



BLUE & GOLD NEWS

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings



Help Gift FFA Jackets to First-Year Members

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association is once again rallying support to help first-year FFA members begin their journey in agricultural education with pride and purpose.

Through its annual jacket sponsorship campaign, the organization hopes to provide 500 students across the commonwealth with their first national blue and corn gold corduroy jacket this winter.

Across the past 18 years, the association has gifted 7,516 jackets to students, each one representing the beginning of a transformative experience filled with leadership, learning and lifelong friendships.

"This jacket is more than just a piece of clothing," association President Sherisa Nailor said. "It's a symbol of belonging, opportunity and the start of something truly life-changing."

Community members, businesses and alumni are invited to sponsor a jacket for \$75. Donations will be accepted until Nov. 1, leading up to the jacket presentation at the January 2026 Pennsylvania FFA Convention.

Checks can be made payable to Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association and mailed to Diane Cornman at 835 Hereford Road, Elizabethtown, PA, 17022. Donations can also be made online via PayPal at paffa.org/about-alumni.

Sponsors may choose to support a specific chapter or county. If a



Vinny Tennis

Jackets lined up on chairs during the Pennsylvania FFA 96th Mid-Winter Convention at Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg on Jan. 6.

chapter receives more donations than needed, the funds will be used to support students from across the state.

The Pennsylvania FFA Alumni Association continues to uphold the FFA mission by creating environments where students can grow in premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Every jacket sponsored helps a student take their first step toward a future full of possibilities.

For more information, contact Krista Pontius at kpontius@greenwoodsd.org.

Foundation Hosts Golf Outing

The 33rd annual Pennsylvania FFA Foundation golf outing was challenged with apprehensive, gloomy clouds lurking throughout the day, but it didn't dampen the commonwealth's love for FFA.

On Sept. 24, 41 teams of golfers hit the fairways at the Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon County as a way to show their passion and support for Pennsylvania agricultural education.

Teams of four paid to enter the tournament, donating the money to scholarships and agricultural education programs for the youth of Pennsylvania agriculture.

Despite the weather concerns, teams played an 18-hole course, competed in a putting competition and enjoyed a handful of other contests. They also sat together for dinner at the end of the day.

Plans are already in motion for next year's outing — hoping for the same memorable experience but, maybe, a bit more clear sky.

Information on next year's outing will be posted on the Pennsylvania FFA website, paffa.org, as it becomes available.



Submitted

Pennsylvania FFA state officers stand with Gary Swan, a hole sponsor of the 2025 Pennsylvania FFA Foundation golf outing. From left, Jaylene Everhart, Sally Bollinger, Swan, Sam Parks, Leah Flinchbaugh and John Bradshaw.

Fall Leadership Conference



Submitted

The Oct. 7 Fall Leadership Conference, held at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, Pa., welcomed almost 500 first-year FFA members for a half-day jump start to their FFA careers. Workshops introduced students to FFA Knowledge, explained supervised agricultural experiences and introduced the state officers.

Crowns and Corduroy

FFA Members Win Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant

This year's Pennsylvania Dairy Princess pageant was swept by blue jacket wearers, with three FFA members being crowned state princess royalty.

Rebekah Aldrich, Bry Keller and Jesslyn Risser were chosen as the state dairy royalty and credit some of their success to their experiences in FFA.

Risser, the daughter of John and Alisha and sibling of Abigail, Audrie and Ethan, is the 2025-26 Pennsylvania dairy princess.

Risser is a senior at Cedar Crest High School in Lebanon County where she serves as vice president of the Cedar Crest FFA and is a member of the track and field team.

She has always loved advocating for dairy, as evidenced by her involvement in the Lebanon County Dairy Promotion team at just 7 years old. Her favorite promotions have been going to schools to promote dairy farms and delicious milk.

As the dairy princess this year, Risser's goal is to tie the connection between producers and consumers.

Chambersburg Area Senior High School graduate Rebekah Aldrich has been crowned as one of two Pennsylvania alternate dairy princesses. She is the daughter of Chris and Barbara and resides in Waynesboro with her two sisters, Sarah and Carrie Ann.

Outside of her employment as a teacher's assistant in the Chambers-



Submitted

The 2025-26 Pennsylvania dairy royalty. From left, Alternate Bry Keller, Princess Jesslyn Risser and Alternate Rebekah Aldrich.

burg Area School District, she enjoys dairy cattle, shopping and reading.

As dairy royalty, Aldrich is most excited to connect consumers with the importance of everyday dairy.

Battlefield FFA president Bry Keller, a junior at Gettysburg Area High School, has also been crowned alternate dairy princess. Keller lives in Gettysburg with her parents, Kevin and Candace, and her siblings Kate-

lyn, Kevin and Nathan.

Keller's opportunity to show Brown Swiss cows sparked her love for the dairy industry. One of her favorite promotions has been organizing the "Kiss A Cow" event at her local fair.

These three will travel the state spreading their passion and advocacy for milk products, dairy farmers and dairy industry information.

Pennsylvania To Attend National Convention

Hundreds of Pennsylvania FFA members will embark upon the 98th National FFA Convention and Expo Oct. 29 through Nov. 1 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Nearly 70,000 FFA members and guests are expected to be at the convention.

Pennsylvania members will compete alongside other states in over 25 events, having qualified through the competitions held at the Pennsylvania FFA convention. We wish everyone the best of luck.

In addition, 102 Pennsylvania members will receive their American Degree of membership, the highest degree that can be awarded.

Also, Maura Aurand will compete in the talent competition where she will sing and play guitar. Aurand is a member of the Midwest FFA, where, in addition to her talent competition endeavors, she is working on a diversified livestock supervised agricultural experience.

Rebecca Lehman, a Central Columbia member, will

represent Pennsylvania as our national officer candidate. Lehman was Pennsylvania FFA's 2023-24 state secretary.

At the convention, she will go through multiple rounds of interviews conducted by a committee of her peers. These interviews will evaluate leadership competencies and knowledge of FFA.

If elected, Lehman will spend a year traveling the United States, serving over 1 million FFA members. She will be an advocate for agriculture, agriculture education and FFA.

Receiving their Honorary American Degree this year will be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Lisa Graybeal; Jennifer Reed-Harry of Penn Ag Industries Association; and agriculture teachers Gretchen Dingman (Tri-Valley), Doug Brown (Central Columbia) and Mark Anderson (Elizabethtown).

Congratulations to all, and best of luck to those competing.