



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Farm Show Memories



Members of the Bermudian Springs FFA participate in the Gearing Up for the 21st Century contest, presenting on the Farm Office.



AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster

Carrie Rodriguez, left and Rachel Mellinger shovel mulch for their Eastern York FFA display at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, Wednesday, Jan. 2, in preparation for the Pennsylvania Farm Show.



Photos by Suzannah Mellinger, Pa. FFA State Reporter

It's a family affair when it comes to listening to the Midd West FFA's Gearing Up for the 21st Century presentation.



Photo by Charlene Shupp Espenshade

Pennsylvania FFA Eastern Region Vice President Jason Zimmerman and Gov. Ed Rendell enjoy maple ice cream sundaes.

BEN SVONAVEC Pa. FFA Western Region Vice President

A new year is here! While at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, I heard Secretary Wolff say that, "the new year doesn't begin until the Farm Show ends". The year 2008 kicked off with the Pennsylvania Farm Show which was, Jan. 5-12. At the show, our state officer team participated in many different activities including watching the unveiling of the butter sculpture on Thursday. The sculpture was donated to the State College FFA chapter and Penn State University to be made into biodiesel. Saturday was "official" opening ceremonies for the 2008 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

On Saturday, our team went to the opening ceremony where we heard some phenomenal music by non-other than KJ Wagner and let me tell you, she was AWESOME! The Governor of Pennsylvania, Edward G. Rendell, and the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Dennis C. Wolff entered and gave great speeches and afterward we were able to tour the food court with the Governor and sample some delicious Pennsylvania foods.

One of the next big events we were part of was the Pennsylvania FFA Mid-Winter Convention, or the Keystone Degree ceremony.



FROM THE OFFICER'S STATION

I would like to congratulate the 285 FFA members that received their state degree! During the ceremony there were guest speakers including the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Catherine Baker-Knoll. We also recognized the State Stars, the Keystone Contest winner, and awarded the Honorary Keystone Degree to parents who had three or more children earn their Keystone Degree.

Tuesday was an early start with the Farm Show Scholarship breakfast, where the Farm Show scholarship recipients were recognized. During the breakfast a past recipient of the scholarship, Eric Cowden, gave some congratulatory remarks on behalf of the 2008 recipients. Following the breakfast, four of us were given the opportunity by PennAg industries association under the supervision of Lori Connelly to help host and educate legislators and capitol staff on trolley tours from the capitol building to the Farm Show Complex while the girls on the team attended the Women's Day program. Wednesday

was the FFA quiz bowl which tests FFA students on different categories of agricultural knowledge. Friday we visited the capitol to promote the State Legislative Leadership Conference (SLLC), to different legislators from across the state.

On the final day of the Farm Show we were able to participate in the first ever Farm Show closing ceremonies. The ceremony announced the retirement of the assistant director of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Bill Piper; Mr. Piper thank-you for serving Pennsylvania agriculture so well.

Now that life is "back to normal" your state officer team is keeping busy planning for ACES (Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success) National FFA Week, and even SLLC which reminds me, the deadline to register for SLLC is Feb. 15, so if you want to attend, let your advisor know. A lot of exciting things are happening and I can't wait to see you there!



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