



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Beyond the Blue

www.paffa.state.pa.us

Farm Show FFA Moments

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania FFA members participated in a wide variety of contests and events at the Pennsylvania Farm Show this past week at the Pennsyl-

vania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. The events marked the culmination of months of hard work and dedication.



Photo by Cliff Wallace, Mohawk High School FFA

Square dance teams compete to be best in Pennsylvania, the Mohawk FFA Chapter who won the youth competition is in the square in the left corner.



Photo by Cliff Wallace, Mohawk High School FFA

The Mohawk FFA Square Dance Team poses after placing first.



Photo by Alexandria Spease, FFA State Reporter

Willmington FFA members teach how to preserve foods during FFA Demonstrations.



Photo by Alexandria Spease, FFA State Reporter

Members of Mifflinburg FFA smile big after placing first in the Pennsylvania Farm Safety & Health Quiz Bowl.



Photo by Suzannah Mellinger

First year FFA members anxiously wait to wear their jacket for the very first time.

Tournament of Roses Parade Is Experience of a Lifetime

INDIANAPOLIS — For 63 FFA members, 2010 was rung in a little differently than other New Year's past. On Jan. 1, the 2009-2010 National FFA officer team, an FFA state representative from each state and Puerto Rico, along with four representatives of the Stars Over America program participated in the 121st Tournament of Roses parade.

The group arrived in California on Dec. 30, and their days were filled with activities, from meeting with the media, to placing the final touches on the FFA float, to walking and riding along Orange and Colorado Boulevards before the crowds in Pasadena.

An estimated 42 million people in the U.S. and 100 million people worldwide watch the tournament of roses. This year, the National FFA Organization was able to share the message of the importance of agriculture through their float, "FFA Today."

At 75 feet long, 30 feet tall and 18 feet wide, the FFA Today float was one of the largest in the parade. It featured three gigantic sculptures depicting FFA members engaging in agricultural, educational and development activities. The float was highlighted by several elements from the FFA emblem, each with a significant meaning. Alongside the emblem was a sleek horse, a combine, barn and windmill, a stand of evergreens, a grove of fruit trees, and finally urban buildings and a communications satellite — contrasted with the rural features to display the scope of FFA activities. The float was designed to represent all FFA members, past and present, as well as portray a most positive image of agriculture into rural, suburban and urban-based homes, and share the message of the diversity of agriculture.

All of the FFA float costs and expenses for this major communications effort were underwritten entirely by



Pennsylvania State FFA President Molly Walmer, daughter of John and Rose Walmer from the Eastern Lebanon FFA, helps decorate the FFA float.



Molly Walmer adjusts some of the decorations on the FFA Float.

RFD-TV and the sponsors and advertisers associated with RFD-TV's live broadcast of the 2010 Tournament of Roses Parade and Equestfest.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers

of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members — all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

It Can't Be January Already

I hope everyone I had a wonderful holiday season! The State Officer Team definitely kept busy this December as we traveled all over the state attempting to finish up the chapter visits before the second half of our year of service begins. As December came to a close, preparations for Farm Show began and the anticipation for Mid-Winter Convention set in.

Looking back, we can't believe Farm Show is actually over. Where have those seven days gone? Mid-Winter Convention was a success as well. The State Officer team was excited that we were able to award 247 Keystone Degrees and watch as 165 freshmen FFA members put on their brand new corduroy jacket for the very first time thanks to the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni and their "Jacket Campaign." Congratulations once again



CALEB WRIGHT

to all Keystone Degree recipients, jacket winners, honorary Keystone Degree recipients, special parent award winners, honorary American Degree winners, and Special Citation Award

winners who were all recognized at the Mid-Winter Convention. Congratulations as well to all winners at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

As January comes to a close, the State Officer Team is still working at full throttle as we prepare for ACES (Agriculture Cooperation Establishes Success). If you ask any of the State Officers if they're excited, you'll mostly likely have an answer that includes a huge smile and a little jump. This year's theme is "All Aboard." The conference will once again be held two weekends in February. They are Feb. 13-14 and also on Feb. 20-21. We hope that the conference will be lively and educational this year as we have made some changes.

We'll be conducting, "Regional Breakouts" on Sunday morning and are planning to have some additional presentations on different organizations that work alongside the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Oh, did I mention that there is going to be an awesome musical performance that morning as well? Once again, we have hit a record setting attendance with more than 1,100 members, advisors and guests registered. I'm not sure if anyone ever could have imagined that impact that ACES would have on the Pennsylvania FFA members!

Looking ahead, don't forget about SLLC (State Legislative Leadership Conference). The deadline this year is Feb. 5, so be sure to talk to your advisor if you are interested in going.

Lastly, if you'd like to see your chapter on the Blue and Gold page, you may submit an article to Mike Brammer at c-mbrammer@state.pa.us. You can find guidelines and due dates for submissions on the Pennsylvania State FFA Association Website, www.paffa.state.pa.us.

Caleb Wright is the Pa. FFA State South Central Vice President.