

purpose
ACCEPTANCE SERENITY
MORE
FAITH light engagement
PASSION

BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings
www.paffa.org



Officer Team 2020-2021 Announces Theme

Each Pennsylvania FFA state officer team selects a theme for its year. The theme's purpose is to inspire, motivate and guide all 13,000 Pennsylvania FFA members. Over the past month our team spent countless hours discussing a theme that will spark a change within our members. We know that this year has been challenging, so we wanted to bring light to a

dark time. After much consideration we have decided that the theme for the 2020-2021 Pennsylvania FFA Association is "More."

As we enter this year of uncertainty, we want each member, adviser, donor and supporter of the Pennsylvania FFA to seek more. More purpose, passion, courage, serenity,

acceptance, faith, light, and engagement. Although this year may be different, there is so much more than cancellations and disappointment. Throughout this year we will encourage our members to explore what they want more of — for themselves and for our organization. We cannot wait to make the most of our year together.



Therese Coleman with Pennsylvania Ag Secretary Russell Redding explaining her E. coli research. Pennsylvania FFA photo

MORE Member Stories: Conrad Weiser FFA Member Researches E. coli Solutions

ALAYNA HARRELL
FFA State Reporter

Therese Coleman has a unique supervised agricultural experience project that focuses on a natural solution to the E. coli issues in the food industry. An SAE project is something that is required for all FFA members. The goal of the project is help them take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to a real-life situation.

Coleman's interest in this project stemmed from her first two years of high school, when she participated in science fairs. At one of the science fairs, she had the opportunity to speak to a Conrad Weiser FFA graduate who also had a project involving E. coli.

Soon after the science fair, Coleman began her own research, specifically with the dandelion plant.

"To start, I have used and selected several parts of the dandelion plant and ground into a paste which was then soaked onto sterile discs and placed on a petrified fish with E. coli spread on it," she said.

Coleman's project is not only unique but also challenging. Her past projects have been within the botany category; however, none have focused

on microorganisms. Coleman's current project is centered on microorganisms, so she had to learn how to work with new equipment and tools.

"The first trial failed, which made me rethink my entire experimental design. But with help and a trial and error I came up with the final design which succeeded," Coleman said.

Through her ongoing research, Coleman's favorite part is giving presentations on her project.

"Sharing my findings is exciting and makes all the failures worth it," she said.

Coleman had the opportunity to share her project at two science fairs this past year, where she finished first. Her plan was to take this project to States, prior to COVID-19; however, she is planning to continue her project this year.

She also serves as the Conrad Weiser FFA chapter's vice president. In addition to FFA, Coleman is a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters and National Honor Society. As Coleman enters her senior year at Conrad Weiser High School, she plans to focus on isolating the chemical compounds of the dandelion. This will help her create a higher concentration and continue her research.

It Just Takes One!

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

In life everyone can say that they wish they had more...

The part that is the hardest is filling in the blank. Many people would respond with more money, more friends, or more time. I would rather respond with more food.



CHEYENNE BASTIAN-BROWN

One inspiring idea is establishing and tending to the growth of different fruits and vegetables that can later be donated. Also, running your own food collection during the school year. Your chapter can create a virtual auction to raise funds for

Each year over 37 million Americans suffer from the challenges of food insecurity, 11 million of these individuals being school-age children. Obviously, this past year has been a bit different in the sector of agriculture. Specifically, calling attention to the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the various articles on milk dumping state-wide and the drastic drop in beef prices. Hand in hand with these unfathomable instances comes the increase of food insecurity. Due to the closure of schools, and possible prolonged summer, the number of children facing food insecurity is projected to increase to 18 million children by the end of 2020.

In person or virtually, there are millions of ways that, as FFA members, we can help make a positive difference and aid in the battle against food insecurity.

your local food pantry or run an online Free Rice campaign, a free-to-play web and mobile multiple choice game that donates rice through the United Nations World Food program. The possibilities are endless — you can begin a new supervised agriculture experience or a new committee to get other members on board. The Pennsylvania FFA Foundation has opportunities for students to help fund these projects paffa.org under the Foundation tab labeled "Member Opportunities, Contests, and Grants." With over 13,000 members, I know that the Pennsylvania FFA can make an impact to end food insecurity in our world. After all, it all begins with just one member.

Cheyenne Bastian-Brown is the FFA state treasurer.

Six Ways To Help In Harvest Season

National FFA Organization

Fall can evoke images of corn mazes, Friday night lights and pumpkin spice lattes. But for farmers, September through November is often the busiest time of the year. With tight deadlines, unpredictable weather and volatile markets, FFA members can volunteer in several ways during harvest season to multiply the joys and ease the discomforts of the agricultural life.

Break Out Your Brooms

Before harvest time hits, the work begins. Grab your brooms, shovels, dustpans and vacuums to help farmers clean storage facilities and containers. Note any damage that has happened to the infrastructure so it can be repaired and pests prevented from ruining the next crop.

Create a Meal Train

Whether you are an expert cook or excel at making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, nothing tastes better than food eaten in the cab of a tractor. Create a meal train within your FFA chapter to help deliver food to farmers who can't take a break from the field. This can be the first step in feeding a hungry planet.

Advocate for Your Community

Telling the story of agriculture is more important now than ever. But how do farmers do that when they are so busy in the field during harvest season? Work

with local farmers to take photos and videos of their operations. Schedule an Instagram takeover or volunteer to act as a temporary administrator on social media channels during their busy times.

Shoulder the Load of a Diversified Operation

Many farmers these days are diversifying their operations to include both crops and livestock. However, balancing time in the field with feeding schedules can be a logistical nightmare. Volunteer to feed and water a neighbor's animals during harvest season to ensure that everyone is taken care of.

Work at the Car Wash

After spending countless hours to get produce out of the field, the last thing a farmer may want to do is spend time cleaning equipment. Organize a traveling tractor wash to raise funds for your FFA chapter and to help farmers ensure their equipment is clean and shiny before heading back into the barn for the off-season.

Lend a Hand

If you live in a part of the country where fruits and vegetables reign, there is plenty of work to support. Host a chapter meeting at an orchard, garden or vineyard to help with the huge amount of work that goes into hand-harvesting these products.

