



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings



Meet Pennsylvania's 2024-25 FFA Officers



Chloe Bomgardner
Stationed beneath the rising sun. Hello, my name is Chloe Bomgardner from Northern Lebanon FFA, and I'm serving as your 2024-2025 state president. I am the daughter of Corwin and Tara Bomgardner.

My main SAE projects are my breeding herd projects. I raise replacement dairy heifers to show and have an Angus beef herd to butcher and sell to local community members. My other SAE projects include my job at Villa Dale Farm and my market hogs and lambs.

My time spent competing on Northern Lebanon's parliamentary procedure team is my "favorite memory" in FFA.

Competing and winning at the state competition my senior year, becoming accredited, winning outstanding chairman, and having the highest test score created a core memory to wrap up my time on the team.

While I was an active member of Northern Lebanon FFA, I had a unique FFA story. I was home-schooled while taking agricultural education classes at Northern Lebanon.

After this year in office, I plan to attend Oklahoma State University, dual majoring in large-animal science and agricultural education, with aspirations of becoming a large-animal anesthesiologist or an agricultural education teacher.

My advice to members is to seize every opportunity. Life's moments, big and small, can have a profound impact, often realized only after they pass.

Step out of your comfort zones, try new things and embrace every chance for growth.

president. I am the son of Jason and Laurie Lesh.

For my SAE, I ran my landscaping business, serving over 12 clients. I designed flower beds using computer software, did general yard work and met with clients at greenhouses.

My favorite FFA memory is helping at our county's Ag Day event, which introduces elementary students to agriculture through hands-on activities.

A fun fact about me is I am a board member of my local county historical society.

After state office, I plan to continue my education at Susquehanna University where I just completed my freshman year. I am a student in the honors college, majoring in legal studies, and I plan to attend law school to focus on agricultural, environmental and land-use law.

As a state officer, I aim to lead by example, encouraging members to attend conferences, participate in CDEs and LDEs, and advocate for agriculture. FFA is vital for student growth, and I urge every member to engage fully in its opportunities.



Kennady Laird
Stationed by the door. Howdy! My name is Kennady Laird from Red Lion Area FFA, and I am serving as 2024-25 state sentinel.

I'm the daughter of Nichole Laird, and I cannot wait to get to know you all this year.

In my spare time, I enjoy line dancing and having bonfires and pond parties with friends.

A fun fact about me is I love to pheasant hunt.

My favorite FFA memory was putting on my jacket at the Mid-Winter Convention for the first time, watching the arena go from white to national blue.

I have multiple SAE projects including caring for my family's cats and dog, tending to my indoor and outdoor plants, and working at the Brogue General Store.

While caring for my pets, I demonstrate proper animal welfare. When caring for my plants and garden, I replant, pot, prune and water.

Lastly, during my employment, I follow the ServSafe guidelines while making subs, and I sold hunting and fishing licenses.

After my year in office, I plan to attend Penn State to major in agricultural and Extension education with a minor in grant writing.

During this year of service, I hope to share that FFA, and agriculture, are for everyone.



Evan Espenshade
Stationed by the flag. Greetings, my name is Evan Espenshade from Elizabethtown FFA, and I've been selected to serve as 2024-25 state reporter. I'm the son of Matthew and Charlene Espenshade.

I'm so excited to get to know you all.

My SAE project involves employment on our family's dairy farm. I keep track of the hours worked each week.

Work ranges from feeding calves to milking cows to operating farm equipment.

My favorite FFA memory was getting to serve as an officer in both my chapter and county. These experiences allowed me to grow and become more comfortable with speaking in front of others.

I wouldn't be standing where I am today without those opportunities.

Something you probably wouldn't know about me is I'm the eighth generation to work on our family's dairy farm. We milk roughly 60 cows twice a day.

After my year in office, I plan to attend Penn State Wilkes-Barre for my freshman year then transfer to either University Park or Virginia Tech to major in animal science.

Over this next year, my goal is to encourage others to take every opportunity to get involved with FFA because you may find something you enjoy, making you regret not taking that opportunity when you had the chance.



Emily Kerstetter
Stationed at the emblem of Washington. Hey, hey! My name is Emily Kerstetter from East Juniata FFA, and I am thankful to have been selected to serve as your 2024-25 state treasurer. I'm the daughter of Ryan and Crystal Kerstetter.

I look forward to meeting and serving the members of Pennsylvania FFA this year.

My SAE projects involve raising and breeding pygmy goats and being a Penn State Teach Ag Avenger where I interacted with prospective students to promote the future of agriculture.

A favorite memory of mine is when I received my FFA jacket through the jacket scholarship program. What made this memory so special was the fellow first-years who shared it with me.

A fun fact about me is I was a dancer for 15 years at Dance Fever Studio.

After this term, I plan to continue my time at Penn State in pursuit of becoming an agricultural educator.

My goal for this year is to encourage members of this organization to know there is always someone to lean on or lend a hand when needed. All they must do is branch out and make connections.

I hope to inspire members to find their passions.



Sydney Albright
Stationed by the ear of corn. Hello, I'm Sydney Albright, and I am proudly representing Garden Spot FFA as your 2024-25 state secretary. I am the daughter of David and Melissa Albright, and I am deeply honored to serve you this year.

In my SAE project, I grow vegetables and herbs in my garden and greenhouse.

One of my most cherished memories is our team's triumph in the agricultural sales CDE at the state level, leading us to the national competition.

A fun fact about myself is I always love to go line dancing and connect with people.

After state office, I intend to go to college for culinary arts at County College of Morris before

transferring to Penn State to major in agriculture and Extension education.

I want to encourage all FFA members to embrace the present moment and cherish every opportunity. Let's remember to never take anything for granted in our pursuit of growth and excellence.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you, and I look forward to the fantastic year ahead.



Jaclyn Martin
Stationed by the keystone. Hello, my name is Jaclyn Martin from the Garden Spot FFA, and I've been selected to serve as your 2024-25 state chaplain. I'm the daughter of Duane and Anita Martin.

I look forward to building deeper connections with you all this year.

My SAE project involves writing columns and stories surrounding farm safety for Lancaster Farming.

Throughout my time in FFA, I've had the chance to make lots of memories, but one that definitely stands out is when I received my jacket.

It was during COVID-19, through the jacket scholarship program. Despite the Mid-Winter Convention being canceled, our chapter still took time to celebrate the accomplishments of our members.

A little-known fact about me is I am a sucker for sunrises and sunsets.

After my year of state office, I plan to attend college, majoring in communications. I'm planning to stay involved with agriculture in some capacity.

My advice: Life isn't about coasting by on the easiest path we can take. The most fruitful lives are found whenever we take root in inconvenient situations and find ways to grow through them.

