



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Beyond the Blue

www.paffa.state.pa.us

Corn in the Café

Members Help Bridge Gap Between Farm, Cafeteria

NEW HOLLAND, Pa. — Students and staff at Garden Spot High School have been enjoying fresh, local sweet corn and watermelons as part of their school lunch due to the efforts of the Grassland FFA Chapter. The idea was initiated during a conversation between the Elanco Adult Agriculture instructor Jeff Stoltzfus and FFA members Adrienne Huber and Becky Seifrit. As they drove to a conference in Washington D.C. they were talking about the abundance of fresh produce in Lancaster County and wondered if there would be a possibility of having it served in the school cafeteria.

Becky, who now serves as chapter president, met with food services director, Phyllis Radcliffe, Stoltzfus and the high school agriculture teachers. Radcliffe seemed very open to the idea of serving nutritious and good tasting local produce but said corn on the cob was pretty labor intensive for her staff to be able to serve. That opened the door for the Grassland FFA to step in and provide the volunteer labor to make "Corn in the Café" a reality.

Stoltzfus took three FFA members to the Weaverland Produce Auction where they bid on 50 dozen ears of corn and some seedless watermelons. More than 25 FFA members showed up an hour early for school to husk and silk the corn so it could be prepared for lunch.

Chapter members also painted signs promoting the theme of "Corn in the Café" and the concept of buying fresh and local. So far the program has been very successful. The chapter is considering highlighting other fresh local agricultural products in a timely fashion throughout the school year.

Radcliffe, thanked the Grassland FFA stating, "It would not have been possible for me to serve the sweet corn without the help of the FFA members. It seemed to go over very well. The FFA members did a great job and worked well together to get the job done. The only students who didn't select the sweet corn told us they didn't want it sticking in their teeth or braces."



Photo by Grassland FFA

Grassland members arrive early on a school morning to help husk and silk corn.

Chapter Visits Here We Come

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

Pa. FFA State Treasurer

September? Already? It is hard to believe that summer is already over and that most of you are already back to school. It feels like only yesterday that we were elected at State Activities Week. We have remained busy all summer, and looking back, I think I can speak for the whole team by saying that it has been nothing but wonderful!

During August the team was able to dive into an array of activities! Our "August Rush" began on the 9th in Gettysburg, Pa. with NLCSSO (National Leadership Conference for State Officers). Pennsylvania had the honor of holding the event which consisted of six officer teams from states including: West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The conference was overseen by two national officers, Riley Branch and Regina Holliday. During our four-day stay, all states were able to tour the historic battlefields and enjoy a dinner prepared by Gettysburg FFA. A special "thank you" goes out to the members and advisers who sacrificed their summers to help make NLCSSO such a wonderful experience.

After making many new friendships that are sure to last a life-



HEATHER MILLER

time at NLCSSO, the State Officer Team headed to Rock Springs for Ag Progress Days. Not only did we have the pleasure of teaching young children how agriculture relates to every-

thing that surrounds them when they visited our booth, but we were also able to assist in the Foundation food booth. The event was truly incredible and demonstrated to the officer team how diverse the agriculture world really is.

As we look forward to September the officer team will begin chapter visits around the commonwealth. This week, we will head north to Massachusetts for the Big E (Eastern States Exposition) conference. Good luck to all of those who will be participating and safe travels. After, we will travel back to Harrisburg for the All American Dairy Show. Good luck to those who will be showing.

Lastly, please do not forget to tell the state about your chapter's success by submitting articles to be published in the Blue and Gold page. Send your article to Mike Brammer at c-mbrammer@state.pa.us. For more information, please visit, www.paffa.state.pa.us. Have a great September.

Tulpehocken Officers Set Goals at Officer Retreat

JULIA REYNOLDS

Tulpehocken FFA Chapter Reporter

BERNVILLE, Pa. — What does FFA mean to students? This is a question we found the answer to at the Tulpehocken FFA Officer Retreat. As a team we spent two days at Weaver Cabin getting to know each other, learning about what FFA means to us, and about our newly appointed officer positions. Officers prepared and presented self portraits of them; highlighting career goals, leadership skills and personal thoughts that they shared with team members. These portrait posters served as a back drop for the remainder of the event and allowed guest presenters the opportunity to reference officer team members.

Our first day included a session at Kenbrook, where we were challenged by Dennis Mellot of Team Builders to recognize our individuality brought to the team and the need to work together. We successfully completed four challenges on the low ropes course. William Kitsch and intern Scott Umble introduced Agriculture Career Awareness and the use of Facebook within their organization.



Photo by Tulpehocken FFA

Tulpehocken officers enjoy a beautiful afternoon during chapter officer retreat.

That evening our officer team brainstormed for a theme for the year. Eventually we decided upon, "Greatest Goals are Met Between Sunrise and Sunset." Our theme was placed onto a T-shirt that officers will wear during casual events. The following morning we worked on our program of activities. A scavenger hunt allowed us to work in teams of two preparing us for a brief presentation that might be utilized during officer and chapter meetings. We were joined

by Kirk Sattazahn, Select Sire Power, who taught us about proper ways to communicate.

We only took a break to complete our community service of adding soil around the parameter of a croquet court to prevent erosion. During the afternoon, Christine Oellig, former Pennsylvania State FFA Officer, patiently explained parliamentary procedure to the officers, while working through several meeting scenarios.

Northern Lebanon FFA Organizes for Fall

FREDERICKSBURG, Pa. — The 2009-2010 Northern Lebanon officer team, which was elected last May, is lead by President Katie Donmoyer, Vice President Hannah Boltz, Secretary Steph Rzeplinski, Treasurer Beth Lutz, Reporter Chelsea Jenkins, and the Sentinel Derek Brehm.

The team has been busy organizing many chapter activities. Some of the activities over the

summer included working on our fair booth and scrapbook, which both placed first at the Lebanon Area Fair. We also held a sausage patty sale at the fair to benefit the livestock team who will be competing in the Big E (Eastern States Exposition), Sept. 18-19.

The most recent project we have planned is with the Hinkelfest, which is Sept. 18-20. The Hinkelfest is a festival located in

Fredericksburg and sponsored by the chicken processing plants and other businesses and individuals involved in the poultry industry. We are dedicating our time to help out at this community activity by setting up a petting zoo and supplying pony rides. We will be there today from 3 p.m. -8 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m., weather permitting.

