

BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Success...One Step at a time

www.paffa.state.pa.us

Help Give an FFA Member a Bright Future

Sponsor Blue & Gold Jackets

KRISTA PONTIUS

Greenwood Agricultural Teacher

Stand Up, Step Out is the theme for the National FFA Association this year. Over the past three years, the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association has worked diligently to provide the first step in a student's success in this organization, which is providing them with a corduroy FFA jacket. As FFA alumni across the nation know, the blue and gold jacket provides a tremendous amount of pride as well as opportunity for each and every student in the organization.

As an alumni organization, we have set a goal to present a minimum of 200 students with jackets at the 2009 Mid-Winter Convention, which will take place in conjunction with the Pennsylvania State Farm Show. In order to reach our goal, we are asking for your help. For \$45 you could sponsor a jacket for a freshman FFA mem-

ber. If you are interested, you may send a check, payable to Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association, c/o Krista Pontius, 405 East Sunbury Street, Millerstown, PA 17062.

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni secures the promise of the FFA mission and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Thank you for considering this opportunity to help a young FFA member open the door to the possibilities of this tremendous organization! Feel free to contact me at the above address or kpontius@greenwoodsd.org if you have any questions about the Freshman Jacket Program or the Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association. Once again, thank you for your support.

FFA Adviser Nominated Agriscience Teacher of the Year

BRITNEY MARSH
FFA State Reporter

MILLERSTOWN, Pa. — Michael Clark was nominated this year as the Agriscience Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Clark traveled to Indianapolis, Ind. for the FFA National Convention the third week in October to represent Pennsylvania. Clark has been teaching at Greenwood High School for the Agriculture Department for five years. Prior to his job at Greenwood he worked at Berlin Brothersvalley in Somerset county. Clark teaches animal science, small engines, veterinary science, environmental exploration, agricultural exploration, fish and wildlife and agriscience. Clark wears many different hats, as you can see. He received his bachelor of science and master of education degrees from



Michael Clark

Penn State's Department of Agricultural and Extension Education.

Not only is Clark a highly qualified teacher and an FFA adviser, he is also a father of two, Emily and Andrea and a husband to Elizabeth. Clark goes above and beyond the call of duty each and every day to assist his students so that they can be all they can be. "He has a genuine gift for education. He uses his talent to create a classroom atmosphere which is inviting, entertaining and educational," according to Krista Pon-

tius, Clark's friend and co-worker.

Pennsylvania is proud to have such a talented teacher supporting agriculture and his students day in and day out. Congratulations, Mr. Clark. You represented Pennsylvania with pride.

Attention Emergency Workers, FFA Members and Farmers

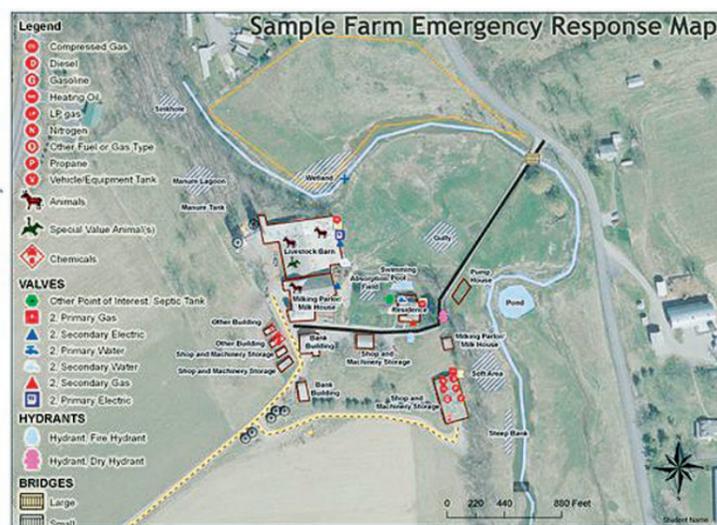
BRITNEY MARSH
FFA State Reporter

EVERYWHERE, Pa. — FFA members all across Pennsylvania are pitching in to do their part in saving farms.

The Pennsylvania FFA S.A.F.E. program, or Saving Area Farms Effectively, started as an idea over four years ago and maps are now being made and posted on the farms.

The purpose of S.A.F.E. is to map out the farmer's land and then have a Farm Emergency Response Map on site so that if anything should happen, emergency medical teams and firefighters can see the layout of the land. The Farm Emergency Response Map contains information about hazards and important assets that emergency response personnel need to know in the event of an emergency, such as fuel storage locations, gas shutoffs, chemical storage sites, septic systems and more.

This program helps FFA students complete a valuable learning experience because they get to use computerized geospatial



A sample GPS map of a farm

mapping technologies. It also protects the health and safety of local emergency responders and reduces economic and financial losses.

FFA S.A.F.E. is supported by a variety of agricultural organizations including Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences as well as Pennsylvania agricultural organizations, agribusinesses and emergency responder

groups. A curriculum has been made to teach farm mapping as a part of school curriculum which ties in math, English and science standards.

If you have any questions about the FFA S.A.F.E. program or you want to get involved and map out a farm, visit www.ffafarmsafe.org or contact Michael Brammer at c-mbrammer@state.pa.us.

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



LANCE WAYBRIGHT

Stepping Up, Standing Out

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The past several weeks our schedules have been crowded with numerous activities keeping us rolling throughout the year.

As the first semester draws closer to an end, that only means banquets and planning for the spring conferences. Chapter visits have been keeping the state officers hopping throughout the state. Bermudian Springs, Big Spring, Albion, Linesville, and Crawford County are a few I have participated in. Teamwork, leadership, and opportunities in FFA are what students are learning in the state officer's chapter visits through group activities and games.

Other than chapter visits, the 2008-09 slate of state officers are getting their fair share of unique experiences. The highlight of October as well as many other FFA's nationwide was being able to participate at the

2008 National FFA convention. More than 50,000 members met for three days in down town Indianapolis making it the largest youth gathering in history. Competing in CDE's, touring the trade show room, deciding on important issues to effect the organization, attending a country concert, and meeting fellow FFA members from across the country and much more kept the convention attendees busy.

Step Up, Stand Out was the theme for this year's convention. The national officers gave their retiring address by challenging us to step up and do what's right by standing out. We also had the opportunity to reach out to the folks in the Indy community by helping build houses for the Habitat for Humanity during the day of service.

This is a just a glimpse of what the team has been up to during the last month with plenty more yet to come.