



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings



Together We Can Challenge Ourselves to Grow

OFFICER CORNER



EVAN ESPENSHADE
STATE REPORTER

The theme for this year, “Together We Can,” is one that states what we can accomplish. We each can take our own viewpoint to what this year’s theme could mean, but for me, I believe by working together, supporting one another, we can challenge ourselves to grow. Do you ever think about the need to challenge yourself? It may be tempting to take the easiest path, but by doing so, you might miss the opportunities it provides us with. To challenge ourselves means to take risks and step outside our comfort zone. Despite not knowing how things will turn out, you are willing to learn and grow. Challenging yourself takes courage so we can grow using the opportunities around us. My name is Evan Espenshade,

and I have used the FFA to grow as a leader and help develop my own voice. I started out as a freshman in high school not fully aware of all the opportunities that lie ahead of me. I joined my local FFA chapter and became an active member in the FFA. Near the end of my first year, our chapter officers had encouraged me to run for office. I was not sure about it at first, but my mother encouraged me to run. She told me if I waited and got elected later and found out it is something I enjoy, I’d regret not running when I was given the chance. That year, I was elected to the station of chapter sentinel and continued to serve as an officer throughout the rest of my time in high school. I also used FFA to develop my public speaking skills by competing in leadership development events. It was not about placing well, but rather to challenge myself and practice speaking. By challenging myself, I have been able to improve and expand my public speaking abilities. The FFA is like the roots of a plant, the further we branch out using the opportunities provided to us will prepare and support us in the future. I encourage you to take that chance because together we can challenge ourselves to grow. *Evan Espenshade is the Pennsylvania FFA state reporter.*

State Winners Advance to Regionals, Nationals

In June, nearly 2,000 FFA members, guests and advisors from all across Pennsylvania attended the State Convention at Penn State’s campus. A total of 1,376 of the 2,000 were students competing in leadership and career development event contests. Teams and individuals placing first earn a trip to compete in Indianapolis at the National Convention. Second place teams and individuals will compete at the Eastern States Exposition next month in Springfield, Massachusetts. Those who qualified to attend the National FFA Convention are as follows.

Agriculture Communications: Cumberland Valley FFA
Agricultural Issues: Little Dutchmen FFA
Agricultural Sales: Elizabethtown FFA
Agriculture Technology & Mechanical Systems: Garden Spot FFA
Agronomy: Manor FFA
Conduct of Chapter Meetings: Greenwood FFA
Creed Speaking: Chelsie Bomgardner, Northern Lebanon FFA
Dairy Cattle Handlers: Jillian Anderson, Penns Valley FFA
Dairy Cattle Management & Evaluation: Cowanesque FFA
Employment Skills: Taylor Heeter, Southern Huntingdon

County FFA
Environmental & Natural Resources: Sugar Valley Rural Charter School FFA
Extemporaneous Speaking: Sarah Firestone, Garden Spot FFA
Farm Business Management: Manheim FFA
Floriculture: Elizabethtown FFA
Food Science & Technology: Oley Valley FFA
Forestry: Sugar Valley Rural Charter School FFA
Horse Evaluation: Wilmington Area FFA
Land Use Management: Cowanesque FFA
Livestock Evaluation: Midwest FFA
Marketing Plan: Cumberland Valley FFA
Meats Evaluation: Wilmington Area FFA
Milk Quality & Products: Williamsburg FFA
Nursery & Landscape: Monroe Area CTC FFA
Parliamentary Procedure: Cedar Crest FFA
Poultry Evaluation: Manor FFA
Prepared Speaking: Northeast Bradford FFA, Kristin Davis
Veterinary Science: Central FFA

The teams and individuals qualifying to compete at the Big E are as follows.

Agricultural Issues: Upper Dauphin FFA
Agriculture Technology & Me-

chanical Systems: Manheim FFA
Creed Speaking: Nora Hartmann, Pequea Valley FFA
Dairy Cattle Handlers: Ashlynnne Lenker, Cumberland Valley FFA; Olivia Champluvier, Troy FFA; Luke Mowrer, Blue Juniata FFA; and Alexis Geiwitz, Laurel FFA
Dairy Cattle Management and Evaluation: Central FFA
Employment Skills: Morgan Roy, Twin Valley FFA
Extemporaneous Speaking: Leah Flinchbaugh, Eastern York FFA
Farm Business Management: Oley Valley FFA
Floriculture: Cumberland Perry CTC FFA
Food Science & Technology: Pequea Valley
Forestry: Littlestown FFA
Horse Evaluation: Manor FFA
Livestock Evaluation: Cedar Crest FFA
Marketing Plan: Pequea Valley FFA
Milk Quality & Products: Cumberland Valley FFA
Nursery & Landscape: Central Westmoreland CTC FFA
Parliamentary Procedure: Greenwood FFA
Poultry Evaluation: Pequea Valley FFA
Safe Tractor/Equipment Operations: Kaden Hoopes, Headwaters FFA
Prepared Speaking: Emily Holtzople, Battlefield FFA
Veterinary Science: Lawrence County CTC FFA



State Officers Attend D.C. Summit

EVAN ESPENSHADE
FFA State Reporter

WASHINGTON — The Pennsylvania state officer team headed to Washington to attend the 2024 State Officer Summit last month. The summit is a five-day event where state officers from all over the nation come together to partake in workshops and foster connections. Workshops were led by the National FFA, prompting us to think about how FFA members can advocate, and the importance of understanding other people’s perspectives. The conference also provided the opportunity to learn about American history and tour several museums and memorials located in the nation’s capital. The state officer team organized several meetings with Pennsylvania congressmen. They had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Glenn “G.T.” Thompson, who serves as the chair of the House Agriculture Committee. During the conference, the state delegates were appointed to serve on one of six issue committees at the 2024 National FFA Convention. The future of the FFA looks bright, not just for Pennsylvania, but across the nation.



Allison Shelley
Pennsylvania state FFA officers meet with Rep. Glenn “G.T.” Thompson during last month’s summit in Washington, D.C.



State officers at state officer summit with the national officer team.