



# BLUE AND GOLD

## Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

### Success...One Step at a time

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

# FFA Farm Show Moments



The FFA officer team looks on as Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff hosts a news conference at the Farm Show's renewable energy booths.



The Manheim FFA entered this garden display at the 2009 Farm Show. Manheim was one of the several chapters to enter the landscape contest.

## Danville FFA Chapter 'Pulls' for Safety

WASHINGTONVILLE, Pa. — 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. 3 at the Montour Delong Fairgrounds in Washingtonville. The purpose of the course is to help 14-18 year old youths 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.

In order to get certification, students must attend all meetings of the course. The course schedule will be as follows: Feb. 3, 5:30-7 p.m.; March 3, 5:30-7 p.m.; April 7, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; April 13, 9 a.m. -3 p.m.; and April 18, 9 a.m. -3 p.m. Much of the course-work will consist of independent study to minimize the number of meetings needed.

The MAFMCA is co-sponsoring this course because many of the tractor show and pull organizations in the state require

an operator's certificate for youth under the age of 16 to participate 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 youth 14-18 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 25.

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](mailto:mshultz@danville.k12.pa.us) to register.



In the FFA demonstration competition, first place went to the Chambersburg Franklin County chapter. Pictured from left are Lancaster Farming Special Sections Editor Charlene Shupp Espenshade, Heather Hartman, Dakota Grove and Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

## Chambersburg FFA Wins Tech. Demo

### Eight Teams Compete in Farm Show Technology Demonstration Competition

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Chambersburg High School FFA, of Franklin County, placed first in the "Agriculture Technology: Improving Your Environment" demonstration competition held at the 2009 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Eight chapters from around the state designed life-size exhibits to showcase agriculture's role in environmentally friendly technology. Many displays included donated machinery from local dealers, and topics ranged from GPS systems to water and wind power.

Judges of the competition were Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Region Five Director Eric Cowden, Pennsylvania Association of Agricultural Educators Executive Secretary Gerald Reichard, and PennAg Industries Executive Vice President Chris Herr. Lancaster Farming sponsored the event.

Each chapter received a \$500 check for their efforts. In addition, the chapters competed for Best of Show and People's Choice Awards. The first place Best of Show and \$300 went to Apple City FFA, from Biglerville, Adams Co. Manheim FFA received \$200 for second in Best of Show and \$250 for the People's Choice award.

The results and topics of the "Agriculture Technology: Improving Your Environment" demonstrations were:

- 1st - Chambersburg High School, Franklin County - "Pennsylvania Christmas Trees: Environmental Gifts"
- 2nd - Cumberland Valley High School, Cumberland County - "PA Hardwoods: A Natural Contributor to the Environment"
- 3rd - Bermudian Springs High School, Adams County - "Resourceful Conservation: Saving Our Soil"
- 4th - Manheim Central High School, Lancaster County - "Pennsylvania Farmers Grow a Rainbow"
- 5th - Penn Manor High School, Lancaster County - "Cows to Kilowatts"
- 6th - Biglerville High School, Adams County - "Wind Power: A Natural Environment Power Source"
- 7th - Mid-West High School, Snyder County - "Global Positioning Systems: Environmental Preservation"
- 8th - Eastern Lebanon County High School, Lebanon County - "Water Power: A Natural Environment Power Source"

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

Greetings to everyone on behalf of the entire state officer team. I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. Now that the holidays are over it is time for another celebration, the Pennsylvania Farm Show. My teammates and I spent most of our time in Harrisburg preparing for Mid-Winter Convention. At this year's convention, we were proud to announce that 299 Keystone Degrees were handed out, 210 first year members received their first FFA jackets and we welcomed two new chapters to the Pennsylvania FFA family.

In addition to the Mid-Winter Convention, the officer team was busy helping with Farm Show ceremonies, attending banquets and press conferences. We are proud to represent the Pennsylvania FFA and all of its members



ABE MELLINGER

at the Farm Show. Now, that the Farm Show is coming to an end there is much to look forward to in February. On Feb. 14 and 15 and Feb. 20 and 21 we will be holding the ACES Conference.

This year's ACES Conference will be packed full of excitement. Our theme is "Life is a Highway" and members will learn about professionalism, teamwork, leadership, community service, goal setting and diversity. Members will participate in activities relating to each workshop. We are also proud to announce that there will be a record high membership with year at ACES. We are very excited to see all 1,057 of you.

Congratulations to everyone who received an award at Mid-Winter Convention. We are excited to see all of you