



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

www.paffa.org



Dare to Build Connections

OFFICER
CORNER



MAGGIE McATEER
REPORTER

Connections, experiences — memories that will last a lifetime. Throughout my year of service, I have had tremendous opportunities to build my bridge with fellow members and friends that I meet. Throughout that time, numerous individuals stuck out to me, but one certain person stood above the rest. That was my friend Anthony. I met him at Dover Area High School when my team and I went for a chapter visit. I was thrilled at the steadfast commitment that Anthony made to come right into the room and introduce himself. He was so courageous and outgoing. It overwhelmed me with joy. After we started our workshop, I had the opportunity to connect with him one on one. I'm thankful for the chance to learn Anthony's story. No matter the challenges or obstacles that Anthony faces, he works hard to continue to smile. Anthony is a star to me and a



Submitted
Anthony and Maggie McAteer during the Pennsylvania FFA state officer's visit to Dover Area High School.

shining light in every life that he touches. I dare you to reach out and continue to build your bridge and make it as strong as possible. Start with a simple conversation with a stranger and continue to make your bridge of connection with those around you.

ACES: One Weekend Down, Three Still Coming

Every year, FFA members from across Pennsylvania join the annual Agriculture Establishes Career Success conference. This year, the conference theme is "Dare to Be a Star." The conference is being held over four weekends. Over 2,000 people have registered. Weekend one was held Jan. 27-28, with around 450 people attending. Students went to different workshops, focused on being a "star." They also attended a social evening and learned how to shine personally. The officers are excited to see what the next three weekends will bring.

FFA Represented at Fair Queen Pageant



Several FFA members competed in the state fair queen pageant. From left, Clayton Hetrick, FFA state vice president; Rebecca Lehman, FFA state secretary; Crystal Bomgardner, FFA state president; Maggie McAteer, FFA state reporter; Elise Honeycutt, state fair queen alternate; Erica Teagarden, FFA member and state fair queen; Grace Brammer, FFA state sentinel; Madeline Musser, FFA state chaplain; and Grace McCarty, FFA state treasurer. The state officers are proud of all FFA members who are dedicated to everything they do.

Union County FFA Brings Treats to Dogs, Lessons to the Classroom

Four Mifflinburg FFA students turned passion into a project for their supervised agricultural experience. It started with a simple question: What should we do for our SAE project? Savannah Goodyear loved all parts of the class's dog research unit, so she decided to explore her newfound passion and learn more about the nutrients in dog treats. She and her research partner, Natalee Edison, had an idea — homemade dog treats. The FFA adviser, Ms. Shawver, helped guide the discussion on feasibility and process to ensure project productiveness. Their ag teacher suggested they form a group to help distribute work. So a team was formed with Goodyear, Edison, Jacob Saylor and Hunter Benfer. They started with simply making peanut butter and oat dog treats, focusing on appropriate measurements while also learning what is healthy for dogs. After this, the team decided to move onto a different type of treat. They started connecting with local butcher shops, asking them to donate any scraps. This is where the real project began. Zimmerman's Custom Butcher Shop in New Berlin and J R Meats in Mifflinburg provided all of the scraps to make the project possible. From there, the team took their project and turned it into a learning experience for their whole FFA chapter. On Ag Day, they started smoking everything off the bones of these leftover butcher shop scraps. After smoking, they worked to find more effective ways to make dog treats, from dehydrating scraps to trying new recipes. These FFA members were committed to making the best quality dog treats.



Submitted
From left, Natalee Edison, Savannah Goodyear, Jacob Saylor and Hunter Benfer show off their homemade dog treats.

Celebrating the Pennsylvania Auctioneer Contest

Pennsylvania FFA members have a variety of talents, including some incredible auctioneers. At this year's Pennsylvania Farm Show, six FFA members competed in the youth bid calling contest. These members have shown hard work and dedication. This year, Garrett Kaltenbach took first, Andrew Appleby second, and Dustin Deshong third. "This contest has opened a lot of opportunities for me for being a young auctioneer," Kaltenbach said. "I enjoyed this contest because there are a lot of new people you get to meet and here is their story for why they chose this path in life." FFA is thankful for the support of alumni from the Grassland FFA chapter, hailing from the Garden Spot High School in Lancaster County. Auctioneer Brian Oberholtzer served as the 2003-2004 Pennsylvania FFA Eastern Region vice president and continues to be a face at the Farm Show contest. Thank you, Pennsylvania Auctioneers Association, for giving members the opportunity to showcase their talents. FFA appreciates the effort and time put into this contest and into helping them grow their skills.