

# FFA Has Positive Influence On Young People, Says State President

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) —  
"FFA is a personal, academic,  
career development program that

makes a positive impact on the  
lives of youth today," said Mandy  
Hilbert, state FFA president, on  
Tuesday during a southeast Pen-  
sylvania media tour.

Mandy, 18, 5-year Littlestown  
FFA member, joined state secret-  
ary Jacy Clugston, Grassland FFA  
adviser Cliff Day, and Grassland  
reporter Kim Thornton early this

week on a tour of the region, which  
included stops in elementary  
schools in Allentown and schools  
in the eastern part of Lancaster  
County.

They also visited and spoke with  
*Lancaster Farming* on their  
statewide responsibilities in FFA  
and the future of the FFA  
organization.

The ag-based, leadership-driven  
organization that is FFA, accord-  
ing to Mandy, strives to become  
more proactive for agriculture  
through various events, including  
the media tour, FFA Week, and  
visits to schools. These "examples  
stress the development of individ-  
uals who are going to make a  
major impact on the world," she  
said.

"Through the media tour, we  
are doing what we can to promote  
ag literacy in Pennsylvania," said  
Jacy Clugston, 19, 5-year Man-  
heim FFA member. "The last few  
days, we have talked with news-  
papers, done radio spots, and given  
presentations in different schools.

"Throughout the year we often  
find the opportunity to talk to busi-  
ness leaders and others about FFA  
and the changing field of agricul-

ture," said Jacy.

The nationwide organization,  
according to Rick Perkins, eastern  
vice president, in a recent inter-  
view in *Lancaster Farming*, is  
striving to be more proactive and  
to reach out to young people and  
educate them about agriculture.  
Throughout the year, according to  
Mandy, state officers are able to  
touch on many areas of ag, includ-  
ing "leadership, motivation,  
marketing, and education.

"Because the field of agricul-  
ture is so broad, state officers find  
an opportunity to involve any stu-  
dent, no matter what their back-  
ground, in agriculture," she said.

Mandy, daughter of Harry and  
MaryJane Hilbert, Littlestown,  
plans to study animal science at  
Delaware Valley College and to  
major in international trade rela-  
tions. She chose international trade  
relations as a career as a result of  
her recent visit to Germany.

Mandy said that FFA has "truly  
broadened my horizons by open-  
ing my eyes to education and the  
importance of communication. I  
truly believe that this nation was  
built with a strong foundation of  
agriculture — farmers helping

farmers," she said. "Education plays a major part in  
developing our future."

Jacy, daughter of Ken and Phyllis Clugston, Man-  
heim, is a freshman at Millersville University,  
studying education. She said she would enjoy teach-  
ing younger students because she believes they are  
more impressionable and teachers have more of an  
influence on them than later on, after the kids enter  
high school.

"FFA has really developed the person that I am  
today," said Jacy. "FFA people recognized talents  
in me, made me realize them, and then helped me to  
develop them. FFA has developed my public rela-  
tions skills and helped me to realize how much I  
enjoy working with people. Nearly all the growth  
and development I experienced in high school can  
be attributed to FFA. FFA prepares people for col-  
lege and the job market no matter what field they  
decide to go into."



Mandy Hilbert, 18, state FFA president and 5-year Littlestown FFA member, second from right, joined state secretary Jacy Clugston, second from left, Grassland FFA adviser Cliff Day, far right and Grassland reporter Kim Thornton early this week on a tour of the region, which included stops in elementary schools in Allentown and schools in the eastern part of Lancaster County. They also visited and spoke with *Lancaster Farming* on their statewide responsibilities in FFA and the future of the FFA organization. Photo by Andy Andrews

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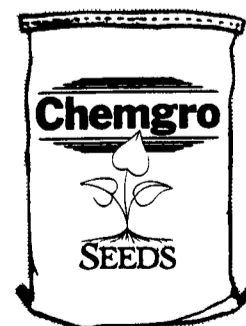
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