

# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

*Beyond the Blue*

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

### Looking Back, Activities Week in Review



Photo by Britney Marsh

Alex Henry, National Eastern Region Vice President, speaks to audience members about the importance of taking risks. The FFA state summer convention was held at Penn State University, June 15-17. More than 1,300 FFA members, leaders attended the convention.



Photo by Britney Marsh

FFA members take their time to identify the provided example in hopes of placing high in their CDE.



Photo by Nicole Bucher

Wayne Irish, Retiring FFA Board President, is presented with a plaque for his dedicated service to the Pennsylvania FFA Association.



Photo by Britney Marsh

Past National Officer, Barrett Keene addresses FFA members in an inspirational keynote.

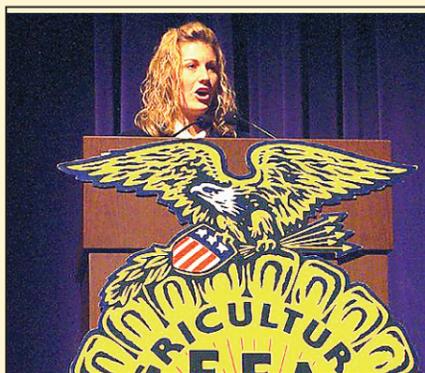


Photo by Nicole Bucher

Nominating Committee Chairperson, Casey Hall announces the 2010-2011 Pennsylvania State FFA Officer Team.



Photos by Mike Woods

West Perry FFA member Ashley Briggs spends time educating youth about agriculture and its impact on our daily lives.

### Sowing the Seeds of a New Generation

KELSEY HENRY

West Perry FFA Chapter Reporter

NEWPORT, Pa. — The, "Living to Serve, Learning to Grow," event hosted by the Perry County FFA Chapters, was held on May 20 at the Perry County Fairgrounds. This event was made possible thanks to a grant from the National FFA Organization and USDA which helped pay for busing, substitutes and supplies to make the event possible.

Members from the Greenwood, Newport and West Perry FFA Chapters served as leaders and presenters for the third graders who attended. The day was filled with nearly 500 third grade students from Greenwood, Newport, Susquenita, and West Perry School Districts.

Workshop topics held for the students included recycling, soil, water, healthy eating, the growing process and gardening. Students were able to experience a hands on learning activity that reinforced the lesson at each station.

The third graders in attendance weren't the only students learning lessons.

Emily Griswold from the Greenwood FFA Chapter said, "Not only was I able to learn how to work with younger children, but I also enhanced my own knowledge of agriculture." Griswold said that her favorite part was seeing the excitement as children planted their own green bean seeds. "They were attentive, constantly smiling and asked numerous questions regarding the green beans and other vegetables."

When asked what questions she was presented



Third grade students from Perry County enjoyed a Food Guide Pyramid relay race, which promoted making healthy choices when choosing snacks and daily meals.

with, Griswold recalls a child asking if a pickle was a cucumber. "They may seem like silly questions, but you begin to see that they're learning from the questions they ask. I'm convinced that each student we met today has learned something new. I would love to see this project carry on. It would be an opportunity to educate youth so one day they can make intelligent decisions as consumers."

A special thanks is extended to the Perry County Conservation Office for attending the event and giving a presentation on recycling as well as the Perry County Extension Office. Also we would like to thank all FFA advisors and members who played a key role in the setup, running and clean-up of the fairgrounds and the Perry County Fair Board for their generous contribution in allowing not only the event to be held but also a Community Garden to be planted on the Newport Fairgrounds.

## Pa ... We Have Blast Off

### FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

From the 2010-2011 Pennsylvania FFA State Officer team, we are extremely honored to be elected to serve each of you, and excited for what the future holds. It has only been our first month "on the job," and we have had many amazing opportunities. BLAST OFF (our weeklong training seminar) gave the team some great tools and advice, as well as some time to bond together. We also had a remarkable time at the Western Pennsylvania FFA Leadership Conference, which was our first event with members. Interacting and learning with the members is something we had been anxiously awaiting; and we were not disappointed.

The team is anticipating our next chance to be among the members. We have set various goals for ourselves this year that include: increasing our membership to 8,500, creating new opportunities for the members, developing personal relationships, and fulfilling the motto



of "Living to Serve." We are preparing for the start of the school year by developing our workshops and conferences. We have several exciting events coming up where we get to work with our sponsors. By this time next month, we'll have attended the Foxchase Golf Tournament, and PANTS

(Penn Atlantic Nursery Trade Show). We would like to thank each member, advisor, sponsor and supporter for the year of opportunities ahead.

We look forward to hearing from each and every one of the members and all the incredible things you do. If you would like to share your achievements or projects, please do not hesitate to submit your articles to Michael Brammer at [c-mbrammer@state.pa.us](mailto:c-mbrammer@state.pa.us). You can find that link, as well as the guidelines for articles on your state website: [www.paffa.state.pa.us](http://www.paffa.state.pa.us). Remember, how we act today, will impact tomorrow.