



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Stock the Trailer at the Pa. Farm Show

KRISTA PONTIUS
Pa. FFA Alumni

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association has partnered with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to "Stock the Trailer" at the 2011 Farm Show.

On Monday, Jan. 10, trailers will be located at the Cameron Street entrance and in the Large Arena in hopes of filling them with donations to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributes more than 15 million pounds of food and grocery products every year to soup kitchens, shelters, and food pantries in Central Pennsylvania.

Last year, Pennsylvania FFA members and friends donated 3,000 pounds of food to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. This year, the group are hoping to donate 8,000 pounds of food, which would represent nearly one pound of donated food product for each Pennsylvania FFA member.



FFA Members join Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.), right, and Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding in the 2010 Farm Show/PA FFA Alumni Food Drive Campaign to "Fill the Truck."

Safe Tractor Driving Course to Begin Feb. 1

The Danville FFA chapter, with the cooperation of the Montour Antique Farm Machinery Collector's Association (MAFMCA), will be sponsoring a National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program. The program will begin on Feb. 1, 2011 at 5 p.m. at the Montour-Delong Fairgrounds in Washingtonville. The purpose of the course is to help 14-18 year old youth learn how to be safe while operating tractors and equipment on a farm, as well as recognize potential danger areas on the farm. Students do not need to be members of MAFMCA or the Danville Area School District to participate in the program. The program will consist of three evening meetings (2 hours each), a day for the written test and driving practice, and a day for driving tests.

The MAFMCA is co-sponsoring this course because many of the tractor show and pull organizations require an operator's certificate for youth under the age of 16 to partici-

pate in tractor pulls and parades. The National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operator's Certificate is also required by federal labor laws for a child under the age of 16 to be legally hired to do most types of farm work on a farm not owned by a parent - especially if they will be using a tractor over 20 horsepower or operate any other type of equipment. This course is strongly recommended for all middle and high school youth who spend time on any type of farm regardless of whether they operate machinery or not. Certificates to those who successfully complete the written and driving portions of the course will be issued at the first MAFMCA tractor pull of the year on April 30, 2011.

Registration is limited to the first 15 students who register for the course, and there is no fee to take the course. Please contact Danville High School Ag-Science Instructor Mike Shultz at 570-271-3268 x1131 or e-mail at mshultz@danville.k12.pa.us to register.

Wonders of Winter

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

What a great time of year! Sitting next to the fireplace and drinking hot cocoa. I know that members are hard at work with their record books and gearing up for the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. Mid-Winter Convention will be Jan. 10 in the Large Arena of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex at 2p.m. Please come and join us as we celebrate with our 265 Keystone State Degree recipients. This day will also be a food drive day to support the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. Please bring non-perishable items to donate.

With Mid-Winter Convention around the corner, it is hard to believe that we are six months through our officer year. The team has been hard at work with chapter visits, working on Farm Show, Agriculture Cooperation Establish Success (ACES) that will be Feb. 12-13 and Feb. 19-20, and the State Legislative Leadership Conferences (SLLC) held on March 13-15. Remember that at SLLC we select the delegate issues so please have your delegate issues in by March 4 to Mike Brammer. I hope that all members have signed up to attend one of these conferences.

We would also like to say congratulations to those who attended national convention competing in Career Development Events (CDE's).

Placing Gold were the following chapters and FFA members: Dairy Evaluation seventh place, Conrad



CASSIE GUTSHALL

Weiser FFA, and team member Kaitlin Gelsing placing first individual; Dairy Handlers, Richard Beatty, Big Spring FFA Top 10; Environmental and Natural Resources Top 13, Grass-

land FFA; and Food Science and Technology first place team Oley Valley FFA with Amelia Howe first place and Kelsey Turner fifth place individual.

Placing Silver were: Ag Mechanics, Clarion-Limestone FFA; Ag Sales, Manheim FFA; Agronomy, Battlefield FFA; Dairy Foods, Elizabethtown FFA; Farm Business Management, State College Little Lions FFA and Vance Brown placing seventh individual; Floriculture, Grassland FFA; Forestry, Littlestown FFA; Horse Evaluation, Elizabethtown FFA; Nursery Landscape, Berks CTC East; and Poultry Evaluation, Grassland FFA.

Placing Bronze in Ag Issues Greenwood FFA; Creed Speaking, Matt Hackenberg, Central Columbia FFA; Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Casey Trexler, Kutztown FFA; Job Interview, Sean Burns, Cumberland Valley FFA; Livestock Evaluation, Wilmington FFA; Marketing Plan, Cumberland Valley FFA; Meats Evaluation and Technology, Manor FFA; Parliamentary Procedure, Captain Jack FFA and Prepared Public Speaking, Emily Griswold, Greenwood FFA. Congratulations to all. You made Pennsylvania proud.

We also would like to congratulate Ross Rojik of Blue Juniata

FFA for being one of 10 students that received the National Agri-Entrepreneurship Award. There were three members that were National Proficiency Finalists. They were Home and/or Community Development James McMahon of Blue Juniata FFA and Nursery Operations Zachary Mueller of Grassland FFA.

A National Winner in Food Science and Technology was Allison Hoover of State College FFA. Congratulations to all the hard work each of you put in to your Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE).

We also had three talented members participate in National Band and National Chorus. Singing their hearts in front of more than 50,000 members where Jenna Moser of the Philadelphia FFA and Emily Wenschlof of the McConnellsburg FFA. Morgan Jennings of the Canton FFA played his baritone saxophone in the National Band.

And last, but certainly not least, we would like to congratulate the Secretary Russell Redding on getting the V.I. P. award at national convention. Five Honorary American Degree awards were presented to Jay Gainer; Earl Geib; Michael Pechart; Larry Weaver; and Al Wenger.

A friendly reminder for FFA members looking for scholarship check out the state website for the Range Resources/ Pennsylvania FFA Scholarship application. It is due February 15, 2011 you can get the application on the Pennsylvania FFA website.

Happy Holidays to everyone and have safe travels this holiday season. Remember to thank a farmer and everyone else that makes the holidays what they are. If you have any articles to submit to Blue and Gold pages please e-mail Mr. Mike Brammer at cmbrammer@state.pa.us.

Editor's Note: Cassie Gutshall is the Pa. State FFA Sentinel.



FFA Jackets displayed before the 2010 Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention.

First Year FFA Members Set to Jump Start FFA Career

KRISTA PONTIUS
Pa. FFA Alumni

Six years ago, the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association launched the Freshman Jacket Scholarship Campaign. At the 2011 State FFA Mid-Winter Convention, 191 first-year FFA members in either ninth or 10th grades will be receiving their official FFA jacket free of charge. \$50 sponsorships are collected all year long from donors across Pennsylvania, with the biggest sponsor being the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and their county affiliates.

In the six years that the program has been in place, the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association has issued 1,000 jackets to first-year FFA members as a jump-start to their FFA careers, including this year's State FFA President, Kerri Wickard.

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association is proud of each and every member who wears the national blue and corn gold and is grateful for the opportunity to play a role in their success. Congratulations to the 2011 recipients.