



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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FFA American Degree Recipients Honored

The National FFA Organization presented its highest award, the American degree, at its annual convention Oct. 30 in Indianapolis. Following are the recipients from the Mid-Atlantic. Pennsylvania recipients will be announced on the next Blue & Gold page.

Delaware

Julia Adams, Milford
George Class-Peters, Smyrna
Abigail Edwards, Lake Forest
Harley Lardner, Milford
Emily Samick, Middletown
Erin Smallwood, Smyrna
Jackson Sylvester, Lake Forest
Larry Thompson, Smyrna
Leslie Webb, Lake Forest
Ryan Wheatley, Smyrna

Maryland

Cassie Bell, Southern
Avery Dull, Westminster
Robert Hahn, Catocin
Hannah Hartness, Catocin
Helen Leadingham, Boonsboro
Ryan Leister, Francis Scott Key
Elsie McKenzie, Francis Scott Key
Sierra Wean, Francis Scott Key
Samantha Wilt, North Garrett

New Jersey

Toni Baker, Salem Tech
Abigail Michele Goodenough, Northern Burlington
Clay Michael McEvoy, Belvidere
Talia Priore, Woodstown
Jacelyn Eva Rudderow, Penns Grove
Nicole Sickler, Woodstown

New York

Josephine Allen, Sherman
Emily P. Carey, Tri-Valley
Sean Patrick Carron, Academy
Gwen Chase, Sherman
Alvaro Chavez, Penn Yan
Alexander Martin Cipperly, Schoharie Valley
Robert Dorrrough, Schoharie Valley
Kameron Finch, Randolph
Patrick Fontaine, Pioneer
Peyton M. Fontaine, Pioneer



Photo provided by Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation

Maryland's American degree recipients are, from left, Avery Dull, Helen Leadingham, Cassie Bell, Robert Hahn, Hannah Hartness, Ryan Leister, Sierra Wean, Samantha Wilt and Elsie McKenzie.

Stephanie G. Fyock, Pioneer
Abigail M. Hatch, Fillmore
Danielle Laura Herrick, Pioneer
Timothy James, Afton
Meghan Johnson, Whitman
Jenna Kibbe, Clymer
Terry B. Lansing, Schoharie Valley
Jonathan Lasek, Whitman
Evan Liskow, Randolph
Janet Martens, Penn Yan
Jillian Neaves, Indian River
Kayleigh Reynolds-Flynn, Berne Knox Westerlo

Emma Kathryn Rogers, South Jefferson
Joseph A Roodenburg, Otselec Valley
Austin Sherman, Otselec Valley
Morgan Smithling, Whitman
Emily Starceski, Sherman
Sarah Steward, Randolph
Sabrina Thompson, Indian River
Megan VanValkenburg, Sherman
Brayden LC Webber, Penn Yan

Pennsylvania

Audrey Anderson, Conneaut Area

Avery Berdine, West Greene
Clara Bollinger, Cloister
Brooke Breon, Gifford Pinchot
David Buckwalter, Elizabethtown
Kerstin Cohick, Shippensburg
Klarissa Cohick, Shippensburg
Joshua Conkle, Trinity
Darby Conrad, Manor
Nina Coolidge, Grand Canyon
Jarred Covert, Southern Huntingdon County

James Dietrich, Tri-Valley
Christa Ealy, Wilmington Area
Tommy Fair, Wilmington Area
Keri Ferster, Line Mountain Mahantango
Izaiah Haines, Wilmington Area
Alayna Harrell, Little Dutchmen
Elizabeth Hart, Wilmington Area
Gabriel Hartman, Cumberland Valley
Jonathan Heisey, Elizabethtown
Jessica Herr, Garden Spot
Kayla Holmes, McGuffey
Elizabeth Holtry, Chambersburg
Mattie Horchler, Wilmington Area

Hannah Houseknecht, Troy
Taylor Hoverter, Gifford Pinchot
Emily Jefferis, Blue Juniata
Kenneth Jones, West Greene
Roxanne Kingsley, Troy
Tanya F. Kretzing, West Perry
Trent Mahle, Wilmington Area
Mckenzie Mahler, Somerset Area
Paige McCarthy, Athens
Sara McConnell, Wilmington Area
Jessica McKay, Gifford Pinchot
Erica Miller, Trinity
Grace Mosemann, Warfordsburg
Emma Musser, Elizabethtown
Julia Neideigh, Elizabethtown
Danae Ranck, Garden Spot
Cameron Rodgers, Gifford Pinchot
Dalton Rogers, Trinity
Paige Rohrbach, Oley Valley
Josh Roy, Gifford Pinchot
Jody Royer, Bermudian
Katelyn Sauder, Cloister
Wyatt Shorb, Mason Dixon
Taylor Slesman, Somerset Area

Kassidy Staller, Cumberland Valley
Evelyn Stephens, Warfordsburg
Hailee Strait, Warfordsburg
Katelyn Teaman, Solanco
Ricky Telesz, Wilmington Area
Joseph Venasco, Wilmington Area
Raymond Wagner, Wilmington Area
Macy Walason, Chestnut Ridge
Emily Withers, Wilmington Area

Virginia

Ryan Altis, Stuarts Draft
Jonathan Ames, Sherando
Crista Bain, Massaponax
Emily Anne Bray, Magna Vista
Benjamin Austin Burch, Stonewall Jackson
Hunter Carson, Kettle Run
Maeva Davis, Clarke County
Megan Ashleigh Day, C. L. Payne
Faith Louise Dellinger, Stonewall Jackson
Jacob Ryman French, Central
Austin Funk, Broadway
Karllynn Goforth, Fort Chiswell
Aamuel Gaston Hadacek, Buffalo Gap
Sarah Elizabeth Harvey, Nelson Senior
Tiffany Heishman, Strasburg
Tucker Michael Kiracofe, Buffalo Gap
Joshua Leamy, Liberty
Kaitlin Ann Mantz, Central
David Moomaw, Stonewall Jackson
Autumn Madeline Moore, Holston
Desirae Niccolle Morris, Nelson County
Grayson Moyer, Sherando
Jessica Marie Myers, Central
Jordan Alexander Newman, Cumberland
Troy Joseph Payne, Buffalo Gap
Jeremy Petrie, Sherando
Chloe Phillips, Skyline
Megan Nicole Pollok, Tunstall
Kelly Price, Appomattox
Allison Reiter, Dinwiddie
Kloe DelRae Rife, Ridgeview
Andrew Seibel, Lord Botetourt
Faith Settle, Lord Botetourt
Zane Shepherd, Liberty
Mackenzie Shull, Fort Defiance
Malik Rashad Thornton, Tunstall
Casey Edward Toney, Tunstall
Alexis Danielle Warren, Amelia County
Bailey Rein Watson, Fort Chiswell

Pennsylvania FFA Members Shine in National Competitions

TREVOR MAXWELL

Reporter

This year, over 55,000 members, advisers and FFA supporters gathered in Indianapolis for the National FFA Convention and Expo.

Pennsylvania members took a road trip across the country to have the experience of a lifetime as they met other members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In their free time, members interacted with businesses, countless industry representatives, and colleges looking to reach students of FFA. The state officer team would like to congratulate all participants for their hard work and dedication to represent Pennsylvania proudly at the National FFA Convention and Expo.

Pennsylvania FFA was represented by 90 students at the convention competing in a range of career development leadership development events. Students listed below have also received the emblem recognition during the National Convention.

Gold Emblem Teams

Conduct of Chapter Meetings: Greenwood FFA Chapter
Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation: Penns Valley FFA Chapter Team, Faith Wolfe, Jillian Anderson, Jordan Anderson and Alex Coursen

Poultry Evaluation: Manor FFA Chapter Team, Jenna Smith and Carly Railing.

Environmental and Natural Resources: Grand Canyon FFA Chapter Team, Kylie Butler, Mckenzie Sweigart and Lucas Vandergrift

Silver Emblem Teams

Agricultural Sales: Athens FFA Chapter
Livestock Evaluation: Manheim FFA Chapter team, Luke Snavely and Eric Zimmerman

Agriculture Communications: Cumberland Valley FFA Chapter
Farm and Agribusiness Management: Tyrone FFA Chapter

Forestry: SVRCS FFA Chapter
Agricultural Issues Forum: Grand Canyon FFA Chapter

Milk Quality and Products: Cumberland Valley FFA Chapter
Parliamentary Procedure: Newport FFA Chapter

Bronze Emblem Teams

Veterinary Science: Franklin County Career Tech Center FFA Chapter
Ag Technical and Mechanical: Tulpehocken FFA Chapter

Agronomy: SVRCS FFA Chapter
Horse Evaluation: Tulpehocken FFA Chapter

Floriculture: SVRCS FFA Chapter
Meats Evaluation and Technology: Northern Bedford FFA Chapter
Nursery Landscape: Manheim FFA Chapter

Food Science & Technology: Julie Weidman Oley Valley FFA
Individual High Competitor Students
Dairy Cattle Handlers, Gold: Molly Cessna, Bedford CTC FFA

Employment Skills, Silver: Nina Coolidge, Grand Canyon FFA
Extemporaneous Speaking, Bronze: Tabitha Hauck, Selinsgrove FFA
Creed Speaking, Bronze: Rebecca Lehman, Central Columbia FFA

Prepared Public Speaking, Bronze: Emma O'Toole, West Perry FFA

Star Chapter Awards

Central Columbia FFA: Two Stars
West Perry FFA: Two Stars
Tyrone Area FFA: Three Stars
Cumberland Valley FFA: Three Stars

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



GREG GIPE

Vice President

If you would have told me in ninth grade that I would be wearing a Pennsylvania FFA Association blue jacket one day, I would have probably looked at you as if you had three heads.

But, by the end of ninth grade, I decided that I would like to become a state officer one day. At the time, it was just a dream, not a goal, because

I had no plan to accomplish this feat.

And what I have come to realize over the last five years is that I would learn more every time I failed compared to every time I accomplished a goal.

Michael Jordan, who is considered to be one of the best basketball players of all time, was cut from his high school basketball team. The famous basketball player said, "I've failed over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed."

Like Jordan, I would throughout my FFA career find myself falling short many times at events like career development event competitions. However, every time I did, I learned a unique and valuable lesson. One of the biggest lessons that I learned is that the timeline does not apply to what you want to accomplish. No matter how long it takes you to accomplish your goals, you still accomplished them and just because it took longer does not mean that your accomplishments are any less.

Many FFA members might know that I ran for state officer in 2020 and was not elected. I was devastated, but over a year later, I believe that

not getting elected was one of the best things to happen to me because of the learning experience that came from not getting the position the first time I ran. I learned that without the rain, nothing grows and to embrace the many storms of life. I have also learned a lot about people and how many remember what you do down the road.

For many, it is not about what you say or the way you appear, or even how intelligent you seem. People will remember how you made them feel. From that point on, I tried to make sure that everyone that I met has felt valued and appreciated. So, when you set a goal in life and want to accomplish it so badly, remember this quote from Colin Powell: "Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty, and persistence."

To my FFA members, always stay on course, never give up, stay determined, and above all, never be afraid to fail. That failure might be the exact breakthrough that you were looking for.

What Pennsylvania Is Embracing

NINA COOLIDGE

Secretary

For the month of November, the Pennsylvania FFA state officer team are enthusiastic about embracing their blessings. During the holiday season, it is valuable to take time to count your blessings and give

thanks for all that you have.

Our blessings as a team would be our family, friends, advisers and FFA members all across the state. We couldn't be more thankful for those who have gotten us to where we are today and for the 13,609 incredible members we have the opportunity to serve.



Pennsylvania FFA Photo