

purpose  
ACCEPTANCE SERENITY  
**MORE**  
FAITH engagement  
light PASSION

# BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

www.paffa.org



## Congratulations to 2020 American Degree Recipients

At the 2020 National FFA Convention, Pennsylvania had 59 American degree recipients.

The National FFA states, “as the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member’s dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA association. It demonstrates the effort FFA members apply toward their supervised agricultural experience and the outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement they exhibited through their FFA career.”

For many FFA members, an American degree means hours of hard work and dedication to the FFA organization.

Each of Pennsylvania’s American degree recipients received recognition for their degree at the virtual National Convention. However, on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA Association we would like to officially congratulate them.

Our American degree recipients are as follows: Mikara Anderson, Krista Armour, Emily Aukamp, Millena Bashore, Brandon Bixler, Dorothy Bollinger, Ethan Brummer, Ashley Burbank, Kaitlyn Calvert, Dylan Clark, Nicole L. Coffield, Adam Cole, Brooke Cornell, Calvin Dale, Corey Davis, Ashlea Dull, Emily Durila, Wyatt Emig, Clifton Erway, Ryan Frantz, Grace Gensimore, McKenzie Glass, Rachael Grove, Lucas Hayman, Clara Hess, Makenna Hoffman, Grace Marie Houk, Lauren Kachel, Brooke Kline, Alexandra Klink, Hunter Knorr, Jordan Martin, Hannah Martin, Lydia Mattison, Sabrina McClintock, McKenzie Myers, Daniel Peterson, Savannah Pettit, Hayden Garnet Phillips, Kelly Pierce, Oliver Prout, Anna Reyburn, Michael Riggs, Samuel Rishel, Madison Ryburn, Shaila Shannon, Kyle Sonnen, Tessa Stahl, Emily Stambaugh, Kassandra Stermer, Shelby Stoneman, Arilyn Tegtmeier-Oatman, Madalynn Lee Veit, Courtney Walter, Leah Welk, Madison Wickard, Courtney Wilcox, Tucker Williams and Abigail Yoder.

Congratulations to these 59 deserving individuals. Thank you for your time and dedication to the Pennsylvania FFA. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

## Be the Change

### FROM THE OFFICERS STATION

The headline in history books for the year 2020 might be something like “national pandemic” or “the year when toilet paper was a luxury.”

However, I want to remember it as a year of change. A saying I like to tell myself and others is, “be the change you are looking

for.” Each day, we wake up and we live our lives by making a series of decisions.

We have the opportunity to decide how our day is going to turn out. I think we should all take the opportunity to reflect on all the decisions we made in 2020.

Good or bad they created an impact in our lives and the lives of others. When I look back on my year, of course there are things I would want to change, like not graduating from high school during a pandemic, maybe not drinking that large coffee right before bed,



EMILY O'BRIEN

or going on another ice cream run before the stand closed for the season.

The fact of the matter is, all those things are in the past, and I cannot change those things because now they are out of my control. What I can control, though, is my outlook on this year. I am blessed

with six incredible teammates, I get the opportunity to make an impact on over 13,000 lives like never before, and those whom I love are safe. Each morning we wake is a blessing, yet another opportunity to do more, and be the change.

As the days in 2020 count down, a new year is coming up on us. Let us take those opportunities to remember the good and bad, learn from our mistakes, and maybe not hoard toilet paper in 2021.

Emily O'Brien is the Pennsylvania FFA state sentinel.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Pennsylvania FFA





Emma Mikara Emily Jess Alayna Cody  
Chyenne

Pennsylvania FFA photo

The Pennsylvania FFA officer team wishes you a happy holiday. We are beyond blessed to have each and every one of our members, supporters and alumni. Stay safe and healthy as you enjoy the holiday season.

## Lancaster County Members Help Louisiana FFA Chapter

ALAYNA HARRELL  
State Reporter

The National FFA Association is often referred to as a family. When our FFA family members are in need, we are happy to walk alongside them. The Garden Spot FFA chapter at Lampeter-Strasburg High School is a perfect example of helping their fellow FFA family. This chapter had a calling to help the Vinton High School FFA chapter in Louisiana.

In honor of the National FFA Convention’s National Day of Community Service, Garden Spot FFA organized a community service event. Their chapter teamed up with Grassland FFA and Elizabethtown FFA to collect, package and ship Hurricane Laura relief materials like paper products, tools, cleaning supplies, food and toiletries to the Vinton High School FFA chapter in southwestern Louisiana. The August hurricane was the region’s strongest on record and caused massive damage, according to the National Weather Service.

Jeslyn Krebs, vice president of Garden Spot FFA, said that over 50 FFA members volunteered, spending four hours packing boxes worth about \$3,300 in economic relief.

“We are proud to make a positive impact on fellow FFA members from Vinton High School FFA Chapter in Vinton, Louisiana,” she said.

Many FFA chapters across the commonwealth have struggled with the challenges of COVID-19. However, now more than ever, our 13,000 Pennsylvania FFA members are proving to be resilient. Like to the Garden Spot FFA, chapters are doing projects that make a difference for their communities.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

Students from the Garden Spot FFA, Grassland FFA, and Elizabethtown FFA wrote cards to members of a chapter in storm-battered Louisiana.

## FFA Plans to Make History With Its First Virtual Mid-Winter Convention

A convention that once filled the New Holland Arena at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is now being moved to the computer screen.

The first virtual Mid-Winter Convention is happening in less than a month.

This convention will be held in conjunction with the 105th virtual Pennsylvania Farm Show. We have a schedule that is filled with guest speakers, awards and exciting ways for FFA members to get involved.

Pennsylvania’s secretary of agriculture, Russell Reading, will be one of our many guest speakers featured in the program. We also will highlight our jacket scholarship recipients. Each of our jacket scholarship winners will receive a free FFA jacket on behalf of the Pennsylvania FFA alumni. Pennsylvania Keystone Degree recipients will also be highlighted. These members will have a special portion of the program to honor their achievements. We also will have additional pieces such as the honored parent award, the FFA

creed, and special video features.

Although we may not be filling the arena at the Farm Show Complex this year, we hope to have a record-breaking event. Having this convention on a virtual platform gives everyone a chance to attend.

Make sure to follow Pennsylvania FFA on Instagram and Facebook to see updates about our 92nd convention. We can’t wait to recognize our outstanding members, and experience this convention in a unique way.