



BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Success...One Step at a time

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Penns Manor FFA Reaches Out to Local Farmers

EDEN FREDERICK

Penns Manor FFA Chapter Reporter

PENN RUN, Pa. — On July 15, 2008 at the Cherry Hill fire hall in Penn Run, Pa., the Penns Manor FFA and Cherry Hill fire department presented a seminar on tractor safety to local farmers.

The seminar involved Chief Jody Rainey and Captain Cliff Clawson discussing the new rescue straps, which are used to suspend vehicles in the air to get trapped victims out. They also discussed how to block vehicles up when someone is trapped underneath so you can pull them out. They did demon-

strations in which Ken Stewart, a Penns Manor FFA member, was the participant. Rainey and Clawson also discussed how to prevent tractor roll-overs and how to prevent tractor accidents. The Cherry Hill fire hall provided a meal and refreshments to all who attended.

Tractor safety, and any kind of safety for that matter, is an important subject. There are competitions for FFA members teaching them proper farm safety but there is little educating farmers about the dangers of farm equipment. This informational seminar aids in farmers' safety.



Shown left to right are Gerald Hughes, Ken Stewart, Alicia Ashbaugh, Jared Cramer, Chief Jody Rainey and Captain Cliff Clawson learning about farm safety.

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



TYLER WITTER

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State Vice President PA FFA

NEWVILLE, Pa. — My calendar currently has eleven months plus one that is just called busy. That is the month of September. As members got back into the swing of school bells and lunch schedules, the state officers and I prepared for school as well.

We held our first chapter-visit at Bermudian Springs and all we can say is "wow!" We couldn't have asked for a more energized group. During the same week, we left for the Eastern State Exposition in Springfield, Mass. Needless to say, everyone from Pa. had an amazing weekend. Congratulations to all of the Big "E" participants. Pa. did a fantastic job!

After getting back from Massachusetts there was barely enough time to go home for some officers, because the next day we all spent our time helping at the All-American Dairy Show. While there, we got to hand out ribbons to exhibitors, spend time with members showing and even see the 2007-2008 dairy princesses.

The next few weeks were just as busy. All of the officers including myself had begun giving chapter visits throughout the state. We spent the weeks delivering leadership workshops and visiting with FFA members. We were even asked to deliver workshops at the Adams/Franklin/York (AFY) Leadership Conference in Gettysburg. Each of the state officers presented material about their office and the duties required in it to chapter members.

During the first week of October, all of the state officer teams had the chance to attend the Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) at the Farm Show Complex. On Friday, October 3rd we

were all asked to help with Farm City Day at KILE. This was an amazing experience because children from local elementary schools had the chance to come to the Farm Show Complex and see agriculture first hand. Many of these children were not familiar with where their food comes from, so by educating these students we can better support the agricultural industry. I can only thank Jean Lonnie and everyone at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for making this experience possible.

Now, the most important part of October to any FFA member is the National FFA Convention. This year it is being held in Indianapolis, Ind. Anyone who has ever attended this convention can agree with me, it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. State officers from every state will be participating in the delegate issues and deciding which issues are important enough to go before the national board of directors. Members also have the opportunity to participate in the National Day of Service, compete in National Career Development Events (CDE), and even take in some of the live concert performers such as Taylor Swift while at the convention.

I wish everyone that is competing in CDE good luck as they make their journey to Indy. I also hope that everyone who is attending has a safe trip and an enjoyable experience. Remember to take lots of pictures. *Lancaster Farming* is always looking for chapter events and contests to put into the Blue and Gold Pages. Keep studying hard and never forget that you create Success... One Step At A Time!

Cloister FFA Thrives at the Ephrata Fair

TERRI KAUFFMAN

Cloister FFA Chapter Reporter

EPHRATA, Pa. — During the week of September 22-26, 2008, the Ephrata Fair was underway which meant a whirlwind of activity for Cloister FFA members. From community service to fundraising, members were able to share their passion for agriculture while developing their leadership potential.

On Monday, September 22, the Cloister FFA officers spent the day helping set-up the tents. They helped set-up the dairy tent, crop tent and rabbit stations, hung signs around the facilities and placed tables in the Young Farmers food tent.

Wednesday was a big day not only for FFA members but also pre-school, kindergarten and first-grade students from local elementary schools. The youngsters got to visit six different stations where high school agriculture students presented about tractors, pigs, sheep, horses, crops and dairy cows. Later in the evening, the FFA earned third place in the parade under the youth group division. The float was decorated with items that the chapter is selling for fundraisers and upcoming activities.

Five FFA students also participated in different livestock shows. Starting on Tuesday afternoon, Taylor Bauder, Toni Kauffman and Terri Kauffman took part in the dairy beef show. Later

in the day, Emily Good showed two pigs in the swine show. On Wednesday morning Megan Ackley participated in the sheep and pygmy goat shows. On Thursday, Taylor Bauder, Toni Kauffman and Terri Kauffman showed their cows and heifers in the dairy show.

Wrapping up the week on Friday, the chapter fundraised by selling garden chairs, corn men, pumpkin faces and barbeque chicken dinners. Cloister FFA Secretary Taylor Bauder reflected, "The week was very fun but at the same time it was busy, educational and tiring all wrapped up into one emotion. We all had a successful week and we all are looking forward to next year."

Little Lions FFA Demonstrates Safety

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Little Lions FFA gave four safety demonstrations at the Centre County Grange Fair as a part of their PDA/PA FFA Association's Safety Demonstration Grant activities.

Both Dustin Fleck and Vance Brown showed the PA SAFE Map and shared this information with both adults and youth. They explained both the process and finished map to the audience

as well as provided answers to interested farmers about the project.

Allison Hoover and Krystal Smith helped fair youngsters practice canine CPR techniques as a part of a canine care and emergency treatment demonstration.

The other two demonstrations were of tractor safety using a toy tractor model from the National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Program

(NSTMOP) training and a grain gravity wagon demonstration about the dangers of playing in a wagon load of grain and being pulled into the grain pile as it is unloaded.

The four demonstrations were given more than an hour-long period with many questions and discussions following each demonstration. These demonstrations were used to kick off activities in the livestock area of the fair before the animals arrived. The Little Lions FFA has been doing these safety demonstrations for the past four to five years and have obtained several safety resources to conduct their programs.

The Little Lions FFA will be expanding their demonstrations to the state by bringing it to the Farm Show Complex during the Pa. Farm Show in January.

The chapter also attended the Association for Career and Technical Education's "Green Energy" activity in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 8. The Little Lions Chapter was the only chapter from Pa. to participate in this "going green" event. The Little Lions true color shines through, green.



Rep. Phil English, co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Congressional Caucus, with Vance Brown and Allison Hoover.