



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Beyond the Blue

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Pa. Student to Make Global Impact on Agriculture

ST. LOUIS — For more than 60 years, the DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award has honored students pursuing a future in agriculture for excellence in scholastics, leadership and agricultural work experience. Adrienne Huber of Denver, Pa. — one of nearly 2,000 high school seniors to receive the award this year — not only exceeds the qualifications but exemplifies a commitment to global agriculture.

Bob Lauffer, one of Huber's Grassland FFA advisers, has been teaching agriscience classes for 32 years. He's seen his share of inspirational students through the years, but said, "Adrienne has that rare combination of practical common sense and work ethic, with a sheer joy for learning. It is probably her love of research that really sets her

apart from other outstanding students I have had."

Since grade 10, Huber has been conducting science-fair research in corn alfatoxin. Growing up on a hog production farm, she said, "I've always had a passion for agriculture." It's this passion that earned her two state gold medals and one national gold medal at the FFA Agri-Science Fair.

"Ask Adrienne a question about her corn research project and you will see her face light up," said Lauffer. "Her excitement about her project, what she has learned and, just as importantly, what remains to be learned is exhilarating."

Huber's commitment to agriculture reached higher levels when she took an independent trip to Uganda. "I've always been interested in

travel and Third World countries," she said. "When I went to Uganda, I saw all the needs — the soil use is poor and so many resources are lacking — it just inspired me to work in global agronomy."

"Adrienne looks at the big picture and the long-term. There are very few young people who have that scope and insight in general," said Dan Gard, local DEKALB representative who provided Huber with some direction in her aflatoxins research. "She has already done tremendous things, but she's taken her progressive attitude over seas and wants to do even more; she is an ideal candidate for the DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award."

Huber graduated with honors from Garden Spot High School in

New Holland, Pennsylvania, and is attending Purdue University to pursue a degree in international agronomy. In four years, she envisions herself in a job teaching and training others in practices of sustainable agriculture.

"Adrienne just has a unique commitment to global agriculture, especially for someone so young," said her FFA adviser and teacher, Tracy Marchini. "She keeps us enthused and thinking about the future."

The DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment Award is part of the DEKALB brand's broad support for agriculture youth education and leadership development. Since 1947, more than 162,000 high school seniors from across the United States have been honored for their commitment to agriculture.



Adrienne Huber

Countdown to Convention

FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

After an intense summer and a jam-packed month of chapter visits, the state officer team is ready for October!

Looking back at September, the team kept busy as we ventured north to Springfield, Massachusetts to help at The Eastern States Exposition, also known as, "The Big E." The event welcomed members from, where else, the northeastern region of the United States. The Big E was also granted the honor of having Hannah Crossen, National Eastern Region Vice President in the crowd of one million attendees. A special, "Congratulations" goes out to all members who competed and the State Stars who were recognized. We're so proud of all of you!

After returning from Massachusetts it was time for the annual All-American Dairy Show! From Sept. 21-24, dairy farmers from all across the country came to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex to show their beautiful dairy cows and heifers. My personal favorite day had to be the 22nd when Pennsylvania FFA member competed in the dairy judging competition. Congratulations to all of those who participated!

September surely was a very busy month for the officer team. Whether it was participating in



BRITNEY WILMER

ag olympics or welcoming new members at the Greenhand Rush, we had some memorable experiences with the members from the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and we cannot

wait to make more.

As we say, "Goodbye" to September we're welcoming October with open arms! Indy, here we come. That's right, it's time for the National FFA Convention! More than 50,000 members from every state including the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico will come together to compete in various CDE's, witness general sessions with the national officers and watch performances from the national band and chorus. Our team would like to wish good luck to all the members who will be participating. Everyone should be very proud of themselves for making it this far, I know we are.

We would also like to wish Pennsylvania's 2008-2009 National Officer Candidate, Britney Marsh the best of luck! We know you will represent the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wonderfully and we will be cheering for you! Good luck!

Editor's Note: Britney Wilmer is the Eastern Region Vice President.



Good luck to Britney Marsh, 2008-2009 Pennsylvania National Officer Candidate and Kristie Folk, American Finalist!

A Special Visit to Bermudian Springs High School

ALEXANDRIA SPEASE
Pa. FFA State Reporter

BERMUDIAN SPRINGS, Pa. — For the second year in a row, the Pennsylvania State FFA Officers kicked off their year by traveling to Bermudian Springs High School on Sept. 16. During the agriculture classes, taught by Dianna Dellinger and John Wardle, the officers put on various workshops for the students, including Communication, Team Building and Agriculture Diversity.

It is a rare occasion for any school in Pennsylvania to have all 11 state officers come and speak. Bermudian Springs was very fortunate to have 10 officers and their adviser join a chapter for the entire day.

Nicole Lambert, a junior from Bermudian Springs said, "It was a very fun and cool opportunity."

Chapter Vice President Amanda McDannel said, "I was so excited to see the officers again and to welcome them to our school! It was a really fun!"

Whether it was a Bermudian FFA officer or a non-FFA member, both students and administration enjoyed the day that was spent with the Pennsylvania State Officers.



Photo by Alexandria Spease

Bermudian Springs student participates in a communication workshop.

