



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings



Farewell From the 2023-24 Pennsylvania FFA State Officers



Crystal Bomgardner

After reflecting on the year and what my last moments as a Pennsylvania FFA state officer would look like, leading to this moment, I decided before I unzip my jacket I need to thank the people who have stood beside me and behind me to support and love me through this journey.

First, I want to thank my teammates who have walked with me through this season of life. Each and every one of you has left an impact on Pennsylvania FFA.

And the members — thank you so much for teaching me more than you know. Thank you for loving me and making me feel like a part of each chapter.

I also want to thank my family for the agricultural background and for teaching me to live, love and lead.

As I am closing this season of my life I look forward to getting to impact more lives in different ways.

Thank you to everyone and anyone who made this year special, so thank you to everyone who supports FFA. You truly change the world.

I'll end with this: "Try and fail, but do not fail to try." — John Quincy Adams.

Do not fail to live every day to the benefit of others.

Love, your Pennsylvania FFA state president, Crystal Bomgardner.



Clayton Hetrick

Wow. Just like that, a year has come and gone.

Pennsylvania FFA, I want to thank you for this opportunity to grow and learn more about myself, the diversity within Pennsylvania agriculture and our FFA programs.

It has made my heart full to watch everyone grow and fill the shoes needed to continue bettering agriculture as a whole.

I dare you all to never stop learning. I know you probably hear it a lot, but always keep an open mind, and try to learn something new every day.

If you learn something new every day, by the end of the year, you will have at least 365 new pieces of knowledge.

That may sound like a lot, but the trick is, if you learn one thing that interests you every day, it will be easier to remember.

Think about times in a class you didn't love, the classes you almost slept through. You probably struggled to remember a lot of the information you needed.

Then, when it came to the subjects you were passionate about, it might have come a little quicker.

On top of that, think about how you can apply what you learn in real life.

If it pertains to equipment, it could help save money or time. For leadership skills, remember the tips and tricks for becoming a better leader because a great leader is always learning and adapting.

Now, with that dare set, I want to thank you all one last time for your continued support and knowledge you have shared with me over the past year.

Thanks, Clay.



Grace Brammer

Pennsylvania FFA, thank you for teaching me how to be my unique self.

Over the past 12 months, I have done so many different things and met so many new people. The memories I have made with members and those around me are some I will never forget.

I vividly remember being in the western part of the state and meeting members who left an impact on me.

I have grown as a person and a leader this past year because of the experiences I had in my blue and gold jacket.

Finally, I want to wish each and every FFA member the best and remind you to always take chances and harness every opportunity while wearing your FFA jacket because, before you know it, your time in the jacket will come to a close.

Thank you for believing in me and being my family.

With love, Grace Brammer, state sentinel.



Maggie McAteer

Smiles are like hiccups — contagious!

Pennsylvania FFA, thank you for the continuous laughs and smiles this past year. Each and every individual I met this year has shown me they are unique in their own way.

I'm beyond thankful for all of the connections I made over the years.

As I'm sitting here reflecting on my year of memories, I am reminded of a popular saying: Never burn a bridge. I've heard it from time to time, and I started to realize it is so valuable in everyday life.

We should always continue to build connections and make our bridges stronger. We should continue, in everyday life, to make certain we build connections one act of kindness at a time.

At times, we get caught up in our everyday busy lives and tend to forget about the power behind a smile. So I dare you to build a new connection; maybe it's this week or maybe in a few weeks.

Every day, walk into life with the mindset that you can achieve anything. You are unique, and you have the power to accomplish anything.

With much love, your state reporter Maggie McAteer.



Grace McCarty

Recently, life has been full of those "lasts" — the last time I zipped up my suitcase, the last time I packed my official dress, the last time I drove in the van with my teammates.

This year in the blue jacket has been the time of my life, so I've found myself caught in a moment of sadness as it's coming to a close.

But I came to the conclusion that these moments have shaped my year. There would be no last moments if I hadn't had the year I did.

I had moments traveling to Indianapolis with my teammates. Mo-



ments teaching workshops to agriculture members. Moments planning for ACES or SLLC. Moments zipping up the blue jacket.

But these moments wouldn't be possible without the 16,000 FFA members, and for that, I say thank you.

Thank you for a year full of unconditional love and joy. A year celebrating and advocating.

Soon my year of service will be coming to an end, but I've determined my moments of sadness have made me into who I am today. They show the growth, change and joy that Pennsylvania FFA has left me.

With that, I leave you with advice: Find the joy in each moment. Don't let anything stop you from living in the moment.

Love, your Pennsylvania FFA state treasurer.



Rebecca Lehman

A year ago, my dream was to become a state officer.

I spent weeks, months and years practicing and planning for that very moment. I will never forget the feeling I had that day — a feeling of joy,

excitement and unity knowing that there were now 16,000 members in the blue and gold who had my back.

I have made so many connections, friends and memories this year that will last me for the rest of my life.

This year has helped me to grow into who I was meant to be, all thanks to Pennsylvania FFA.

I now fully understand that agriculture is where I am meant to be. I couldn't see myself anywhere else.

If I could leave one last thing with you, it would be to find your people. Sometimes, family is not who is related to you by blood; it is who makes you feel at home.

I have finally found my home and am comfortable in my skin knowing that anywhere I go, there are people who have my back. Thank you for being my home this last year.

Signing off, love your Pennsylvania FFA state secretary, Becca Lehman.



Madeline Musser

Pennsylvania FFA, I can't believe it's almost been a year. They say time flies when you're having fun, and every moment in my blue jacket this year has been nothing short of meaningful.

From traveling across the state or meeting new people every day, each and every one of our members has taught me how beautiful life truly is.

Thank you for teaching me it's not about what you have in life but who you have. Thank you for teaching me how to live boldly and love endlessly.

The lessons you learn within FFA will take you far. Always cherish every moment in life, and never forget that you have a family within the blue and gold.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity and making it the best year ever.

Love, your Pennsylvania FFA state chaplain, Maddie Musser.