



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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FFA Members, Farm Toy Fans Unite

TREVOR MAXWELL
State Reporter

The Laurel FFA chapter held its annual Toy Farm Show at Laurel High School.

Farm toy enthusiasts of all ages gathered in the high school gymnasium on April 2 to display their farm equipment collectibles or to sell toy farm merchandise.

Attendees could also buy raffle and 50/50 tickets, purchase Laurel FFA apparel, visit with local farm bureau representatives, or enter the pedal tractor pull.

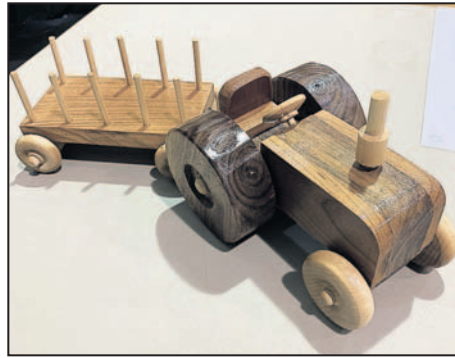
During my visit to this event, I had the opportunity to speak with chapter members and advisers, farmers, and over 475 attendees.

Laurel's chapter president, Savannah Palmer, was very enthusiastic about having a helping hand in creating this event.

"This is our biggest fundraiser," she said. "It allows us to be able to go to all of the different conferences and conventions throughout the year. Because of this, members don't have to pay as much out of pocket, or anything at all. We have a concession stand, raffle tickets, announcers, welcomers and salesmen. And they are all FFA members."

This event isn't just something the school district community knows about. Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and other states had representation throughout the day.

"It is something everyone looks forward to. They (Laurel FFA members) start working on this event probably four months in advance in all of their agriculture classes," said Randy



A close-up of a wooden toy tractor and wagon on display during the Laurel FFA farm toy event.

Herrold, Laurel FFA adviser. "I just give them direction; they are the ones who do all the planning, organizing and reaching out to vendors," he continued.

The Toy Farm Show's future is just as strong as it has been for the past few years.

"This is my second time here since we haven't had it the last two years. But it is good to be back, and I expect there to be even more people here next year," said Palmer.

During this fundraiser, the chapter raised over \$5,400. This money will be used for upcoming events for members to attend, greenhouse merchandise intended for resale, apparel, and FFA jackets for members who wish to have the blue corduroy jacket which they can call their own.



Pennsylvania FFA photos

The FFA blue jacket symbolizes the importance of the leadership skills its members hold to their communities.

The Power of FFA's Blue Jacket

Pennsylvania State Officer Team

For years the blue corduroy jacket has served as a symbol of the National FFA Organization, agriculture education, and the motto — living to serve.

As FFA members, we often forget the significance of this symbol, but the sweet reminders and recognition of the jacket serve as reassurance that what we do matters. A few weeks ago, all seven Pennsylvania FFA state officer team members traveled through Erie and McKean counties to Clearfield, visiting chapters. As the team headed to dinner one night, the officers had minimal time to change out of the official dress before dining at a local restaurant. That night, the officers ate dinner surrounded by the restaurant's regular patrons while wearing their blue jackets.

Throughout the two hours they spent in the restaurant, countless community members stopped by their table. Each person shared stories of their time in FFA, provided advice, and thanked the officers for continuing the traditions of such a great organization.

That night, the state officer team was remind-

ed of our emblem and blue jacket's power. As we wear our jackets, we continue the future of agriculture and continue the deep traditions of the industry.

To each member of the National FFA Organization — never shy away from a chance to wear an official dress. What you wear, what you say, and what you do matters. Each day you serve this organization and uphold the power of the FFA. Take pride in your membership and continue to remind those around you that FFA is for the future, for all.

To the community, alumni and supporters: We know that the support of the FFA spreads far beyond the people in that restaurant in the northwestern part of Pennsylvania. If you have worn the blue jacket, know someone that does or has, or serve as a supporter of agriculture education and leadership, thank you. When you see an FFA member, never steer away from the opportunity to change their perspective with your wisdom and kindness.

FFA goes beyond the classroom, beyond the county, and the state of Pennsylvania. Never forget the power of the blue jacket.



Photos by Trevor Maxwell

An overlook view of the Laurel FFA High School gymnasium full of exhibitors showcasing toy farm machinery.

FFA Members Gain Advocacy Skills

Pennsylvania State Officer Team Passion. It sparks change, fuels the future, and lives within each member of the Pennsylvania FFA Association.

From March 13-15, the Sheraton Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, overflowed with passion as over 500 FFA members met to learn about the legislative process and advocacy.

At the 2022 State Legislative Leadership Conference, members took part in meaningful workshops and discussed current legislation through committee work, caucus meetings, and general assemblies. Members completed those steps in two groups: the House and the Senate.

Within each group, one student leader was recognized with the 2022 founders award: from the House of Representatives, Mackenzie Coffman from the Blue Juniata FFA, and the Senate, Dalton Grumbine from the Little Dutchman FFA.

Students also learned how to advocate through a hands-on advocacy fair. They were divided into groups where they were given an

organization or a company they had to support.

On the final day of this three-day conference, members gathered for a legislative breakfast, which included over 25 state legislators and special guests. Among them were Ag Secretary Russell Redding, Joel Rotz from Pennsylvania Farm Bureau; and Raechel Sattazahn from AgChoice Farm Credit. Following the breakfast, members visited the state Capitol and met with their representatives, practicing how to advocate for agriculture and the different pathways through the organization. They learned how

to do this during the large group advocacy fair at the conference.

This conference would not be possible without the support from our partners: Farm Credit, the Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, National Agriculture Education Foundation, Gary Swan, Darryl Curtis, Seneca Resources, Sterman Masser, Fulton Bank, United and Pennsylvania Soybean Board.

Thank you for allowing the learners of today to become leaders tomorrow.



2022 Founder's Award Winners
Senate: Dalton Grumbine, Little Dutchmen FFA
House: Mackenzie Coffman, Blue Juniata FFA

Pennsylvania FFA photo

Embrace Time

JORDAN ANDERSON
State Chaplain

Time is a gift that's given each day but is not to be wasted. Time is precious. Sometimes we don't know the value of time until it becomes a number. There are two months left for the state officer's year, two months of school left, and two months until the state FFA convention.

Embrace the time that is left while you have it. Time will pass and soon this season will be a memory on the shelf, embrace the time of right now.

