

Pennsylvania FFA Association
2002-2003

Cornerstone



Of Success

Annual Report

12 months of unbelievable experiences have flown by in a heartbeat. 8,000 members have touched the lives of 10 State Officers. And 1 organization will continue to lead our youth of tomorrow by laying the foundation for their "Cornerstone of Success."

Both large and small steps have been made in the Pennsylvania FFA this past year, staying in step with the ever-changing industry, agriculture. A new home for Mid-Winter Convention, a record breaking attendance at both ACES and SLLC and a new Career Development Event offered to our members have kept us on our feet and running!

Thank you FFA members, advisors and supporters for providing each of us with the amazing opportunities of being a State Officer!!

Sincerely,
The 2002-2003 State Officer Team

<u>2002-2003 State Officers</u>		
President	David Bittner	Berlin Brothersvalley FFA
Vice-President	Timothy Leshner	Line Mountain FFA
Eastern Region V.P.	Courtney Miller	Grassland FFA
North Central V.P.	Jon Lauver	Middleburg FFA
South Central V.P.	Mary Strasbaugh	Cumberland Valley FFA
Secretary	Emily Grove	Shippensburg FFA
Treasurer	Mark Fulton	Big Spring FFA
Reporter	Julie Flinchbaugh	Eastern York FFA
Sentinel	Andrew Alwine	Bermudian FFA
Chaplain	Anthony Seymore	Bermudian FFA

<u>FFA Board of Directors</u>	
President	Cecil Lohr
Vice-President	Ellen Aurand
Secretary	Mike Brammer
Sam Heyler	David Bittner
Dennis Scanlon	Timothy Leshner
Steve Kline	Robert Leib
<u>Regional Coordinators</u>	
Eastern – Michelle Wetzell	
South Central – Dianna Dellinger	
Western – William Kronen	
North Central – Annette Gray	

<u>FFA Foundation</u>
President
Willie Sole
1 st Vice-President
Christian Herr
2 nd Vice-President
Jay Rush
Secretary
Kerry Richards
Treasurer
Steve Kline

<u>National FFA Officers</u>		
President	Tim Hammerich	Fulton, California
Secretary	Seth Heinert	Hulett, Wyoming
Western V.P.	Dustin Clark	Waxahachie, Texas
Southern V.P.	Joel McKie	Abbeville, Georgia
Eastern V.P.	Julie Tyson	Ashland, Ohio
Central V.P.	J.J. Jones	Ludell, Kansas



Blast-Off

State Officer Training 2002



Blast off kicked off on June 25, 2002, with six of the eleven members meeting at Wenger's cabin and settling in for the exciting days ahead. The other five were to arrive the following day as they completed the Mid-Atlantic Alliance for Cooperatives. The three-day Blast off training sessions were based on the "unbe-leaf-able" leadership skills each of us possess. These sessions were very helpful and helped each of us realize the skills we had inside, but now needed to fine tune. National Trainers, Eric Schilling and Kim Anderson conducted the conference.

As Blast off came to an end on June 28th it was now time to start the state specific training, but not until we reminisced about last year with the team members and introduced our parents to one another. On Saturday we had the officer picnic with members from last years team. We enjoyed a cook out, some friendly games of football and volleyball, then the evening concluded with good lucks and thank yous. On Sunday we enjoyed another great cook out with our families. It was a time of getting acquainted.

Monday rolled around and it was time to get to work on picking a theme, going over the expectations of us from teachers and what teachers want from us, and becoming a closer-knit team. By the end of the week we shared laughs, ideas and agreements. The biggest agreement we made all week was that our theme for the year would be, "**Cornerstone of Success.**"





Hatfield Fore FFA Golf Tournament



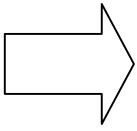
2002

On July 15th supporters of the Pennsylvania FFA met at Fox Chase Golf Course to enjoy a few strokes of golf and to raise funds for the FFA Foundation. The State Officer Team met on the 14th to set-up the banquet pavilion, put together the complimentary lunch coolers and become familiar with the course. On the day of the Tournament team members began early by managing registration and stayed busy throughout the day by "refueling" golfers at refreshment stands throughout the golf course. State Officers supervised the putting contest, the driving range and lunch.

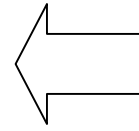
In the evening, after all scores were totaled, a banquet was held in recognition of the top placing teams. Some special awards were also distributed to those golfers who lack a golfing talent. A FFA Benefit Auction was conducted afterwards where numerous items, such as a sheep, were sold to those in attendance. Top sales from the evening were the state officers, who were sold for a one-day's work anywhere, anytime. They will be kept busy doing anything from raking leaves to laying block. Both the Auction and Tournament was a big success! We thank the many sponsors who supported us in this event!



~ 2002 – 2003 Pennsylvania FFA Association ~



WLC



Western Leadership Conference 2002

The University of Pittsburgh of Johnstown was honored to host over 70 FFA members and guests, for the Western Leadership Conference. The group



gathers annually to build individual and team leadership skills. Guest speakers, Jimmy Mullen and Kristen Pfeifer jump-started the conference by using Agent K and Agent J from "Men in Black" to stimulate the members to work more effectively within their chapters. Their main theme was to discourage alienation among FFA members. Jimmy and Kristen, 2000-01 State FFA Officers,

challenged the group to take their new founded knowledge home with them.

All eleven current State Officers were on hand as the assembly was split into five different groups with a specific officer. The theme for the conference was, "Back to the Basics". Officer training included the Reporters creating newspaper articles, Presidents discussing leadership roles and Secretaries writing correspondence letters. These workshops helped the members prepare for future leadership positions in the FFA and beyond.

The conference came to a close with sessions on the Keystone Degree application and other Chapter award applications. The State Officer team was proud to announce Pennsylvania's theme for the year, "Cornerstone of Success". Each of the State Officers are looking forward to representing Pennsylvania's 8,000 FFA members, as well as the many challenges and adventures that lie ahead.



~ 2002 – 2003 Pennsylvania FFA Association ~



State Presidents Conference



2002

On July 23 - 28, 2002, The Pennsylvania FFA State President, David Bittner, and State Vice - President, Tim Leshner, traveled to Washington D.C. for the State Presidents Conference. They met with other State Officers from every state in the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. They traveled to different historical sites around D.C. with each day following a theme. They made congressional visits with many state and national lawmakers.

Speakers at different functions included, U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran of Kansas, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, Dr. Rick Rigsby, several Chevy Trucks executives, and the highlight of all, the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

The last item on the agenda was a list of issues for the delegates to discuss at the National Convention. Each states leaders had to decide which issues were most important to their state, so they could be debated at National Convention in October.





NLC SO



National Leadership Conference for State Officers 2002



This year's National Leadership Conference for State Officers was held at the Ramada Inn in New Castle, Delaware, from July 29 to August 1, 2002. Barrett Keene, Southern Region National Vice - President, and Abbie Kammerzell, Western Region National Vice - President, were the instructors for this exciting week.

Barrett and Abbie guided the State Officers through objectives throughout the week. They taught about using the magic formula for workshop deliveries, teamwork, the law of purpose, and the law of choice. The Pennsylvania State Officers led Opening Ceremonies on July 30 immediately following breakfast. Your State Officers were also responsible for the reflections ceremony following this day's events. Each of the eleven State Officers gave a synopsis of a needed quality within the "Cornerstone of Success". After each session, State Officers wrote in their personalized journals the important lessons and memorable applications to return with them to their respective states. In attendance were the State Officers from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.



This conference was another stepping-stone for all the State Officers. It provided a time for each to grow and build team work and communication skills. It was great to make new friends with the other State Officers.

A special thanks to the numerous sponsors of this amazing conference!



Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament



2002

The State Officer team traveled to Hollidaysburg, Pa on August 11th for the second FFA Foundation Golf Tournament of the year. Being the second year for a Tournament to be held in the Western Region of the state, many supporters came out to enjoy a few strokes of golf at the Scotch Valley Country Club on August 12th. In the morning the State Officers filled gift bags with free golf balls, free food, and many other exciting items. By the time golfers began to arrive, the male State Officers were already in the thick of a cooking lesson. The guys said, "The wholesome omelets we made for brunch served as the leading reason for such close competition in the tournament." On the other hand, the female State Officers, said, "Without our organization during registration the Tournament would have gone awry." Despite either opinion, golfers found themselves enjoying a beautiful relaxing day on the course.



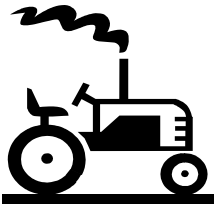
At the evening banquet, the State Officers performed opening ceremonies.



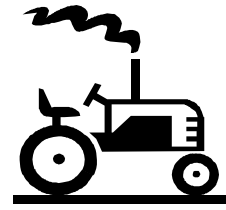
Following the ceremony, a scrumptious steak was served to all in attendance. Soon after the bidding began for the numerous items donated for the Benefit Auction. Once again to top the list in favorite sales was the State Officer team who will be washing windows, helping out at another Golf Tournament, taking a few pointers from some mechanics and enjoying many other interesting activities in their day's of work.

The Hoss's Fore FFA Golf Tournament was yet again another exciting and successful event! A big thanks to all of the participants and workers for making the Tournament a memorable day! We are already looking forward to next year's tournament!

~ 2002 – 2003 Pennsylvania FFA Association ~



AG Progress Days



2002

On August 19th the State Officer Team setup for their interactive display at AG Progress Days held August 20 - 22. With this years' theme being "Cornerstone of Success", the display focused on children writing their name on a wooden block and stacking it as part of a growing wall. The purpose of the wooden blocks was so it could easily be seen how something large comes together with everyone contributing in a small way.

Another activity available was a sandbox filled with corn. Small and large children enjoyed playing in the "sand" box. The final activity was wooden cow head cut outs. They were already painted white, so the participants used paint sticks and markers to decorate their cow heads. Cowbells, eyes and black felt pieces were then added to the heads before the children took them home to place on their refrigerators, as magnets were already applied to the back of each cow. A very special thanks to Tim Leshner, State Vice - President, and Jon Lauver, North Central Region State Vice - President, for their resources in making over 600 cow heads.



When not working the exhibit, the Officer team assisted in running the Hatfield/Foundation food booth. Business was great throughout the week, which kept everyone very busy. We would like to thank the Foundation for their continued support as well as our sponsors, such as Hatfield Quality Meats and Hoss's Steak and Sea House. We had a great time!



Eastern States Exposition

2002



The Pennsylvania FFA was well represented at the 2002 Big E Conference held in Springfield, Massachusetts. Members engaged in a variety of Career Development Events on September 13th and 14th and actively competed against other east coast states. The students' hard work and efforts shone through in the awards they received at an evening banquet on Saturday the 14th. Pennsylvania proudly traveled home with first place ribbons in Extemporaneous Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking and the Safe Tractor Driving Competition, as well as numerous other awards.



David Bittner, President of the Pennsylvania FFA State Officer Team was selected as one of three state presidents to the Big E's intern program. As an intern David served under Dr. Annis, who is the FFA coordinator for the Big E.



While at the Big E attendees are offered the opportunity to enjoy the fairgrounds by visiting the state houses, sampling different styles of food, checking out displays and meeting many new people. At the close of the Conference, although no one was ready for the long bus ride home, many good memories were to be made.

While we were not successful in bringing home the "Sweepstakes Banner," we are still proud of all our members for giving their best. In our eyes, you are the "Cornerstone of Success." Thanks Pennsylvania for a great trip!



FCLPD



Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development 2002

On October 11, 2002 the Fall Conference for Leadership and Professional Development (FCLPD) took place at the Blair County Convention Center. This facility was new to us this year as in the past, it's been held at Penn State. This conference is a cooperative event. The collegiate FFA works with the green hand FFA members while the FFA State Officer team works with the chapter officers.

The conference kicked off with the state officer team presenting opening ceremonies and David Bittner, State President, welcoming everyone. Then the members divided into their respective workshops. The chapter officers reported and were divided into four different groups. The State Officers had four interactive workshops to help the Chapter Officers grow so they could help their home chapter grow.

The first workshop was teamwork. Here they learned how to work together by mixing pudding and other ingredients to make a mud pie. This symbolizes how the world is with so many different people living in it. They then moved on to member involvement. This workshop showed them the levels members can participate on. Time management was next and they had a limited supply of materials to make a basket to keep an egg from breaking. They also had a limited time to build the basket. There were few survivors. The workshops were concluded by teaching them how to lead by stepping out of their comfort zones so more people will follow. They had a singing activity to help them with this. Near the end of the day, we reconvened as a large group where David Bittner led closing ceremonies, followed by journey's home.



~ 2002 – 2003 Pennsylvania FFA Association ~



75th National FFA Convention



October 30 - November 2, 2002

The State FFA Officers left to attend the 75th National FFA Convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, October 26, 2002. We were well represented with eight delegates, three National FFA Ambassadors, and a National Officer Candidate. The delegates attended sessions from early Monday morning throughout the week until Friday evening. Our delegates voiced their opinions on numerous FFA issues, each serving on their respective committees and sub-committees. The delegate assignments were as follows: David Bittner, Official Dress; Tim Leshner, CDE Participation; Jon Lauver, FFA's Role in the Global Economy; Mary Strasbaugh, National Officer Regional Alignment; Emily Grove, Lapel Pins; Andy Alwine, Promotion of FFA in the Ag Industry; and Tony Seymore, Five Year Proficiency Awards. Andrew Alwine also had the distinct honor of carrying the Pennsylvania State Flag at the fourth and ninth general session during the presentation of colors prior to each opening.

Mark Fulton, Julie Flinchbaugh, and Courtney Miller represented Pennsylvania in the National FFA Ambassador program. This program includes preparing a lesson for elementary students that teaches about agriculture by interactive learning. This is a great program and would be a wonderful asset for Pennsylvania to help encourage the youth to get involved in agriculture.

The state officer team also had the privilege of hosting an exhibit booth in the "Hall of States" in the Career Show. The booth's theme was "Pennsylvania Agriculture -- Products for the Planet; Pennsylvania FFA-- Leadership for the Planet." The booth included many different products produced by Pennsylvania. Great job to Committee Chairman Julie Flinchbaugh for a job well done!



The National Convention had many thrills for members from near and far. Muhammad Ali and Country Stars Emerson Drive made special guest appearances.



Guest Speakers included Dr. Rick Rigsby, Rick Pitino, Mamie McCullough, and Baxter Black, as well as the National Officers' retiring addresses, including our very own Elio Chiarelli, Jr. On the entertainment side, Steve Holy, Brad Paisley, Emerson Drive, and Lonestar performed. Another big hit was the rippin n' roarin' Bluegrass Bull Bash. Six Flags added another attraction for FFA members to escape to. On Thursday evening approximately 260 Pennsylvania members went on a dinner cruise aboard the "Star of

Louisville". It was a great time for everyone to relax and come together as a state, proud of everything that had happened so far.

After and exciting, yet exhaustive week, the state officer team departed and arrived home on Sunday, November 3, 2003. All enjoyed the convention!

~ 2002 – 2003 Pennsylvania FFA Association ~



American Degree Recipients



2002

Renee M Baker
- Derry

Jason Balsbaugh
- Cedar Crest

Lance Bittner
- Brothersvalley

Sherisa Brammer
- Cumberland Valley

Amanda L Brown
- Danville

Issach J Bucher
- Battlefield

Becki Day
- Grassland

Rachel E Day
- Grassland

David L Dressler
- Greenwood

Travis R Frank
- Grassland

Kevin Fry
- Selinsgrove

F Louise Huber Good
- Grassland

Alan R Herr, Jr.
- Manor

Michael Hess
- Manor

Justin Hillegass
- Brothersvalley

John W Hines
- Greenwood

Adam Jesse
- Linesville

Danae K Johnson
- Mifflinburg

Renee R Lampman
- Linesville

Rebecca A Lucas
- Greenwood

Jason A Martin
- Manor

Jennifer Marie McWilliams
- West Snyder

Jeffrey Mishler
- Somerset Cty. Tech. Center

Ryan Moyer
- Manheim

Brian K Mull
- Solanco

Adam D Nissley
- Manor

Audrey A Nissely
- Manor

Erin Elizabeth Price
- Linesville

Jeremy A Railing
- Manor

Barbara Lynn Reichard
- Blue Ridge

Susan Richardson
- Kennard Dale

Geoff M Rohrer
- Manheim

Elizabeth A Sankey
- Clearfield

Rebecca Dawn Sankey
- Clearfield

Amanda R Sauder
- Grassland

Jessica Schmidt
- Solanco

Valerie Spangler
- Mifflinburg

Jennifer Louis Stahl
- Somerset Area

Jennifer Stover
- Cumberland Valley

Curtis E Swineford
- Middleburg

Tiffany Renee Tinsley
- Derry

Brandon K Treichler
- Oley Valley

Jason VanGilder
- Brothersvalley

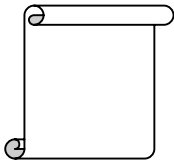
Jared Weaver
- Grassland

Jeremy Weaver
- Grassland

Andrew Youse
- Oley Valley

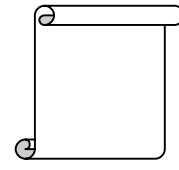
Lacey J Zakostelecky
- Linesville





National CDE Results

2002



CHAPTER	EVENT	TEAM/MEMBERS	TEAM/IND. RANK	INDIVIDUAL AWARD
Chambersburg FFA	Ag Communications	Mr. Parsons - Advisor	24	Bronze
		Tara Goetz	87	Bronze
		Brandon Heck	89	Bronze
		Andrew Dice	46	Silver
		Katelyn Pomroy	93	Bronze
Grassland FFA	Ag Issues Forum	Ms. Gabela - Advisor		Bronze
		Becky Highley		
		Grant Copenhaver		
		Sheila Charles		
		Wes Nolt		
Northern Lebanon FFA	AG Mechanics	Ms. Oberst - Advisor	28	Silver
		Aaron Deck	119	Bronze
		Daryl Maulfair	61	Silver
		Darryl Harman	68	Silver
		Kyle Levengood	163	Bronze
James Buchanan FFA	Ag Sales	Ms. Shaw - Advisor	22	Silver
		Desiree Robinson	60	Silver
		Allison Holland	50	Silver
		Allison Heckman	138	Bronze
		Micah Meyers	78	Silver
Gettysburg FFA	Agronomy	Mr. Sollenberger - Advisor	27	Bronze
		Pete Milhimes	112	Bronze
		Stacy Unger	86	Silver
		Cynthia Stottlemeyer	91	Bronze
		Amanda Clowney	93	Bronze
		Ms. Brown - Advisor		
Cloister FFA	Creed Speaking	Kathy Zimmerman		Silver
Central Cove FFA	Dairy Cattle Evaluation	Mr. Ritchey - Advisor	8	Gold
		Jennifer Bechtel	22	Gold
		Jamie Bechtel	42	Gold
		Scott Rhoads	51	Gold
		Mark Frederick	40	Gold
		Mr. Morse - Advisor		
Littlestown FFA	Dairy Handlers	Clayton Wood	11	Silver

CHAPTER	EVENT	TEAM/MEMBERS	TEAM/IND. RANK	INDIVIDUAL AWARD
Grassland FFA	Dairy Foods	Mr. Reifsnnyder - Advisor	24	Silver
		Jessica Orr	64	Silver
		Khanh Vo	67	Silver
		Mandy Good	98	Bronze
Conrad Weiser FFA	Env/Natural Resources	Mr. Miller - Advisor	4	Gold
		Richard Hartlieb	32	Gold
		Keith Lutz	21	Gold
		Brandon Stolz	3	Gold
		Adam Serfass	50	Silver
Upper Dauphin FFA	Extemp Speaking	Mr. Maurer - Advisor		
		David Neagley		Silver
James Buchanon FFA	Farm Business Mgmt	Ms. Shaw - Advisor	22	Silver
		Kevin Stahl	97	Silver
		Charity Yeager	93	Silver
		Robert Sanders	65	Silver
		Ann Heckman	86	Silver
Conrad Weiser FFA	Food Science & Tech	Mr. Miller - Advisor	16	Silver
		Meghann Peiffer	3	Gold
		Julia Kuhn	16	Gold
		Lyndsay Bashore	99	Bronze
		Morgan Firestine	46	Silver
Somerset Co AVTS FFA	Forestry	Mr. Harrold - Advisor	25	Silver
		Tom Boger	88	Silver
		Norman Coberly	83	Silver
		Levi Shaffer	89	Silver
		Brent Trexel	82	Silver
Elizabethtown FFA	Horse Evaluation	Mr. Erikson - Advisor	27	Silver
		Alisha Liles	102	Silver
		Stacy Landis	112	Silver
		Sarah Smith	120	Silver
		Nicole Kreider	82	Silver
Conrad Weiser FFA	Job Interview	Mr. Miller - Advisor		
		Heather Schreiner		Silver
Manheim Central FFA	Livestock Evaluation	Mr. Lohr - Advisor	18	Silver
		Derick Bellinger	97	Silver
		Ryan Donough	66	Silver
		Cliff Wetzel	134	Bronze
		Adam Zurin	24	Gold

Hans Herr FFA	Marketing Plan	Mr. Metzler - Advisor Dara Melrath Philip Weiler Mary Nickle		Bronze
<hr/>				
Manor FFA	Meat Eval & Tech	Ms. Fay - Advisor Scott Gingrich Jenna Bleacher Ben Railing Jeremy Appel	35 106 120 135 144	Bronze Silver Bronze Bronze Bronze
<hr/>				
WB Saul FFA	Nursery and Landscape	Ms. Brown - Advisor Samantha Johnson Justin Miller Elizabeth Vecchione	21 93 50 77	Silver Silver Silver Silver
<hr/>				
Cedar Crest FFA	Parliamentary Procedure	Mr. Berkheiser - Advisor Heather Balsbaugh Janelle Zimmerman Kevin Kreider Kyle Seyfert Samantha Shepler Mark Balmer		Silver
<hr/>				
Grassland FFA	Poultry	Mr. Reifsnnyder - Advisor Alexandra Lauffer Kevin Brendle Josh Wenger Landon Messner	11 22 87 77 29	Gold Gold Silver Silver Gold
<hr/>				
Conrad Weiser FFA	Prepared Public Speaking	Mr. Miller - Advisor Margeaux Firestine		Silver

Congratulations to all Participants!





Export for Scholars



2002

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes, invited four State Officers, David Bittner, Tim Leshner, Jon Lauver and Julie Flinchbaugh and their Executive Manager, Mr. Brammer to join him and a group of approximately 35 others on a Trade Mission to Puerto Rico. The Export for Scholars trip included the following institutions: Penn State University, Delaware Valley College and W.B. Saul High School. This Trade Mission was established to provide college and high school students the opportunity to understand the global marketplace in which they live and learn firsthand about other agricultural cultures. On this journey to Puerto Rico, Holstein Bred Dairy Heifers, Charlois Beef Bulls and a flock of Dorset Sheep, born and raised in Pennsylvania, were sold to Andres Ruiz, who was our host for the trip.

Our group departed from the Philadelphia airport on December 9th and arrived at San Juan airport where Mr. Ruiz picked us up. The adventure began from there as we spent the rest of the week enjoying the heat wave and culture differences. We toured numerous dairy operations, met with town Mayors, went sight seeing at historical points and toured many other agricultural businesses, such as a coffee plantation. At each stop along the way we were greeted with friendliness and smiles.



An FFA celebration was held in Lajas, where both Puerto Rico and Pennsylvania State Officers presented some interesting facts about their agricultural industry. Following a pork roast, the entire group spent the remaining of the afternoon dancing or attempting to dance to a local band. What an

experience that was!

When December 16th rolled around the group was not quite ready to leave the warm environment and the new friends that they had acquired in Puerto Rico. It surely was an amazing educational and enjoyable journey!

A tour of the Sweetest Place On Earth waited us on Thursday morning as J.J. and Tim were absolutely amazed that the air in the town of Hershey actually smelled like CHOCOLATE! Then, Tim and J.J. headed off to New Oxford and Bermudian Springs High Schools for chapter visits. The evening ended with the 2003 AGRO Reception in the East Wing of the Capitol. Great food, representatives from over 70 countries and a personalized tour of the capitol by none other than our own Secretary of Agriculture led to an amazing night of fun, fellowship and experiences that we will never forget!

Friday's events led us to a tour of the newly renovated Farm Show Complex as well as a meeting with Mr. Dennis Grumbine, Farm Show Director. Then, sadly it was time for the Pennsylvania State Experience to come to an end for our two National Officers and their trainer. We drove the crew to the Harrisburg airport and said our goodbyes, as all three of them were headed back to the National FFA Center for post-experience briefings and more training! We wish J.J. and Tim the best of luck in their year of service to the National FFA Organization!

