



Regional Golden Owl Award Winners Announced

Pennsylvania FFA Association

For the past two years, Pennsylvania FFA, Nationwide Insurance and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau have partnered for the Golden Owl Award. This annual award recognizes Pennsylvania agriculture educators for their tremendous contributions in preparing the next generation of young people in agriculture.

From August through December, the sponsoring organizations asked students, faculty and community members to nominate a deserving teacher. The award generated 96 nominations for 42 Pennsylvania teachers.

Over the past three weeks, four teachers were recognized as Regional Golden Owl Winners.

The winners are: Thomas Hojnowski, northern region; Laura Palmer, western region; Sherisa Nailor, south-central region and Katie Ranck, eastern region.

These teachers are in the running for the Golden Owl Award grand prize.

One honoree from each of the nine participating states will be chosen as their state's grand prize winner based on additional review by each state's selection committee.

Each grand prize winner will receive the a Golden Owl Award trophy and a \$3,000 Nationwide-funded award to support continued education efforts. The winner will be announced in June at the Pennsylvania State FFA Convention.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

The four winners of the Pennsylvania Regional Golden Owls.

Pennsylvania State Officer Team Participates in Global Leadership

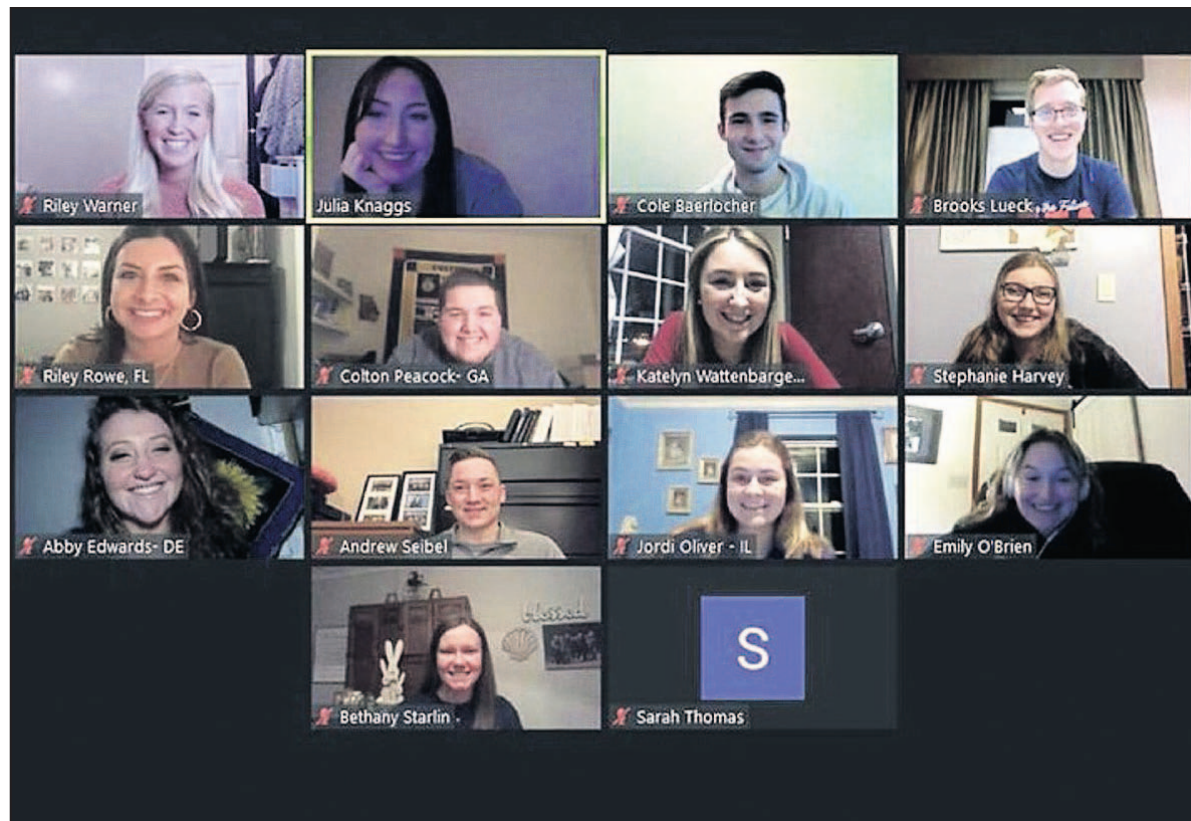
Pennsylvania FFA Association

The agricultural industry is known for its diversity and innovation across the world. For one week the the Pennsylvania FFA State Officer team had the opportunity to "travel" to Japan, Italy and South Africa through the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers held March 6-10 by the National FFA.

Over the course of five days, they immersed themselves in new cultures and agriculture around the globe. Additionally, learning about global agriculture, the team was able to meet FFA state officers from across the country.

The team participated in various workshops, cultural immersion activities and roundtable discussions. The workshops covered topics such as global citizenship, sustainable agriculture and cultural differences. Immersion activities were one of the highlights of the conference.

On March 6, Bifu Nakatani, founder and head of the Sencha Bifu School, walked the team through several activities. From learning about a traditional Japanese tea ceremony, to calligraphy,



Pennsylvania FFA photo

Emily O'Brien, Pennsylvania FFA sentinel, meets with state officers across the United States at the International Leadership Seminar.

to flower arranging, the team was immersed in Bifu's culture. Keynote speakers and roundtable discussions were the final component of the conference. Business representatives from Bunge, John Deere and Bob's Red Mill all spoke more about their hand in global agriculture. Each part of the conference was filled with new, educational opportunities for state officers across the U.S.

Emma Musser, state chaplain, said, "My favorite part of ILSSO was getting to interact with other state officers as we immersed ourselves in new cultures. Whether it was learning about Japanese painting and flower arranging, playing games from Brazil, Greece and Indonesia, or hearing from keynote speakers who have served in leadership positions across the globe, ILSSO has increased my international competency."

This new experience for the state officer team was a great way to give them a global perspective on agriculture. Each member of the team was able to leave the conference with valuable insights they will be able to share with Pennsylvania's FFA members.



Pennsylvania FFA photo

Mikara Anderson, Pennsylvania FFA President, proudly stands next to Greenwood FFA's Pennsylvania FFA Alumni jacket scholarship recipients.

National FFA Week Recap

ALAYNA HARRELL

State Reporter

HARRISBURG, Pa. — With 33 events and 28 chapters, it was a week filled with memories.

National FFA Week was a monumental celebration for Pennsylvania FFA, although the state association was faced with the challenge of experiencing FFA Week during the pandemic.

The state officer team sought unique ways to reach the 13,000 Pennsylvania members. We were able to accomplish this through over 30 events statewide.

The week started full speed ahead, as officers hosted a virtual trivia night. This hour long event gave members the opportunity to brush up on their FFA knowledge, meet the state officer team, and meet other FFA members.

And as FFA week continued the

officer team toured the state of Pennsylvania, visiting with three to four chapters a day. Chapter visits consisted of workshops, fun activities and keynote speeches.

On Wednesday night of FFA week, the state officers hosted a virtual movie night. Pennsylvania FFA members were able to watch the movie "Walk, Ride, Rodeo." from the comfort of their homes, and participate in a virtual chat.

The final event of the week was a listening session with Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding and the state officer team. This session was hosted by the Department of Agriculture on Facebook Live. Officers and Redding discussed topics affecting the agricultural industry.

Despite being virtual, the celebration of National FFA Week was a success and the officer team was happy to host this special week filled with celebration.