Named Outstanding Organization of the Year at Penn State for the second consecutive year, Block and Bridle is one of the most active clubs on campus, not just on Ag Hill but also at the university level. Block and Bridle members have livestock as a common interest and participate in a variety of activities which range from social and educational events to community service.

Transfer and freshmen students are greeted in the fall at the club's Welcome Back picnic where old members reunite and new members begin to form lasting friendships. General club meetings are held every first and third Thursday of the month, with executive committee meetings being held on alternative weeks. New students have ample opportunities to become involved with the club and are encouraged to participate as they are required to assist with at least four events to become an initiated member.

The diverse background of club members allows the interests in all species of livestock to be well represented at club events. Block and Bridle's equine enthusiasts participate in several horse related events throughout the year. Members enjoy helping the Pennsylvania Quarter Horse Association at the annual Ag Progress Days and they attend the Pennsylvania State Horse Show. Students become involved with horses on campus by participating in weanling and mare handling/grooming and also by assisting with the Penn State Quarter Horse spring sale. Students with a meat interest volunteer as group leaders at the Eastern National Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest in Wyalusing, PA. Those with cattle experience take on the challenge organizing the annual club calf sale in the fall and assist with the Pennsylvania Beef Exposition and State Bull Test Sale in the spring. Sheep fans help with Meet a Sheep Day and the Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe show and sale. Also, members with a judging passion have the opportunity to run several livestock and horse judging contests. Members volunteer at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition and The Penn State Spring Judging Workout. While most club members have a specific species of interest, all members are encouraged and welcome to participate in every event.

We Are…Penn State! Club members have a lot of school spirit and regularly attend Penn State football games together and cheer in the infamous student section. Students share their Penn State pride by helping to host the annual Prospective Student Open House. High school students have the opportunity to visit campus for two days and experience life as a College of Agriculture student first hand. In addition to showing school spirit, club members enjoy educating campus about the College of Agriculture. Block and Bridle participated in the college's first annual Harvest to Home event. Harvest to Home, also called Ag Day, was celebrated on Earth Day. Free ice cream passes encouraged students and passerby's to come learn more about the College of Agriculture Sciences. Block and Bridle members staffed our club display and answered questions about the club, college, and agriculture in general.

Blood for Bats is now in its fifth year as a club activity. Blood is harvested from cattle at the PSU Meats Lab and delivered to the Philadelphia Zoo as the primary food source for their vampire bat colonies. The zoo appreciates the clubs efforts as we have consistently delivered

blood with low microbial counts. Each spring, club members are provided the opportunity to visit the zoo for behind the scenes tours of several animal exhibits.

Each year, Block and Bridle hits the road to proudly represent Penn State at the National Block and Bridle Convention. Members benefit from networking with other Block and Bridle members from across the country. Twenty-six club members traveled to the 2009 convention in San Antonio Texas. At the closing banquet, the Penn State Block and Bridle Club made their presence known at the awards table. Penn State's Block and Bridle website, organized by Anna Smith, received 3rd place. Our yearbook, edited by Amy Shollenberger, received 1st prize. All our hard work as club members paid off when our activities report, authored by Melissa Sankey, received 1st in the nation. Callihan Schillaci, our current Recording Secretary, was 4th in the competition for the National Outstanding Junior Award and Kyle Grim, our past President, was named Outstanding Senior. In February, Block and Bridle competed at the Northeast Student Affiliate Contest along with the Penn State Dairy Science Club. Our member represented us well in all divisions of the contest which included public speaking, a quiz bowl, and livestock judging. Congratulations to contestants for winning the high overall team and institution awards.

Block and Bridle is proud of their contributions to the Penn State community. This year the club joined other participating College of Agriculture clubs and pooled money to support the Heifer International project for deserving communities overseas. In the fall, Block and Bridle members participated in the Heart Walk along with the Pennsylvania Beef Council in Harrisburg, PA. Club members helped distribute beef samples and literature to participants to promote beef as a healthy part of your diet. In conjunction with the club's annual meat sale, the club donated 12 holiday hams to the Froggy 98's (Forever Broadcasting) Christmas Carol initiative that provides gifts to those less fortunate for the holiday season. We wrap up the academic year by contributing to the local blood bank with our Beef Up the Blood Supply spring blood drive. The club hosts the largest Penn State blood drive held on campus. This year we collected more than 110 units of blood in one day.

Along with the many service activities, club members, initiates, and advisors enjoy each other's company throughout the semester at many social events. Block and Bridle members kicked off the year with group tickets to Professional Bull Riding. Members could also be found at the Penn State Agronomy Farm, having a boot scooting good time line-dancing and roasting marshmallows. In the winter, Tussey Mountain provided for an adventurous evening of snow tubing. Many club members showcased their athletic talent by participating in intramural (IM) Sports at Penn State. Those more interested in "unorganized fun" enjoyed a late night broomball game at the ice rink toward the end of the spring semester before heading home for the summer.

Block and Bridle also enjoys competing and socializing with other clubs on Ag Hill. This year members formed two teams to participate in the annual Ag Hill Olympics. Our teams were put to the test with blind folded ice cream eating, a tire rolling obstacle course, and a milk chugging contest, just to name a few events! Block and Bridle may not have been crowned the overall champion but we enjoyed the day of friendly competition. At the end of fall semester, Block and Bridle joins up with the Penn State Dairy Science club to bust a move at the annual

winter semi-formal. Many members also attend the college wide Ag Ball held towards the end of spring semester.

Little International, or Little I, is one of the most anticipated events of the year and Block and Bridle would not be complete without this long-standing tradition. This year the club held its 92nd Little I and had over 75 students participate by either showing a sheep, hog, horse, or heifer. Participants perfected their fitting and showmanship skills and were given the opportunity to display their hard work to a full Snider Agricultural Arena.

Block and Bridle members stay busy year round with club activities. Club advisors Ms. Vivian Baumer, Dr. Kenneth Kephart, and Dr. Daniel Kniffen are proud of our hard work and accomplishments and continue to offer their time and support. We maintain a tradition as one of the dominant clubs on Ag Hill and strive to continue that tradition of excellence as members before, during, and after each club event.

For more information abut the Penn State Block and Bridle club, please visit our website at http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/blockandbridle/

2008-2009 Officer Team

President: Christie Molinaro
Vice-President: Kristina McAllister
Recording Secretary: Callihan Schillaci
Corresponding Secretary: Cyrus Gehringer
Treasurer: Jenny Hedges
Marshall: Tony Miller
Ag Student Council Rep: Mairen Fitzpatrick
Ag Student Council Rep: William Nichols
Social Co-Chairman: Amy Shollenberger
Social Co-Chairman: Anna Smith
Livestock Committee Chairman: Dave Nogan
Horse Committee Chairman: Constance Anderson
Public Relations: Jenny Rassler

2007-2008 Club Advisors

Ms. Vivian Baumer
Dr. Kenneth Kephart
Dr. Daniel Kniffen