



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Stationed by the Keystone

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



JORDAN ANDERSON
CHAPLAIN

A few weeks ago, I was attending a wedding ceremony. It seemed like another day at my part-time job as a wedding videographer, but it soon turned into a day I wouldn't forget.

After the ceremony had ended, I was sitting on a bench a few rows away from the altar while the couple's family photos were being taken.

I had met the minister briefly before the ceremony, but suddenly I found him sitting next to me on the bench. He remembered my name, said "hello" and then asked me, what I was passionate about.

I responded quickly and full of excitement. In my head, I was mind blown — thinking wow, this guy really cares. I am just a stranger he met less than a few hours ago, yet he's interested in knowing more about what I do.

One of the first words I had rattled off to him was agriculture. I shared how I found my passion through FFA, what the organization means to me and my role as the state chaplain, which led to us discussing my faith in Jesus. We also talked about life and how everything in life eventually connects and fits together.

The job I was doing at this wedding was work-related, but something I absolutely love, nonetheless. So, if faith, agriculture and photography could be combined, it would be a lump sum of passion for this girl.

This pastor is an example of how Jesus loved those who surrounded him, and I was just blessed to find that within my proximity. The pastor showed compassion for me just as my Savior cares for me and as many others do. I will remember the actions of this man and aim to carry out similar gestures throughout my

year of service. As Thomas Rhett says best, "In a world full of hate, be a light."

The pastor was a light in my life that day by showing compassion and I hope to do the same for someone this year. I pray that I will see people with eyes of Christ and be a light to those whom I interact with.

I believe the Lord put me on that chapel pew with the purpose to help me share my love for agriculture. Like he did for my time spent in high school as an FFA member. And there was a time in my life when being a part of state office was simply a dream, but that became a reality for me — only three months ago.

In the beginning, my excitement and nerves battled each other, and some days they still do.

But, I have found comfort in knowing that the Lord has a plan. I trust that right now, I am exactly where I am meant to be. For anyone still reading, my message is this — love others, be kind and find your passion. And also, when your purpose and passion align, anything is possible and use it for good in the lives of others around you.



Pennsylvania FFA photo/graphic

Embracing Connections

Pennsylvania FFA State Officer Team

For the month of September, the Pennsylvania state officers are encouraging FFA members across the state to embrace their connections. As we enter the new school year, we are faced with the opportunity to meet new people and create lasting connections. FFA members, do not be afraid to seek out new relationships in your life because it could change you for the better.



From left, Ravyn Bashore, sentinel; Nina Coolidge, secretary; Trevor Maxwell, reporter; Greg Gipe, vice president; Abigail O'Neill, president; and Molly Cessna, treasurer.



Photos by Courtney Love

Treasurer Molly Cessna became friends with one of Way-Har Farms' Jerseys during the officer team's visit to the farm.



William Lesher of Way-Har Farms and reporter Trevor Maxwell.

From Cow to Cone

TREVOR MAXWELL
Reporter

BERNVILLE, Pa.—The Pennsylvania state officer team traveled to Way-Har Farms on Aug. 27 to gain insight into a value-added dairy farm. The Lesher family gave officers and Lancaster Farming editors a tour of their entire dairy operation and farm market, which has been in their family for six generations.

Lolly Lesher led the tour through the barns, explaining the steps the family takes in maturing a calf to a cow and producing milk for their market's dairy product.

Way-Har Farms has a variety of dairy cows of different breeds, from Jerseys and Milking Short-horns to Holsteins and Ayrshire.

However, the Holsteins make up the majority of their 300-cow herd.

Operations of the 190-acre farm are managed by Lolly and her husband, William. They also have their children Josh, Jaylene and Olivia in management roles. Their other daughter, Laura, lives in Wisconsin working as a dairy specialist.

William Lesher, a former Tulpehocken FFA member, spoke with me in between chores.

"When I was a freshman in high school, I started in the FFA program and I just took off with it from there," he said.

During his time in FFA, Lesher served as the historian, vice president and president for two years, all at the chapter level. He also

went on to serve as the county's vice president. After high school, Lesher followed his passion and continued to work on his family's dairy farm.

"I enjoy working with the cows a lot. And I like that we take our product directly to our consumer. It means a lot to our family."

Not only is Lesher a driven agriculturalist, but he also likes to meet new people and share his passion with them.

"This is one of my favorites, hosting you," Lesher said.

The officers and editors also visited the farm market and got to taste some of their 90 flavors of ice cream.