



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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# White Rose FFA Members Sport Their Green Thumbs



Gaylen Weibley, chapter president, sits at the White Rose FFA booth to answer questions from Mid-Atlantic Garden Show attendees.

BRITNEY MARSH  
Pa. FFA State Reporter

YORK, Pa. — The annual Mid-Atlantic Garden Show was held at the York Fairgrounds Feb. 6 to March 1. At the Garden Show the White Rose FFA from the York County School of Technology designed and constructed a 20-foot by 20-foot garden display. This display featured a waterfall captured in a pond surrounded by exquisite flowers. Standing in the middle of the display visitors could capture the essence of the theme “Promise of Spring.”

The White Rose FFA Chapter has been participating in this show since 2001. At first, it was open to any student in the horticulture program at York County School of Technology to participate in. Within the last three years the program starting giving seniors the opportunity to reach their graduation project goals through the display. The students not only get the experience of designing and constructing a garden display they also get the hours to complete and pass their grad project. The four students who designed the project

were Jared Sipe, Shane Lunger, Shean Fetrow and Chelsea Mann. They spent three months designing it and it took them six hours with 14 other people helping to set it up the day before the show.

The White Rose FFA Chapter had another display at the show as well. Two members, Marcus Pearson and Galen Weibley designed three flower centerpieces. At the show the attendees could vote on which centerpiece they liked most and the winner will receive an award at the end of year banquet. Members also made boutonnieres for a small donation. The donations went to the FFA to help fund their chapter banquet. Weibley spent most of his time at the show answering the over 500 visitors’ questions that stopped by his display and making numerous boutonnieres. All of the flowers used for the centerpieces and the boutonnieres were donated by Foster Flowers. Weibley said “The whole purpose of this display is to inform the public about the FFA as well as all of the talent our members have. It is a great way to get our names out there so landscape contractors can see our work and maybe hire us in the future.”

## FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Well February has come and gone and has left the Pennsylvania FFA with some memorable experiences.

On the weekends of the Feb. 14 and Feb. 21 a solid sea of blue and gold jackets flooded the lobby of the Harrisburg Hershey Sheraton Hotel. That’s right it was time for the Agriculture Cooperation Establishes Success conference or as most of us call it ACES. Between the two weekends more than 1,200 FFA students from all across the state attended workshops on topics such as, goal setting, professionalism, teamwork, diversity and community service. Of course what FFA conference would be complete without a dance.

Also at this year’s ACES conference during our National FFA Week we collected non-perishable food items to donate to the local food bank. The State Officers



JARED SMITH

along with members from the Big Spring FFA Chapter came to deliver the food to the food bank. It was weighed and this year we were able to collect more than

1,200 pounds of food. That’s about one pound of food per attendee to the ACES conference.

For March we had our State Legislative Leadership Conference SLLC this past week. While attending this conference the FFA members from across the state learned how a bill becomes a law while debating current bills that are being deliberated in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

*“You have made two blades of grass grow where one used to grow...I am urging you as the FFA to inform yourselves so that you can...keep this country the greatest Republic that the sun has ever shone on!” ~ Harry S. Truman 1957*

# Ag Olympics: a Continued Tradition at Apple City FFA

MICHELLE MILLER  
Apple City FFA Advisor

BIGLERVILLE, Pa. — In celebration of National FFA week the Apple City FFA held their 13th annual Ag Olympics. The students and faculty participated in the fol-

lowing events: chugging, pie eating, egg toss, tractor race, and the straw and hay bale toss. It was a heated competition as always with the juniors winning by two points in the last toss of the bale.

# Ag Olympics are a Big Hit at Juniata Valley



Students and faculty compete in the three-legged sack race.

ZACHARY HETRICK  
Blue Juniata FFA President

JUNIATA VALLEY, Pa. — The Blue Juniata FFA chapter celebrated FFA week last month by sponsoring several events to involve the entire student body. FFA trivia questions, free faculty donuts and holding the first-ever Ag Olympics were the activities that we held.

All students were eligible to participate in the daily trivia questions that ranged from when the Blue Juniata FFA chapter was formed to famous former FFA members like Trace Adkins and Taylor Swift. The faculty and staff of both the high school and elementary schools were treated to a morning snack of donuts, delivered by the chapter officers.

The highlight of the week was the Ag Olympics. The Juniata Valley Ag Olympics included crazy variations of traditional Olympic games such as: frozen turkey bowling, hay bale toss, nail pounding, milk bottle milk-

ing, pedal tractor pulling, three legged sack race, and raisin toss.

For the frozen turkey bowling, 8-pound “Butterballs” and many strikes were rolled. A tie between Billy Weyer and Rick Musser was called after four strikes in a row. Teachers Bill Musser and Mike Smith lead the charge for distance in the hay bale toss against seniors Billy Weyer and James Hawn throwing the farthest for the students. The seniors were the first place team in the nail pounding contest, closely followed by the faculty. The milk bottle milking contest consisted of each team having to milk pudding out of a large milk bottle. Due to some “unfairness and equipment failure,” the faculty was victorious.

For the tractor pull, each contestant had to pull a fifty pound bag of feed down the length of the gym. Most of the contestants were successful on full pulls “with some assistance.” In the three legged sack race, there were four members per team paired up and

had to go the length of the gym with one leg in the sack. The faculty was once again victorious with tenth grade coming in a close second. Due to time restraints, the raisin toss was cut short with the faculty in the lead.

Juniata Valley Superintendent James Foster said, “I really enjoyed the Ag Olympics; everyone had a fun time.” FFA members and students echoed his sentiments. FFA Senior Ashley Casner said, “One of my favorite senior memories so far.” “A new and fun way to get the school involved with our FFA chapter,” said FFA senior Kristina Brenneman. FFA chapter vice-president Nick Boonie said, “We enjoyed putting the event together to get the student body involved in an FFA activity.”

The Blue Juniata FFA was glad that the students and staff enjoyed participating in the Olympics and hopes to continue raising awareness of the FFA and agriculture through new methods.