



# FFA

## NEW HORIZONS

FFAnewhorizons.org

Fall 2015

# YEARS

Celebrating the Merger  
of NFA and FFA in 1965

PLUS:

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER RESEARCHES

THE CREATION OF THE FFA CREED



88<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL FFA  
CONVENTION & EXPO  
WEDNESDAY CONCERT

FEATURING

**JAKE OWEN**  
**WITH MADDIE & TAE**

OCT. 28, DOORS: 7:30 P.M. EDT

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FALL 2015

## FFA NEW HORIZONS™

8



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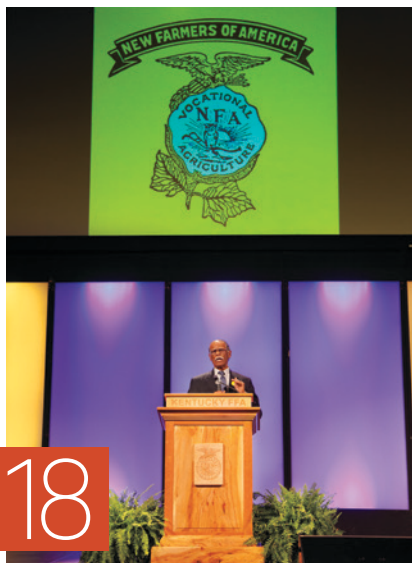
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A collage to represent the FFA and NFA merger in 1965. A special thanks to the FFA archives at Indiana University for providing historical photos.



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FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

#### THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

Agricultural education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resource systems.

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

The National FFA Organization is a resource and support organization that does not select, control, or supervise state association, local chapter or individual member activities. Educational materials are developed by FFA in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

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## TAKE A QUIZ!

Keep your FFA knowledge sharp! Visit [FFAnewhorizons.org/quizzes](http://FFAnewhorizons.org/quizzes) to test your smarts about the upcoming National FFA Convention & Expo.



# FFA NEWS FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

A place to celebrate your FFA achievements, chapter successes and good deeds



## SOUTH TAMA COUNTY FFA, IA

### Importance of Ag Expo

The South Tama County FFA Chapter hosted an Importance of Ag Expo during National FFA Week. The expo featured 23 exhibitions, three guest speakers and several workshops throughout the day.

Guest speaker Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds spoke about agriculture's \$72 billion impact on Iowa's economy and the one in six Iowa jobs it provides. Expo attendants walked away with a better understanding of agriculture and how it impacts their daily lives.



## MORE ONLINE

Visit [FFAnewhorizons.org](http://FFAnewhorizons.org) for more chapter achievements and stories.



AMANDA-CLEARCREEK  
FFA, OH

## PELOTONIA BIKE TOUR

Members of the Amanda-Clearcreek FFA Chapter are biking to beat breast cancer by volunteering for the Pelotonia Bike Tour, which attracts more than 6,000 riders each year.

Over the years, chapter members have helped with setup, cleanup, greeting riders, picking up trash, unloading supplies and more. In 2014, more than 30 FFA members volunteered to help.

This event continues to grow with the support of the community and the Amanda-Clearcreek FFA Chapter.



CHERRYVALE FFA, KS

## Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Cherryvale FFA Chapter truly lived to serve during the holiday season by sponsoring children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. The chapter raffled off a handmade FFA T-shirt quilt donated by Leona “Grandma” Smedly to raise money for the cause.

Proceeds from the raffle were used to buy Christmas gifts for eight different children in Montgomery and Neosho counties, the two counties within the Cherryvale school district.



DAYTON FFA, TX

## Sugar Shaker 5K

To raise awareness and money for adult diabetes, members of the Dayton FFA participated in the Sugar Shaker 5K Run.

The chapter members helped with setting up, registration and manning the water stations along the running route.

The fight to beat diabetes is particularly close to their hearts because one of their FFA members is living with this disease.



ROLLA FFA, ND

## Gone But Not Forgotten

North Dakota's FFA history is in good hands with the Rolla FFA Chapter.

These students have devoted themselves to researching and documenting the histories of FFA chapters from the past, whether they were the victims of school closings, consolidated schools, or lack of funding or teachers.

The chapter has named this project "Gone, but not Forgotten."

Members find the information on the Internet, by contacting former advisors and members, and looking through yearbooks.

Keep us informed! This is your chance to be a part of FFA New Horizons. Send us a short article about your latest chapter activities, awards you've received or even your involvement outside FFA.

Want an easy way to send your story? Email a photo, your story and contact information to [newhorizons@ffa.org](mailto:newhorizons@ffa.org). All photos need to be in color and a minimum of 1 MB in size.

Or, mail to:  
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Indianapolis, IN 46268

**YOUR  
TURN**



# MEET SIX FFA SHINING STARS



Wrangler, the sponsor of FFA Faces, will award a pair of jeans to featured members



## Tanner Levitt

EUREKA FFA, CA

Tanner is dedicated to getting new FFA members involved inside and outside of class. He is a member of his chapter's dairy cattle judging team and serves as the Eureka FFA chapter reporter.



## Zenaida Alaniz

VETERANS MEMORIAL FFA, TX

Zenaida has shown livestock for eight years and has competed in FFA Creed speaking, FFA radio broadcasting and veterinary science. She plans to attend Texas A&M University and eventually become an orthodontist.



## Jarett Tormey

MIDNIGHT SUN FFA, AK

Jarett serves as president of Midnight Sun FFA, the first homeschool chapter in the nation. He plans to run for an Alaska state officer position and, after high school, Jarett hopes to study animal science at a local college.



## Emily Vales

WILBER-CLATONIA FFA, NE

Emily has held multiple leadership roles during her FFA membership, including vice president, secretary and treasurer. She has a diversified livestock supervised agricultural experience program.



## Blake Schumacher

UBLY FFA, MI

Blake has competed in multiple career development events, including agricultural sales and prepared public speaking. He also shows pigs, cattle and turkeys at various exhibitions, and is the reporter for his chapter.



## Aubrey Wishner

MIDDLETOWN FFA, MD

This budding author was inspired by her Creed speaking experience to write a book about the Creed and how we use it every day. Most appropriately, Aubrey also serves as chapter reporter.

Nominate yourself to be considered for FFA Faces by following the steps below.

Questions? Email [ffanation@jnlcom.com](mailto:ffanation@jnlcom.com).

### 1 GO ONLINE

Visit [www.ffafaces.com](http://www.ffafaces.com) and click on Nominations. You can nominate yourself or another current FFA member.

### 2 DESCRIBE

Fill out the form to tell us about you – your FFA involvement, school activities, future plans and more.

### 3 UPLOAD

Find a great photo of yourself – head and shoulders photos work best – and upload it as part of the nomination form.





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# AMPLIFY YOUR CONVENTION EXPERIENCE

Turn it up for the  
88th National  
FFA Convention  
& Expo

**A**re you ready to amplify your FFA experience, taking it to a whole new level?

Plans are shaping up for the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo, which is sure to be a truly historic event. At the convention and expo's final year in Louisville, before moving back to Indianapolis, more than 60,000 FFA members are expected to stream through the exposition center doors from Oct. 28-31.

This year's convention and expo theme, "Amplify," encourages you to "boost your impact" on your community and the world. FFA gives you the tools to pump up your involvement and become a positive force for change.

Here's how you can amplify your FFA convention and expo experience.

## HONORING HISTORY

This year's convention and expo is a momentous occasion, celebrating both the 50th anniversary of the merging of FFA and New Farmers



of America, and the 85th anniversary of the FFA Creed. These historic events will be commemorated through a musical tribute by the FFA Chorus, special displays with historical information and more.

## SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

Prepare to be inspired by motivational speakers and your 2014-15 National FFA Officer team.

Session speakers will include Dr. Rick Rigsby, a motivational speaker, corporate coach and award-winning journalist dedicated to encouraging

and empowering his audience. Amberly Snyder overcame the tragedy of a devastating car accident to pursue her passion for horseback riding. Her awe-inspiring story reminds us to keep chasing our dreams, even in the face of adversity. Self-professed writer, director, comedian and corn-dog lover, Brad Montague is the brains behind Kid President. Montague believes that kids and grown-ups can work together to make the world a better place.

Each of your six national officers will also inspire you as they share stories and powerful messages from their year of service.

## LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Prepare yourself for life ahead by signing up for Career Success Tours to Ford, Papa John's, Churchill Downs Horticulture, Blend Pak, Caudill Seed, Peter W. Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery and more, or check out one of the many student workshops. Be sure to explore the expo and interact with more than 400 industry exhibitors to learn about exciting paths of study, leadership and careers.





## ENTERTAINMENT VALUE

Get ready to stomp your boots and sing along to the amazing musical acts at the KFC Yum! Center. Maddie and Tae kick off the jam session presented by Culver's on Wednesday night before Jake Owen takes the stage.

Thursday night promises an equally memorable concert featuring Clare Dunn opening for Kip Moore.

But the entertainment doesn't stop there. Witness the prowess of your peers at the 2015 National FFA Talent competition, sponsored by Wrangler and CMC Southern Post, and find out who is the real American Idol.

Enjoy the dulcet tones of the National FFA Band and moving tribute to the NFA and FFA merger by the National FFA Chorus, sponsored by Dow Agrisciences.

Laugh until your sides hurt at the ComedySportz performance, featuring two teams of comedians, vying for your applause. And back by popular demand is hypnotist and lifetime FFA Alumni member Dr. Jim Wand and his mesmerizing hypnotist shows.

## LAST HOORAH

Make the most of the convention and expo's last year in Louisville by checking out some of the local attractions such as the Louisville Zoo and the Louisville Slugger Museum.

After working up an appetite by sightseeing, satisfy your hunger at one of the many restaurants located downtown or on Bardstown Road.

## SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

Be sure to check out the FFA Shopping Mall in the north wing of the Kentucky Exposition Center to get all the latest FFA merchandise and swag. Stock up on FFA T-shirts, sweatshirts, pants, hats or "amplify" your wardrobe with a cowboy hat, new boots or show belt from one of the numerous vendors.

## GIVE BACK

Just because you are away at the convention and expo doesn't mean you can't make a difference. Through the National Days of Service, sponsored by CSX Transportation, you can participate in activities to

improve the community. Working with organizations such as Americana Community Center, Dare to Care and Kids Against Hunger, you can demonstrate your leadership skills and dedication to service.

## COME TOGETHER

Whether you're coming from up the road or traveling across the country, the National FFA Convention & Expo is a world of its own. Meet new friends from thousands of miles away or strengthen the bonds with your fellow chapter members through fun activities, engaging sessions and awe-inspiring entertainment.

— Hannah Patterson

**more on  
our app** 

Download the *FFA New Horizons* app to watch the convention and expo preview video. Find download details on page 3.



A stylized map of the Caribbean and surrounding regions, including Cuba, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Colombia. The map is rendered in light green and blue tones. The title 'FFA FROM AFAR' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'FFA FROM' in white on a blue background and 'AFAR' in white on a larger blue background.

# FFA FROM

# AFAR

Learn about the Puerto Rico and  
U.S. Virgin Islands FFA associations



## U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

PUERTO RICO

ST. THOMAS  
ST. JOHN  
WATER ISLAND  
ST. CROIX

The U.S. Virgin Islands consist of the main islands of St. Croix, St. John, and St. Thomas, along with the much smaller but historically distinct Water Island, and many other surrounding minor islands.

Most FFA members know the organization has associations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, but few are very familiar with these FFA programs. Turns out, they're not so different from the rest of the country's state associations – filled with hard-working, ambitious members who are eager to learn and make a difference.

### PUERTO RICO FFA ASSOCIATION

Celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2015, the Puerto Rico FFA Association was chartered in 1932. Since then, its membership has grown to include more than 2,000 students.

"It's been 80 years of nonstop leadership, career development events, supervised

agricultural experiences, competitions, history and pride," says Lauce Colón Pérez, a Puerto Rico FFA member. "We have a very active association. More than just being active, the Puerto Rico FFA Association is changing lives by helping people follow and achieve their dreams."

Lauce began his FFA career in 10th grade, when he became his chapter's treasurer. He was his chapter's vice president in 11th grade, and in 12th grade, he became the 2013-14 regional president. As he prepared to go to college at the University of Puerto Rico, he accepted the role of 2014-15 state FFA secretary. His FFA involvement has afforded Lauce the opportunity to travel to states such as Kentucky, Virginia and Ohio and participate in various conventions, conferences and training events.

"I am so grateful for FFA because it has helped me learn not to judge the world based



## ABOUT PUERTO RICO:

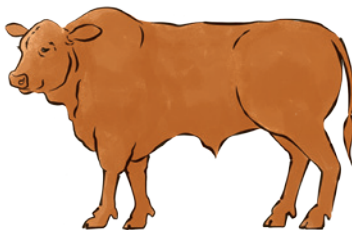
- **Coffee, tobacco,** and **milk** remain traditional farm products in Puerto Rico, but several farms are dedicated to specialized products for local and export markets, such as pineapples, mangoes, melons, and other tropical fruits, as well as beef, pork, poultry, and eggs.



- Both **Spanish and English** are the official languages of the island, however, the Spanish language is undoubtedly more prominent.

## ABOUT U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS:

- The **Senepol breed of beef cattle** was developed on the island of St. Croix by Henry C. Nelthropp in the early 1900s by crossing Red Poll cattle and N'Dama cattle. The Senepol breed combines the N'Dama characteristics of heat tolerance and insect resistance with the extreme gentleness, good meat, and high milk production of the Red Poll.



- The Virgin Islands are home to a variety of tropical fruits. **Coconuts** are probably the first to come to mind for many USVI visitors. Other common fruits are **mango, papaya, banana figs, soursop, carambola, sea grapes, breadfruit, pomegranate, tamarind** and **guava**.



on my small island,” Lauce says. “Thanks to FFA, I’ve been to quite a few places in the U.S., so I feel pretty blessed.”

After attending several state and national conventions, Lauce is used to answering questions about his experiences with the Puerto Rico FFA Association. He says his territory’s CDEs and SAE programs differ substantially from that of other states due to Puerto Rico’s production of coffee, green bananas, tropical vegetables and sugar cane. In addition, Puerto Rico has a solid dairy cattle industry, and many FFA members are involved with dairy farms.

FFA members would also find it interesting to know that Puerto Rico members learn the Creed in their native language of Spanish. “I believe in the future of agriculture” becomes “Creo en el futuro de la agricultura.”

“Other FFA members get really excited to meet me because some of them don’t even realize FFA is in Puerto Rico,” Lauce says. “They have all types of questions for me, and I really appreciate all the members taking a genuine interest in our association. I love sharing my history and culture with other people.”

## VIRGIN ISLANDS FFA ASSOCIATION

The Virgin Islands FFA Association became part of the National FFA Organization in 1991, and after a brief hiatus, the association was reactivated in January 2013. That year, for the first time in 15 years, 40 Virgin Islands FFA members attended the National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville, Ky. While the association’s current FFA program only lasts one year, plans are in the works for it to become a four-year program.

“We’re in the process of trying to get agricultural education and FFA throughout the Virgin Islands,” says Rev. Dr. Eddie Williams, chief executive director and state FFA advisor for the Virgin Islands FFA



A group of Puerto Rican FFA members show off their FFA pride during the 2014 National FFA Convention & Expo.

Association. “We’re trying to expand our program.”

The association’s growth goals are already being met as two new FFA chapters prepare to open in St. Thomas and St. John, respectively. In addition, the association helped host successful food drives in St. Croix and St. Thomas in June 2015.

“We had a great turnout and strong support for the food drive campaign,” Williams says. “We’re very happy about that.”

Williams says it’s not difficult to get the territory’s students involved in FFA once they realize the many doors

the organization can open for them.

“A lot of students who are in FFA for the first time change their mind about majoring in some other career because they find out about things like agribusiness and agriscience,” Williams says. “The students are seeing the great opportunities that are available.”

According to Williams, a lack of funding and resources has been a difficult issue for his FFA association. However, he says the future looks promising; Williams and other members of the Virgin Islands FFA Association are scheduled to meet

with various top leaders to discuss how the territory’s FFA chapters can continue to grow and thrive.

“FFA is on the rise in the Virgin Islands, but it takes a little time,” Williams says. “Rome wasn’t built in a day.”

– Jessica Walker Boehm



**MORE ONLINE**

Learn more about these two unique FFA associations at [FFAnewhorizons.org](http://FFAnewhorizons.org).



# I BELIEVE

## I BELIEVE

*in the **FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE**, with a **FAITH** born not of words but of deeds - achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in **THE PROMISE** of better days through **BETTER WAYS**, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.*

## I BELIEVE

*that to live and work on a **GOOD FARM**, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know **THE JOYS** and discomforts of **AGRICULTURAL LIFE** and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.*

## I BELIEVE

*in **LEADERSHIP** from ourselves and **RESPECT** from others. I believe in my own ability to work **EFFICIENTLY** and think **CLEARLY**, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of **PROGRESSIVE** agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the **PRODUCT** of our toil.*

## I BELIEVE

*in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the **LIFE ABUNDANT** and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in **BEING HAPPY** myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.*

## I BELIEVE

*that **AMERICAN AGRICULTURE** can and will hold true to the best **TRADITIONS** of our national life and that I can exert an **INFLUENCE** in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that **INSPIRING** task.*



## Oklahoma FFA advisor Travis Bradshaw and chapter reporter Bayli Hyde launch an in-depth research project to learn more about E.M. Tiffany, the author of the FFA Creed. Their project takes them to Wisconsin and a visit with his son, Jackson Tiffany.

**Y**ou've heard about Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. These great men have gone down in history for their contributions to our country, but what if some have been overlooked?

A single item on one FFA advisor's "bucket list" may help rewrite the history of the FFA Creed, now celebrating its 85th anniversary, and the man behind it.

"The FFA Creed is a foundation by which FFA members live their lives," says Travis Bradshaw, FFA advisor for Burlington FFA in Oklahoma. "It puts into words what FFA members believe and what they should strive to accomplish throughout their lifetime. It reminds us why agriculture is the most important industry in our world, and gives us the motivation to know that we can make a difference in the future of agriculture."

Bradshaw has long been interested in the origins of the FFA Creed and its author, Erwin Milton "E.M." Tiffany. In 2014, a twist of fate presented an opportunity for him to indulge his curiosity.

"I was at a conference for the National Association of Agricultural Educators in Manhattan, Kan., and when the conference adjourned, I decided to go on a little side trip to the town of Lyndon, Kan.," Bradshaw says. "I had read it was the birth place of E.M. Tiffany, author of the FFA Creed."

Much to his surprise, when he pulled into town, there were no commemorative placards or signs to mention the town's esteemed citizen.

Bradshaw meandered through the local cemetery and found where Tiffany had been buried, but there was no connection to his FFA involvement. Bradshaw's search finally picked up momentum when a waitress at the local diner suggested he stop by the town historical society.

"When I asked the lady working at the historical society if she had any

had just kind of been forgotten," Bradshaw says.

Bradshaw poured through the historical society files and found a goldmine of information about Tiffany's life. They even contained his original 1902 graduation program from the local high school, which coincidentally had the graduation class colors blue and gold.

"The woman at the historical [society] was just fascinated," Bradshaw says. "She said they were writing a book about the history of the county and that they were going to have to include Tiffany in there."

As Bradshaw drove home to Oklahoma, he could not escape the thought that no one in Lyndon knew what a great man had called their town home.



Burlington FFA chapter members create a display about the FFA Creed for the historical society museum in Lyndon, Kan., where E.M. Tiffany was born.

information about E.M. Tiffany, she kind of looked at me and said, 'Well, who is that?'" Bradshaw says.

It became apparent that because the town no longer had an active FFA chapter, the importance of Tiffany's words had been tucked away in the town archives and slowly forgotten.

"I'm sure generations ago they knew, but as time passes on it

He called his chapter reporter, Bayli Hyde, who suggested the FFA chapter create a display for the historical society's museum about Tiffany and the impact of the FFA Creed. Bradshaw agreed and turned the project over to her and the chapter members to spearhead.

"I will never forget when Mr. Bradshaw called me to let me know



there was nothing about E.M. Tiffany in his hometown,” Hyde says. “I knew that we needed to create a window display about E.M. Tiffany and the FFA Creed in the historical society’s museum.”

As Hyde began to formulate her plan for the display, Bradshaw’s own sleuthing continued.

Tiffany’s obituary stated that he was born in Lyndon and moved to Madison, Wis., where he and his wife had a son named Jackson. Bradshaw was curious as to whether any of Jackson Tiffany’s children would still be around to give him any more information.

A quick Internet search yielded a promising phone number located in Madison.

“This gentleman answered the phone, so I told him who I was and what my position was,” Bradshaw

says. “I said I was looking for the relatives of an E.M. Tiffany or a Jackson Tiffany and he said, ‘Well, this is Jackson Tiffany.’”

Bradshaw had located E.M. Tiffany’s 88-year-old son, a living link to his father’s great achievement.

Jackson Tiffany agreed to an on-camera interview with Bradshaw and Hyde to chronicle the life of his father and his own personal memories and stories.

“We just sat there as Jackson Tiffany told the story of his father’s life,” Bradshaw says. “It was a phenomenal experience.”

Jackson Tiffany was only 3 years old when the FFA Creed was written and was never involved in FFA himself, but he always sensed how important his father’s work was to him.

It wasn’t until Bradshaw’s visit,

however, that he realized what a vast organization FFA has become and just how many members, past and present, have uttered his father’s immortal words.

Through his stories and anecdotes, Jackson Tiffany painted a picture of a man who was passionate about agriculture and community service.

“Currently we are working on a documentary using the interview footage for teachers to show in class,” Bradshaw says. “All these kids recite the Creed every year and say, ‘The FFA Creed, by E.M. Tiffany,’ but who is E.M. Tiffany?”

Hyde was even able to secure an SAE grant to help with the video production costs.

Thanks to the diligent efforts of his FFA chapter members and a little bit of luck, Bradshaw was able to shed some light on the heart and soul of the FFA organization.

“I hope that this project gives FFA members and advisors a glimpse into the life and history of the man who is responsible for writing the FFA Creed,” Bradshaw says. “As we continue to grow by leaps and bounds as an organization, it is my hope that we will never forget about those individuals who founded FFA.”

Hyde agrees, saying that this journey has definitely given her a greater appreciation for E.M. Tiffany.

“After I met Jackson Tiffany, E.M. Tiffany’s son, I realized that E.M. Tiffany was a man who had a passion for agriculture. It was wonderful to hear what E.M. Tiffany’s feelings were when he wrote the Creed,” she says. “When I started memorizing the FFA Creed my freshman year, I had no idea that I was going to take what I learned from the Creed and apply those skills or life lessons to wherever the future may take me.”

— Hannah Patterson



Bayli Hyde, reporter for the Burlington FFA chapter in Oklahoma, interviews Jackson Tiffany, son of E.M. Tiffany who authored the FFA Creed.



# Go Nuts for Almonds

## Facts and information about this healthy ag product

Recently, almonds have taken the health food world by storm, but for years, savvy snackers have turned to them for a delicious and nutritious nosh.

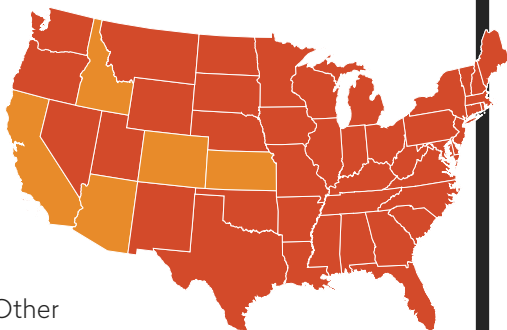
These little treats are packed with the mysterious “good fats” everyone talks about so much. Almonds are also full of satisfying crunch and protein that helps satiate even the most audible of stomach rumbles. Whether enjoyed from a Ziploc baggie on a hike or in the form of almond butter on a piece of toast, almonds are the perfect fuel for the body on the go.

Health benefits of almonds in your diet include weight loss, diabetes prevention and improved heart health. They may also help lower the risk of Alzheimer’s disease.

### Top Almond States

Almonds are cultivated predominantly in California, where there are 6,841 farms growing 935,804 acres.

Arizona comes in a distant second place for almond farms with 29 farms and 326 acres. Other states, including Colorado, Kansas and Idaho, have a sprinkling of almond operations, but are not major players in the industry.



## One Way Or Another

The almond nut is actually the seed of the fruit from the almond tree, which is a relative of stone fruits such as peaches, cherries and apricots. Almonds can be processed in many different ways. Here are a few of the main processing methods:

- 1 FLOUR:** Almonds can be ground into a fine powder and used in baking or cooking recipes as a substitute for traditional flour.
- 2 MILK:** Yet another substitute, almond milk can be used in recipes or on cereal for those with lactose sensitivities.
- 3 PASTE:** Ground almond paste can be used as a binder in recipes or a filling in pastries. It is also used to make marzipan, a malleable confection.
- 4 LIVESTOCK FEED:** To ensure no part of the almond goes to waste, the hulls of almonds may be ground up for livestock feed.
- 5 FLAVORING:** Almond extract is a popular ingredient in baked goods, especially in Scandinavian recipes.
- 6 SNACK PACKS:** Roasted, salted, flavored or raw almonds can be found in mixed nut medleys or by themselves in portable pouches, cans and jars.

# 70%

Approximately 70 percent of U.S.-grown almonds are exported as shelled nuts.







# A HISTORICAL CELEBRATION

A look at the New Farmers of America (NFA), as we commemorate its merger with FFA in 1965



Most all of us know the story of 33 farm boys from 18 states meeting in Kansas City, Mo., to form the Future Farmers of America. However there is another story from that timeframe that's equally important – that of the New Farmers of America. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the monumental merger of FFA and NFA, let's take a step back in time and discover this untold story.

## FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In the winter of 1926-27, the New Farmers of America gained its start when the New Farmers of Virginia at Petersburg was established. The organization began at the suggestion of Dr. H.O. Sargent, who was a federal agent of agricultural education for African-American students at the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C. G.W. Owens, teacher trainer at Virginia State College, wrote a constitution and bylaws for the New Farmers of Virginia, which in the beginning consisted of 18 local chapters with about 400 members. And later, in April 1927, the New Farmers of Virginia held their first state meeting and rally at Virginia State College in Petersburg.

Around this time, many other states were either implementing New Farmers programs or programs similar for African-American students in states with segregated schools. In order to unite the new chapters, state and sectional associations were formed based on location. The three sections were named Washington, Gulf (later called Sargent in honor of Dr. H.O. Sargent) and Almmot. These sectional organizations held annual meetings in various states from 1928 to 1935. In these annual meetings, delegates discussed the need for and possible creation of a national organization to unify them as one.



## AN ORGANIZATION IS FORMED

Their ideas became reality on Aug. 4, 1935. The New Farmers of America hosted its first national convention at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. The convention consisted of speaking and judging competitions, business sessions, election of national officers and entertainment from various chapters. During business sessions, NFA elected the first national officer team, consisting of a president, secretary, treasurer, reporter and one vice president from each sectional organization.

Although similar in their purpose to prepare students for an agricultural profession, NFA and FFA had several differences. For example, the emblem was based on a cotton boll rather than the cross-section of corn. NFA had its own Creed and different degrees of membership.

In the beginning, NFA was not under any direct authority of the U.S. Department of Education. Although

NFA was advised by H.O. Sargent, an employee of the department, it wasn't until 1941 that the Department of Education decided to legalize NFA under its own authority. Then in 1944, the FFA Foundation was incorporated to provide business, industrial, civic, farm and service organizations with an opportunity to further both FFA and NFA.

## AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

In the early 1960s, discussion of merging FFA and NFA began to arise. For five years, both organizations worked at the local, state and national levels to prepare for the merger. As the country became engrossed in the Civil Rights Movement, many NFA chapters began to merge with local FFA chapters as a result of state and local school desegregation. Then in 1962, the national FFA and NFA officers met to discuss the future of the two organizations. However their fate was sealed with the passage of the

1964 Civil Rights Act, which required the desegregation of all schools.

On July 1, 1965, the two organizations merged as one, with a ceremony being held later at the national FFA convention finalizing the event.

## 50 YEARS LATER

The NFA Creed states, "I believe that a life of service is the life that counts; that happiness endures to mankind when it comes from having helped lift the burdens of others." The last Tennessee NFA State President, Larry Reece, says this quote of the NFA Creed, which he can still recite, is what he took away from NFA, from high school, and what he embraces today and going forward.

The 1963-64 national NFA president, Robert Boone, was the first NFA officer to attend and speak at the National FFA Convention. He reflects on the convention saying, "I do believe that we made some progress in establishing some real bridges and

## NFA Timeline

**1926**

» Localized NFA chapters appear in Virginia, with the first chapter being New Farmers of Virginia, Petersburg.

**1928**

» With popularity growing among the states, sections were formed to allow states to have regional conferences. The first sections were named Washington, Sargent and Almmot.

**1944**

» The FFA Foundation is incorporated to provide business, industrial, civic, farm and service organizations with an opportunity to further both FFA and NFA.

**1927**

» New Farmers of Virginia hosts first State Conference in April at Virginia State College.



**1935**

» The national organization was established Aug. 4, 1935, at the first meeting of the New Farmers of America at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

**1941**

» The U.S. Department of Education "legalizes" NFA under its own authority.

real opportunities, that later and even today as we celebrate [the merger], certainly were very fruitful.”

Boone encourages educators and members saying, “We need to continue to plant the seeds of success and the possibility of success with young people. They need to be made aware it’s not what we accomplish today, but it’s what we can do tomorrow.”

Today, 50 years after NFA and FFA merged, Reese reflects on the merger saying, “NFA, as a club, may have gone away, but the ideals are still being embraced in the National FFA Organization.”

— *Samantha Beard*



## MORE ONLINE

Visit [FFAnewhorizons.org](http://FFAnewhorizons.org) for more photos and artifacts from the New Farmers of America, including the full script of the NFA Creed.



Kentucky FFA welcomed past NFA president Rupert Seals to speak at its 2014 state FFA convention.

## 1949

» After several NFA convention rotations, Atlanta, Ga., becomes the permanent home for the

New Farmers of America convention.



## 1963

» NFA reaches peak membership with 58,132 members.

» Robert Boone, NFA president, becomes first NFA officer to speak at a national FFA convention in history.

## 1964

» The Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes, requiring the desegregation of schools.

## 1960

» Local NFA and FFA chapters begin merging together.

## 1962

» NFA and FFA national officers hold a joint meeting to discuss the future of the two organizations.

## 1965

» NFA and FFA officially merge on July 1, 1965 and hold a ceremony at the national FFA convention finalizing the merger.







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# GET TO KNOW YOUR NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

## HOW DID YOU FIRST LEARN ABOUT FFA?

**ANDY:** I started showing pigs in the first grade, so it was a natural thing to hear about from family, friends, billboards, etc.

**VICTORIA:** My dad and siblings were all in FFA. I attended my first state convention when I was 4 years old wearing a shirt that read “Vote for my Ryanie Bubba,” helping my older brother, Ryan, campaign for state office.

**RUTH ANN:** My parents were agriculture teachers.

**KRISTEN:** I found my dad’s FFA jacket in our hallway closet.

**STEPHEN:** My dad has taken my family with him to state convention for as long as I can remember.

**CALEB:** I first learned about FFA from my Uncle Daniel. He is an

agricultural educator at Goddard High School in New Mexico. I learned what his job was, which introduced me to FFA.

## IF YOU COULD USE ONLY ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR FFA EXPERIENCE, WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE?

**ANDY:** Strong

**VICTORIA:** Foundational

**RUTH ANN:** Timeless

**KRISTEN:** Growth

**STEPHEN:** Invaluable

**CALEB:** #ffachangeslives

## DO YOU HAVE ANY ODD OR WEIRD FOOD COMBINATIONS?

**ANDY:** Well, when I was young my grandmama fed me sugar sandwiches. You take white bread, spread butter on it, sprinkle it with sugar, and voila! You have clogged arteries.

**VICTORIA:** French fries and ice cream.

**RUTH ANN:** Crushed-up graham crackers in milk.

**KRISTEN:** I love weird food combinations – just ask my teammates! M&M’s on pizza, chicken nuggets dipped in ice cream, peanut butter and pickle sandwiches – just to name a few.

**STEPHEN:** Peanut butter and applesauce on chocolate chip waffles.

**CALEB:** Crush up tortilla chips, pour half a jar of salsa on the chips, strategically place pepperonis on chips and salsa like a pizza, dump the rest of the salsa, then cheese. Microwave it and eat it with a spoon!

### Andy Paul

NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT

This Georgian credits FFA for teaching him self-confidence and presentation skills.

Andy hopes to impact the lives of future FFA members as an agriculture teacher.



### Victoria Maloch

NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

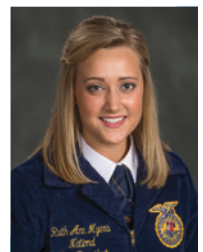
Victoria grew up on a Brangus cattle farm in Arkansas and lettered for four years in track and field. Her future career plans are to work in agricultural policy.



### Ruth Ann Myers

NATIONAL FFA EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Hailing from Kentucky, Ruth Ann is an agricultural education major and volunteers for cancer research fundraisers. Her career plan is to teach agriculture.



## WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY CHARACTER OF ALL TIME?

**ANDY:** Pluto, because he is a dog. (Go Dawgs!) And he is named after a planet. #ReinstatePluto

**VICTORIA:** Mary Poppins because she's "practically perfect in every way."

**RUTH ANN:** Tigger, of course. Anyone else would just be "ridickicrous!"

**KRISTEN:** Clucky from Robin Hood.

**STEPHEN:** Olaf. I feel like he and I could chill, no pun intended.

**CALEB:** WALL-E. He is constantly fighting for the Wi-Fi signal he is picking up from Eve!

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO AT THE 2015 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO?

**ANDY:** Sharing the stage with a new set of best friends. Also, seeing 65,000 beautiful and handsome faces.

## #SPEAKAG

Share your agriculture and FFA stories with #SpeakAg to tell others about what we do and why we do it! The National FFA Officer team has developed the #SpeakAg Challenge as part of their legacy project focused on agriculture advocacy.

During September and October, you can advocate for agriculture in four different areas – self, school, community and government.

Capture your efforts with pictures or video and post them to social media using #SpeakAg for your chance to win some cool #SpeakAg swag. We look forward to seeing the difference you can make through agriculture advocacy every day!

**VICTORIA:** Running through the tunnel at the beginning of every session and watching students' reactions as they celebrate their success on stage!

**RUTH ANN:** There's nothing like election time. I can't wait to see the new team who gets to serve the FFA membership next year.

**KRISTEN:** You! At that point we will have been on the road for almost a year, making friends and building relationships with folks all over the country. The National FFA Convention & Expo is going to be like a big ol' family reunion – minus the embarrassing matching T-shirts.

**STEPHEN:** Hanging out with 65,000 of my closest friends and relishing my final moments in the blue jacket.

**CALEB:** Convention is a masterpiece that has a lot of moving parts! I am ecstatic about seeing what convention is like from backstage.

– Compiled by Samantha Beard



### MORE ONLINE

Visit [FFAnewhorizons.org](http://FFAnewhorizons.org) for even more Q&A with the national FFA officer team.

### Kristen Schmidt

NATIONAL FFA CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

This Colorado native was once a national finalist in the FFA Job Interview CDE. Kristen is majoring in animal science and agribusiness in college.



### Stephen McBride

NATIONAL FFA SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Stephen grew up on a beef cattle farm in Tennessee and is an agribusiness major in college. He plans to work as an agriculture lobbyist in his future career.



### Caleb Gustin

NATIONAL FFA WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

This three-sport athlete (basketball, football and track) grew up raising swine and sheep in New Mexico, focusing on learning about animal nutrition.





# The Buddy System

## Ponchatoula FFA creates partnership program at its school

High school is full of opportunities to join clubs, compete in athletics or attend school dances, but the Ponchatoula FFA Chapter in Louisiana realized that their atypical students – many of whom have disabilities – were missing out on these quintessential high school activities.

Their solution was the FFA Buddy program.

“The FFA Buddy program was created to better the involvement of our atypical students,” says chapter member Tyler Aitken. “By allowing our atypical students to partner with our typical students, they learned various social skills that are not easy to obtain in their regular classroom setting.”

This program matches typical and atypical students together and engages them in numerous small, hands-on classroom activities to encourage participation, social interactions and learning. They have hosted Special Olympics track and field events and a Back to School Bash dance, and exposed members to different livestock showing and grooming techniques using the animals in the school barn.

FFA Buddy members are even recognized at a special awards ceremony tailored specifically to its participants.

“We noticed that most of our atypical members do not attend our end-of-the-year award banquet because it is held in the later afternoon,” Aitken says. “For this reason, we now not only recognize those members at

our end-of-the-year banquet, but we have also created a separate Buddy Banquet during school hours so that all of our atypical members may be recognized for all of their hard work throughout the year.”

Both typical and atypical students walk away from this experience with enhanced time management, leadership and teamwork skills, as well as a greater understanding and acceptance of their peers.

The program has created cherished memories and friendships that will last far beyond the high school years.

“I am glad to say that I plan to visit my buddy, Logan, even after I leave for college,” Aitken says. “He is not only my buddy – he is one of my best friends.”

The positive impact doesn’t stop with the FFA

Buddy program itself, but has rippled across the school and community.

“Since the involvement within our program has become more enhanced, many other organizations and teams across campus have begun to interact with our atypical members on a new level,” Aitken says. “We have noticed that the rate of acceptance across our school is at an all-new high, and we are proud to say that the buddy program was not only a success, but it also ignited a positive chain reaction across campus.”

In 2014, the chapter was named a National Model of Excellence winner for its FFA Buddy program.

– Hannah Patterson

“I am glad to say that I plan to visit my buddy, Logan, even after I leave for college. He is not only my buddy – he is one of my best friends.”

– Tyler Aitken



# Pig Race for a Cure

FFA chapter volunteers raise money and awareness for multiple sclerosis

When the Nation Ford FFA Chapter from South Carolina saw a chance to help a member of their community and raise money for a good cause, they jumped at the opportunity.

“The South Carolina Strawberry Festival was established in 2010 as a community event for the town of Fort Mill,” says FFA chapter advisor Lee Petitgout. “Ron Edwards, farm manager of Springs Farm and an FFA alumnus, introduced pig races as an attraction for the children’s area of the festival while honoring his wife, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, by raising funds for the cause.”

As a charter member of the planning committee for the festival, Edwards’ obligations grew as the festival became more popular, so the Nation Ford FFA Chapter stepped in to assist with the races.

Over the past four years, more than 200 FFA members have volunteered to run the pig races and helped make it one of the festival’s premier attractions.

“The festival attracts over 60,000 visitors a year with its weeklong schedule of activities, including a beauty pageant, a golf tournament and Pick-n-Flick, an outdoor movie among the strawberry fields,” Petitgout says. “In addition to caring for and racing the pigs during the festival, chapter members man the microphone, offering facts about multiple sclerosis, as well as distributing fliers concerning the illness and current research.”

The Nation Ford chapter received the National FFA Model

of Innovation award in chapter development in 2014 for their participation in the South Carolina Strawberry Festival pig races. So far the chapter has raised more than \$8,000 for the South Carolina Multiple Sclerosis Society, thanks to generous community sponsors.

– Hannah Patterson



## MORE ONLINE

Visit [FFAnewhorizons.org](http://FFAnewhorizons.org) to read about other FFA chapters who have raised money for local, state and national efforts.





## Coveted Coats

### Plant Biotechnology Academy members earn white lab coats

**M**uch like the hallowed blue corduroy FFA jacket, the white lab coat of the Oakleaf FFA Plant Biotechnology Academy in Florida is a symbol of excellence.

“The academy is a group of students whose schedules align to incorporate biotechnology concepts into their core curriculum classrooms along with their biotechnology course,” says FFA Chapter President William Donaghy.

These courses cover everything from gardening and animal care to DNA extraction and tissue cultures. Each lesson is designed to exercise leadership, public speaking, parliamentary procedure and critical thinking skills.

To signify their inclusion into this impressive group, second-year FFA members of the Plant Biotechnology Academy are presented with a white lab coat during a “coating” ceremony.

“For universities, it is a huge tradition that represents the transition from a student to a scientist,” Donaghy says. “We had been looking for a while to find something similar that would unify all students in the name of science, so we started the tradition of the coating ceremony at Oakleaf.”

More than 75 students attend the coating ceremonies to receive their own coats or support their peers.

In addition to fashionable lab coats, being a member of the Plant Biotechnology Academy offers many career opportunities.

“Students can earn their biotechnology certification to get career accreditation for classes taught in high school,” Donaghy says. “Students also have many networking opportunities to meet and talk with some of the leading colleges and businesses in the biotechnology industry. This is one of the most lasting effects of the academy and of the course succession.”

Parents of students, members of the community, colleges, businesses and beyond have come to recognize the Plant Biotechnology Academy’s professionalism and prestige. For its efforts, Oakleaf FFA was named the National FFA Model of Innovation winner in student development at the 87th National FFA Convention & Expo in 2014. The 2014 National FFA Chapter Awards program is sponsored by John Deere as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

With its emphasis on scientific exploration and career building, the academy prepares students for life beyond the walls of their high school.

– Hannah Patterson



# Life Is a Journey, Not a Destination

Discover career-planning resources at FFA.org

Have you ever seen one of those “Salt Life” decals on someone’s car and thought, “I need one that says ‘FFA Life’?”

After all, FFA has provided you with a place to belong, things to do and experiences you will never forget.

But do you sometimes feel like you could be getting more out of FFA? Do you wonder how FFA is going to help you land your dream job as a crop researcher, nurse, firefighter or \_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank with your dream career)?

One of the first things you may have learned about FFA was the mission statement: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. You know serving as an officer develops your leadership skills, meeting new people grows you as a person, and competing in a career development event can lead to career success.

But what if you aren’t an officer? What if you don’t compete in a CDE? Are there other ways to grow besides meeting new people? Do you feel like you are not fully experiencing the FFA mission? Do you sometimes feel a little lost on this journey that is life?

Well, you’re in luck! If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, it’s time for you to check out My Journey on FFA.org. My Journey is your “go to” place to explore, build and connect to resources that will inspire and prepare you to be your best through premier leadership, personal growth and career success, while linking

your current love of agriculture and FFA to your future career.

## EXPLORE

Perhaps you want to know what type of leader you are, or what supervised agricultural experiences other students are doing across the country. Maybe you just need some inspiration and guidance on what you want to do after graduation or what jobs match your

My Journey is your “go to” place to explore, build and connect to resources that will inspire and prepare you to be your best.

interests and skills. If so, it’s time for you to explore your options.

The Explore section of My Journey features videos, current event articles and personality quizzes you can use to discover how you can take advantage of your strengths and make the most of all the opportunities available to you.

## BUILD

Once you know who you are and what you are interested in, it is time to build your future. In the Build section of My Journey are tools to help you rock your next interview. The section also features a new Resume Generator that will walk you through the process of creating a resume. You no longer have to worry if you are including the right things or if you are formatting your resume correctly; the Resume Generator takes away the guesswork!

The Build area also includes tools for chapter activity planning, recruitment,

service projects and more. Check out the templates and guides available to help you create the best experience for your fellow members.

## CONNECT

After you have explored and built, the next step in your journey is to make the connection from your passions and interests to your future. Even an interest in computers or law can be tied to agriculture. Connect to opportunities outside of your chapter, town and state, and find available opportunities within FFA programs in the Connect section of My Journey.

Find internships and careers in a wide variety of areas, from traditional agriculture to marketing, food science, power machines and more. Learn from and share your story with members thousands of miles away or just one town over.

Some of the best experiences you will have are the ones you don’t even know exist right now, and the only way to learn about them is to look. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “Life is a journey, not a destination.” You have made FFA a part of your life and a part of your journey; now My Journey will make sure you have all you need to Explore, Build and Connect to the person you dream of being.

Development work of My Journey has been funded in part by the Cornerstone Sponsors – Cargill, CHS, Elanco, Kraft, RFD-TV, TransCanada, Tyson and Zoetis – and Pathway Sponsors – AgCareers.com, Cobb, Growth Energy, Monsanto, PNC Bank, Valent and Wilbur-Ellis.

– Haley Hampton



# Caitlin Lowe Herrington

## North Carolina FFA alumna makes strides to combat global hunger

**A**s a researcher for HarvestPlus, Caitlin Lowe Herrington uses the information and skills she obtained in FFA on a daily basis.

Herrington became interested in FFA after seeing her older brother, Justin, become involved in the organization and love it.

“I saw the difference the organization made in him and also the many opportunities involved – the leadership growth, the conferences, conventions and competitions – and I wanted to experience it all for myself,” she says.

Herrington would later compete at the national level in the Floriculture and Farm Business Management career development events, as well as become the North Carolina FFA State President.

“The organization taught me how to be a leader, to grow and continue pushing myself to the next level, to appreciate those around me, and how to effectively and efficiently work in various team settings,” Herrington says.

Herrington works for HarvestPlus, a program run through the International Food Policy Research Center and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture that leads a global effort to improve nutrition and public health by developing and deploying biofortified crops, staple food crops that are rich in vitamins and minerals.

In her current position with the Impact Research Unit, Herrington travels to various countries and conducts studies around crop attributes to learn what

characteristics farmers and consumers like and dislike, in new seed varieties. For the past year, Herrington has been working on an impact assessment for the country of Rwanda, located in Africa. Her responsibility for this study involves the surveying of approximately 20,000 farming households and another 12,000 households throughout all bean-growing regions of the country.

Herrington found her calling in the area of agricultural development after traveling to developing countries and working in agriculture. She says, “Somehow I fell in love with the different cultures and people, and working alongside them to better their lives; after all, people have the same basic needs no matter where we live. And there is so much potential for so many developing countries to become more food secure, decrease poverty and increase nutrition; how can one not help but want to work in this area!”

She encourages members to look beyond the typical agricultural careers and think outside the box about how to apply their skills, special gifts and talents. “While we need people working in production agriculture, there are so many necessary careers that revolve around industry, outside of production agriculture. We need bright, passionate, energetic young people in all of those careers,” Herrington says. “Remember, not everything will always fall immediately into place, so continue to work hard and do not give up on your passion.”

– *Samantha Beard*



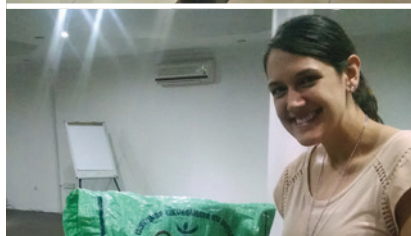
**NAME:** Caitlin Lowe Herrington

**HOME FFA CHAPTER:** Eastern Randolph FFA

**YEARS OF FFA MEMBERSHIP:** 2003-2010

**SAE:** Greenhouse Management

**OFFICES HELD:** Chapter Reporter, Chapter Vice President, Chapter President, Central Region Reporter, West Central Region President, North Carolina FFA State President



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Applications will be accepted from high school seniors and college students **November 15, 2015 – February 1, 2016.**



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America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders is administered through the National FFA Scholarship program. Students need not be members of FFA to apply. Farmers can endorse a student at [FFA.org/scholarships](http://FFA.org/scholarships) or by calling 1-877-267-3332 until February 8, 2016. Farmers must have the student's scholarship application ID in order to complete the endorsement. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2015 Monsanto Fund.





# California FFANEWS

FALL 2015

VOL. 4 • NO. 1

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on her family's dairy legacy



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## *We want to hear from you...*

We are always looking for great stories about members and alumni around our state. Know of a story that we should feature in CA FFA News? Please email Riley at [caffainser@yahoo.com](mailto:caffainser@yahoo.com).

Submission deadlines:  
Fall..... June 1st  
Winter..... September 1st  
Spring ..... December 1st  
Summer..... March 1st

Stay in touch...  
"California FFA"



In much of the world, farming is a socioeconomic condition, not a career choice. Our population is expected to reach 9 billion people by the year 2050 and we will need to produce 60% more food with less land, less water, less fertilizer and less pesticides. Being a part of agriculture education is more exciting than ever because of the relevant opportunities and expanding possibilities that lie ahead.

Do you love agricultural education and FFA? Do you love adventure, travel, and service? If you answered yes, keep AgriCorps in mind for your future! **AgriCorps is a non-profit organization that sends college of agriculture graduates to volunteer in the developing world for one year after they earn their Bachelors Degree.** AgriCorps members teach agriculture in junior and senior high schools and teacher training colleges. They work to start or enhance school-based agricultural education clubs (like FFA and 4-H!) at their schools. With the help of their students, they build school farms that act as learning laboratories for the agriculture classes. The students sell the produce from the school farms and the money goes back to the club

members. Some schools use their produce to start school feeding programs! We believe AgriCorps members are having a real impact on the lives of their students and the food security of their communities.

Trent McKnight, a past National Officer and founder of AgriCorps, stated on a recent trip to Ethiopia, "Wealth creation means to make something from nothing. It is the most basic tenet of capitalism and is what makes capitalism great. Last week I visited young farmers in Ethiopia and one told me, '4-H teaches us

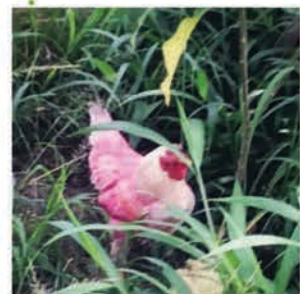
## *It Is Ghana Be Awesome!*

WRITTEN BY:  
**AUDREY DENNY**  
PASO ROBLES FFA ALUMNI



Students at a leadership camp participate in team building activities!

Sometimes in Ghana, you see pink chickens.





how to raise and sell two sheep so that we can make enough money to buy four sheep next year.' This young man has learned the basic principle that will free him from poverty."

AgriCorps is a new organization and our first team is finishing their year of service in Ghana. In August 2015, twenty new AgriCorps members will arrive in Ghana to start our second year! **We're planning on expanding to more countries in Africa and Latin America over the coming years.**

During an AgriCorps member's year of service they grow tremendously – both professionally and personally. It is impossible to live and work in the developing world and build authentic cross-cultural relationships

without being changed. Our volunteers have a wider world-view and life experience that is critical to work in globalizing agricultural industry. Upon their return home AgriCorps members have tremendous skills to bring to the workplace. We have members who are pursuing graduate degrees, careers in agricultural development and agricultural business, as well as teaching high school agriculture! **If you want to be a part of the solution to help feed 9 billion people by 2050, think about joining AgriCorps when you graduate! •**

Audrey Denny  
on assignment  
in Ghana



AgriCorps member,  
John Romo, examines  
the cornfield at his  
school with a student.

Members of  
the Saviour 4-H  
Club have fun  
while planting  
their garden.



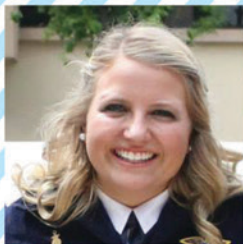
The 2015-16 AgriCorps team rocking  
their traditional Ghanaian outfits!



If you'd like to keep up with AgriCorps until you are eligible to join, make sure you follow us on these platforms:

**www.agricorps.org**  
**Twitter: @agricorps\_US**  
**Instagram: @agricorps**  
**Facebook: /agricorps**





# IT'S RETREAT TIME!

By Danielle Diele, California State Reporter

**Goals.** Whether it is watching your favorite World Cup soccer team make one, or sitting with your newly elected chapter officer team and planning them for the next school year, goal-setting is an exciting time. With a new school year comes new leaders, new ideas, new challenges, and new perspectives. It is time for us to look forward to having a fresh start, while still upholding and maintaining those unique features of our chapter.

A great way chapter officers can goal set for the upcoming year, as well as get to bond as a team, is through a chapter officer retreat!

At chapter retreats officer teams are allowed to create success for a chapter by creating goals, and make memories as their team bonds and builds friendships.

Officer teams should try to set three different goals in each of three unique areas: **Student Development, Chapter Development, and Community Development.** Within these three goals, there are five categories in each (see below). Our chapter officer teams should set goals in three areas of the five categories in each!

## STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

In Student Development, we can strive to set goals in Leadership (Conferences), Scholarship, Healthy Lifestyles, Supervised Agricultural Experiences, and Ag Career Skills. An example of a goal in this area is to do a chapter meeting as a Dodge Ball Tournament. Not only will members become super-pumped to compete against their peers, but it will also increase attendance, as members don't just participate in the meeting, they are the meeting! This will accomplish a goal in the Healthy Lifestyles category of Student Development.

## CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

In the Chapter Development area, the categories are Leadership (Officer Retreat), Support Groups, Financial, Public Relations, and Recruitment. How does your chapter engage in Public Relations? One way we can achieve this goal in Public Relations is to start either a weekly bulletin, tweet, or Instagram post every week about the chapter's upcoming events.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

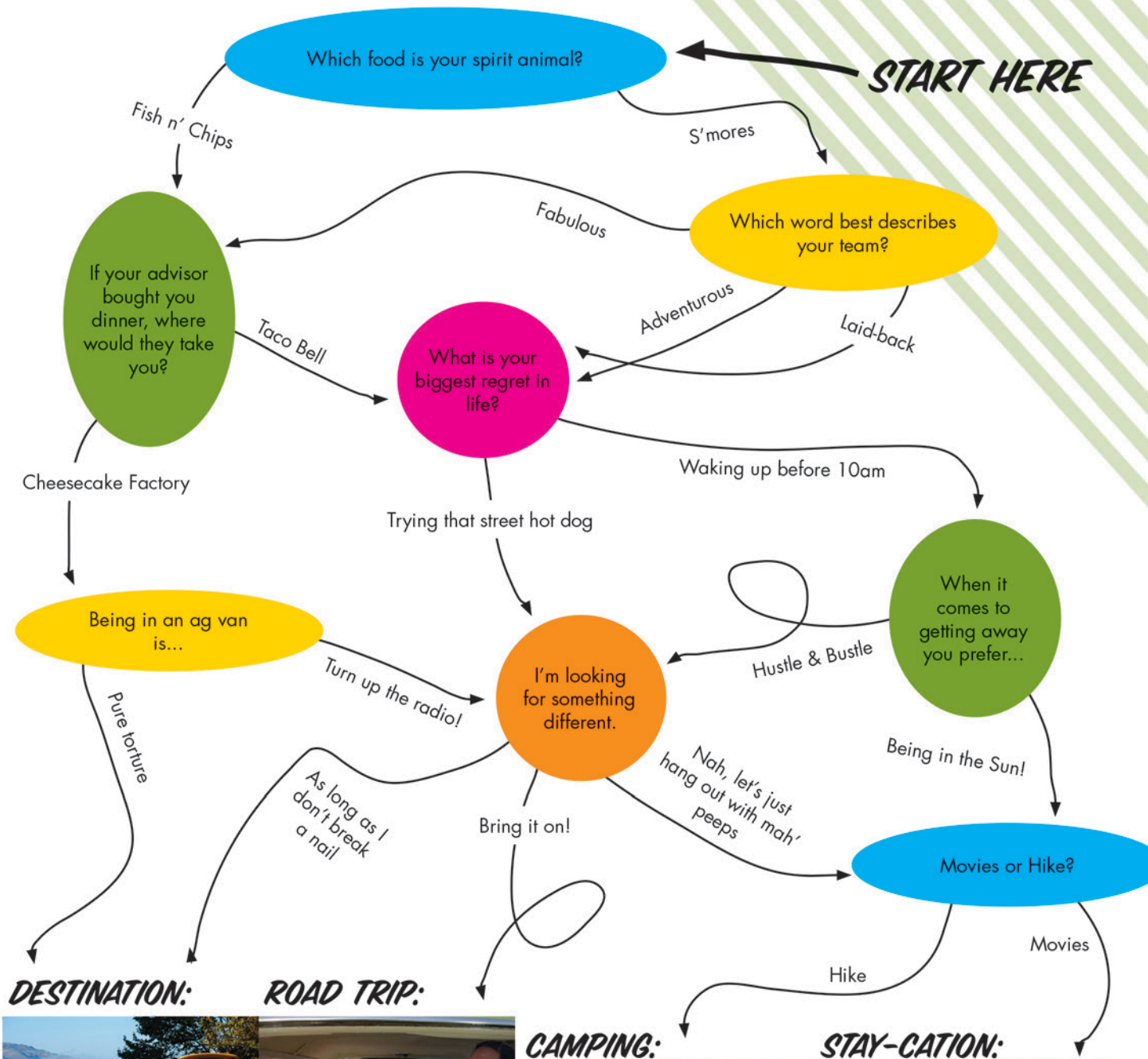
In the Community Development area, the categories are Environmental, Citizenship, Human Resources, Economic Development, and Ag Promotion. How does your chapter participate in Citizenship? One way my home chapter sets this goal is through what we call the "Pumpkin Project." During the Halloween season, our chapter carves pumpkins to give to senior citizens at nursing homes. When we deliver these, we play Bingo with the senior citizens and present them with their own pumpkins. Aspiring to set a goal in this can not only start a tradition, but leave an impact on your community.

Now that we know how to goal set on chapter retreats, let's talk some on how the retreat can be a great experience for your team to become a family. Take this quiz to find out where your team's perfect retreat destination could be!

## PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

| Student Development                           | Chapter Development                    | Community Development                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Leadership<br>Conferences                     | Leadership<br>Officer Retreats         | Environmental<br>Adopt-A-Highway         |
| Scholarships<br>STUD Night                    | Support Groups<br>Farm Bureau Projects | Citizenship<br>Senior Citizen Prom       |
| Healthy Lifestyles<br>Dodgeball Tournaments   | Financial<br>Fundraising Incentives    | Human Resources<br>Breakfast on the Farm |
| Supervised Ag Experiences<br>SAE Workshops    | Public Relations<br>Newsletters        | Economics<br>Cans for Cancer             |
| Ag Career Skills<br>Career Development Events | Recruitment<br>FFA Week                | Ag Awareness<br>Kindergarten on the Farm |





Welcome to a retreat full of exciting sights and new experiences! When planning your retreat, consider going somewhere far from your chapter, like a beach house on the California Coast or weekend in San Francisco!



It's not always about the destination, but about the memories made along the journey. Plan ahead to discover various locations a few hours apart of each other, and set out on an adventure with your teammates to reach all those destinations in a few nights while you bond in the ag van. Don't forget the auxiliary cord!



It looks like your team is all for a new adventure and being close to nature! Your team can enjoy going on hikes and spending time around the camp fire telling stories while you spend a few nights outdoors. Maybe backpacking through Yosemite would be your team's dream destination? Or even a cabin in Sierra Nevada? How about creek walking down Grizzly Creek!

Whether you set-up a tent in the backyard, have a massive sleepover in someone's living room, or stargaze all night on the roof, stay-cations are the perfect way to get comfortable with your team. Rent a movie, roast some marshmallows, play endless backyard games, make pizzas blindfolded, and create great memories all from the comfort of your home.



# OUTSTANDING CHAPTER

## O'Neals- Minarets FFA

The O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter is a progressive 21st Century Chapter that holds true to the long established goals of the FFA, by putting a modern twist on those time honored traditions. In 2007, the Chawanakee Unified School District decided to offer all science classes through our Agriculture Department, giving the opportunity for any student to benefit from the leadership offered by the FFA program. As a result, the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter has fostered highly competitive SAE projects, multiple regional and sectional officers, as well as many CDE State Champions. All of these accomplishments can be attributed to the time and devotion each member has put into their individual endeavors.

Striving for success has become a habit in our Chapter. With this mind-set O'Neals-Minarets has gained 2 National Championships; one for Advanced Parliamentary Procedure in 2012 and one for Livestock Evaluation in 2014. Not only does this Chapter foster competitive teams, but they offer a plethora of contests and activities for members to get involved in. Aside from Career Development Events, premier leadership is apparent and growing within this Chapter. In its short lifespan, O'Neals-Minarets has had 5 regional officers as well as multiple sectional officers. All these members have pushed themselves to serve the California FFA and this is illustrated by their involvement in conferences at all



levels whether they are participants or delegates responsible for the representation of their chapter, section, region or state.

O'Neals-Minarets has been diversifying their program to reach out to students who are interested in mechanics, horticulture, floriculture, veterinary science or aquaponics. Over the past 7 years we have received a \$4.2 million grant to build a state of the art mechanics and floral facility

---

*This FFA Chapter draws from the culture set forth at Minarets High School to create a family-like atmosphere...*

---

with 3 shop bays and 2 classrooms. We have secured another \$130,000 in grants to develop a livestock barn, portable farrowing house and greenhouse. Recently, students in the horticulture class were able to grow and sell succulents as water efficient decorative plants for home gardens and yards. The income brought in from this project went to purchasing new plants as well as expanding the horticulture facility to include a new Aquaponics system allowing FFA members to

experiment with fish and aquatic plant growth.

However the one thing that makes the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter unique is its welcoming atmosphere. This FFA Chapter draws from the culture set forth at Minarets High School to create a family-like atmosphere within the Chapter and its members. You will often see Minarets Parli Pro members playing games with other Chapters in the holding rooms during a parli-pro contest. You'll find members creating new friendships and talking to everyone at CDE contests, or lending a helping hand to those beginning members at a fair. Wherever or whenever, an O'Neals-Minarets member is sure to be there to lend a hand or create a laugh.

The tradition of success and friendship that stands strong in the O'Neals-Minarets FFA Chapter is still blossoming and shall be amplified in the coming years of this Chapter. While holding true to the traditions set forth in the FFA, O'Neals-Minarets FFA is putting their own 21st century twist on these customs. So the next time you visit our website or you see a tweet, text, blog post or even laugh at that Instagram picture, think of Minarets and join with us in pushing the boundaries on the path to greatness. •







*Photo captions* Opposite page, clockwise starting at top: Minarets FFA members experiencing the 2014 FFA State Conference; members pose at the community service event "Bass Lake Cleanup" after spending the day cleaning the lake; 2014 Chapter Officer Team working on their connections at the San Joaquin Region Bootcamp. This page, clockwise starting

at upper left: Students took their SAEs to a new level, each competing in the 2014 Madera Fair Round Robin; Members pose at Churchill Downs after attending the 2014 National Convention; O'Neals- Minarets FFA week is a big event, here members celebrate FFA Week with the Hay Bucking Contest during lunch; 2014 State Proficiency Winners slaved over their record

books and in their individual endeavors to bring high honors to themselves and Minarets FFA; With dedication and hard work, these Minarets FFA members achieved high honors becoming the 2014 National Champion Livestock Evaluation Team; and Officer Team poses for a picture after working hard at their chapter officer retreat.





**Hello**  
my name is

*Your New  
State Officer Team*



**President**

**V. President**

Name

**Joelle Lewis**

**Sydnie Sousa**

FFA Chapter

San Luis Obispo FFA

Tulare FFA

SAE

Swine, Ag Education and Ag Communications

Dairy Cattle Entrepreneurship

College, to start Fall 2016!

University of Washington

College of the Sequoias

Career Goal

I hope for a job where I communicate for the industry while being creative.

Lawyer

Birthday

March 6, 1997

January 29, 1996

Favorite Movie

Remember the Titans

Australia

Favorite Food

Avocados. I love avocados!

Salmon with Asparagus!

Favorite Book

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou

Favorite Quote

"Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody"  
- Kid President

"I am not bound to win, but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live by the light that I have. I must stand with anybody that stand right, and stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."  
Abraham Lincoln

Favorite Song

Feel Again by OneRepublic or Shut Up and Dance by Walk the Moon

Anyways Martina McBride

Favorite Joke

What does a nosey pepper do?  
Get jalapeno your business.  
(badumcha)

"As a young boy, Brutus' mother often cautioned him not to run with Caesars." (A total history geek who enjoys puns)

Favorite Sport

Tennis (ping pong is a close second though)

Soccer- who doesn't enjoy screaming GOAAALLL

Biggest Fear

SPIDERS

FROGS! Ew!

Starbucks Drink

Chai Tea Latte

Arnold Palmer

Hobbies

I love to play the guitar, make collages, paint, and watch Netflix!

Being outside, riding my horse, and spending time with friends and family!

What are you looking forward to most about this year?

Specifically, I am really looking forward to COLC's and SOLC's, but overall I am simply BEYOND excited to meet and interact with so many different members this year.

I cannot wait to see and learn about the plethora of projects, talents, and hard work members have utilized to make their experience in this organization exceptional!





**Secretary**



**Treasurer**



**Reporter**

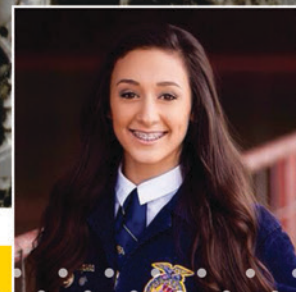
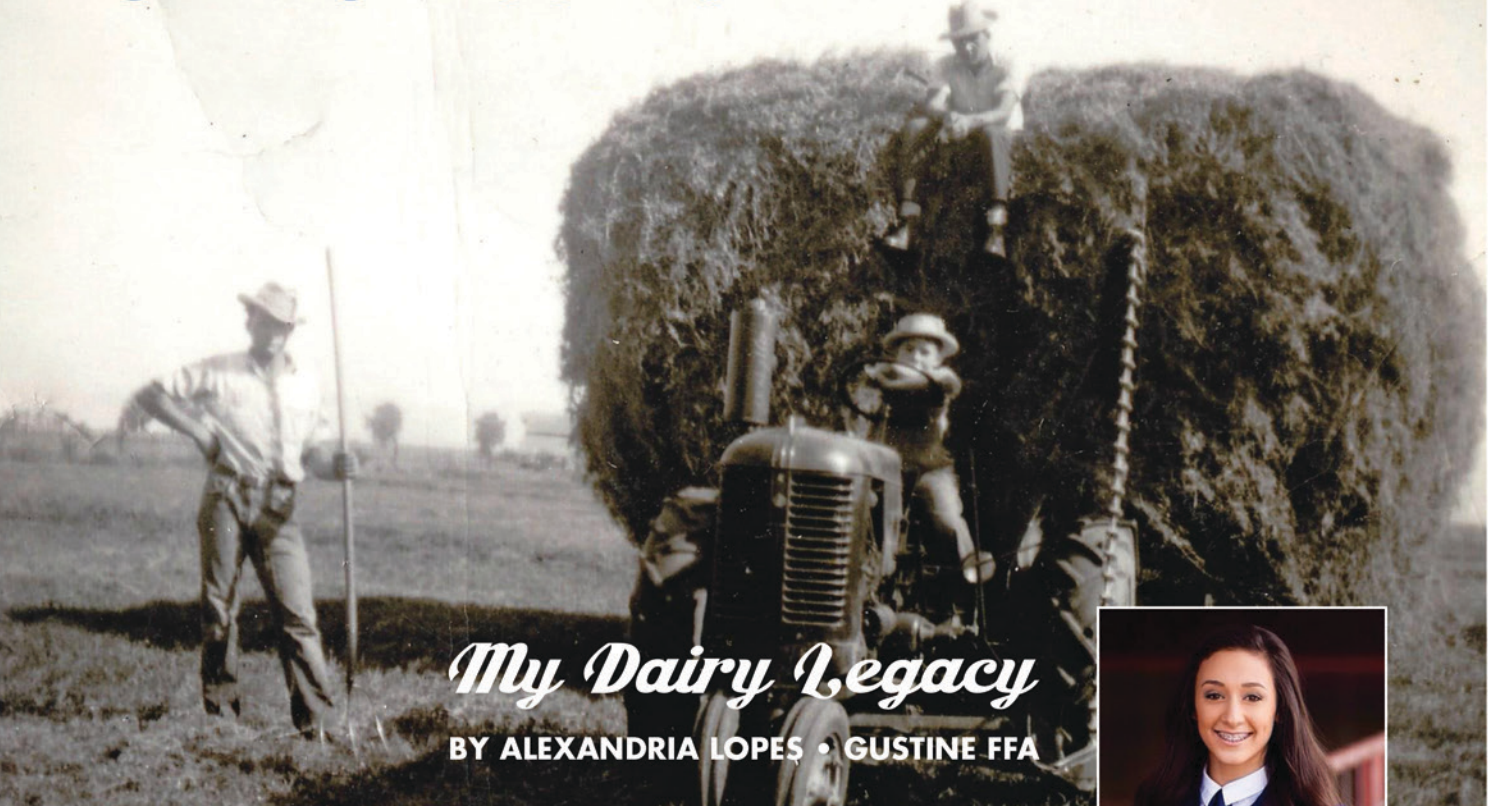


**Sentinel**

| Brianna Holbert                                                                                                             | Trevor Autry                                                                                                              | Danielle Diele                                                                                                                                      | Tim Truax                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lodi - Tokay FFA                                                                                                            | Nipomo FFA                                                                                                                | Merced - Golden Valley FFA                                                                                                                          | Pitman FFA                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Floriculture                                                                                                                | Montezuma Oat hay production and Beef Production                                                                          | Swine Production and Agricultural Law Internship                                                                                                    | Entrepreneurship-Sheep Shearing, Ownership-Market Lamb                                                                                                                                       |
| Chico State                                                                                                                 | Junior College for Livestock Judging                                                                                      | Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo                                                                                                                           | Modesto Junior College in hopes of transferring to Fresno State                                                                                                                              |
| Becoming an Ag Ed Teacher                                                                                                   | Agricultural Educator                                                                                                     | Agricultural Marketing Representative                                                                                                               | I plan to earn my degree in Ruminant Nutrition and work as a Consulting Nutritionist                                                                                                         |
| August 18, 1997                                                                                                             | September 5, 1997                                                                                                         | September 13, 1996                                                                                                                                  | December 14, 1995                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Ferris Beuler's Day Off                                                                                                     | 8 Seconds                                                                                                                 | Anything with Leonardo DiCaprio                                                                                                                     | The Guardian                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Chocolate                                                                                                                   | Mexican food                                                                                                              | Ice Cream                                                                                                                                           | Anything at Applebees                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1984 by George Orwell                                                                                                       | Hatchet                                                                                                                   | 40 Chances: Finding Hope in A Hungry World by Howard G. Buffet                                                                                      | Of Mice and Men. It's simple and doesn't take too much thinking to figure it out!                                                                                                            |
| "I'm bad, and that's good. I will never be good, and that's not bad. There's no one I'd rather be than me." -Wreck it Ralph | "Wish It, Dream It, Do It"                                                                                                | "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses." - Abraham Lincoln                                    | "Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% of how you react to it"                                                                                                                          |
| Iris by The Goo Goo Dolls                                                                                                   | This Kind of Town                                                                                                         | Bonfire Heart - James Blunt                                                                                                                         | Friends in Low Places-Garth Brooks                                                                                                                                                           |
| What is red and smells like blue paint? Red Paint                                                                           | Knock Knock                                                                                                               | Do you want to hear a joke about California's number one commodity? Nevermind, its too cheesy!                                                      | Why does Snoop Dog carry an umbrella? Fo' Drizzle!                                                                                                                                           |
| Basketball                                                                                                                  | Baseball                                                                                                                  | Water Polo                                                                                                                                          | Golf                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Falling off a Ferris Wheel                                                                                                  | Rattle Snakes                                                                                                             | Letting Others Down                                                                                                                                 | Letting someone down                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Caramel Ribbon Crunch Frappe'                                                                                               | Coffee                                                                                                                    | Caramel Macchiato                                                                                                                                   | I'm simple - white mocha                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Playing videos games, board games with friends, and shooting some hoop.                                                     | Hunting and fishing, really anything outside!                                                                             | Skiing, wakeboarding, hiking, surfing                                                                                                               | Duck Hunting, Fishing, Shooting, Golfing                                                                                                                                                     |
| Being able to travel the state, meet different people, and gain new perspectives about life and ag.                         | I can't wait to get to know members on a personal level and make a difference as well as being a part of a family of six! | I am extremely excited and anxious to build relationships with members during chapter visits, as well as learn more about diversity in agriculture! | Getting to know the stories of members from different walks of life. It's important to know the diversity within the organization and how FFA has made a positive difference in their lives! |



# BELIEVING IN THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE



Dairying has been a tradition that long outnumbers my years. Manuel Lopes, my great-grandfather on my father's side came to America from the Azores Islands at the young age of 13. Over time he worked his way west and ended up in California. He had a dream of working in San Diego as a fisherman, but ran out of money. So he got off of the train and took a job milking cows in Gustine, then finally, years later he started his own dairy farm. My Grandfather Tony Lopes was literally born into dairying as his mother was milking the cows when she went into labor. Many years later he would begin his own dairy farm. My Grandparents on my mother's side were also heavily involved in the dairy industry. My grandfather Tony Oliveira has been dairying for over 60 years, as he helped his father run the business from a very young age. Once he

met my grandmother, who was milking cows at the time, they fell in love, got married and soon started a dairying tradition of their own. On both sides of my family, this has occurred within a two-mile radius of where my brother and I have grown up. It's crazy to look around and realize that the old dairies and fields around me are filled with such rich family history.

In my family we have always had a rule, at 8 years old you get to pick one calf from the dairy to have as your own. I had been waiting for my opportunity since as long as I could remember, and finally the day came for me to pick out my very own calf. While on my way to go work on the dairy with my dad one day, a certain newborn calf caught my eye. The black calf was the smallest compared to those around her and I instantly fell in love. Looking back at this moment I can only chuckle at my

naïve choice of this one animal that started my herd, who was selected only because I thought she was cute. Since then I have taken pride in working not only with my personal herd, but at the other dairies as well.

Living on a dairy farm has changed the way I live my life. It has instilled a good work ethic within me, a sense of responsibility, and has built many lasting friendships along the way. Once, when my dad was short a worker to swath alfalfa, I was put on the job. I can remember getting a quick lesson on how to do it and getting told numerous times what buttons NOT to touch. Half way through the field I had to call my Dad back to fix my mistakes because I had lost track of where the levees were. Driving around Gustine you could tell which fields I had done because of all the parts I had missed and all the curvy windrows. Whether





it was fighting with my brother on who's turn it was to go to work with Dad as a child, waking up at 4 am to go pour ice water on the back of my show cows because an old wives tale says it will make their topline grow, or having to feed calves before we could open presents on Christmas morning, these experiences will forever hold a special place in my heart.

When my great grandparents and grandparents got involved in the dairy industry, they had no idea of what was going to come about because of that decision. They

passed down the tradition of dairy farming to their sons and daughters for generations and generations, and I am blessed to be involved in such a great industry today. I am proud to say my foundation in Dairying has made me the young women I am today. •

*Photo Captions, clockwise starting on opposite page: The dairying legacy going back to 1945 as my grandfather Tony Lopes and great uncles picked up loose hay to haul to the barn on a wagon (my grandfather*

*is sitting on the top of the hay); Alexandria showing her replacement heifer, Karisma, this past year in FFA; Alexandria and her older brother, Tony, jumping in the hay as kids after a long day out on the dairy; The Lopes family on the dairy where my Great Grandfather Antonio Oliveira started his roots as a dairyman; and Alexandria's first year showing in 4-H with her calf, Tinkerbelle, at the local county fair, the calf that started it all!*







# FOOD SAFETY: WHOSE FAULT IS IT ANYWAY?

By: Emma Jones,  
Bear River FFA  
2015 California  
State, Prepared  
Public Speaking  
Champion



Can you name your favorite Starbucks™ beverage? Maybe it's a caramel Frappuccino® with extra whip and drizzle before a livestock auction, or five shots of espresso anytime you get in the car with your advisor. Perhaps you are more of a shaken-passion-tea-lemonade at a contest kind of person. We each may have different tastes when it comes to our food and drink, but one thing each of these beverages has in common... they don't make us sick. In a perfect world, we can enjoy any coffee without fear of food-borne illness, but in all reality, some foods from time to time, become unsafe which poses the question: whose fault is it?

The initial answer may be "producers." After all, farmers, processors, and distributors have incredible responsibility. These agriculturists take a number of precautions throughout production to prevent this risk. Some products are treated with sprays while others are irradiated. Production facilities use barcodes for produce and ear tags for livestock to trace the steps food items take, minimize potential risk factors, and decrease outbreak response time. Additionally the agriculture industry sets standards through Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans and legislation to ensure safe food operations.

So who comes next in the blame game? In many instances bacteria can contaminate food in our own kitchen. Many consumers do not follow protocols such as using separate surfaces and utensils for meat and veggies, cooking foods through at the proper temperature, or maintaining good refrigeration, freezing, and thawing practices. These necessary household lessons are no longer taught as commonly as before since it is easier to throw some instant macaroni and cheese in the microwave than it is to make a cheese and pasta casserole. Consumers may purchase contaminated food products from a store at some point. In many of these situations, illness can be prevented through proper food preparation at home.

Another way producers ensure safety is through third party auditors. Starbucks uses EcoSure, a company that sets standards in addition to the state and federal regulations. At quarterly intervals, an inspector goes through a safety checklist, ensuring that all standards are met. So,

try inspecting your own kitchen and see if you as a consumer, meet household standards.

Household food safety checklist:

1. Do you designate separate cutting boards for meat, poultry, and vegetables?
2. Is there a working meat thermometer available to ensure temperatures of cooked meats
3. Is the temperature in the refrigerator above 32°F and below 40°F?
4. Does your sink get washed and sanitized every day?
5. Is your kitchen free from expired foods (per expiration date)?

If you answered yes to at least 4 of these questions, you are likely following pretty safe standards. If the answer was "no" to more than one question, you may want to re-evaluate your own "operation" to play your role in food safety.

*Photo Captions: top left; Barcodes are used to track produce back to identify how it was shipped, where it was packaged or processed, where it was picked, and even the crew that picked it. Top right; EcoSure takes opportunities to coach on food standards and implementation when there is an opportunity to do so. Right; Logical as they may seem, many consumers do not follow standards, such as these, in their home. Do you?*





# Alumni in Action...

## MICHELLE JIMENEZ FROM SOLEDAD FFA

Have you ever been asked: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" It's a difficult question to answer – a question I never really liked. The world is full of many opportunities, so how do you discover the career that is meant for you? For me, without FFA, I am certain I would not have discovered such a dynamic, challenging and fun career in agriculture. My story starts as a shy, timid freshman joining FFA simply because I thought raising a pig would be fun. I never dreamt selecting an Ag class my 8th grade year would change my life. Not only did FFA allow me to meet my best friends, travel around North America and become a leader, it helped shape me into the person I am. For that, I am thankful!

I look back at my "blue and gold" days and know that FFA helped me secure and advance in the career I have now. While interviewing for my internship at Dole in college, I used my FFA skills to ace that interview (thanks Mrs. Ramirez for pushing me to compete in public speaking). When I became a supervisor, I used my FFA skills to always be professional and present my work via PowerPoints confidently and effectively to senior management (thank you Mr. Beard for teaching me that practice

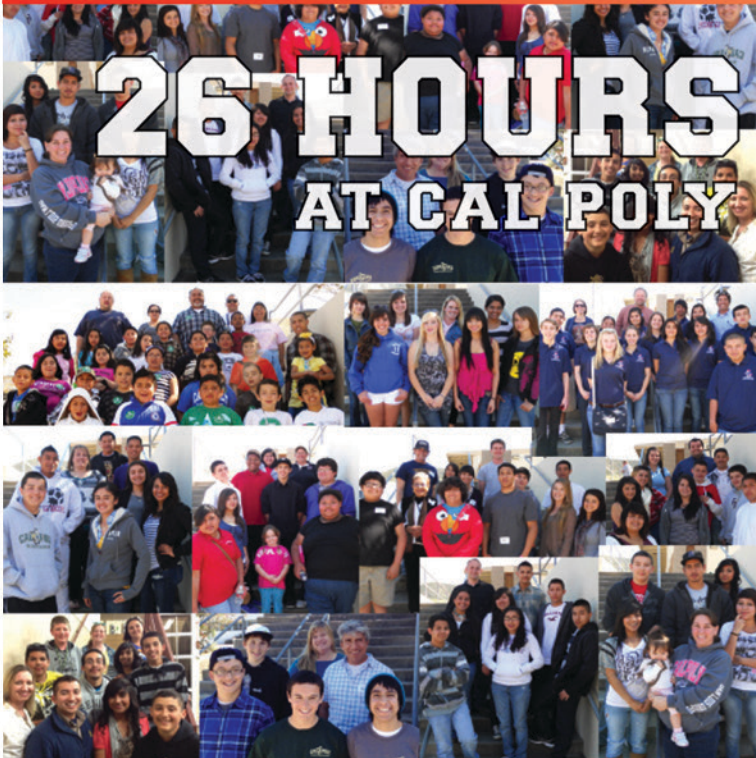
makes perfect). Now as a manager, I use my FFA skills more than ever! Just like FFA taught me, I have a firm handshake whenever I meet a new farmer, I treat everybody with respect and dignity, and I always remember to lead with passion (Mr. Parker you taught me that passion is all the difference; thank you!).

Choosing a career is not easy; it's not supposed to be. I encourage you to think of what makes you happy, but also challenges you. With passion and drive, any career is possible! •

*Photo captions top to bottom; Michelle served as the 2007-08 CA FFA State Secretary when their 80th State FFA Conference theme was Inspiring Excellence; Michelle's days in Food Safety are ever changing. One day she can be in the field with muddy boots; the next, she can be in slacks meeting with executive management. Or she can be jumping on a plane to visit a grower on the east coast or even in Canada! Here is Michelle attending the United Fresh Conference in Chicago, Illinois; Her state office teammates are still five of her best and closest friends. She looks forward to their annual winter reunion every year!*



PAST



In 1987 the program "26 Hours of Science and Technology in Agriculture" was created as a senior project at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, with the goal to promote diversity, encourage students to seek a higher education, and allow participation to explore the many facets of agriculture.

The Latinos in Agriculture, an affiliate student organization at Cal Poly, directed the program, which included applied laboratory workshops, financial advisement for college, and various other events that allow students to experience student life at Cal Poly.

One of the many FFA programs to travel to Cal Poly was Carpinteria Agriculture Science and Technology Academy (ASTA). All of the nine students attending were so excited about their experience and learned a lot. Freshman Cassandra Quintero remembers, "By participating in the different workshops it helped open my eyes to all the different aspects in agriculture. I really enjoyed all the different activities we did, and also how we had a student seminar where everyone who participated got to ask all the college students questions."

Carpinteria students would like to thank their sole ag advisor, Mr. John Avila. He dedicates his time to give his students every opportunity to succeed inside and out of the classroom through programs such as "26 Hours"! •

Submitted by Kayla Meza, Carpinteria FFA







## **DEL NORTE FFA** **A Day at the Farm**

*Submitted by Taylor Jones, Chapter Reporter*

This May, the Del Norte FFA chapter in the North Coast Region hosted "A Day at the Farm". We had 120 special needs students from our community come to the Del Norte County Fairgrounds for a fun filled day of learning about agriculture. We had stations with everything from sheep to ice cream making conducted by our members. At each of the animal stations, the kids had the chance to meet the animals and learn about their place in the agriculture industry. Then they rotated between stations such as Dairy Products and Ice Cream Making to do hands-on activities. A parent of one of the students stated at the conclusion of the day "my son and his classmates had a blast! Talking about it days later you could see the excitement as his eyes and smile lit up. My son doesn't reach for anything, but you can see him reaching to pet the bunny! Big deal for us." We ended the day by giving showmanship demonstrations and inviting volunteers into the ring to try and show the animals.

## **HUGHSON FFA** **Camp Sylvester**

*Submitted by Shania DeJarnett, Chapter Reporter*

Our chapter had an opportunity to be a part of an experience of a lifetime. We attended a chapter officer leadership conference at Camp Sylvester. At the conference, chapter officers from the TriRivers Section and Stanislaus Tuolumne Section met with other chapter officers and shared chapter event ideas. Nineteen chapters attended, including 181 students, all under the supervision of twenty-six advisors. The Hughson FFA officer team learned the duties of our positions, competed in multiple team building activities, and learned many ways to better our FFA Chapter. A key moment of the camp occurred during the team building activities. We learned how to work as a team, the importance of communication, the ability to help out others, and how to step up as a leader. We can't wait to take all of the new ideas, team building activities, and leadership qualities and implement them into Hughson FFA!



## Your Chapter **FFA**

### **Let Us Know Your Chapter's Scoop! Here's how...**

**1) Submit a 100-150 word article about your chapter's recent activity.**

- a. Please do not include members or advisors names within the article.  
b. The article should be about an interesting/unique type of FFA activity. This is an opportunity to showcase new and innovative chapter activities.

**2) Attach a GREAT quality digital photo.**

- a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.

- b. Photos must include members with appropriate clothing & behavior.  
c. Photos must be sent as individual jpeg files.

**3) Email the above information to [caffainsert@yahoo.com](mailto:caffainsert@yahoo.com).**

The Subject of the email must include your chapter's name. In the email, please include the author of the chapter scoop and title of the article.

**4) Please reference page two for CA FFA News Submission Deadlines**





## OAKDALE FFA

# National Ag Day Celebration and Education

*Submitted by Liza Marsella*

Central Region's Oakdale FFA chapter celebrated National AG day with the elementary schools in their community! Eight of their dedicated members spent the day at either Sierra View Elementary or Magnolia Elementary, to teach kids from kindergarten to sixth grade about agriculture and FFA. With a grand total of 1,310 students, they talked about what different things their chapter has to offer with farming and agriculture. They even talked to them about SAE's and what their own projects were to inspire them to become more involved in their communities. Oakdale's team also showed that you don't have to be born on a farm to be a part of an agricultural lifestyle. Talking to younger students is a great way to reach out to our future generations to inspire, connect, and ensure a great future for your community, state, or even country.

## SANTA MARIA FFA Memorial Day Ceremony

*Submitted by Adriana Arias*

With more than 800 members, the Santa Maria FFA has been living to serve this past year by taking part in various community service activities. One recent event involved members working with the local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Organization in order to give back to those who gave their lives for the freedom of our country. In honor of these individuals, Santa Maria FFA members visited the local cemetery on May 24, 2015 for the annual Memorial Day Flag Posting Ceremony. More than 2,000 flags were posted to commemorate the Memorial Day and fallen soldiers. The Santa Maria FFA officer team was also recognized for their efforts in helping with the Memorial Day Ceremony. As FFA members we realize the importance of freedom and we recognize the hard work of those who have fought and given their lives in order to secure it.



## WOODLAKE FFA FFA Rally

*Submitted by Jason Ferreira*

To end a successful FFA Week, the Woodlake FFA Chapter hosted a FFA themed pep-rally for FFA members. The rally consisted of recognizing the different judging and leadership competition teams Woodlake High School has to offer. To get the crowd pumped up, the Woodlake Chapter Officer Team created games and competitions that related to each of the teams offered. One example included the members of the citrus judging team competing in an orange squeezing contest, where the member who squeezed the most orange juice the fastest won a prize. Members showed their FFA spirit by dressing up in FFA colors and paraphernalia as well as participating in the games. As a recruitment piece, we invited a few of our non-ag members to the rally in hopes of getting more kids involved in the FFA program.

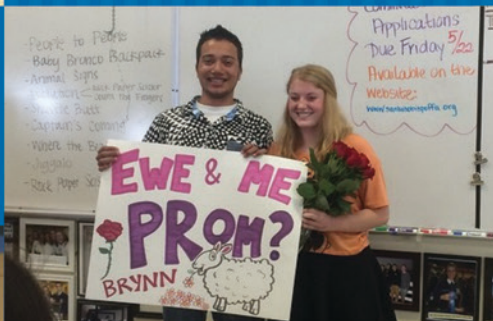


# #Promposals

BY LUKE O' LEARY  
SAN LUIS OBISPO FFA

If it has four legs, rolls around in dirt, or comes from the floral cooler, we can find a way to ask a blue jacket damsel to dance with us. We are trading in the corduroy for a suit and tie but hold the dress shoes, we already have a pair. Check out how these FFA members are getting creative with their #promposals!

**BAILEY VASOV  
& CORY DELISLE**



**BRYNN ROBELLA  
& MIGUEL LUA**



**CLARE BACKENS  
& LUKE O' LEARY**



**HOLLY MAC FARLANE  
& KELLAN HUBER**



**HAILEY ROBELLA &  
VAUGHN PAVLOVICH**



**ELLIE BORBA &  
CONNER VERNON**

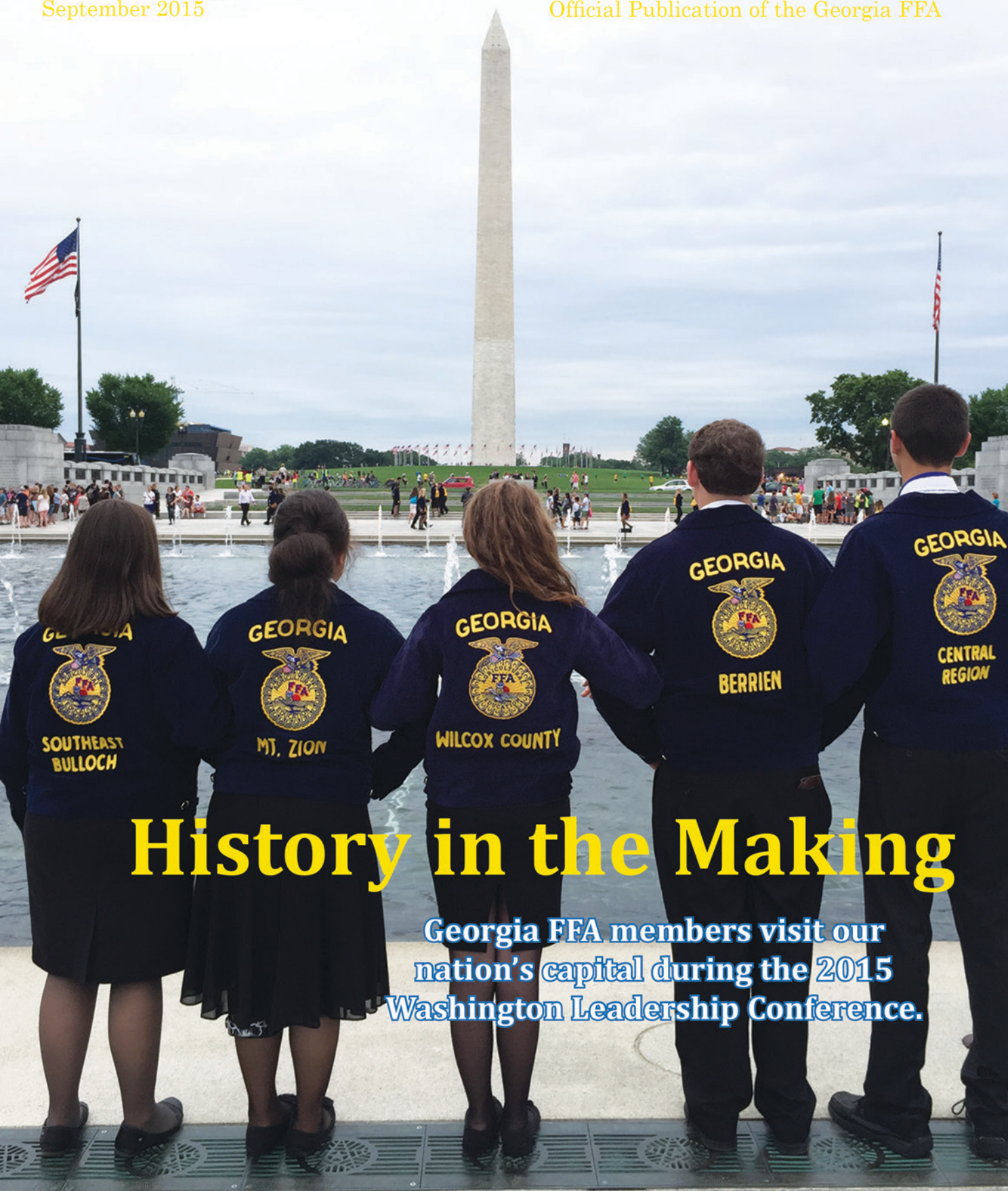




# Georgia FFA News

September 2015

Official Publication of the Georgia FFA



## History in the Making

Georgia FFA members visit our  
nation's capital during the 2015  
Washington Leadership Conference.



# Georgia FFA visits D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Forty Georgians spent a week in our nation's capital in June for the Washington Leadership Conference.

The Georgia FFA members, advisors and staff who attended loaded a charter bus, sponsored by the Georgia FFA Alumni, on Monday,

June 15. On Tuesday, June 16, the Georgia party arrived in the D.C. area and visited Mt. Vernon, the historic home of our nation's first president, George Washington.

Tuesday afternoon the conference began with an engagement activity hosted by CSX.

On Wednesday, the WLC group visited Arlington National Cemetery where they observed the powerful Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. That evening the FFA members participated in the Night Tour of historic monuments in Washington D.C. including the Lincoln, Vietnam, Jefferson, MLK, FDR, and Korean War memorials.

Thursday brought a visit to Capitol Hill, allowing FFA members and advisors the opportunity to visit their Congressmen and Senators. Georgia Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson met with the Georgia FFA members, taking time for questions and photos. Former Georgia FFA members



Georgia FFA members gather at the Lincoln Memorial during the Night Tour of D.C. Photo by: Georgia FFA

who are serving as Legislative Interns in D.C. arranged for Georgia FFA members to tour the United States Capitol building.

FFA members also had the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian museums

including the Newseum, and museums of Natural History, American History and Air and Space. The week concluded with a community service project that saw FFA members help pack more than 200,000 meals to benefit the millions of Americans who are food insecure.

The Washington Leadership Conference is sponsored by CSX, Monsanto, TransCanada, BNSF, Crop Production Services, and Growth Energy on the national level.

## 2015 WLC Attendees

Reese Johnson (Berrien County)  
Ben Murray (Berrien County)  
Bailey Parrish (C.A. Gray Jr. High)  
Morgan Hart (Colquitt County)  
Garrett Harrell (Colquitt County)  
Noah Malcolm (Eastside)  
Austin Beard (Effingham County)  
Kylie Bruce (Franklin County)  
Reagan Floyd (Franklin County)  
Halie Jo Godwin (Franklin County)  
Taylor Gunter (Franklin County)  
Brittany Morrison (Franklin County)  
Chelsea Yearwood (Franklin County)  
Hunter Stillwell (Gilmer County)  
Eryn Elliott (Jefferson City)  
Levi Simmons (Madison County)  
Sarah Spradlin (Madison County)  
Gracie Moon (Madison County)  
Sydney Arnold (Madison County)  
Jenna Wood (Madison County)

Viral Patel (Madison County)  
Sydney Thomas (Miller County)  
Jaime Contreras (Mt. Zion)  
Emily Brogdon (North Murray)  
Reaganne Coile (North Oconee)  
Justin Daniel (North Oconee)  
Autumn Lankford (Northwest Whitfield)  
Jared Daniel (Oconee County)  
Madison Watson (Peach County)  
Cheyenne Galloway (Piedmont Academy)  
Lauren Dubberly (Southeast Bulloch)  
Adam Penland (Townsend County)  
Eliza Drew Willingham (Wilcox County)  
Tyler Wise (Wilcox County)

Mrs. Hope Carter (staff)  
Mrs. Trisha Lastly (advisor)  
Mrs. Ruby McCracken (advisor)  
Ms. Shelly Patton (advisor)  
Mr. Ricky Wheeler (staff)



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## Georgia FFA Executive Team



**President**  
Avery Duncan (Franklin County)

**Secretary**  
Ian Bennett (Lowndes County)

**Vice Presidents**  
Faith Gilman (East Jackson)  
Andy Kate McCannon (Oconee County)  
Lucious Hodges (Peach County)  
Mary Kaitlyn Wheeler (East Laurens)  
Angel Rewis (Clinch County)  
Christen Flowers (Brantley County)

|                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>State Advisor</b>           | <b>Executive Secretary</b> |
| John "Chip" Bridges<br>Atlanta | Ben Lastly<br>Athens       |

## The Georgia FFA News

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[www.georgiaffa.org](http://www.georgiaffa.org)



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Facebook.com/GeorgiaFFA







"As I interviewed for veterinary school this year, I was amazed at how much more hands-on experience I had than some of the other students. I wouldn't be as prepared as I am today without CAES."

**Madison Berger** • BSA – ANIMAL SCIENCE AND DAIRY SCIENCE, '15

CAES GRADUATES HAVE THE  
**3<sup>RD</sup>** HIGHEST  
STARTING  
SALARIES  
AMONG UGA COLLEGES WITH  
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES.



WE HAVE 3 CAMPUSES  
ON 15,822 ACRES FOR  
LEARNING, RESEARCH  
AND EXTENSION.



# WHY CHOOSE CAES?

Agricultural and environmental sciences are only as important as the food you eat, the clothes you wear, and the water and air around you. **Our world-renowned scientists and exceptional students strive to improve the quality and guard the safety of life's necessities.**

**U.S. News & World Report named The University of Georgia a top 20 public research university.** Half of the UGA Inventors of the Year have been from CAES. Not only are our faculty top research scientists, but they are also really great teachers.

THE MEDIAN  
SALARY FOR  
CAES GRADUATES  
IS \$40,000.



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**CHRISTEN FLOWERS**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
Brantley County FFA



**AVERY DUNCAN**  
2015-16 State President  
Franklin County FFA



**LUCOUIS HODGES**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
Peach County FFA



**FAITH GILMAN**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
East Jackson FFA

GEOR



ASSOC



RGIA

**ANGEL REWIS**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
Clinch County FFA



**IAN BENNETT**  
2015-16 State Secretary  
Lowndes County FFA

**MARY KAITLYN WHEELER**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
East Laurens FFA



**ANDY KATE MCCANNON**  
2015-16 State V.P.  
Oconee County FFA



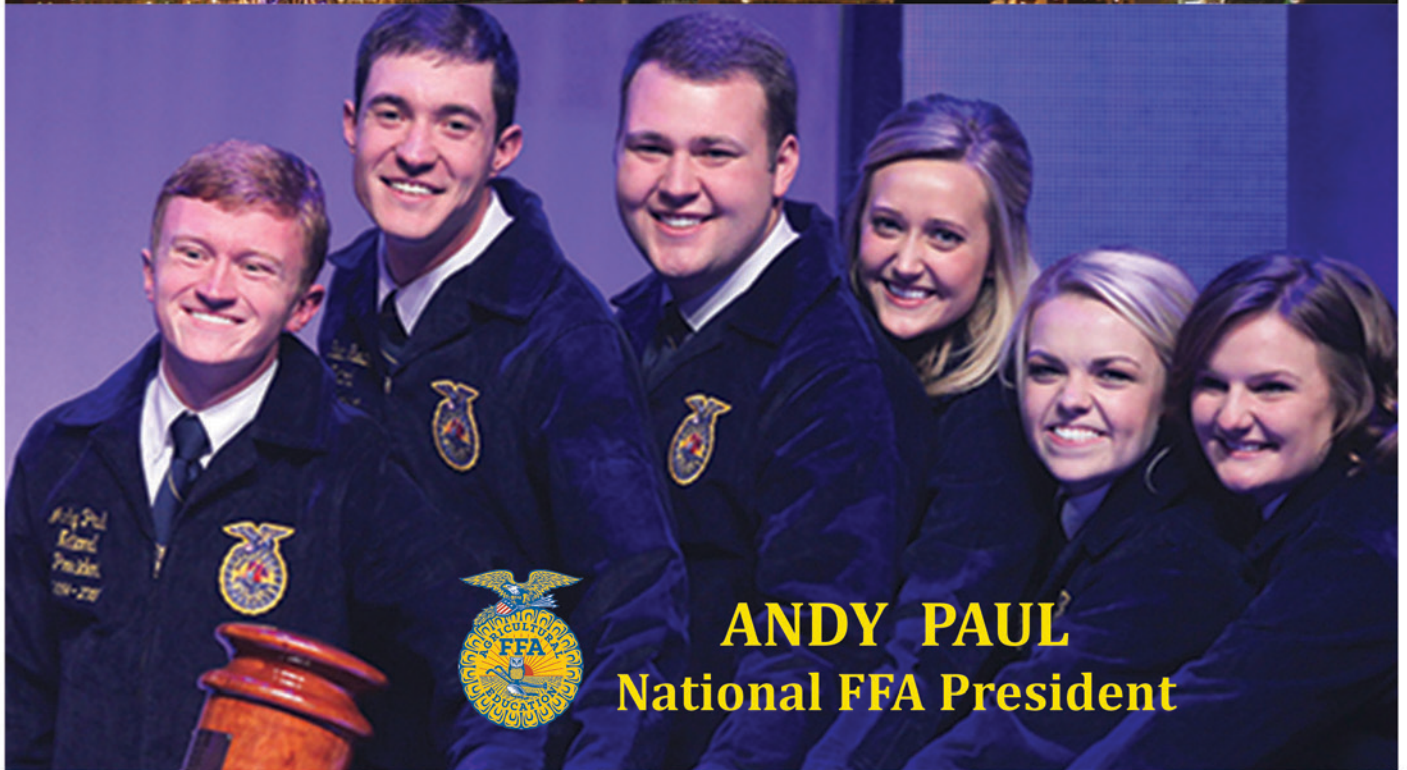
IA TION



# 88th National FFA Convention

October 28 - 31, 2015

Louisville, Kentucky



**ANDY PAUL**  
National FFA President

## Georgia's 2015 National FFA CDE contestants

**Agricultural Communications CDE**  
Franklin County

**Farm Business Management CDE**  
Wayne County

**Nursery/Landscape CDE**  
Sonoraville

**Agricultural Mechanics CDE**  
White County

**Floriculture CDE**  
Franklin County

**Parliamentary Procedure CDE**  
White County

**Agricultural Sales CDE**  
Gordon-Lee

**Forestry CDE**  
Echols County

**Poultry Evaluation CDE**  
Banks County

**Agronomy**  
Metter

**Horse Evaluation CDE**  
Morgan County

**Prepared Public Speaking CDE**  
Chandler-Kyle, Madison County

**Creed Speaking CDE**  
Holly Mixon (Malcom Bridge Middle)  
Rural, Wright

**Job Interview CDE**  
Faith Gilman (East Jackson)

**Dairy Evaluation CDE**  
Houston County

**Livestock Evaluation CDE**  
Franklin County

**National Officer Candidate**  
Abbey Gretsch (Athens Christian)

**Environmental/Natural Resources CDE**  
Banks County

**Marketing Plan CDE**  
Colquitt County

**Extemporaneous Speaking CDE**  
Ian Bennett (Lowndes County)

**Meats Evaluation CDE**  
Veterans





# Georgia FFA's 2015 National Proficiency Award contestants

**Agricultural Communications**  
Bode Brooks (Chattooga County)

**Agricultural Education**  
Addie Thomason (Franklin County)

**Agricultural Mech. Energy Systems**  
Erik Lovvorn (Bowdon)

**Agricultural Mechanics Fab & Design**  
John David Sheppard (Screven County)

**Agricultural Mech Repair & Maint. – E**  
Doug Evans (East Jackson)

**Agricultural Mech Repair & Maint. – P**  
Ezekiel Smith (Ware County)

**Agricultural Processing**  
Daniel Timothy McMillan (Berrien Co)

**Agricultural Sales – E**  
Sean Freeman (White County)

**Agricultural Sales – P**  
Bryan Tucker (Irwin County)

**Agricultural Services**  
Lucas Brock (Bowdon)

**Agricultural Research - Animal**  
Lori Edwards (Sonoraville)

**Agricultural Research – Integrated**  
Briah Thompson-Carter (Cedar Shoals)

**Agricultural Research – Plant**  
Chance Hingson (Lowndes County)

**Beef Production – E**  
Kevin Edwards (Sonoraville)

**Beef Production – P**  
Tate Knight (Cass)

**Dairy Production – E**  
James Holton (Dawson County)

**Dairy Production – P**  
Andrew James Cape (North Hall)

**Diversified Agricultural Production**  
Lauren Braddy (Montgomery County)

**Diversified Crop Production – E**  
Landon Herring (Lowndes County)

**Diversified Crop Production – P**  
Haden Ariail (Franklin County)

**Diversified Horticulture**  
Caleb Trites (Franklin County)

**Diversified Livestock Production**  
Zachary Weaver (Screven County)

**Emerging Agricultural Technology**  
Ian Bennett (Lowndes County)

**Environmental/Natural Resources**  
Sarah Spradlin (Madison County)

**Equine Science – E**  
Misty King (Apalachee)

**Equine Science – P**  
Sadie Hobbs (White County)

**Fiber & Oil Crop Production**  
Brad Sanders (Toombs County)

**Food & Science Technology**  
Viral Patel (Madison County)

**Forage Production**  
Levi Simmons (Madison County)

**Forest Management & Products**  
Paton Day (Newton County)

**Fruit Production**  
Faith Gilman (East Jackson)

**Goat Production**  
Caroline Sapp (South Effingham)

**Grain Production – E**  
Daniel Williams (Telfair County)

**Grain Production – P**  
Justin Womack (Cedartown)

**Home and/or Community Development**  
Hayden Bailey (Madison County)

**Landscape Management**  
Marshall Duke (SE Bulloch)

**Nursery Operations**  
William Rogers (Effingham County)

**Outdoor Recreation**  
Katie Mae Bennett (Tift County)

**Poultry Production**  
Ivey Pope (Miller County)

**Sheep Production**  
John Romero (Gordon Central)

**Small Animal Production & Care**  
Joshua Thompkins (Franklin County)

**Specialty Animal Production**  
Zack Bagley (Alcovy)

**Specialty Crop Production**  
Tripp R. Lovein (Berrien County)

**Swine Production – E**  
Travis Tankersley (Madison County)

**Swine Production – P**  
Hannah Henry (Wheeler County)

**Turf Grass Management**  
Destin Poole (Ola)

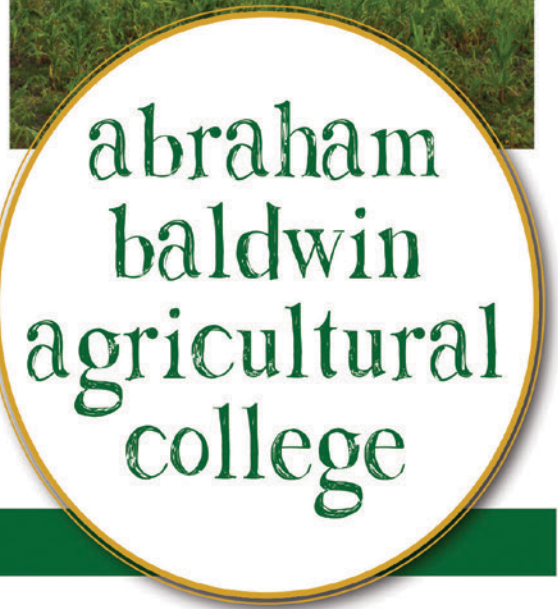
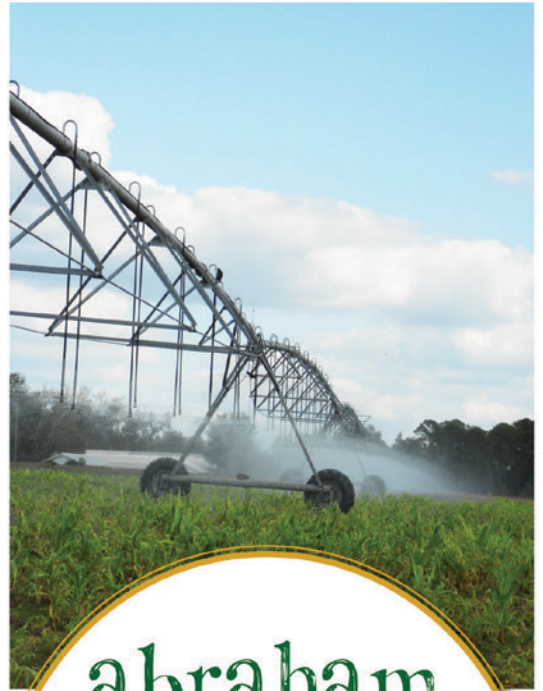
**Vegetable Production**  
Tyler Deal (Metter)

**Veterinary Medicine**  
Courtney Trust (Athens Christian)

**Wildlife Management**  
Chris Adams (Coffee County)







National FFA President Andy Paul made ABAC his college of choice. Follow his lead and add some ABAC green to your FFA blue and gold. Make plans to attend a Stallion Day on November 14, February 13 or April 2.



**ABRAHAM BALDWIN**  
**AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**  
Tifton, Ga.

abacinfo@abac.edu • 229.391.5001 • [www.abac.edu/stalliondays](http://www.abac.edu/stalliondays)





# ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FFA

Fall 2015



## MEET YOUR 2015-16 ILLINOIS FFA OFFICER TEAM

pgD

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# STARS Over Illinois



2015 FFA Stars Over Illinois  
with Illinois Director of Agriculture Phil Nelson

## FARMER

Lacey Knodle, a member of the Nokomis FFA Chapter, is the 2015 Star Farmer of Illinois. She is the daughter of Todd and Amy Knodle of Fillmore, IL. Her FFA advisor is Mr. Randy Meyer.

Having an SAE kept on her forage project has really corresponded pleasantly with Lacey's beef project because the hay crop from the forage is fed to her cattle herd. Her SAE has taught her how to be a responsible, devoted, and accomplished individual.

**CONGRATULATIONS LACEY KNODLE!**

Star Farmer of Illinois



## AGRIBUSINESS

The 2015 State Star in Agribusiness is Ben Curtin, a member of the Taylorville FFA Chapter. He is the son of Steve and Susan Curtin of Stonington, IL. His advisors are Sue Schafer, Monty Elvidge and Stephanie Ruppert.

Ben's SAE is predominantly creating eye-catching, industrial furniture from purchased items that are otherwise unsalvageable materials. Although Ben builds mainly furniture, the scope of his SAE is not limited

solely to furniture; he also designs and fabricates any steel product a customer may request. The scope of his business includes MIG welding, aluminum welding, plasma cutting, and sandblasting.

**CONGRATULATIONS BEN CURTIN!**

State Star in Agribusiness







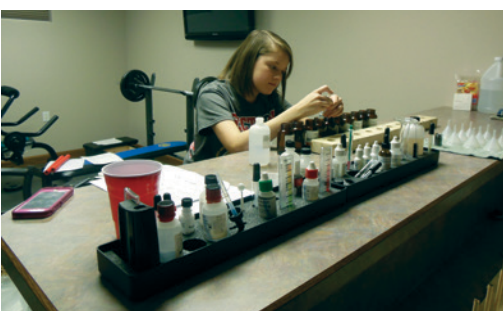
## AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENT

Alex Diekmann, a member of the Central Breese FFA Chapter, is the 2015 State Star in Agricultural Placement. He is the son of Dan and Angie Diekmann of Breese, IL. His FFA advisor is Mr. Rick Harre.

Alex's SAE is working for a local dairy farmer near St. Rose, IL. While working on the farm, he performs almost every job needed to produce milk from the herd. Some of the jobs include mixing rations and

grinding feed, bedding cow barns, feeding calves, weaning calves, dehorning calves, putting production records and cow information in a computer, teaching new cows to use the robotic milker and doing maintenance on our VMS robotic milker.

**CONGRATULATIONS ALEX DIEKMANN!**  
State Star in Agricultural Placement



## AGRISCIENCE

The 2015 State Star in Agriscience is Brooke Schafer from the Clifton Central FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Dennis and Barb Schafer of Chebanse, IL. Her FFA advisors are Bill Bretzman and Brett Sorenson.

Through her plant systems SAE, Brooke has learned how to properly collect soil samples, perform soil and plant tissue tests, and set up an experiment.

She has experimented with organic and inorganic vegetables, testing them for production and macronutrients. It has also given her the experience of effectively raising a garden, and she's been able to gain sound business management practices.

**CONGRATULATIONS BROOKE SCHAFER!**  
State Star in Agriscience



# Meet Your 2015-16



## *Kade T. Hill*

**Age:** 18

**Section:** 17 – **Chapter:** Paxton-Buckley-Loda

**Major:** Agriculture Science Education

**SAE:** Small Animal Production & Care, Poultry Production, Outdoor Recreation, Agriculture Education

**Favorite CDEs:** Parliamentary Procedure, Public Speaking, Poultry Judging

**Favorite Color:** Orange & Blue (Fighting Illini)

**Favorite Quote:** “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” (Benjamin Franklin)

**Favorite Animal:** Rabbit

**Favorite Hobby:** Boating & Camping



## *Kolton Kimpling*

**Age:** 18

**Section:** 7 – **Chapter:** Woodland

**Declared Major:** Agricultural Business

**SAE:** Grain Production Entrepreneurship & Placement

**CDE:** Land Use, Meats Judging & Dairy Products

**Favorite Color:** Orange

**Favorite Quote:** “Life is a garden, just dig it.” (Joe Dirt)

**Favorite Animal:** American Bison

**Favorite Hobby:** I enjoy working on the family farm. The fact that I can say I play a role in feeding the world makes it truly rewarding.



# Illinois FFA Officer Team

## *Connor Carmody*

**Age:** 18

**Chapter:** Calhoun

**Major:** Plant Biotechnology & Molecular Biology

**SAE:** Cattle Entrepreneurship

**CDE:** Job Interview, Meats Evaluation,  
Parliamentary Procedure

**Favorite Color:** Orange & Blue

**Favorite Quote:** "Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong. Do all your work in love."  
(1st Corinthians 16:13-14)

**Favorite Animal:** Emu

**Favorite Hobby:** Restoring my 1966 Ford Mustang.  
Bringing back something with so much history, and restoring it to its former glory is so neat to see!



## *Susie Thompson*

**Age:** 19

**Section:** 6 – **Chapter:** Central-Burlington

**Declared Major:** Agriculture Education

**SAE:** Equine Entrepreneurship, Veterinary Science  
Placement, Agriculture Education Placement

**Favorite CDE:** Horse judging

**Favorite Cereal:** Coco Krispies

**Favorite Color:** Purple

**Favorite Quote:** "Anyone can find the dirt in someone; be the one that finds the gold." (Author unknown)

**Favorite Animal:** Elephant

**Favorite Hobby:** Riding horses



## *Jordan Johns*

**Age:** 19

**Section:** 9 – **Chapter:** Pontiac

**Declared Major:** Agricultural Education

**SAE:** Swine Entrepreneurship

**Favorite CDEs:** Ag Communications, Public Speaking,  
Ag Sales

**Favorite Color:** Pink

**Favorite Quote:** "Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things."

**Favorite Animal:** Dogs

**Favorite Hobby:** Playing sports





# Convention Highlights



**Kade Hill**

## CAREER SHOW

What are you doing after high school? What do you want to be when you grow up? Are you going to college, or are you getting a full-time job? Many FFA members find answers to these questions at the Illinois FFA State Convention Career Show. The Career Show allows members to connect with colleges, businesses, and media that support agriculture. The career show is one of the many opportunities that FFA members have at convention to grow the skills necessary for their future. Personally, the career show has allowed me to stay connected with many of the people involved in agriculture. I know that when I walk through the show I can always expect to stop and talk to a friendly face. This aspect of convention has helped me make decisions that will greatly impact the rest of my life. The career show is one of the most valuable parts of convention because it allows FFA members to become connected to the agriculture industry.

**Connor Carmody**

## THE DANCE

The dance during State Convention is always a highlight for a lot of people. Getting the chance to break it down with all of your friends is always a great time. The dance is the perfect opportunity to find friends made throughout the year and hang out. I love going around talking

to people while dancing at the same time! What two better things could you ask for? The FFA Dance is sponsored by the Illinois FFA Alumni and ice cream is provided by Prairie Farms Dairy.



**Kolton Kimpling**

## SLIDERS BASEBALL GAME

My favorite part of convention was the Slider's game. It was a great opportunity to unwind during the action-packed week. The game was fun for everyone in attendance. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to meet new friends and learn more about the game of baseball. What a great night it was for fellowship amongst FFA members. Illinois FFA members in attendance lined the ball



field down the 1st and 3rd base line. It was a great sight to see. West Central FFA member Shawnee Hartman sang the National Anthem and Pittsfield FFA member Jess Heavner threw out the first pitch.

**Susie Thompson**

## TALENT SHOW

My favorite part of the 87th Illinois FFA State Convention was the talent show. This was a new

addition to Wednesday night, and it was a HUGE hit! Many FFA members were able to showcase their talents up on stage, while a panel of judges determined the winner. I really enjoyed being able to cheer on the performers since I'm not exactly musically talented myself. Overall, state convention was an absolute blast, and the talent show addition made it even more memorable.

**Jordan Johns**

## AWARD WINNERS

"And the winner is ..." No doubt about it, state convention is a time for celebration and well-deserved recognition. From the Ag Business Management CDE-winning Somonauk-Leland-Sandwich to those Vet Science champions at Clifton-Central, Illinois will be sending 21 career development event teams and three individuals to compete at National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky this fall. Also joining those individuals on stage at state convention and tagging along at National Convention will be our 112 American Degree candidates. We can't forget about our 424 State Degree recipients, those outstanding Chapter Presidents and Reporters, the talented scrapbookers from Nashville, and the Banker's Plaque-winning Pontiac FFA. Congratulations and thank you to all of those exemplary FFA members and chapters who graced us with their presence at the 87th Illinois Association FFA State Convention!





# 2015 Illinois FFA State Convention

*A picture's worth a thousand words ...*



*Continued >>*



# 2015 Illinois FFA State Convention

(continued)







# THE IMPACT

ANA FFA NEWS INDIANA FFA NEWS INDIANA FFA NEWS INDIANA FFA NEWS



The 2015-2016 Indiana FFA State Officer Team tapping the gavel to close the 86th Indiana FFA State Convention

## FALL 2015



# LIVE FROM TRAFALGAR

BY ANNALEE WITTE

For anyone, moving is a big job. Relocating all your clothes, personal belongings, bedding, and toiletries is chaotic and stressful. What if you forgot something? What if something breaks during the trip to the new place? Now take all those worries, and put them together with seven teenagers who have never moved out of their homes before. That is what you call the first week of being an Indiana FFA State Officer. After attending the National Leadership Conference for State Officers with five other states, we were finally back home again in Indiana. While the conference was a blast, and we learned many new tricks and techniques to fill our tool boxes with, we were excited to see our new home.

Finally, after months of anxious preparation, an exhausting convention, an exhilarating installation, and an innovative training conference, Trafalgar met her newest additions to the community. We were finally moving in together!

The State Officers took over the house and made it our own. The excitement in the air was tangible. As we decorated our office spaces, we felt the weight of a precious tradition fall on our shoulders. One thing we learned during our time at the National Leadership Conference for State

Officers was not all State FFA Officers have the chance to live together at their FFA Center. In fact, Indiana is one of only a handful of states lucky enough to have this tradition. We were chosen to carry this on for the next year.

All over the office and the rest of the house, pieces of past state officer memorabilia are scattered. With each new discovery it became clearer and clearer that we are a part of something bigger than just our year of service. Years and years of state officer teams before us had left their mark on the Indiana FFA Leadership Center and State Officer House in their own unique way.

As we begin our year we want you to know we are excited to serve in our own special way. Indiana FFA get ready for a year like you have never seen before!





## Jessica Mars



**Chapter:** Lebanon

**Favorite CDE:** Chapter Meeting CDE

**Favorite Quote:** "Once you can express yourself, you can tell the world what you want from it. All the changes in the world, good or evil, were first brought about by words." -Jackie Kennedy

**Activities outside of FFA:** Editor in chief for school newspaper, 4-H, National Honor Society, serving on two boards for United Way, watching Grey's Anatomy with my sister or spending time with friends.

## Amber Ferrell



**Chapter:** Columbia City

**Favorite CDE:** Entomology

**FFA has given me:** FFA has given me the chance to be me and show my passion for agriculture. It has given me the chance to meet new people and make new friends. It has taught me to not be afraid to put yourself out there and speak in front of others. If I wouldn't have joined FFA I would probably be a shy kid standing in the back not talking to anyone.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## OUR MEMBERS MAKE US SHINE!

BY COURTNEY ADAMS

## Haley Mood



**Chapter:** Danville

**Favorite CDE:** Floriculture

**FFA has given me:** The opportunity and confidence to do things that I never would have had the chance of doing, while making lasting friendships along the way.

**Hobbies outside of FFA:** Family, Friends, & 4H

## Gaby Walters



**Chapter:** Crothersville

**FFA has given me:** FFA has given me the opportunity to meet people that I would otherwise not have met. FFA has also given me the ability to speak in front of groups of people and the courage to do so.

**Favorite Quote:** "The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential.... These are the keys that will unlock the door to personal success." - Confucius



# THANK YOU TO ALL OUR

As FFA members across the state look back upon the fond memories made in the Indiana FFA, we should remember and thank our generous sponsors for making the opportunities we have had a reality. It is a fact that Indiana FFA would not be the same without their support. Thank you to the following sponsors for their continued support of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success within the Indiana FFA!

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BY BRETT ROBERTS

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# COURTNEY ADAMS

## *State Reporter*

BY KENZIE KRETZMEIER

## GET THE FACTS

**Birthday:** September 15, 1996  
**Parents:** Chris and Jennifer Adams  
**Siblings:** Rachel, Maggie, Valerie & Beth  
**Hometown:** Sheridan, IN  
**FFA Chapter:** Sheridan  
**Advisor:** Scott Ison  
**Favorite Food:** Cheesecake  
**Favorite Movie:** The Notebook  
**Favorite Pastime:** Making Chalk Drawings  
**Favorite Sport:** Soccer  
**Favorite Animal:** Panda  
**Favorite Color:** Red  
**Favorite Music:** Loves Everything

## COURTNEY'S TIMELINE

**Freshman Year:**  
 State Crops Evaluation Participant

**Sophomore Year:**  
 State Crops Evaluation Participant  
 Area Soils Evaluation Participant  
 District Job interview

**Junior Year:**  
 State Crops Evaluation Participant  
 State Soils Evaluation Participant  
 District Job interview

**Senior Year:**  
 Section II Director  
 Chapter President  
 State Crops Evaluation Participant  
 State Soils Evaluation Participant  
 2nd Place, District Leadership Ambassador  
 2nd Place, District Essay

## FUTURE PLANS

Attend Cornell University to major in Biology with a Pre-Med concentration.

### THE TEAM VOTED COURTNEY...

Most likely to adopt an entire animal shelter!

Courtney has distinguished herself as an exceptional student all the years I have known her, first as a student in my seventh grade reading class and throughout high school as part of our speech and debate team. She is among the most intelligent, honest, and reliable students I have ever had the privilege to teach. I would trust her with anything, and FFA is tremendously fortunate to have her service!

- Lisa Sarjeant, Teacher

Courtney can best be described as busy, passionate and determined. I've gradually noticed these traits colliding to make her a strong servant leader. Diversity is also a strength of Courtney's. She has been successful in many things, including: showing beef cattle, cheerleading, crop judging, public speaking, soccer, student council and academics. Being involved in such diverse activities gave her a chance to interact with those from different backgrounds. Her passion drove her determination to be among the best individual, team or group, no matter the obstacle. There were a few disappointments. But, having these experiences as a base, has given her empathy for others and a desire to see everyone succeed.

- Chris Adams, Parent





# STATIONED BY THE OWL

## ADVISOR SPOTLIGHT

BY MASON GORDON

### QUICK FACTS

1. Has been teaching for 13 years.
2. Voted 2010-2011 District VI teacher of the Year.
3. Favorite Part of Teaching: Seeing a student's light bulb light up and knowing that he assisted in making that moment happen.
4. Favorite Quote: "I'm a selfish teacher to make sure you young students can be successful."

## Mr. Jason Shuck

### SOUTH ADAMS FFA

I have always looked up to Mr. Shuck. He has bettered my life and educational experience both in and outside of the classroom. He is always willing to offer help and understanding. Most teachers care only about his or her students' education, but that is not Mr. Shuck. He cares about everything outside of the classroom also. Not only does that make him a great teacher and friend, but also that he can relate to all his students in one way or another. With me, he has always given me a deeper understanding of agriculture topics. He relates with the topics and the students both, giving a great educational comprehension.

- Bradley Green, Student

Mr. Shuck is a great teacher because of his qualities and his heart for wanting young students to be successful by not giving up in life or their goals and dreams. His personal qualities include being caring, loving, faithful, understanding, laid back, and he has a great passion for sharing his knowledge with others.

- Cayla Johnson, Student

## KEEPING UP WITH THE INDIANA FFA

BY SEAN HARRINGTON

One thing I have always loved about FFA is receiving my copy of New Horizons and having the opportunity to read The Impact, where I get to see what's going on in Indiana. However, there's a lot of time between issues. Want to stay up to date on what's going on in Indiana FFA? Get connected with us online!

### State Officer Blog

At [indianaffa.blogspot.com](http://indianaffa.blogspot.com), you'll find weekly blog posts from members of the state officer team on a wide variety of topics. Get to know the officer team a little more with each post!

### @IndianaFFA on Twitter

It seems like everyone has Twitter nowadays. Make sure you follow the official Indiana FFA twitter account in order to receive updates on what's happening on a day to day basis.



### The NEW [www.inffa.org](http://www.inffa.org)

This past summer saw the launch of the new Indiana FFA website. You can find links to all of our social media, as well as information about conferences and competitions.



### @IndianaFFA on Instagram

Instagram is an awesome tool to share photos, or even the occasional inspirational quote. If you follow Indiana FFA on Instagram, you'll find information about upcoming events and fun agricultural facts.

### Indiana FFA on Facebook

If you haven't liked the Indiana FFA Facebook page yet, get on right now to see all of the cool things happening with the Indiana FFA State Officers and the Indiana FFA Organization.





# Mark Your Calendars

BY JOSH CALHOUN

## District Kick-Off

Although many FFA chapters run from school year to school year or calendar year to calendar year, their giving to the Indiana FFA Foundation begins at District Kick-Off! Join us in celebrating the beginning of the season of giving at your very own District Kick-Off, all made possible by Ivy Tech Community College. You can bond with your chapter, play games, and meet with FFA members from all over your district!

### District Kick-Off Dates

District I: 9/17  
District II: 9/24  
District III: 10/5  
District IV: 9/16

District V: 9/23  
District VI: 9/30  
District VII: 9/15  
District VIII: 9/22

District IX: 9/29  
District X: 9/14  
District XI: 9/21  
District XII: 9/28



# SOAR

SOAR may stand for Seeking Opportunities, Achieving Results, but it means so much more than that! This year young FFA members can visit the Leadership Center for a weekend to learn about their involvement in FFA. If you are as excited as the State Officers and our sponsors, The Anderson's and Helena, then you better make sure to mark your calendars! We hope you can attend either **October 9-11** or **October 16-18** to develop your career in the FFA.

# FIRE



As your time in the FFA goes on or even if you started in your later years of high school learning how to properly use your time in the FFA is important. Foundations In Reaching Excellence, or FIRE, is a conference geared towards older FFA members that want to learn how to be a leader now for their chapter and community. Lucky for you, thanks to the sponsorship from Farm World and MacAllister Agriculture, you can attend either **November 13-15** or **November 20-22**. Come grow as a leader with us!



# The Michigan FFA Creed



Fall 2015





# Michigan FFA Association

108 Natural Resources - East Lansing, MI - 48824  
www.michiganffa.org - association@michiganffa.org  
Phone: (517) 353-9221 - Fax: (517) 432-5632

## Creed Staff

Managing Editor:  
Advising Editor:

Laryssa Bates  
Michelle Sidel

### **D** Locally Grown, Locally Owned

Read about the Michigan Sugar Company and its important role in the overall economy.

### **J** The Roots Run Deep

Look at what the IQHub has to offer and schedule your visit now.

### **F** Avian Influenza In Michigan

Make yourself aware with the recent outbreak of avian influenza in Michigan.

### **N** State Officer Stats

Check out what the 2015 - 2016 officers have in common with you.

### **H** It Takes A Village

Take a look at those influential individuals who help to make Michigan FFA possible.



L to R: Back row: Andrea Williams, State Secretary; Kelly Elsass, Region II State Vice President; Tyra Jonas, State Reporter; Taylor Williams, Region I State Vice President; Holly Tait, Region III State Vice President; Maria Blough, Region V State Vice President; Front Row: Samantha Ludlam, State Vice President; Connor Ewald, State President; Daniel Flynn, State Treasurer; Lucas Wielfaert, State Sentinel; Morgan Stewart, Region VI State Vice President



# State Officer Excursions

By: Samantha Ludlam  
State Vice President

As newly elected state officers we have quickly learned the importance of effective time management. Apps like Google Calendar and other planning devices have helped us to schedule our year of service down to the day. Conferences, business and industry visits, contests, chapter blitzes, and convention are all penciled into our schedules. Our first few months of service were packed with awesome experiences with members, FFA supporters, and state officers from around the country. Here is what our state officer team has been up to since March.



Our first event was Small Animals Day, in April on the campus of Michigan State University at the

Livestock Pavilion. We worked to educate consumers on the importance of agriculture and expose young children to baby farm animals. We assisted in the “passport program” which challenged the participants to learn more about what Michigan agriculture has to offer. Then just a week later, over 2,000 FFA members attended Spring Skills Contests. While some of our team competed, the rest of us assisted in running contests and observed how talented our members are.

We kicked off the summer with the Blast-Off training conference. It was June 15 – 17 in East Lansing, Michigan; we were trained by former Michigan FFA State President and National Eastern Region

Vice President, Tiffany Rogers. We focused on personal development, owning our strengths and improving our weaknesses to prepare us to serve you, the 6,838 members of the Michigan FFA Association.

Shortly after Blast-Off, our team attended the next conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) is rotated between different states each year. This year, state officer teams from Michigan, Indiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia were in attendance. This was a great time for team bonding and learning workshop facilitation skills, which were utilized in July at the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO).

At SLCCO, State Officers were assigned into groups and facilitated their own workshops to help chapter officers learn the skills and gain the tools they need to be successful in their own chapters. The state officer team this year not only strived to teach chapter officers the essential elements of being an officer, but also how to recruit seventh grade members and how to have FFA completors, effective communication, and how to effectively run chapter and officer meetings. Our team’s favorite part of SLCCO was getting to meet chapter officers from across the state and learning about their goals and aspirations in this great organization. Lastly, we unveiled our theme for the year, “Aim to Be.”

Now, school is back in session and the state officer team is busy adjusting to an even busier schedule. We’re looking forward to scheduling chapter visits later this fall to spend more time with members and learn how you “Aim to Be.”



# Locally Grown, Locally Owned

The Michigan Sugar Company is a very well-known company across the State of Michigan. The company has four factories, located in Bay City, Sebawaing, Caro, and Croswell, with multiple receiving stations across the growing area and a storage facility in Fremont, Ohio. The state's first beet sugar campaign took place in 1898. There were 32,047 tons of sugarbeets harvested from 3,103 acres. The company and industry began to grow and many factories were built during the 1900s. Michigan Sugar is home to the oldest working factory in the United States, built in 1889 and located in Caro, Michigan. In 2002 the Michigan Sugar Company formed a cooperative and became grower owned. With more than 900 farmers growing sugarbeets on over 160,000 acres of land in the Great Lakes Bay region, including 10,000 acres in Canada, the growers of the Michigan Sugar Company are very proud to call this factory their own. Their products are "Locally Grown and Locally Owned" a recognizable advertising campaign that stirs up pride in many members of the sugar beet community.

As a member of a small town community located around the company, I saw from a young age how important the sugar industry is to the local and state economy. The company has 1,600 seasonal employees and 700 year-round employees. People can work, earn incomes, and spend their money locally which stimulates the local economy. Without our local factories, Michigan Sugar employees wouldn't be able to work locally.



Local youth are able to participate in the Michigan Sugarbeet youth project, which allows students to grow an acre of sugar beets each year, complete a record book, take a test and interview about the crop. At the end of each growing season a banquet is held and students are recognized based on their performance on their interview and test. This project allows students to become more educated about the industry and build connections with other young sugarbeet growers. This project was also a main focus of my supervised agricultural experience during my FFA career. Now as a student at Michigan State University studying agronomy, I am currently interning with the company in the research department, working with many plots ranging from fertilizer rate plots to weed trials to Cercospora leafspot trials. The company also offers a Young Farmer Program that encourages young farmers to grow their farm operations and network. The opportunities in agriculture for young adults are endless.

We can also see the impact that sugarbeet farmers have on our country as a whole. The sugar industry is made up of sugarbeets and



sugarcane, but 54 percent of sugar is extracted from sugarbeets. Some people may never see a sugarbeet in their life time, but nearly every day are going to eat the by-products of the crop. On average an American consumes 44 pounds of sugar every year. Even without living in a sugar production community, we all support the sugar industry with our daily dietary choices.

The sugar industry has created 99,000 full time direct and indirect jobs in 22 states. Sugarbeets are grown in 11 states and 25 different factories that all work together



### ***The Michigan Sugar Festival***

Sebewaing has been the home of the Michigan Sugar Festival for 51 years. The festival is held each year, on the third weekend of June. This brings many people of all ages to the Village of Sebewaing. Many memories have been made and it is an annual highlight for this little town. Also, Sebewaing is home to the Michigan Sugar Queen and her court. The queen travels to many different towns, promoting our industry and making many people aware of what is happening at Michigan Sugar. I had the opportunity to represent the company this past year as the Michigan Sugar Queen 1st attendant. During my reign I made approximately 25 appearances across the state, including a parade on Mackinaw Island and in Traverse City for the National Cherry Festival. This is a great opportunity for girls that live in a sugarbeet growing county in Michigan, between the ages of 18 and 23. For more information, log on to <https://www.michigansugar.com/community/sugar-queen/>



to process 1.1 million acres of sugarbeets. In 2014, the Michigan Sugar company received 4.72 million tons setting a company record of 29.63 tons per acre as the average yield. Just 10 years ago, the company took in approximately 3.5 million tons on a year, with an average yield of 21.13 tons per acre. That's an increase of 1.2 million tons sliced annually by the Michigan Sugar Company, with an increase of 8.5 tons per acre that growers are harvesting. New technology and research that is being conducted daily, such as new and improved seed varieties and disease and weed control, means we will continue to see an increase in the crop each year. Good luck to all growers in the 2015 harvest season!



# Avian Influenza In Michigan

## **M**ichigan confirms first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in free-ranging geese in Michigan

*Three goslings in Macomb County test positive.*

The Michigan departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) today announced the state's first confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N2 in the state. The disease was found in free-ranging Canada geese in Macomb County. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail and geese.

Three goslings collected last week in Sterling Heights were delivered to the DNR's Wildlife Disease Laboratory for necropsy. Initial testing was performed at Michigan State University's Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health in Lansing. These tests were positive and the samples were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. MDARD and the DNR received confirmation Saturday, June 6, that the goslings were infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza, subtype H5N2.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI viruses to be low. To date, no human HPAI infections have been detected in the United States. Avian influenza is not a food safety concern and no birds or bird products infected with HPAI will enter the food chain. Michigan is the 21st state to report a case of

HPAI since December 2014. In the other 20 states, the virus has been found in captive wild birds or free-ranging birds, backyard flocks, and commercial flocks. Michigan also becomes the 6th state to detect in wild or free-ranging birds only. To date, there are 226 detections of HPAI across the country (affecting approximately 50 million birds), with Iowa and Minnesota experiencing the most cases.

"While this is disappointing news that the H5N2 virus has been found in Michigan's free-ranging bird population, it was not unexpected given avian influenza has been found in a number of our neighboring states and Ontario," said MDARD Director Jamie Clover Adams.

Clover Adams stressed that avian influenza has not been identified in Michigan's domestic poultry flocks. "MDARD will continue to work hand-in-hand with our backyard and commercial poultry farmers to conduct surveillance testing and provide education along with Michigan State University's Extension on implementing and stepping up on-farm biosecurity practices to protect the health of Michigan's domestic poultry," she said.

Keith Creagh, DNR director, said the state's chief focus now is preventing the disease's spread in wildlife and its transmission to domestic poultry.

"This confirmed positive finding of highly pathogenic avian influenza prompts several steps that are informed by Michigan's Surveillance and Response Plan for HPAI in free-ranging wildlife," said Creagh. "The DNR and MDARD are working with other experts and taking advantage of every available resource to ensure a swift, appropriate response that limits the spread of HPAI."





The state's wildlife HPAI plan was developed by DNR's Wildlife Division in 2006. The DNR already practices regular examination of carcasses from mortality events affecting birds and samples live-caught and

hunter-harvested wild birds.

Guided by the wildlife HPAI plan, the DNR will:

- Create an avian influenza (AI) Core Area, a 10-mile radius around the confirmed positive cases.
- Create an AI Management Zone, including any counties that touch the AI Core Area. In this case, the AI Management Zone will include Macomb and Oakland counties.
- Change goose relocation activities. The DNR routinely relocates nuisance geese in southeast Michigan to other parts of the state. The AI Management Zone will be under quarantine and roundup/relocation within these counties will be prohibited, except for the purpose of additional testing.
- Continue goose roundup and relocation efforts in the rest of the state.
- Change goose relocation drop-off sites so none are within a 10-mile radius of a commercial poultry facility in Michigan.
- Heighten AI surveillance in the two-county AI Management Zone.

- Increase biosecurity measures for contractors who relocate geese and anybody handling geese, as well as for waterfowl banders.

- Continue statewide AI surveillance, which includes responding to suspicious dead animals, conduct sample testing of geese being relocated, banding ducks and geese, and testing hunter-harvested waterfowl.

With this type of highly pathogenic avian influenza, there may be an absence of many of the routine signs of illness in domestic poultry. Sudden death and high death losses are major indicators of HPAI. However, sick birds may experience neurological signs; difficulty walking; lack of appetite, energy or vocalization; significant drop in egg production; swollen combs, wattles, legs or head; diarrhea; or nasal discharge, sneezing or coughing.

Wild birds commonly have avian influenza and sometimes spread it to domestic birds through direct or indirect transmission. Ducks and geese are considered carriers; however, geese generally do not pass it on.

MDARD, the DNR, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Veterinary Services (USDA, VS) and Wildlife Services (USDA, WS) and Michigan State University (MSU) are working together to conduct avian influenza surveillance and to monitor health of poultry, livestock, wildlife and residents in Michigan. Residents who notice the death loss of three or more free-ranging birds should report it to DNR at 517-336-5030. If your domestic flock is experiencing severe illness or multiple death losses, contact MDARD at 800-292-3939 or for after-hours emergencies call 517-373-0440.

For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/avianinfluenza](http://www.michigan.gov/avianinfluenza) or [www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases](http://www.michigan.gov/aviandiseases).



# It Takes A Village

*Familiar Faces Supporting the Blue and Gold Behind the Scenes*

Many know the old saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Yet, for the over 6,000 Michigan FFA members, it takes a fully-vested army of passionate past members, local sponsors and corporate donors to support the organization’s mission of premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

From public speakers to student entrepreneurs, new greenhands to chapter officers, behind every member, contest, program and chapter stands a group of trusted supporters. And those supporters span far beyond well-known corporate brands like Ford, Dodge and Syngenta.

Troy Bancroft, co-founder, president and CEO of Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers, is one of these behind-the-scenes supporters who has seen the FFA difference firsthand, not as a member but as an employer, passionate about the future of his business and the agriculture industry.

“Our company has contributed to 4-H for decades, but it wasn’t until I saw state FFA officers in action at an event in 2011 that the light bulb came on,” Bancroft explains. “Once I witnessed what FFA was doing to equip members with leadership, public speaking and parliamentary procedure skills, and offering contests that provide and promote experience in agriculture, I realized AgroLiquid was missing an opportunity.”

An opportunity his company and family has embraced with open arms ever since.

Starting with the family business, Bancroft began supporting the Michigan FFA State Convention and crop-related career development events. He didn’t stop there. With help and support from his wife, Jill, and their three adult sons, also involved in the business, the Bancroft Family FFA Endowment was created in 2013. The fund helps cover the Michigan FFA Association’s operating costs as well as agriculture-related field trip grants for FFA chapters.

Bancroft continues to find unique ways to further contribute to FFA, serving on the executive committee of the Michigan FFA Foundation and as an active spokesperson. Whether leading a meeting with employees or speaking at a community event, he’s famous for incorporating the first few lines of the FFA Creed.

“The future of the Michigan FFA lies in the hearts of individuals who believe in the organization, its mission and what it can do for students. Troy Bancroft is a







supporter who has given not only of his treasures, but time and talents as a volunteer and advocate,” Michigan FFA Foundation Director Ramey Lunceford elaborates. “And what’s more, Troy’s choice to create an endowment means his gift will continue to give back to the FFA for generations. He’s leaving a legacy today by investing in thousands of students wearing those blue corduroy jackets.”

A big-picture thinker, Bancroft rallies behind the idea that FFA is not only a training ground for those going back to the farm, but an educational platform building the next generation of agricultural advocates and informed consumers. He sees his FFA contributions as an imperative investment, more than an obligatory expenditure.

“When people can effectively communicate for a cause, intelligently articulate their position to a group of people or move items of business along in a board meeting, that eloquence and poise builds students’ potential to positively influence others and contributes to our industry. FFA

is one of a select few associations that not only teaches these skills, but gives students real-world opportunities to try them on,” Bancroft explains. “Many hold back from supporting causes like FFA because they don’t think they can afford it. In my mind, we can’t afford not to.”

From multi-million dollar corporate sponsors to individuals with a consistent \$100 annual pledge, past members and current supporters can all make a difference in the lives of FFA members. In the end, impact isn’t measured by the number of zeros on a check. All it takes is one person donating their time as a judge, their talents as a mentor or their treasure by purchasing an ag heritage license plate to change a student’s life for the better.



The Michigan FFA Foundation is the fundraising arm for the Michigan FFA Association. It supports annual FFA programs by seeking funds from individuals, businesses and industry.

If you’re interested in investing in the future of agriculture and our nation’s youth, contact Michigan FFA Foundation Director Ramey Lunceford (luncefo1@msu.edu or 517-432-2482). The Michigan FFA Foundation can help you explore opportunities to keep the FFA legacy alive and growing for generations to come.



# The Roots Run Deep

Using five-gallon buckets to mix fertilizer, father and son-in-law team Douglas Cook and Troy Bancroft began a business in the early 1980s. In 1983, the two men, along with their wives, incorporated Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers. From the beginning, AgroLiquid has attributed its success to being a family-run business and they continue to stand true to that today. With strong family ties and a goal of prospering the farmer while safeguarding the environment, AgroLiquid has experienced exceptional growth through the years.

With this growth came a demand for a new headquarters building, and planning began. When designing the new world headquarters for AgroLiquid, it only seemed right to have an area designated to display the Bancrofts' collection of antique tractors. As the planning process continued, a new vision for community outreach and agriculture education began to form for Bancroft. "We wanted to do something to give back," he explained, and by designating 25% of the new building to this vision, the IQhub was born. What began with the idea of an antique tractor display at AgroLiquid's headquarters became an agriculture education learning facility.

The IQhub is filled with educational and interactive exhibits for visitors. When traveling through the IQhub, visitors are engaged and informed about the advancement of agriculture; from the time before Pilgrims set foot in the Americas to modern day practices and where we

need to go in the future to meet the needs of a growing population. The space is complemented by a Kids' Korner where even the youngest guests can learn about where their food comes from. With an emphasis on educating children, the IQhub has something for both the young and young at heart. It is important for the public to understand the importance of meeting food supply challenges in the future. Since opening in September 2014, the IQhub has welcomed over 9,000 visitors and has hosted 76 group tours and events.

Visiting groups have ranged from high school chemistry classes, to Cub Scout troops, to a group from the Department of Environmental Quality and everything in between. IQhub staff is excited and proud to welcome each of these groups and continue to offer an array of programming to meet the needs of each group's diverse background. Programs vary from 'Field to Fork' demonstrations, soil chemistry workshops and 'Field to Fitness' focusing on how agriculture relates to nutrition. The response has been positive and new lesson plans and curriculums are continually developed.





As a former educator, AgroLiquid Outreach and Education Director, Burt Henry, is aware of the limited resources and funding available for teachers. In an effort to make trips to the IQhub more affordable, a transportation grant has been developed to provide financial relief for schools visiting the IQhub. With astonishing support from many agribusinesses, commodity groups, individual sponsors, and Agro-Culture Liquid Fertilizers, the grant has enabled more than 2,000 students to visit the IQhub.



In May 2015, the IQhub introduced the 'Tractor Simulator' exhibit. The simulator completes the 27 interactive exhibits in the IQhub. The simulator is part of a full-circle activity that incorporates soil testing information, the 'Tractor Simulator' and general accounting skills. During the activity participants will get a better grasp of how different factors and technologies influence agriculture daily. Participants gain agriculture awareness, leadership, and life skills that will help them into the future.

## AGRO-CULTURE LIQUID FERTILIZERS

Stop in and enjoy your journey as you learn how cumbersome agriculture was in the past, how scientific it is today and where it is going in the future. Bancroft invites you to the IQhub to "learn how food from the farm gets to your table, and learn how United States farmers will be challenged to feed the over 9 billion people in the year 2050." At the conclusion of their visit, Bancroft challenges visitors, "to share what you learned about how farmers and ranchers feed the world," and invite others to take a journey through agriculture at the IQhub.

Located on M-21 just west of St. Johns, Michigan, the 9,500 square foot agriculture education center is the perfect venue to broaden an agriculture knowledge base. Normal business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is free.

Scheduling for the 2015-2016 school year is underway; don't miss the chance to visit the IQhub! Grant application and guidelines, along with reservation information are available online. For more information or to schedule a visit call 989-227-3887, email [iqhub@agroliquid.com](mailto:iqhub@agroliquid.com) or visit [agroliquid.com/iqhub/](http://agroliquid.com/iqhub/).



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lead volunteer education  
community support service  
success development  
agriculture youth



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FFA  
Alumni

In communities across the state, FFA alumni members are coaching, mentoring, fundraising and preparing the next generation of leaders and agriculturalists.

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[www.michiganffa.org](http://www.michiganffa.org)



# State Officer Stats



**Andrea Williams**  
State Secretary

Chapter: Ogemaw Heights

College: Lansing Community College

SAE: Beef Production

Theme song: "Life's A Dance"

## Favorites:

Sport: Volleyball

Musician: George Strait

T.V. show: *Gilmore Girls*

Movie: *Fast and Furious*

Candy: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups



**Maria Blough**  
Region V State Vice President

Chapter: Lowell

College: Lansing Community College

SAE: Beef Production

Theme song: "Can't Hold Us"

## Favorites:

Quote: "Don't just exist, live!"

Movie: *Phantom of the Opera*

T.V. show: *Mysteries at the Museum*

Homemade meal: Lasagna

Candy: Hershey's Chocolate



**Morgan Stewart**  
Region VI State Vice President

Chapter: Alcona

College: Central Michigan University

SAE: Small Animal Production

Theme song: "Hold On"

## Favorites:

Sport: Competitive Swimming

Movie: *The Breakfast Club*

T.V. show: *Dancing with the Stars*

Meal: Polish Pierogies

Candy: Gobstoppers





# HANDS ON PROGRAMS

## **The Institute of Agricultural Technology**

delivers innovative, educational programs that develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in animal sciences, plant sciences and electrical technologies.

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Learn more about the Institute of Agricultural Technology by visiting **[www.iat.msu.edu](http://www.iat.msu.edu)** or call 517-355-0190.

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Livestock Industries  
Dairy Management  
Landscape and Nursery Management  
Horse Management  
Electrical Technology  
Fruit, Vegetable and Organic Horticulture Management  
Turfgrass Management (Golf emphasis)  
Sports and Commercial Turf Management

## **Off Campus Certificate Programs**

### Dowagiac, Michigan

Applied Horse Science  
Landscape Management  
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management  
Viticulture

### Grand Rapids, Michigan

Landscape and Lawn Management

### Sidney, Michigan

Applied Horse Science  
Landscape Management  
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management  
Viticulture

### Traverse City, Michigan

Landscape Management  
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management  
Viticulture



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UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources





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Crop and Soil Science  
Dietetics  
Entomology  
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Environmental Studies & Sustainability  
Fisheries and Wildlife  
Food Industry Management  
Food Science  
Forestry  
Horticulture  
Interior Design  
Landscape Architecture  
Nutritional Sciences  
Packaging  
Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism

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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources





## Hard Work Pays

State-winning SAE ignites desire to help others

### FINDING RENEWABLE ENERGY

BY ALISON BOS

“My SAE has helped open my eyes to the needs of those around me,” explains Shelby Brunscher, winner of the 2015 Missouri FFA Agriscience Research-Integrated Systems Proficiency Award.

Brunscher, a member of the Carrollton Area Career Center FFA chapter, now is driven to help those in

need through creating sustainability practices that could potentially improve aspects of people’s lives.

“I am very grateful to have received the state proficiency award,” Brunscher says. “It means that the hours of hard work put in by me and my partner have finally paid off. To achieve the national proficiency would be an even greater honor.”

Brunscher began her SAE by researching renewable energy sources with her partner, Linda Pepper. They

**CONTINUED ON PAGE D**



Carrollton FFA member Shelby Brunscher hopes to create sustainability practices through her agriscience SAE that could eventually improve the lives of others.

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FFA Calendar



# THE PRESIDENT'S POST

## Embrace your fears

### 2015-16 State FFA Officers

| Area | Officer                                    |
|------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Maggie Voisard<br>Mid-Buchanan             |
| 2    | Adam Kirby-President<br>Trenton            |
| 3    | Hadley Williams<br>Green City              |
| 4    | Alex Stichnote - Secretary<br>Ashland      |
| 5    | Brandelyn Martin-1st V.P.<br>Silex         |
| 6    | Austin Boland<br>Sweet Springs             |
| 7    | Rylee Streit<br>Holden                     |
| 8    | Jacob Hoellering<br>California             |
| 9    | Ty Whittaker<br>Miller                     |
| 10   | Tanner Koenig<br>Wheatland                 |
| 11   | Maura Butler<br>Seneca                     |
| 12   | Clay Smith<br>Mansfield                    |
| 13   | Hunter Corman<br>Willow Springs            |
| 14   | Braxton Hoemann<br>Union                   |
| 15   | Alexa Nordwald<br>East Prairie             |
| 16   | Morgan Taylor<br>Doniphan                  |
|      | Cole Edwards - Past Pres.<br>Sweet Springs |

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Marie Davis, Keith Dietzschold, Lisa Evans,  
David Higgins & Steven Rogers

Missouri FFA Today • Joann Pipkin, Editor  
3674 S. State Hwy N • Republic, MO 65738  
Email: [info@missouriffa.org](mailto:info@missouriffa.org)  
Phone: (417) 732-8552

### BY ADAM KIRBY STATE FFA PRESIDENT

**S**cared. Nervous. Confused. These are the first thoughts that entered my mind the very first day I entered the agriculture education building at Trenton High School. I really had no idea why I was there. I had no interest in FFA because I didn't even know what it was.

Since I lived on a farm, I thought this class was a requirement, and as a result, I reluctantly put it into my schedule. So there I was, the quiet kid that transferred in freshman year from one of the rural out-skirting towns, walking into a class where I didn't know a single soul. I was beyond scared. I honestly thought I could drop dead at any minute. I was so nervous for what was to come. I soon came to find out, though, that everyone in the class was extremely nice. Little did I know, these same people would become some of my very best friends as high school progressed. Even better, I actually began to like the topics we were covering in the class.

As the days turned to weeks, and the weeks later to months, the time rolled around for public speaking contests and career development events (CDE). You know what, though? I was too scared to do a



speech, or even join a contest, so I didn't. Looking back now, I wish that I would have used that fear to my advantage. I wished I would have faced that fear and made a speech or joined a team.

The following year, when I was a sophomore, I decided that I was going to do every single event that I possibly could that year. Honestly, I loved every minute of it. I qualified for state in public speaking. I went to state in my CDE, and I had fun! I used that previous fear to propel me forward not only in these events, but also in FFA as a whole. I became a chapter officer, then an area officer and now a state officer. If you would have told me freshman year that this was true, I would have immediately thought you were lying.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE E**

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# 2015-2016 Missouri FFA Officers

## Who's who on this year's team

### Front Row L-R

**RYLEE STREIT**

V.P., Area 7 • Holden

**MORGAN TAYLOR**

V.P., Area 16 • Doniphan

**ALEXA NORDWALD**

V.P., Area 15 • East Prairie

**JACOB HOELLERING**

V.P., Area 8 • California

**BRAXTON HOEMANN**

V.P., Area 14 • Union

**MAURA BUTLER**

V.P., Area 11 • Seneca

### Middle Row L-R

**AUSTIN BOLAND**

V.P., Area 6 • Sweet Springs

**HADLEY WILLIAMS**

V.P., Area 3 • Green City

**ALEX STICHNOTE**

Secretary • Ashland

**MAGGIE VOISARD**

V.P., Area 1 • Mid-Buchanan

**BRANDELYN MARTIN**

1st V.P. • Silex

**TY WHITTAKER**

V.P., Area 9 • Miller

### Back Row L-R

**ADAM KIRBY**

President • Trenton

**COLE EDWARDS**

Past President • Salisbury

**HUNTER CORMAN**

V.P., Area 13 • Willow Springs

**TANNER KOENIG**

V.P., Area 10 • Wheatland

**CLAY SMITH**

V.P., Area 12 • Mansfield





# Hard Work Pays

## Continued from Page A



Shelby Brunscher created a wind-powered irrigation system, earning her Grand Champion honors at the Missouri State Fair Agriscience Fair.

learned through videos and articles to design their own purification systems. Plus, they cultivated their own skills such as drafting, designing, innovation and problem solving. She also pointed out that even though Brunscher and her partner had success with their projects, their first attempts in building both systems did not work.

“Through trial and error, they were able to identify problems and find solutions to make the systems

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

wanted to determine if a wind energy source could be built to move water from one source to another. The two collaborated to create a wind-powered irrigation system that could remove water with limitations. This project earned Grand Champion honors at Missouri State Fair’s Agriscience Fair and second place at the state Agriscience fair.

In 2013, Brunscher and Pepper created a water purification system using solar energy and a bio filter. The purification system was built to remove impurities from water and when tested, showed that some improvements were made to make the water acceptable for human use. They won first at state, were selected as the Grand Champion Missouri State Agriscience Fair project and placed third at the National Agriscience Fair.

The following year, the water purification was extended to determine if improvements on the

design would increase the water supply being purified, as well as seeing if water became more accessible. They placed second at the Missouri State Agriscience Fair with this particular project.

Carrollton FFA Advisor Brooke Swindler says Brunscher and her partner were able to take what they

Carrollton FFA’s Shelby Brunscher says her work in agriscience helped form skills in drafting, designing, innovation and problem solving.



## HARD WORK PAYS FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

better functioning,” Swindler says. “This is important for all FFA members to know that failure is not defeat, but instead a lesson on problem solving.”

According to Brunscher, her SAE has also made her realize the importance of research. In fact, her realization of opposition sparked an interest in agriscience research.

“Research is a crucial step in overcoming any problem,” she notes. “Being able to solve problems and help people is very important to me, and I have realized that this is not possible without first doing ample research.”

Brunscher advises FFA members to combine their SAE with something they are interested in. She recommends members to involve research in their SAE because the skills obtained through researching will be beneficial for future endeavors. In addition, she encourages everyone to help those in need whenever possible whether it is through FFA or an outside source.

“Any effort, big or small, can make a difference,” Brunscher says.

Brunscher plans to attend Missouri State University and pursue a degree in global studies. She hopes to eventually complete volunteer work in a foreign country.

## PRESIDENT’S POST FROM PAGE B

The point is, we must learn to embrace our fears and push forward with all we have. If not, we will never reach our full potential. No matter if you’re scared, nervous, or confused, use this to your advantage and keep going. After all, that’s what FFA is all about. Together we can do what we imagine in our dreams, and we become the very best person that we can be. So, I challenge you to stand up to your fears and overcome them. By doing so, you will continue to better yourself in everything that you do. No matter if it’s your first day or your last, walk into that agriculture education classroom and face every fear. In all reality, we have nothing to fear except for fear itself.

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# State Officer Q&A

## Who's that underneath the blue corduroy?



AUSTIN BOLAND  
State Vice President, Area 6

**FFA Chapter:** Sweet Springs

**College/Major:** Agriculture  
Economics

**SAE:** Diversified crop and swine  
production

### **Why did you want to be a Missouri FFA officer?**

I wanted to give back to the Missouri FFA Association for all the benefits I have reaped over my four years of high school.

### **Who is your hero and why?**

My hero is Chris Kyle because of the tremendous qualities he possessed. He was extremely dedicated to his country and family. He did everything he could to protect both, and I believe this very admirable.

### **What are your plans for the future?**

I am attending the University of Missouri-Columbia this fall to obtain a degree in Agricultural Economics. Following graduation,

I plan to pursue a career in ag policy or the legislature.

### **What is something unique or interesting that few people know about you?**

Something interesting about me is that I have the opportunity to exhibit hogs at shows all across the nation such as in Louisville, Des Moines, Springfield and many more cities!

### **Advice to FFA Members:**

My advice to FFA Members is to, "Go All Out." This was the theme from last year's National FFA Convention. I want members to be as active in the FFA as possible and work extremely hard at everything they participate in to make sure they are getting the most out of this organization.

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ALEXA NORDWALD  
State Vice President, Area 15

**FFA Chapter:** East Prairie

**College/Major:** University of  
Missouri – Columbia, Science and  
Agricultural Journalism

**SAE:** Food preparation. My  
family owns The Prairie Queen  
Restaurant and Ice Cream Parlor.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

# State Officer Q&A

## Who's that underneath the blue corduroy?

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

#### Who is your hero and why?

My hero is King David from the Bible. You may know him better from the story of David and Goliath. David trusted in God even when he had every reason to be afraid and give up. Although many people doubted David, his strength in his faith allowed him to be successful and to help an entire country.

#### What are your future plans?

My plans for the future include graduating from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in Science and Agricultural Journalism. I hope to someday work in public relations or strategic marketing, and ultimately want to be able to contribute to the agricultural industry through my communication skills.

#### Advice to FFA Members:

Take advantage of the time you have in FFA during high school. I can't tell you how much I wish I hadn't cared what other people were thinking when I was a Greenhand. Remember, if you're having fun, that's all that matters! In a couple of years everyone will be wishing that they'd had the courage to jump out on the dance floor like you did.

---

**Name:** Tanner Koenig

**FFA Chapter:** Wheatland

**College/Major:** College of the Ozarks / Agricultural Education

**SAE:** I have a diversified SAE project. In agricultural services, I work at a bank. I also live and work



TANNER KOENIG  
State Vice President, Area 10

on our family beef farm where I help raise Angus cattle. In my free time, I operate my own custom woodworking business.

#### Why did you want to become a Missouri FFA officer?

Part of my motivation was paying it forward. I wanted to give back to the organization that has given

me so much. Another reason is because I plan to become an agriculture teacher. Being a state officer will give me many chances to network and meet teachers from all across the state. I will also gain valuable knowledge, skills and experiences that I will be able to pass on to my students.

#### Advice to FFA Members:

Take advantage of every opportunity that you can, and don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. I have missed out on several potentially life-changing opportunities during my FFA career just because I was scared of failing. Give everything you do 110 percent, and I know that when you reflect on your time in the corduroy jacket, you won't have any regrets.

An advertisement for ASGROW and DEKALB. The background is yellow. At the top, the text "SUCCESS NEVER RESTS" is written in a large, green, stylized font. Below this, on the left, is the ASGROW logo, which consists of a green stylized 'A' and a brown circle, with the word "ASGROW®" in bold black letters below it. On the right is the DEKALB logo, which features a green winged corn cob and the word "DEKALB" in bold red letters, with "STRONG ROOTS. STRONG YIELDS.®" in green below it. At the bottom, the text "Contact your local rep to MAXIMIZE yield in your field with our ROCKSTAR lineup of products." is written in a mix of black and green fonts. Below that, it says "Proud to support our local communities and Missouri FFA" in bold black letters, and at the very bottom, the website addresses "www.asgrow.com | www.dekalb.com" are listed in green.



# In Their Words

## Up close with your Missouri State FFA Officers

### ALEX STICHNOTE



ALEX STICHNOTE  
State Secretary

When I was a freshman in high school, I played soccer for our school team. I had not played soccer since third grade, but in middle school I lost a bet with my writing teacher, who was also the high school soccer coach, and I had to promise to play for one year.

As the first day of practice rolled around, I began to feel more and more nervous because I was afraid that I would be so bad that the other girls would tease me or get mad at me. However, the first day of practice was unlike any other sports practice I had ever experienced. Even before the coach arrived, the senior players outlined for us the rules and worked with us to set goals for our team.

As practice got up and running, there were cheers of encouragement, lots of clapping and a plethora of high fives — even when we were doing our conditioning! The first practice set the tone for the rest of the year. Whether we were practicing in the snow or the mud, riding on the

bus for two hours to get to a game, or stopping at Taco Bell on the way home from a victory, I loved spending every single second with my team and the memories and friendships I made in that season will stay with me forever.

Even though I was not really prepared to play soccer that year, I am glad that I did. It showed me the benefits of having a strong bond with my teammates and, more importantly, being a positive role model on a team. We have the opportunity to work on many teams through our lives. Always be aware of our actions and attitudes because you never know the positive memories that could be created for someone else. How can you impact someone just by being a good teammate?

### CLAY SMITH



CLAY SMITH  
State Vice President, Area 12

is purposefully curved and shaped so it will distort your height or your size in some way. Short folks can look extremely tall, while skinny people can look fat because of the contour of the mirror. It's designed to make you laugh because you end up looking so different than you do in reality.

FFA members, we are taught how to be a leader. However, sometimes we focus so much on becoming that polished, ideal and crowd-pleasing leader that we lose who we really are. Each of us is unique in our own way, and if we use that uniqueness to become a leader, then we become great. Each leader has something different that he or she can bring to the table that will impact others' lives.

When thinking about becoming a leader, make sure to cater to your strengths and allow that to be what you set your goals off of. This will not only make it easier to understand yourself, but also will allow you to reach out to others. You will be able to influence people in a special way that will directly

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

impact those around you. So, when you look into that mirror in the morning, make sure you see yourself a genuine leader, not some society-warped and molded person.

## JACOB HOELLERING

I love to go trapshooting. I began the sport as a freshman on my FFA chapter's team. I grew up hunting, so I initially told myself I would be really good. Yet, I was quite possibly the worst shooter on the team. I think I set the record for the most clay pigeons missed in one day at an area trapshoot; I hit

three out of 100. I was ready to quit trapshooting altogether.

My willingness to achieve, though, made me stick with it. Through hard work, dedication and practice, I shot 13 at the next meet. With continued practice, I now consistently shoot in the 70s. This demonstrates that no matter how bad you think you are at something, with hard work and practice you can achieve your goals.

I reached my goal of shooting 75 out of 100. I could not have done so without first wanting to reach success. Any SMART Goal — a Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely Goal — is achievable if enough effort is put



JACOB HOELLERING  
State Vice President, Area 8

toward that goal.

Set SMART goals in life and work hard to achieve them. It is up to you to be who you want to be, what you want to be and what you want to achieve.

An advertisement for the 'Agronomy Guide App'. The central image is a smartphone tilted diagonally, showing the app's interface. The app screen has a yellow background with green grass and the text 'AGRONOMY' in large, bold, green letters. Below this, it says 'Today's Farmer AGRONOMY GUIDE 2024' and features the MFA Incorporated logo with the tagline 'MADE FOR AGRICULTURE'. The background of the entire advertisement is a lush green field with a bright sunset or sunrise in the lower left corner. Large white text 'DATA ON DEMAND' is overlaid on the right side of the phone. At the bottom, white text reads 'WITH THE NEW AGRONOMY GUIDE APP'. Below that, a black bar contains the text 'Download it for iOS, Android or Kindle at [www.mfa-inc.com/crops/agronomyguide.aspx](http://www.mfa-inc.com/crops/agronomyguide.aspx)' in white and yellow.

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# Shooting for the Stars

## Meet Missouri's American Star candidates

### DEVELOPING SAE'S

BY ALISON BOS

#### **DYLAN MASSA** *American Star Farmer Candidate, Liberal FFA*

Dylan Massa is the son of Russ and Denny Massa of Lamar, Missouri. He is a 2012 graduate of Liberal High School, and in 2014 earned his associates degree emphasizing livestock reproduction from Fort Scott Community College.

Massa was selected as an American Star Farmer candidate based on his diverse and successful supervised agricultural experience (SAE), which consists primarily of a registered and commercial Angus and Simmental cow-calf operation. His herd began with three cows and now includes more than 210 cow-calf pairs.

"My goal is to produce practical beef in order to do the most efficient job

Liberal FFA's Dylan Massa is Missouri's American Star Farmer candidate. His beef operation includes 210 cow-calf pairs.



that they can for the commercial cow-calf operator," Massa explains.

In addition to his cow-calf operation, Massa hauls cattle, travels to local farms to provide livestock nutrition education and provides artificial insemination services.

Massa says being selected as an American Star Candidate has always been a goal. While he says anything is possible with hard work, Massa also gives credit to his FFA advisors, one of which was his older sister, Allie.

"Alongside my parents, Allie has been a role model since day one," Massa notes. "She has always pushed me to my full potential and expects more out of me than others, and for that, I cannot thank her enough."

Massa has high expectations for his future. He plans to grow his cow herd, obtain more land and plans to get in the swine industry. In addition, he plans to expand his AI, hauling and spraying businesses.

#### **KRISTOFOR KRANJEC** *American Star Placement Candidate, Fredericktown FFA*

Kristofor Kranjec is Missouri's candidate for the American Star Placement Award. He is a member of the Fredericktown FFA Chapter, and is currently a senior at Southeast Missouri State University where he is majoring in business finance with a minor in agriculture. He is the son of Ivan and Donna Kranjec.

Kranjec's SAE consists of beef



Kristofor Kranjec works in his family's feed store as part of his SAE. The experience has helped him become a team-player.

production and agricultural sales placement. He began his SAE working at his parents' feed store loading customers, stocking shelves and bagging feed. He also helped his parents harvest hay and care for their Angus cattle.

Eight years later, Kranjec maintains inventory and merchandise products for seven departments in the store. He also assists with several other operations throughout the store.

"My SAE has instilled in me the importance of becoming responsible, dedicated, hard-working and a team player," Kranjec explains. "It has given me opportunities to improve myself by becoming more skilled in practical, as well as analytical, applications."

Kranjec says representing Missouri at the National FFA Convention is unequivocally his greatest FFA achievement. He is very

**CONTINUED ON PAGE L**

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- Amy Wieberg, FCS Financial

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In addition to being an informational resource, the site is about YOU - send snapshots of your chapter activities and accomplishments for a chance to be included on the site. Email your comments and photos to [info@missouriffa.org](mailto:info@missouriffa.org).



# Shooting for the Stars

## Continued from Page J



appreciative, honored and humbled to be chosen and looks forward to meeting the other candidates.

“FFA members should carefully select their SAE,” Kranjec says. “Their SAE should be an area they have a strong interest in and is

Wellington-Napoleon FFA member Benjamin Niendick hopes to produce 40,000 bales of straw as part of his SAE. He is an American Star in Agribusiness candidate.

practical for them in their setting.”

After graduating college, Kranjec plans to enroll in law school and focus on agricultural issues while continuing to help his parents with their agricultural enterprises.

### **BENJAMIN NIENDICK** *American Star Agribusiness Candidate, Wellington- Napoleon FFA*

Benjamin Niendick will represent Missouri at the National FFA Convention in October based on

his SAE in agricultural sales and entrepreneurship. Through his SAE, Niendick has grown an agricultural-based business selling wheat straw. The son of Neal and Linda Niendick, Wellington, Missouri, he is currently a student at the University of Missouri-Columbia majoring in agricultural systems management with a minor in agricultural economics.

Niendick used his savings and exchange of labor to purchase a used baler. In his first year, he produced 6,100 bales of straw. Now he has made plans to produce 40,000 bales, and has acquired assets that have aided in increased efficiency and decreased labor costs. Throughout his experience, he’s gained some major customers, including a pipeline company and Grass Pad, Inc.

Niendick is responsible for running the equipment, hiring extra help, arranging for financing and making marketing decisions.

“For me, the most important thing about my SAE and my story is that it is truly mine,” Niendick said. “The scale of this SAE perhaps makes it difficult to believe that a young person from age 14 to 20 was able to grow a program to this level.”

In 2013, Niendick was awarded the National Proficiency in Agricultural Sales/Entrepreneurship. He has also won three state proficiency awards. “The American Star application represents what I hope will be the pinnacle of my career in the FFA,” he explains.



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[LinvingstonK@missouri.edu](mailto:LinvingstonK@missouri.edu)

## MO SHEEP PRODUCERS

<http://www.missourisheep.com/youthprograms.htm>

Contact: Scott Kaden

[rollakadens@embarqmail.com](mailto:rollakadens@embarqmail.com)

## MO PORK ASSOCIATION

[http://www.mopork.com/Youth\\_FFASpkngCntst.asp](http://www.mopork.com/Youth_FFASpkngCntst.asp)

Contact: Diane Slater

[diane@mopork.com](mailto:diane@mopork.com)

## MO CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

[www.mocattle.com](http://www.mocattle.com)

Contact: Mike Deering

[mike@mocattle.com](mailto:mike@mocattle.com)

## MO ASSOC. OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

<http://www.maswcd.net>

Contact: Peggy Lemons

[peggyl@maswcd.net](mailto:peggyl@maswcd.net)

## MO YOUNG FARMERS/ YOUNG FARM WIVES ASSOC.

Contact: Lisa Evans

[lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov](mailto:lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov)

## MO FARM BUREAU

[www.mofb.org](http://www.mofb.org)

Contact: Eric Volmer

[evolmer@mofb.com](mailto:evolmer@mofb.com)

## MO PET BREEDERS ASSOC.

[www.mpbaonline.org](http://www.mpbaonline.org)

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College of Agriculture,  
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# FFA Calendar

Missouri FFA is on the move

## SEPTEMBER

|       |                                                                       |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2     | MU Fisher Delta Research Center Field Day<br>Portageville             |
| 10    | Ag Ed Field Day, MU Southwest Center<br>Mount Vernon                  |
| 11    | MSU/Farm Bureau Salute to Agriculture<br>MSU Darr Center, Springfield |
| 12    | MYSSA Fall Classic Youth Trap Tournament<br>Linn Creek                |
| 12-19 | SEMO District Fair<br>Cape Girardeau                                  |
| 15    | Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Bradford Research Ctr<br>Columbia                   |
| 15    | MU Thompson Farm Research Ctr Field Day<br>Spickard                   |
| 17    | Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Hundley-Whaley Center<br>Albany                     |
| 18    | Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Graves-Chapple Farm<br>Corning                      |
| 20-26 | National Farm Safety and Health Week                                  |
| 22-26 | Delta Fair<br>Kennett                                                 |
| 26    | American Royal Youth Leadership Day<br>Kansas City                    |
| 26    | MU South Farm Showcase<br>Columbia                                    |
| 29    | MU Forage Systems Research Ctr Field Day<br>Linneus                   |

## OCTOBER

|     |                                                |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | Central District Grasslands Contest<br>TBA     |
| 1   | NWMSU Fall CDE's<br>Maryville                  |
| 1   | Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Wurdack Farm<br>Cook Station |
| 2-4 | Ozark Fall Farmfest<br>Springfield             |

## OCTOBER

|         |                                                                  |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3       | Northeast District FFA Trapshoot<br>Macon                        |
| 5       | MU CAFNR College & Career Exploration Day<br>Columbia            |
| 6       | MSU Agriculture Career Fair<br>MSU Darr Center, Springfield      |
| 6       | Southeast District Grasslands Contest<br>TBA                     |
| 7       | FFA Field Day, Barton Ag Research Center<br>SEMO, Cape Girardeau |
| 8       | Northwest District Grasslands Contest<br>Maysville               |
| 8       | Northeast District Grasslands Contest<br>TBA                     |
| 8       | Southwest District Grasslands Contest<br>TBA                     |
| 8       | South Central Grasslands Contest<br>TBA                          |
| 15      | State Grassland Evaluation Contest<br>Columbia vicinity          |
| 25-11/1 | American Royal Livestock Show<br>Kansas City                     |
| 28-31   | National FFA Convention<br>Louisville, Kentucky                  |

## NOVEMBER

|    |                                                            |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | South Central District Fall Speaking Contest<br>Rolla      |
| 11 | Northwest District Fall Speaking Contest<br>Cameron        |
| 11 | Central District Fall Speaking Contest<br>UMC, Warrensburg |
| 12 | Southwest District Fall Speaking Contest<br>Springfield    |
| 12 | Southeast District Fall Speaking Contest<br>Bloomfield     |
| 17 | Northeast District Fall Speaking Contest<br>South Shelby   |



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| Julie Hull          | Sassie Matzen    | Richard Lyness    | Brandelyn Martin    |
| Zachariah Petzoldt  | Jera Pipkin      | Braden Millard    | Christopher Paullus |
| Cody Schniedermeyer | Austin Stanton   | Megan Rieke       | Susan Roth          |
| Michael Werkmeister | Jordann Wheatley | Shelby Trussell   | Brock Webb          |
|                     |                  |                   | Hope Yarick         |

Not pictured: Marnie Castle, Andrew Kaiser, Olivia Loges, Blake Moreland, Sabrina Pryor and Walter Schaefer

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## First Ever Oklahoma FFA Talent Competition!

Photos by Dusty Oldenburg

Oklahoma FFA has great musical talent. We've had talent performances during the General Sessions of the State Convention for years. We've had a talent show before the 6<sup>th</sup> General Session for a long time, too, but 2015 was the first year we had an official talent competition.

Kelly Barnes, a former Oklahoma FFA state officer who now serves as Assistant Convention Director as well as Music and Talent Director, manages the competition. He told us there were two main reasons to do this, "We wanted to showcase the talent even more and we wanted to get the audience more involved by giving them the opportunity to choose their favorite performers through online voting."

Making a major change to something you've been doing the same way for a long time can be risky, but adding the talent competition "had zero kinks. Everything worked fine. The voting was quick and accurate. The talent did a great job. I'd say it was a definite success."

The 6 finalists in this year's competition were Baylee Ballard (Elgin), Cole Eschete (Rock Creek), Callie Devine (Harrah), Bobby Ramming (Warner), Holly Barrow (Kingfisher) and Keneddee Rittenhouse (Eufaula). We had a chance to visit with Cole, Bobby and Holly.

**What was it like for you singing on that big stage in front of so many people?**

Bobby: "It was one of the most exciting moments I have been through. Singing on the stage is nothing less than one of the biggest

thrills you can go through when you're at the State FFA Convention."

Holly: "Since I was a little girl, I've wanted to sing on a stage in front of thousands of people. The FFA has turned that little girl's dream into a reality. I was 5 when I attended my first State FFA Convention and I told my mom I was going to be on that stage one day. Now I have been blessed to be able to accomplish that goal."

**Do you like the idea of a competition? Is there anything you would change?**

Holly: "When it's a competition the stakes seem so much higher, but I realized it's all in God's hands and whatever happens was meant to happen. I would love to see our talent competition grow bigger and bigger in the future!"

Cole: "I love the idea of competition. Oklahoma has a lot of talent and I am so honored to be a part of that. As far as changing anything, the Oklahoma FFA Convention runs so smoothly, why change perfection?"

When it was all said and done, the overall winner for 2015 was Holly Barrow from the Kingfisher FFA chapter.

Mr. Barnes is very happy with how the talent competition came together this year and he is looking forward to 2016. "I think it was a success, and I think it will get better and better."

If you'd like to be considered for performing at the 2016 state convention, submit your talent application and CD anytime between now and February 1, 2016.



# Meet Your 2015-2016 State Officers



## Markel Harris

## N.E. District Vice President

I am not the best public speaker.

I began my public speaking experience during my freshman year by reciting the FFA Creed. I still remember the day Mr. Holloway and Mr. Nemecek asked me to give the creed in front of the entire ag class. I had never been so nervous in my entire life.

Every time we went to an FFA Creed contest, I would enter the room, get nervous and mess up at least one paragraph. I just couldn't seem to get it all together.

Then my sophomore year came. I wrote and prepared a speech in the Natural Resources speaking division. It took me forever to get that speech memorized. And, yes, at the first contest, when I went into the room to compete, I got nervous and spoke so fast that I jumbled up my words and skipped paragraphs. I know the judges didn't understand a single word that came out of my mouth.

This happened to me at every contest we went to, and I never placed. I started to get a little down on myself. At the perfect time, however, I came across this quote:

***“Keep your dreams alive. Understand achieving anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe.” -- Gail Devers.***

I'm a much improved speaker today. This quote is what kept me pushing to accomplish things I never dreamed possible. This quote kept me striving to make myself better. I kept practicing, received good coaching from my FFA advisors and began slowing down and enunciating my words. I began gaining confidence in myself, and I no longer got extremely nervous when entering a contest room. By the end of my senior year, I finally started placing.

FFA members, keep your dreams alive. All things are possible for those who believe.

# Meet Your 2015-2016 State Officers



## Vanessa Wiebe

## N.W. District Vice President

“You can’t do that; you’re too small. You can’t do that because I’m already doing it. YOU CAN’T DO IT!”

Believe it or not, these are the words I heard all the time growing up. It seemed like no matter what I did, there was always someone telling me I couldn’t do it. It began to wear away my confidence until eventually I had none.

One day, however, I walked into a room that soon became my home away from home. This was my ag room, ag building, ag class. That day I became a member of the Hooker FFA chapter and my life changed instantly.

Before I knew it, I had the confidence to stand in front of a room full of people and give a speech. I became involved in showing livestock, and my true passion for agriculture came to the surface. I couldn’t get enough of what this incredible organization had to offer. It seemed like everything was finally going my way, and I had found the place where I belonged.

But as I got older, the challenges to my confidence became harder. I even had adults telling me my dreams and goals were not attainable. Again, this broke my heart and confidence for a while. But with the help of this organization and the friends I had made through it, I found my confidence again. This experience made me stronger, and this organization helped propel me to success in reaching my goals.

FFA members, maybe some of you have been told you can’t do it; that no matter how hard you try, success for you is just out of reach. Well, I’m living proof that with involvement in FFA, good friends and a strong determination to succeed, you can do it. FFA believes in you, and I know you can do it.

Never let anyone tell you that you can’t do it. Your dreams and goals can become reality. That choice is yours and yours alone. I almost let others rule my life, but FFA has helped me to become my own person.

Be you. Chase your dreams, holding nothing back.



# Meet Your 2015-2016 State Officers



## **Brooks McKinney** S.E. District Vice President

My palms sweating, my face red, my stomach leaping inside my body -- I was a freshman about to walk into my very first FFA Creed speaking competition.

I was nervous, to say the least. All was well until I reached the third paragraph, forgot what to say and ran out of the room. Yes, I ran out of the contest room!

As bad as that may sound, it is not the worst part. After the contest, my FFA advisor, Mr. Smith, made me go back into the room to finish what I had started. Although this is one of my most embarrassing experiences, it is also one of the most significant moments of my life.

After running from the room, I was discouraged and disappointed in myself. I was just about to tell Mr. Smith, "I give up!" when he looked at me and told me to try again.

Try again. Those two simple words helped me realize I was better than just giving up and that I had enough potential to keep pushing forward.

I didn't succeed at first. In fact, I didn't succeed many times. Failure didn't stop me from trying again and again, however, all because of the encouragement from someone who believed in me.

FFA members, you will come across people in your life who pick you up when you fall down. Never miss an opportunity to say thank you to them. Whether it is your FFA advisor, parents or best friend, they believe in you and want to see you believe in yourself.

That day, Mr. Smith taught me how to believe in myself. When I walked into that contest room for the second time, I did not run from the room and I realized I had the ability to present the FFA Creed. I started to believe in myself.

FFA members, if you fall down do not quit or give up. Keep pushing forward because having the ability to believe in yourself will allow you to reach your true potential in life.

# Meet Your 2015-2016 State Officers



## Cale Jahn State Secretary

Often as FFA members, we find ourselves in a rut. Although we wouldn't consider calling it that at first, a rut is a place we can all get to very easily. And by rut, I don't mean what's in your unpaved driveway after 30 inches of rain has fallen in the past two weeks. I'm referring to a state of mind.

Finding ourselves in a rut is an easy thing to do. To grow as individuals and members, however, it's important that we explore new roads. I did not enroll in an ag mechanics class until my senior year. I had always thought about it, but it didn't involve cows or giving a speech, so it took me a while to really explore what the course had to offer.

Looking back, I wish I had taken an ag mechanics class much earlier because it was one of the most relaxing, fun and rewarding things I did as an agricultural education student. Last fall, I persuaded my instructor to let me build a catch trailer. Having no idea what I had gotten myself into, I now have a half top cowboy trailer, and I couldn't be happier with the outcome.

By taking a chance and diving into something I knew little about, I grew as a person and welder, and now have a much closer relationship with my fellow students and friends who helped me build the trailer.

I encourage each of you to take a chance this year and find something that could be your new FFA specialty. It doesn't necessarily have to involve spending six months on a welding project. For you, it might be diving into a new career development event area, researching an agriscience fair topic or expanding your supervised agricultural experience project.

Get out of whatever rut you are in. Find something new, fun and challenging. Discover a new side of you. It could be a life changer.

***We'll meet Drake, Hallie, Kalee and Kelby in the Winter issue of Outlook.***



# Three New Public Speaking



Cleo Giraldo (center)



Adrienne Blakey



Madelyn Gerken (center)

Public speaking is a big deal in FFA. It is an especially big deal in Oklahoma FFA. We take it a lot more seriously than many of the other states. The competition here is stiff. We have more categories in which students can compete and that ensures more opportunities for student success. As a result, we do very well in national competition.

This year we'll be sending three of our best to represent us at the national FFA convention: Madelyn Gerken of the Kingfisher FFA Chapter in the Creed speaking division, Cleo Giraldo of the Eufaula FFA chapter in the Extemporaneous division and Adrienne Blakey of the Stillwater FFA chapter in the Prepared public speaking division.

We invited Madelyn, Cleo and Adrienne to tell us about their public speaking experience and share a few of their secrets.

## How did you get involved in public speaking?

Cleo: My introduction to public speaking came during my 8th grade year when I would give short devotionals at church. I was so nervous I couldn't look up at the crowd. It was really hard for me to speak in front of people. But then I went to Alumni Camp and, as every FFA member knows, your first session changes you. It completely shattered my shell.

Adrienne: In the eighth grade, I joined the FFA and my mom informed me that I would be giving a speech in the spring. I didn't want to give one because I was shy and the idea of standing in front of people and delivering a 7-minute

speech frightened me. I hated it at first, but as the competitions that year began to go by, I fell in love with the competition and have been ever since.

Madelyn: I've been involved in public speaking since my 4-H days. My mom and I had written my very first speech, which was about s'mores. We spent a lot of time on car rides and at home trying to get me to deliver a speech and to help me find my "speech voice." When I found out I enjoyed public speaking, I worked more with Mrs. Burns [Lori Burns, one of her ag teachers] on American Farmers and Ranchers speeches and other contests that I was able to attend.

## As you developed your public speaking skills, who was your biggest influence? In what way did that person influence you?

Cleo: I can say without a doubt that Mr. Turner [David Turner, one of his ag teachers] has been one of the biggest influences on my speaking ability. There were a lot of hours spent in the Ag room with him coaching me on how to walk, talk, and present myself. I listened to his advice and it really paid off.

Adrienne: I've had the help of multiple ag ed teachers and various experts over the years, but my mom has been my greatest influence. Without her support I could not have accomplished this. She encourages me to be the best I can be, in speech contests, and in all aspects of my life.

Madelyn: My older sister has encouraged me throughout my life to always be a better person. Sydnee started pushing me harder when she started the FFA as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. I could count on Sydnee to listen to me say my first year speech or have her ask me questions about the Creed this

# Winners Share Their Secrets

## Set goals for yourself and keep persevering until you reach them, because you can!

year. I truly appreciate having someone like her who is willing to help me and make me a better FFA member.

### **What success tips do you have for someone who is just starting out?**

Cleo: Work your tail off, then grow a new tail and work that one off, too. There are three basic rules that I've developed when I've helped out our 8th grade speakers: First, never give up -- never give up hope on yourself because with a little bit of hope and God at your back, anything is possible. Second, listen to what your ag teachers say when they coach you. They are saying it for a reason, and I promise they only want to see you succeed. Third, find some healthy competition. What can help a lot is having a friend that you can go to speech contests with to give you a little motivation.

Adrienne: I think of two main things: 1. Keep moving forward and 2. Do YOUR best. Set goals for yourself and keep persevering until you reach them, because you can! It's important to not give up on yourself despite the setbacks you will have. As for the second part, do YOUR best. Emphasis on "YOUR". My advice is to not get too caught up in the competition and just play your own game. Give your speech the best way you can. If you do your best then there is nothing you can regret when you walk out of that room -- win or lose.

Madelyn: My advice is to not give up. Public speaking is one of the hardest but most rewarding CDEs. From memorizing the Creed, to delivering it with passion and perfection, to going over the millions of Creed questions, there were times when I thought I was done. However, I always pushed my goal to the front of my mind and continued to keep working. It's always great if you can have someone helping you remember your goal. My sisters pushed me to keep working hard and always reminded me of what I said I wanted.

### **Describe how you prepared for your event.**

Cleo: Speaking in front of anybody I could. Nobody was safe -- my grandma, my hog, every one of my ag classes, my mom, and certainly Mr. Turner and Mr. Ridley [his ag teachers].

Adrienne: I kept my material fresh on my mind by re-reading articles often and staying in the loop

with current events that had to do with my speech. I said my speech to myself everyday on the way to school for about a month. In addition, I gave it to my parents or people in my church twice a week and I practiced answering questions. I also went to as many jackpot contests as my schedule would allow!

Madelyn: Getting ready for my event starts in the ag room with Mrs. Burns. Whether it is 7:30 in the morning or 9:00 at night, we are always working on questions, research, and delivery. Finding a parent, grandparent, or sister at home to listen to me say the Creed or ask me questions was definitely not hard to do. Someone is always willing to listen. Right before I go into the room I like to take a moment to calm myself down by saying the Lord's Prayer or giving thanks for the opportunities I have been given through the FFA and throughout my life.

### **What are your thoughts about the national competition?**

Cleo: Excited and scared out of my mind at the same time. State contest was definitely a big contest and I credit most of that to God. Nationals is even more big time and there's a lot more preparing, speaking, printing and praying to be done before October.

Adrienne: I'm very honored to have the opportunity to compete on the national level. I am working hard now to prepare myself for success, so when I arrive at the national contest I can do my best and be happy with the results - no matter the outcome. The rest will be in God's hands.

Madelyn: I am honored and very excited to represent Oklahoma at the national FFA convention. The words "I believe," although said only 6 times out of 259 words in the FFA Creed, are something that every FFA member has lived by since 1930. I am beyond blessed to proclaim my beliefs and love for our organization through the Creed.

Madelyn, Cleo and Adrienne will represent Oklahoma and compete for national titles at the national FFA convention in Louisville, Kentucky later this year. We wish all three of them the best of luck.



# First Year Ag Teacher Takes on Brand New Program

**Being a first year teacher is never easy.** Being a first year ag teacher in a one teacher program is a real challenge; and when your program is also brand new, the prospect can be daunting. That's exactly what happened to Trevor Lucas when he was selected to be the first-ever ag teacher and FFA advisor at Calumet, Oklahoma. Fortunately, he was equal to the challenge.

When Mr. Lucas was in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (at Central High in Marlow, OK), he enrolled in an ag class and joined FFA. "I tell everybody that the day I walked into the ag barn completely changed my life. From that point on, I was hooked on FFA." He loved his ag classes and he loved FFA. "My first State Convention, I had literally no idea what to expect. I remember walking into the Convention Center and thinking, 'This is incredible.' That summer I went to Alumni Camp for the first time. I made a lot of friends from other schools; made friendships that I would carry on throughout my whole FFA career. That summer my eyes were opened to the FFA world and there was really no looking back."

He got involved with leadership and public speaking. He was chapter reporter his sophomore year and president the following two years. "My high school experience as an officer was just great. I was my ag teacher's right hand man for a while. Just getting to see how a program was run, and getting a planned program of activities was a growing experience for me." That's when he started thinking about becoming an ag teacher. "Once I got into high school and was in ag, I realized I could do this forever if I was an ag teacher. I realized this is what I wanted to do. What else am I going to do that I'd be more happy with than that?"

After graduating from high school, Mr. Lucas enrolled at OSU as an Ag-Ed major, a degree he finished in four years; quite an accomplishment, considering he was the FFA state reporter as a freshman. He went on to do his student teaching in Cheyenne, Oklahoma under Nathan Torrance, whom he describes as "absolutely my ag-teaching mentor and role model." One day Mr. Lucas and Mr. Torrance were coming back from an FFA contest, driving west on I-40, when Mr. Lucas saw the exit for Calumet and remembered that there was an opening for an ag teacher there. When Mr. Torrance told him it was a brand new program, he decided to apply for the job. That turned out to be a good decision. "My first job interview, I applied here. I came here and just knew this was my spot. I walked away from the interview knowing this is where I wanted to be."



The Calumet school board agreed. They hired him right away and he started the next fall. They were eager to move forward. "This community and administration has been 100% behind it and so excited to have an FFA program." They have shown their support by creating a brand-new, state-of-the-art classroom. "We have an all-new Smart Board, every student has an iPad, and we have iPad technology. We converted part of the old bus barn into a shop, and we have welders and cutting torches out there." The next big step will be obtaining a school farm. "I have several students who are considering exhibiting livestock, but they don't have a place to keep them."

The Calumet FFA had a very good first year. "Our opening ceremonies team got 4<sup>th</sup> out of 12 teams in our PI, which isn't great, but for a first year it was awesome, and our kids loved it. We had quite a bit of success in the public speaking department. We had a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state and a state winner in the AFR speech contest. I had several people show livestock and do CDE events. I think we're pretty middle of the road there, but just to be middle of the road is great for these kids who are doing this for the first time."

Considering he has only taught for one year, Mr. Lucas has a very mature philosophy about what he does. "I consider myself not just an ag teacher, but a life teacher. I enjoy teaching genetics and soil conservation and all the stuff you cover, but at the end of the day, it is that life stuff. Being able to shake someone's hand and communicate with somebody—that's the stuff that regardless of where you're going, you're going to carry with you the rest of your life."

Mr. Lucas has high hopes for the future of his program. "Calumet has the ability to be a very well rounded, competitive, top-notch program. In the next five years we should be a three-star, gold emblem chapter. We can be there in five years. I really do believe that."



# Vision of Virginia

FALL 2015



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Robert Mills

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Get Published! Submit articles and photos of your chapter to [vaffa.publications@gmail.com](mailto:vaffa.publications@gmail.com), or complete the Chapter Feature Form on the Virginia FFA website.

# Virginia FFA On the GO!

Virginia FFA has some incredible members that are not only growing themselves here, in our state, but are really taking the challenge of *servitude, leadership, and agriculture advocacy* to the next level! Let's see where these two blue jackets have ventured!



Tess Seibel of the Lord Botetourt FFA chapter was the winner of the 2015 Ag Essay Day contest! Tess was tasked with sharing her vision of how the agriculture industry could meet the challenge of feeding a growing world population. From her work, Tess received a \$1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, DC where she attends a Celebration of AG dinner at the USDA! Way to go Tess!

We have a lot to celebrate as members of an incredible organization, and this year, First Lady Michelle Obama recognized outstanding leaders in Career & Technical Education. Virginia FFA National Officer Candidate, Whitney Bowman, attended the Celebrating Innovations in CTE event held in Washington DC, where she met with officials and represented the National FFA Organization in commemoration of this achievement!





# 2015 Middle School CDE Results

## Winning Teams



**Agriscience Technology Mechanics**  
**Aylor Middle**

Winning Team: Nick Corbit, Megan Grose,  
Michael Mowery, Logan O'Neil



**Agriscience Technology Mechanics**  
**Aylor Middle**

High Individual: Michael Mowery



**Food & Fiber**  
**W. R Legge**

Winning Team: Hannah Davis, Dakota  
Miller, Sarah Peer, Emmy Thompson



**Food & Fiber**  
**W. R Legge**

High Individual: Emmy Thompson



**Plant Science**  
**Read Mountain**

Winning Team: Madison Ulrey, Abby  
Whitlock, Brian Watts, Katherine Craig



**Plant Science**  
**Central Middle-Charlotte**

High Individual: Nathan Michaelson



**Quiz Bowl**  
**Aylor Middle**

Winning Team: Grayson Moyer, Emily Orgen,  
Erin Orgen, Gabriel Sakai



**Quiz Bowl**  
**Aylor Middle**

High Individual: Erin Orgen



**Quiz Bowl**  
**W. R Legge**

Quiz Bowl Essay Contest Winner & Dr. John. H.  
Hillison Award Recipient: Emmy Thompson



**Small Animal Care**  
**Aylor Middle**

Winning Team: Jonathan Ames, Tucker Myers,  
Skylar Treadwell, Katie Bundrick



**Small Animal Care**  
**Aylor Middle**

High Individual: Jonathan Ames



# 2015 Virginia FFA CDE Results

The following teams and individuals competed and were selected at State Convention this past June to represent Virginia at the 89th Annual National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY.



**Agricultural Communications**  
**Fort Defiance**

Leah Crickenberger, Jessica McCormick, Autumn Garber with Coach Eric Stogdale.



**Agriculture Issues Forum**  
**Magna Vista**

Elijah Ashby, Daniel Baker, Carrie Knot, Alyssa Moxley with Coach Debbie Barker



**Agricultural Mechanics**  
**Turner Ashby**

Ashton Dove, Eston Foster, Chris Payne, Kenan Smith, and Coach Mr. Brian Crickenberger



**Ag Sales**  
**Nottoway**

Seth Campbell, Jordan Fisher, William Foster, Clarence Heart with Coach Brandon Monk



**Agriscience Fair – Animal Systems Division I**  
**Cumberland**

Jordan Newman



**Agriscience Fair – Animal Systems Division III**  
**Powhatan Jr.**

Adam Mitchell and Travis Wooten



**Agriscience Fair – Environmental Services & Natural Resources Systems Division III**

**Powhatan Jr.**  
Henry Adkins and Connor Lindhjem



**Agriscience Fair – Plant Systems Division I**  
**Clarke County**

Analee Wisecarver



**Agriscience Fair – Plant Systems Division II**  
**Sherando**

Savannah Del Cid



**Agriscience Fair – Plant Systems Division IV**  
**Strasburg**

Nathan McDonald and Hannah Orndorff



**Agriscience Fair – Power, Structural, & Technical Systems Division I**

**Strasburg**  
Tiffany Heishman



**Computer Applications**  
**Nottoway**

Sarah Rash





**Creed Speaking**  
**Cedar Lee**  
Megan Day



**Dairy Cattle Evaluation**  
**Sherando**  
David Ames, Brooke Fletcher,  
Bailey McGill, and Nicole  
Masiello with Coach Chrissy  
Whitacre



**Environmental &  
Natural Resources**  
**Powhatan**  
Samuel Ashby, Chase Sexton,  
Jared West, Rachel Wooten  
with Ed Olsen



**Extemporaneous Public  
Speaking**  
**Strasburg**  
Austin Weaver



**Farm Business  
Management**  
**Fort Defiance**  
Ben Garber, Olivia Heeb, Jacob  
Lewis, and Cassidy Simmons with  
Coach Eric Stogdale



**Horse Evaluation**  
**Powhatan**  
Kate Morton, Katelyn Reamy,  
Jenna Prater, and Lindsey  
Watson with Coach Katelyn  
Smith

**NOT PICTURED**



**Horse Hippology**  
**Powhatan**  
Seraina Fisher, Kate Morton,  
Jenna Prater, Kaitlyn Reamy  
with Coach Katelyn Smith



**Job Interview**  
**King George**  
Chelsea Kowall

**Avian Bowl**  
**Nelson Senior**  
Brandy Campbell, Trevor  
Carter and Ruth Fitzgerald  
with Coach Ed McCann Sr.

**Dairy Showmanship**  
**Central**  
Mykah Smith

**Livestock Judging**  
**Buffalo Gap**  
Bailey Hadacek, Cole Reeves,  
Sam Blackwell, Simon Liggett  
with Coach Shirley Kaufman

**Milk Quality & Products**  
**Riverheads**  
Isabelle Leonard, Jennifer  
Callison, Ryan Fitzgerald, and  
Rebecca Straley with Coach  
Kristen Carr

**Poultry**  
**East Rockingham**  
Joseph Lam, Melissa Ruhlman, Jacob  
Phillips, and Jacob Shifflett with  
Coach Rebecca Holloway

**Crops**  
**Nelson Middle**  
Kelsy Fitzgerald, Delia  
Shepard, Danielle Saunders,  
and Cody Adams with  
Coach Scott Massie

**Floriculture**  
**Magna Vista**  
Mariah Devins, Bradley  
Hancock, Whitney Wood,  
Erin Perry with Coach  
Debbie Barker

**Marketing Plan**  
**Turner Ashby**  
Clayton Armstrong, Hunter  
Hilbert, and Courtlend Knight  
with Coach Codi Jo Smith

**Nursery/Landscape**  
**Magna Vista**  
Haley Warren, Juan  
Gonzalez, Dianna Winn,  
Charquise Smith-Stultz with  
Coach Debbie Barker

**Veterinary Science**  
**Riverbend**  
Lauryn Dix, Mary Lynch, Dianna  
Corras, and Johnathan Cerritelli  
with Coach Sue Shelton



**Prepared Public  
Speaking**  
**James River**  
Davis Fenster



**Talent**  
**Nottoway**  
Hannah Armes



2015

# Virginia FFA Proficiency Winners



**Agricultural Education**  
**Sherando**  
Cailin Orgen



**Agricultural Mechanics  
Design and Fabrication**  
**Dinwiddie**  
Dylan McCoun



**Agricultural Processing**  
**Pulaski**  
Hannah Reed



**Agricultural Sales -  
Entrepreneurship**  
**Sherando**  
Morgan Kline



**Agriscience Research -  
Animal Systems**  
**Central**  
Emily Dysart



**Beef Production -  
Entrepreneurship**  
**Central**  
John-Robert Helsley



**Beef Production -  
Placement**  
**Floyd**  
Cameryn Carr



**Dairy Production -  
Entrepreneurship**  
**Central**  
Elizabeth Rhodes



**Diversified Agricultural  
Production**  
**Strasburg**  
Bethany Gochenour



**Diversified Crop  
Production - Placement**  
**Lord Botetourt**  
Theresa Seibel



**Diversified Livestock**  
**Appomattox Sr.**  
Estella Mason



**Equine Science -  
Placement**  
**Dinwiddie**  
Amanda Peters



**Fiber and/or Oil Crop  
Production**  
**Dinwiddie**  
Austin Hale



**Forest Management &  
Products**  
**Appomattox**  
Carlton Paulette



**Fruit Production**  
**Lord Botetourt**  
Claire Seibel



**Goat Production**  
**James River**  
David Cummings





**Grain Production –  
Placement**  
**Sherando**  
Justin McDonald



**Home and/or Community  
Development**  
**Riverheads**  
Cole Herndon



**Nursery Operations**  
**Amelia**  
Ashlee Madison



**Outdoor Recreation**  
**Spotswood**  
Trent Diehl



**Sheep Production**  
**Pulaski**  
Thomas Sutphin



**Swine Production –  
Placement**  
**Appomattox Sr.**  
Garrett Woody



**Vegetable Production**  
**George Wythe**  
Tanner Marshall



**Veterinary Science**  
**James River**  
Lindsey Fenster



**Agricultural  
Communications**  
**Magna Vista**  
Lindsey Hankins

**Agricultural Mechanics  
Repair and Maintenance –  
Placement**  
**Strasburg**  
Carl Williams

**Agricultural Sales –  
Placement**  
**Lakeland**  
Elkana Wafula

**Wildlife Production and  
Management**  
**Nottoway**  
Christopher Shorter

**Agriscience Research  
– Integrated Systems**  
**Central**  
Lacey Dysart

**Dairy Production –  
Placement**  
**George Wythe**  
Alfred Walker Stevens

**Diversified Horticulture  
Production**  
**Holston**  
Tiffany Patrick

**Forage Production**  
**King William**  
Eugene Longest

**Small Animal  
Production and Care**  
**Lakeland**  
William March

**Turf Grass Management**  
**Lakeland**  
Johnny Abbott

NOT PICTURED

# 2015 Virginia FFA State Stars



**Star in Agricultural  
Placement**  
**Central**  
Nicole Kibler



**Star in Agriscience**  
**Central**  
Emily Dysart



**Star in Agribusiness**  
**Central**  
Elizabeth Rhodes



**Star Farmer**  
**Central**  
John-Robert Helsley



# 2015

# Virginia FFA State Degree Recipients

|                   |             |              |                 |                 |               |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Abingdon          | Emily       | Danko        | Fauquier County | Kaitlyn         | Loveless      |
| Abingdon          | Emily       | Jackson      | Fauquier County | James           | Puckett       |
| Abingdon          | Coy         | Meade        | Fauquier County | Bryan           | Rutherford    |
| Abingdon          | Courtney    | Tucker       | Floyd           | Cameryn         | Carr          |
| Abingdon          | Emily       | Winebarger   | Fort Chiswell   | Zachary         | Adams         |
| Alleghany         | Ethan       | Herwald      | Fort Chiswell   | Robert          | Odum          |
| Alleghany         | Emily       | Moyers       | Fort Chiswell   | Edward          | Stuart        |
| Amelia            | Ashlee      | Madison      | Fort Defiance   | Ashley          | Crickenberger |
| Appomattox Senior | Lara Olivia | Ballard      | Fort Defiance   | Sarah           | Flora         |
| Appomattox Senior | Sidney      | Braswell     | Fort Defiance   | Ben             | Garber        |
| Appomattox Senior | Oralia      | De La Cruz   | Fort Defiance   | Alondra         | Gonzalez      |
| Appomattox Senior | Adam        | Fleshman     | Fort Defiance   | Tyler           | Mullins       |
| Appomattox Senior | Carlton     | Paulette     | Fort Defiance   | Penny           | Pence         |
| Appomattox Senior | Cody        | Sams         | Fort Defiance   | Derek           | Rubush        |
| Appomattox Senior | Robert      | Stewart      | Fort Defiance   | Nicholas        | Wade          |
| Appomattox Senior | Angel Marie | Warren       | Fort Defiance   | Joseph          | Ware          |
| Blacksburg        | Danielle    | Okes         | Fort Defiance   | Charlie         | TRUE          |
| Bluestone         | Nina        | Bowen        | Galax           | Holly           | Cassell       |
| Bluestone         | Dalton      | Campbell     | George Wythe    | Alfred Walker   | Stephens, III |
| Bluestone         | Matthew     | Carter       | Giles           | Kaylee          | Moore         |
| Bluestone         | Kathryn     | Eckler       | Gloucester      | Bailey          | Carrington    |
| Bluestone         | Summer      | Fink         | Gloucester      | Anna            | Henderson-Cox |
| Bluestone         | Macy        | Mills        | Gloucester      | Cayla           | Mutschler     |
| Bluestone         | Tina        | Moore        | Gloucester      | Haylee          | Thweatt       |
| Bluestone         | Watt        | Pittard      | Greene County   | Anthony         | Houchens      |
| Broadway          | Taylor      | Burgess      | Gretna          | Chandler        | Cox           |
| Broadway          | Noah        | Delawder     | Gretna          | Chelsey         | Hutcheson     |
| Buffalo Gap       | Carrie      | Cromer       | Gretna          | Hannah          | Kinsley       |
| Buffalo Gap       | Tori        | Prevette     | Gretna          | Stephanie       | Laws          |
| Buffalo Gap       | Evan        | Simmons      | Halifax County  | Raul            | Valencia      |
| Buffalo Gap       | Cory        | Smith        | Highland        | Ethan           | Botkin        |
| C.L. Payne        | Madison     | Hahn         | Holston         | Walker          | Baumgardner   |
| Carroll County    | Paige       | Briggs       | Holston         | Ray             | Blevins       |
| Central           | Emily       | Dysart       | Holston         | Hannah          | Greer         |
| Central           | John-Robert | Helsley      | Holston         | Mackenzie       | Hyatt         |
| Central           | Nicole      | Kibler       | Holston         | Avery           | Laflamme      |
| Central           | Emily       | Nicely       | Holston         | Tiffany         | Patrick       |
| Central           | Elizabeth   | Rhodes       | Holston         | Seth            | Thomas        |
| Central           | Andrew      | Rhodes       | Honaker         | Alice           | Harris        |
| Central           | Lexus       | Ryman        | James River     | David           | Cummings      |
| Central           | Grant       | Smith        | James River     | Lindsey         | Fenster       |
| Chatham           | Caroline    | Maxey        | James Wood      | Cody            | Boden         |
| Chatham           | Abby        | Van Der Hyde | James Wood      | Emily           | Bucklew       |
| Christiansburg    | Ian         | Calvert      | James Wood      | David           | Christian     |
| Christiansburg    | Carrie      | Edwards      | James Wood      | Samantha        | Fowler        |
| Christiansburg    | Ryan        | Graves       | James Wood      | Bridget         | Mullins       |
| Christiansburg    | Jesse       | Morris       | James Wood      | Kristel         | Myers         |
| Clarke County     | Helena      | St. Clair    | James Wood      | Katie           | Roy           |
| Clarke County     | Mallory     | Unger        | King William    | Brandon         | Ancarrow      |
| Clintwood         | Samantha    | Johnson      | Liberty         | Peyton          | Overstreet    |
| Clintwood         | Katy        | Mullins      | Lord Botetourt  | Tyler           | Lehman        |
| Culpeper Senior   | Ryan        | Whitehead    | Louisa County   | Kristin         | Seay          |
| Dinwiddie         | Mason       | Green        | Louisa County   | Hunter          | Watkins       |
| Dinwiddie         | Dylan       | McCoun       | Luray           | Rachel          | Bauserman     |
| East Rockingham   | Gabbrial    | Conley       | Luray           | Samantha        | Shenk         |
| East Rockingham   | Lindsey     | Grubbs       | Magna Vista     | Eligha Jedediah | Ashby         |
| East Rockingham   | Grace       | Monger       | Magna Vista     | Mariah          | Devins        |
| East Rockingham   | Erin        | Shrout       | Magna Vista     | Daniel          | Fulcher       |
| East Rockingham   | Faith       | Stoutamyer   | Magna Vista     | Bradley         | Hancock       |
| Eastern View      | Robert      | Nixon        | Magna Vista     | Lindsey         | Hankins       |
| Fauquier County   | Kierston    | Ball         | Magna Vista     | Keri            | Knott         |
| Fauquier County   | Haley       | Clegg        | Magna Vista     | Alyssa          | Moxley        |
| Fauquier County   | Matt        | Gray         | Magna Vista     | Damien          | Prater        |



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# Honorary Degree Recipients

Magna Vista  
Massaponax  
Nottoway  
Nottoway  
Nottoway  
Nottoway  
Page County  
Page County  
Patrick Henry  
Pulaski  
Pulaski  
Randolph-Henry  
Randolph-Henry  
Randolph-Henry  
Richlands  
Richlands  
Richlands  
Riverbend  
Riverbend  
Riverheads  
Riverheads  
Riverheads  
Riverheads  
Riverheads  
Riverheads  
Rockbridge County  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Sherando  
Smith Mountain  
Smith Mountain  
Smith Mountain  
Spotswood  
Spotswood  
Spotswood  
Spotsylvania  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Stonewall Jackson  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Strasburg  
Turner Ashby  
Turner Ashby  
Turner Ashby  
Turner Ashby  
Turner Ashby  
Turner Ashby  
Wilson Memorial

Jacob  
Ryan  
Hannah  
William  
Sarah  
Christopher  
Mary  
Amber  
Madison  
Khrystyna  
Heath  
Loren  
James  
Luke  
Logan  
Zachary  
Shane  
Jonathan  
Michelle  
Jennifer  
Mekayla  
Cole  
Dow  
Ashley  
Weston  
Hannah  
Kristen  
Randall  
Adam  
Morgan  
Collin  
Cailin  
Mary  
Sara  
Brady  
Justin  
Kyle  
Hunter  
Trent Michael  
Logan  
Nicholas  
Miranda  
Rosie  
Alyssa  
Savannah  
Elizabeth  
Kayla  
Kayla  
Megan  
Thomas  
Holly  
Bethany  
Gina  
Kyla  
Austin  
Carl  
Peyton  
Katelyn  
Clinton  
Eston  
Donald  
Kylie  
Rebecca

Winn  
Hauth  
Armes  
Foster  
Rash  
Shorter  
Ott  
Viands  
Massie  
Nester  
Sutphin  
Gallimore  
Vaughan  
Whitlow  
Harmon  
Hays  
Osbourne  
Cerritelli  
Smith  
Callison  
Heizer  
Herndon  
Leonard  
Shull  
Snyder  
Beard  
Brown  
Gray  
Holthaus  
Kline  
Ordonez  
Orgen  
Painter  
Stickman  
Young  
Cox  
Lanier  
Woodford  
Diehl  
Diehl  
Shifflett  
Pitts  
Clifton  
Foltz  
Frazier  
Funkhouser  
Miller  
Pennington  
Strickler  
Coates  
Funkhouser  
Gochenour  
Lucas  
Mason  
Weaver  
Williams  
Cook  
Daggett  
Fitzgerald  
Foster  
Sheffer  
Wheelbarger  
Nicholls

Kim Black  
Steve Black  
Joe Bowman  
Sharon Bowman  
Kenny Coffey  
Lori Coffey  
Arthur Cox  
Carol Cox  
Wanita Cox  
Johnny Davis  
Ronnie Jacobs  
Susan Jacobs  
Jessica Jones  
Cathy Marker  
Laurie Fannon Michaelson  
Rebecca Roberts  
Pamela Smith  
Timothy Smith  
Jessica Tussing  
Conway Williams  
Dana Williams





# Through the Lens of a State Officer



by Zach Jacobs

VA FFA 2014-2015 State President

Looking back on the 365 days, 525,600 minutes, and 31,536,000 seconds I spent getting to know our state, advisors, and of course awesome members, I know this has been a journey of a lifetime! Though the 365 days may be over and the year has started fresh for our new team of officers, there is still one thing that remains with me: my dash. The Dash in between the years sewn on my blue jacket remind me of the many times I got to visit each chapter, celebrate at

banquets, give back at Food For America, and so much more. If I had to describe the memories and laughs in that dash using only one word... I would choose BLESSED! Each and every one of you has Made Your Mark on me. Although my time as a state officer has come to an end, remember that I am always here for each of you! I can't begin to thank you enough for blessing me and accepting me into the FFfamily! Continue Making Your Mark and best wishes to all of you!

by Alice Cox

VA FFA 2014-2015 State Reporter

One question that is asked always gives me chills every time I hear it, "FFA Members, why are we here?" Many of you are joining me in your heads saying, "To practice brotherhood, honor agricultural opportunities and responsibilities, and develop those qualities of leadership that every FFA member should possess." When I was in high school, I felt like that was a line that I was forced to stand up and say, but this year you all taught me the merit in this statement. You taught me that FFA families are not just chapters, but this organization as a whole is one big family. We share ideas

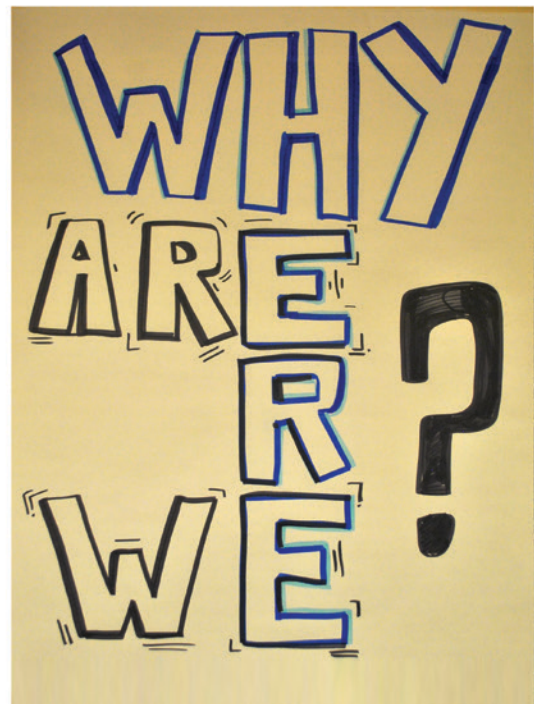
with each other because we want to see the FFA and the agriculture industry grow and flourish to its highest potential. Most importantly, we are always seeking improvement for ourselves and those around us, growing to become greater and stronger individuals, teams, and chapters. This year taught me that no matter what chapter your jacket says, there are always people who have your back. Thank you for providing a deeper meaning behind the question, "why are we here?" Virginia FFA thank you for making your mark on me!



by Brittany Bowman

VA FFA 2014-2015 State Secretary

This lug bolt reminded me that small details add up. It is a very, very small part of a much larger tractor. However, its role to attach the tire to the tractor is essential. No matter how high the tractor's horsepower, the engine would be completely useless if its tire wasn't in place. Our lives are the same. We think of our long-term goals and the big picture. However, how we spend our small moments determines the true impact of our leadership. Serving in little ways by saying "thank you" to our parents, picking up trash, or even just smiling in the hallway add up to make a difference in someone's life. They seem small, but like the lug bolt, they are essential.







# FFA CAMP 2015

Submitted By: *Chandler Vaughan, State President*

This year's FFA Leadership Camp was a blast! Members from all over the state gathered at Graves Mountain Lodge to build their knowledge about contests, develop their leadership skills, and take a week to relax and have fun in the mountains. At this year's camp, students had the opportunity to learn about many CDEs, as well as participate in camp-wide competitions. Also, throughout the week, the camp's attendees cooled off in the creek, participated in water Olympics at the pool, and even had time to fit in a little fishing. Nearing the end of the week, a banquet was held where everyone enjoyed the excellent Graves Mountain Lodge food and saw their friends become elected to camp office, win competitions, and be recognized for their achievements throughout the week. All of these things however, would not have been possible without the repeated dedication of one individual, Mr. Turner Trice. For the last fifty years, Mr. Trice has served as the camp's director and was selected at this year's state convention as a Leave-a-Legacy Fund Honoree. Overall, everyone had a great time and left looking forward to next year's camp!





# FFA Then & Now

## Robert Mills

It's not every day that you meet a city kid who wants to grow up to be a farmer.



But Robert Mills decided at the age of 13 that agriculture would be his future. He wanted his approach to raising cattle and crops to involve steps that would also improve the environment. He knew he wanted to own his own piece of land and make his living in agriculture. So, Robert joined the FFA and became involved with his high school chapter in Pittsylvania County. Developing a Supervised Agriculture Experience project provided him opportunity to gain exposure to agriculture. Holding leadership positions, Robert gained more momentum and became more passionate about his goals. He later went on to serve as the Virginia FFA State President from 1991-1992. He set his sights high, majoring in agriculture at Virginia Tech, with a vision of creating a successful family farm with a focus on protecting the environment while also improving water quality.



*Robert Mills - Then & Now*

Now a full time agricultural producer, Robert started his own farming operation young, raising it from the ground on up. He's something you don't see every day; a first generation farmer who grew up in the city. But by spending time on a farm and becoming more involved with the FFA, he fell in love with the rural lifestyle and made up his mind to stay involved in agriculture. Today a cattle producer and poultry grower, Robert and his wife are raising the next generation on the farm, in their two young sons, one of whom is a middle school FFA member. In addition, he grows three different types of tobacco, a very labor intensive and costly product. However, he reveals the real reason he actually started growing the tobacco was because of the interest his oldest son had in it. He grows this crop not because of the money, but the time he gets to spend with his kids maintaining and harvesting the product. Now, it is his son who is developing his own SAE project and taking on a leadership role in his local FFA chapter.







When you work the land, you are always looking for ways to make it more productive. Especially for future generations. Everything Robert has ever done is to put his family in a position they are in now – to be a full time agriculture producer. “You appreciate it more when you build it yourself,” he shares in reflecting over his life experiences to where he is today.

His unique background gives him a fresh approach as he tries new things. Taking a different look at farming in agriculture allows him to adapt practices that perhaps other old farmers

may brush aside. But he is most proud of his agricultural operations on his farm. His best management practices make him a better farmer and manager of the land and its natural resources he says.

His high school counselor once told Robert that he was too smart to be taking agriculture classes. But he stated that those are the classes he needed to be enrolled in and that is where he remained. His agriculture classes and the FFA are what carried him from that day forward. His love for agriculture fueled his involvement in the FFA. Those experiences and skills are what have guided him to where he is today. It hasn’t always been easy. But his perspective has given him determination in the

face of adversity and whatever has come his way.

Today Robert takes pride in working the land with his family and looks forward to watching his two sons in their own journey in the blue corduroy jacket. In the midst of being an agricultural producer, he does find time to be part of the industry off of the farm. He still resides in southern Virginia, but has now taken on other roles whether serving on the board for VDACS or a district representative for Farm Bureau. Robert believes that one’s role and involvement in agriculture should not end after the blue jacket, but is a calling for life.





# 2015-2016 Virginia FFA State Officer Team



**President:**  
Chandler Vaughan  
**Home Chapter:**  
Randolph Henry FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**  
Mainly, as a Virginia State Officer, I wish to represent and develop the members of the state association as best as I possibly can. Through workshops, speeches, and simple one-on-one conversations, I hope to not only be a leader in a blue jacket but, become a role model to FFA members, as well as people outside of the agriculture industry. Even if I only affect one individual for the better, I know that I have made a difference in the Virginia FFA Association.



**Vice President:**  
Cailin Ogen  
**Home Chapter:**  
Sherando FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**  
My goals are to increase enthusiasm among FFA members and advisors as well as increase Agricultural literacy throughout the state. I want to inspire members who don't think they fit in the FFA by using my own personal experience in the organization. I plan to help increase membership by working to eliminate stereotypes about FFA members including the idea that FFA members have to live on a farm and that FFA members have to show animals.



**Vice President:**  
Emily Moyers  
**Home Chapter:**  
Allegheny FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**  
I want to motivate others and have an eagerness to evolve my knowledge of the agriculture industry and teach others about the endless opportunities that agriculture and FFA have to offer. I am excited to serve as a State FFA Officer and further my life of service towards the members of the FFA and hopefully spark the lamp of service in others' hearts. I want to help spread knowledge about agriculture and show others that FFA is not just about cows, farming, and gardening. FFA has countless wonderful opportunities and I want to get more people involved in this wonderful organization. I plan to help the smaller FFA chapters get involved in the numerous events we have all over the state of Virginia.

## NEW STATE OFFICER FACTS

Average number of years in the FFA:

5.5

Most common favorite color:

Blue

Average number of CDE's officers were involved in:

9

Average number of FFA jackets owned:

2

Most common favorite animal:

Cows & Dogs





**Vice President:**  
Cayla Mutschler  
**Home Chapter:**  
Gloucester FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**

My goal is to reach out to students who do not think Agriculture is important. I want to be inspired through things students do but also continuously grow myself.



**Secretary:**  
Hunter Wimmer  
**Home Chapter:**  
Staunton River FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**

My goal as a state officer would be to raise student awareness of all the opportunities FFA has to offer. I never want a student to miss out on an opportunity because they didn't know they had the chance to participate. Also, I would love to work to expand the number of middle school agricultural education programs. As someone who attended a school that did not offer a middle school agricultural program this is a very personal goal for me. Finally, I would love to assist chapter officers anyway I could because they are the backbone of this organization.



**Reporter:**  
Bethany Gochenour  
**Home Chapter:**  
Strasburg FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**

As a state officer I hope to accomplish several goals throughout my year of service including: increasing membership numbers, engaging current members, and advocating for Virginia's Agriculture. FFA has afforded me with so many great opportunities and experiences that I would like to be able to share with other deserving FFA members. I would also like to be able to know at least half of the FFA members that fill Burruss Hall at Virginia Tech during State FFA Convention. The best way to grow and promote our state association is to not only try and increase membership, but also to engage our current members. This can be accomplished through highly motivated, dedicated leaders committed to serving their organization. I am a highly motivated individual and love interacting with other FFA members to contribute to the growth and prosperity of our organization.



**Treasurer:**  
Mary Ott  
**Home Chapter:**  
Page County FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**

I hope to be able to help members become more involved in FFA, and teach about the importance of the future of the organization. I also hope to inspire and be inspired by others just as much or more as I have already been. Being involved in FFA has made an everlasting impression upon me, and I have loved every minute of it.



**Sentinel:**  
John-Robert Helsley  
**Home Chapter:**  
Central FFA

**Goals as a State Officer:**

My goal as a State Officer is to give back to the association what I have received from it. I want to be able to share my experiences with members and help increase our membership. I hope that I can be a positive influence for members who may not have ever participated in FFA before.





# 89th Annual National FFA Convention

Louisville, Kentucky  
October 28 - 31, 2015



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