

## Cedar Crest FFA Wins at All-American Show

**HAROLD BERKHEISER**

Cedar Crest FFA Adviser

Cedar Crest FFA recently participated at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show Youth Dairy Judging Contest. FFA members from across Pennsylvania tested their knowledge and skill at judging dairy animals. Cedar Crest FFA members participating were Sherry Moore, Travis Zuck, Olivia Bingeman, Jenna Krall, Amy Wise, Nick Wenger, Lydia Smith, Gianna Pis-

tone and Jill Briedenstine. Contestants judged various classes of cows, took a general dairy knowledge test and a test on linear evaluation of cows.

The Cedar Crest Team consisting of Moore, Zuck, Bingeman and Krall took first place over 22 other teams from Pennsylvania. They received monetary awards and ribbons for their efforts. In addition Moore was the first place individual out of 285 contestants. Zuck was fourth place, and Bingeman was eighth overall.