



Thomas McKean High School FFA Wilmington, DE

February 2019

Agriculture in Highlanders Country!

by Mrs. Sarah Ruggiero

Name: Thomas McKean High School

Location: New Castle County

Staff: Mrs. Kelly Oldis

- Plant Science I, II, III, and IV
- Animal Science I

Ms. Rebecca Sheahan

- Animal Science I, II, III, and IV
- Agriscience Work Based Learning

Facilities: Barn and pasture lab that has:

-30 chickens, 5 goats, 2 sheep, 2 pigs (one just had a litter of 10 piglets), 3 cats, rabbits, Guinea pigs, and even rats! Plus a 350+ sq. ft. Greenhouse.

At McKean High School Agriculture

Teachers Mrs. Kelly Oldis and Ms. Rebecca Sheahan are hard at work preparing their

students for the future. Their FFA chapter has 75 members dedicated to the future of Agriculture. Part of their success is having very dedicated teachers, as well as hands-on experiences for every student who enters their room.

To help keep their FFA program strong there are many fundraisers their chapter participates in yearly. This includes their annual plant sale being their biggest fundraiser. Students grow over 50 varieties of plants from veggies, herbs, annuals, perennials, specialty plants and hanging baskets. All are grown from seed or plug! They have also had great success working with Buffalo Wild Wings for take over events in the fall. Some accomplishments from all this hard work is their first member ever to compete in the Dairy

Handler Activity at the National FFA Convention!

They also have students attend events such as going on Field Trips to take a tour of New Bolton Animal Hospital, Herr's Snack Factory and Angus Farm, and University of Delaware CANR. Events they attend include going to Regal Heights Rehabilitation Center Farm to table group, and numerous local farmers markets and fall festivals. They competed at The Big E (including a stop at Carlos Bakery! Yum!) in addition to the National FFA Convention!

Their students have also successfully synced, inseminated and farrowed piglets. All of this has also lead to the development of our student-led businesses to be booming! Their accomplishments are a testament to the perseverance of their Ag Teachers. It is an amazing program that deserves more recognition for all of their daily hard work. Check out their website for more information:

<https://mckeanffa.wixsite.com/mckeanagdept>