



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

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Officer Corner: Dare to Be Confident

FROM THE OFFICERS STATION



GRACE MCCARTY
TREASURER

Confidence. It’s not something that comes naturally to everyone. Matter of fact, for many, it can be a hard concept to grasp. However, for Ajiah Fox, confidence was something that shone right through her.

Ajiah was a confident member of the Grassland FFA. When I met Ajiah, she was a freshman and I was a sophomore in high school.

She strove to lead others, stand up for what she believed in, embrace everyone and, above all, advocate for agriculture.

I knew right away that I wanted Ajiah on our Grassland FFA officer team. On March 31, 2021, at 8:40 p.m., I texted Ajiah on Instagram, asking her if she was interested in serving.

She responded saying she was thinking about it but wasn’t sure. A couple days later, I passed her in the school hall.

“Hey, did you submit your officer applications?” I asked.

She responded, “Yes. I am excited to see where this next step takes me.”

From that very moment, Ajiah showed me her confidence. She may have been unsure of her future or where FFA was going to lead her, but she still embraced every moment.

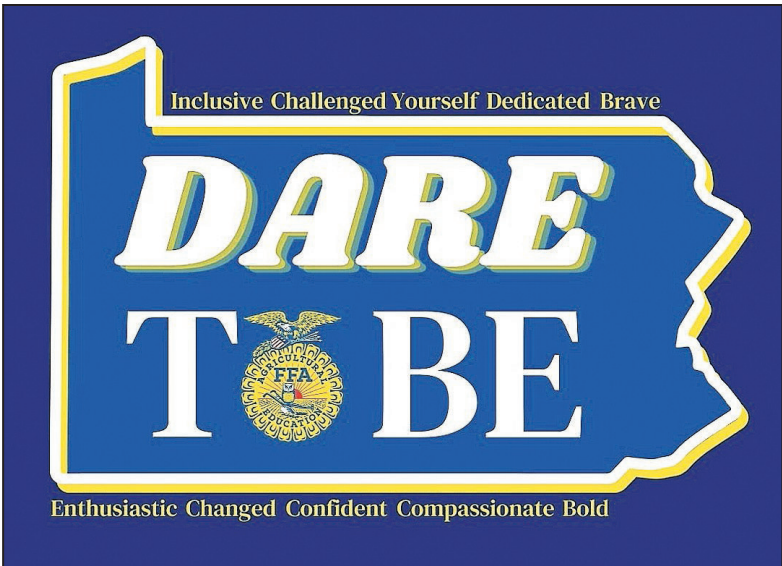
From the first time Ajiah walked through the agriculture department doors, she was a ray of sunshine. The connections, experiences and



Submitted
Pennsylvania FFA Treasurer Grace McCarty, left, stands with Ajiah Fox.

education that she gained from FFA built her confidence each and every day.

Be confident of where you are headed and where your next step takes you. Ajiah opened up a multitude of doors in her FFA career



The 2023-2024 Pennsylvania FFA officer team’s theme is “Dare to Be.”

and embraced who she was.

At the end of the day, that’s what FFA is all about. It’s about stepping outside of your comfort zone, finding your passion, spreading joy and spreading

agriculture from one member to the next.

I dare you to be like Ajiah. I dare you to be confident.

In memory of Ajiah Fox, who died June 2022 in a car crash.

FFA Award Recipients Announced

Nine Pennsylvania chapters were awarded chapter stars at the national level.

The national chapter award program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. The highest ranking that can be obtained is three stars.

We are excited to have four chapters in the state of Pennsylvania receive the highest recognition possible.

Three-star recognition:

- Chambersburg
- Cumberland Valley
- Southern Huntingdon County
- Tyrone Area

Two-star recognition:

- West Perry

One-star recognition:

- Central Columbia
- Dover
- Grassland
- Midd-West

Agricultural Science Finalists

These finalists will be competing at the national convention in November.

- Animal Systems (Division 4) — Sadie Innerst and Lila Kretzing from West Perry
- Food Products and Processing Systems (Division 4) — Nora Hoy and

Paige Hoy from Tyrone Area

- Power, Structural and Technical Systems (Division 5) — Courtney Crum from Honesdale
- Social Science (Division 4) — Priya Schmalenberger and Hannah Wilson from Cumberland Valley

Agricultural Science Bronze Recipients

These competitors were placed in the bronze category at the state level.

- Animal Systems (Division 3) — Joleigh Nailor from Cumberland Valley
- Environmental Services and Natural Resource Systems (Division 3) — Finnegan Miller from Conrad Weiser
- Environmental Services and Natural Resource System (Division 5) — Abigail Robinson from Conrad Weiser
- Food Products and Processing Systems (Division 6) — Charlee Schock and Olivia Ocker from Big Spring
- Plant Systems (Division 3) — Carley Kreiser from Conrad Weiser
- Plant Systems (Division 4) — Eliana McDonald and Anastasia Krugh from Cumberland Valley
- Plant Systems (Divisions 5) — Haylee Houck from Tyrone Area
- Power, Structural and Technical

Systems (Division 4) — Keegan Ross and Evan Gates from Greenwood

- Power, Structural and Technical Systems (Division 6) — Remington Weaver and Frances Weaver from Tyrone Area
- Social Science (Division 3) — Taylor Heeter from Southern Huntingdon County

National FFA Proficiency Gold and Silver Finalists

- Agriculture Sales (Placement) — Allison Zimmerman from Grassland
- Agriculture Mechanics Repair and Maintenance (Placement) — Elijah Shultz from Williamsburg
- Wildlife Production and Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Justin Brubaker from Williamsburg
- Agriculture Communications (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Kendell Moats from Grassland
- Agriculture Sales (Entrepreneurship) — Ellis Turner from Central Columbia
- Agriscience Research (Plant Systems) — Hailey Houck from Tyrone Area
- Dairy Production (Placement) — Lillian Hetrick from Oley Valley
- Equine Science (Placement) — Emma Steinkamp from Cumberland Valley

- Forest Management and Products (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — James Patterson from Grand Canyon
- Small Animal Production and Care (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Taylor Waggoner from Big Spring
- Specialty Animal Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Michael Lewis from Bald Eagle
- Turf Grass Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Lindsey Kline from Grand Canyon
- Agriculture Education (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Rebekah Ruth Aldrich from Chambersburg
- Agriscience Research (Integrated Systems) — Rayann Walls from Tyrone Area
- Beef Production (Entrepreneurship) — Asah Barkman from Bedford County
- Beef Production (Placement) — Raven Eisenhour from Gifford Pinchot
- Dairy Production (Entrepreneurship) — Adria Russell from Blue Juniata
- Diversified Crop Production (Placement) — Joleigh Nailor from Cumberland Valley
- Diversified Livestock Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Natasha Maddox from Grand Canyon

National FFA Proficiency Bronze Finalists

- Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Damien Ford from Philadelphia
- Equine Science (Entrepreneurship) — Grace McCarty from Grassland
- Goat Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Isaac Dechow from Bald Eagle
- Grain Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Jenna Morris from Kennard Dale
- Landscape Management (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Nathan Lesh from Greenwood
- Sheep Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Lily Anderson from Captain Jack
- Specialty Crop Production (Entrepreneurship/Placement) — Madison Copenhaver from Cedar Crest
- Swine Production (Entrepreneurship) — Samuel Hauck from Selinsgrove

Cedar Crest FFA Receives Grant for Precision Agricultural Simulator

Cedar Crest received a grant to bring a \$20,000 piece of current ag tech to its classrooms.

Lebanon County-based FFA adviser Phil Hausessner and fellow agricultural educators Claudia Brady and Darren Grumbine found a grant that allowed them to apply for the Raven RS1 training stand. It was organized through a partnership of New Holland and Raven in an effort to bring the latest technology into agricultural education classes.

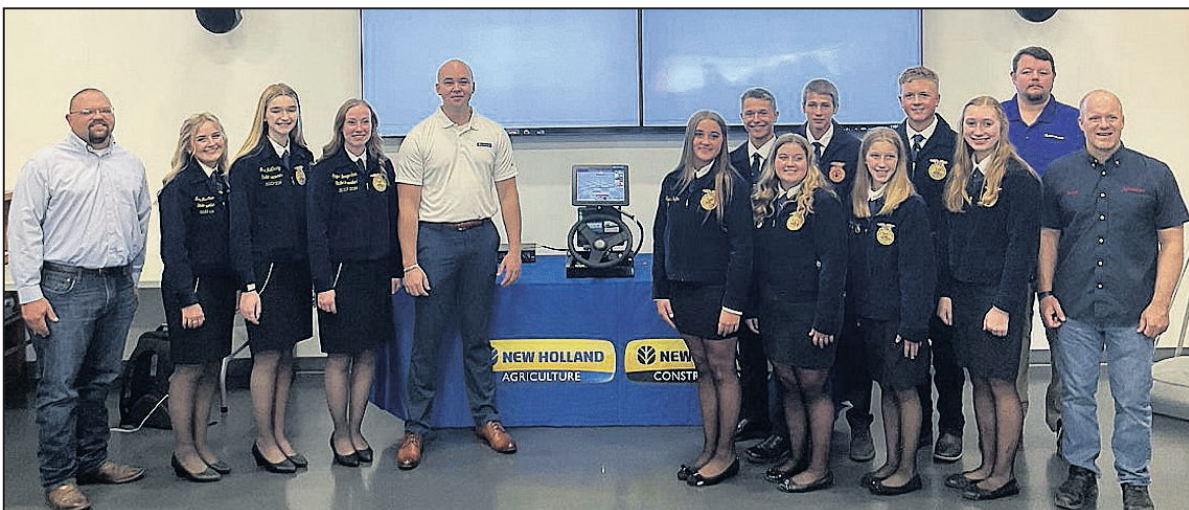
Hausessner wanted to provide his students with a real-life, hands-on experience as a part of their curriculum. After an extensive selection process, the Cedar Crest FFA was selected as one of 11 schools across

the U.S. to receive the precision agriculture simulators.

The piece of equipment is designed as an educational simulator for teachers and students. The provided precision tools and accessories are in a condensed format that allows for accessibility in any learning environment.

After receiving the grant, Cedar Crest FFA was given the opportunity to learn more about Messick’s and the services it provides. On Aug. 4, Cedar Crest FFA officers took a tour at Messick’s in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, where they learned about the importance of the simulators and how they’re operated.

To read more about the simulator, see Page A2.



Submitted
FFA members visit Messick’s in Mount Joy, Pa.