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Kansas FFA member looks to build back the local bobwhite quail population

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FALL 2016

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Kacy Schlesener of Dover, Kan., raises quail to repopulate her region.
PHOTO BY FRANK ORDOÑEZ

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The FFA Mission: 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.

NAME: Mark Poeschl

FFA CHAPTER: Mead FFA in Nebraska

OFFICES HELD: Mead Chapter President for two years, Nebraska FFA President

PREVIOUS CAREER: vice president, group director, stakeholder engagement at Cargill, Inc., Cargill Animal Nutrition

COLLEGE EDUCATION: 1983 graduate of University of Nebraska – Lincoln

FAMILY LIFE: wife, Nancy, and two sons, Nathan and Christopher



MARK POESCHL

Meet the new National FFA Chief Executive Officer

On Aug. 1, the National FFA Organization welcomed its new chief executive officer, Mark Poeschl. No stranger to FFA, Poeschl has been a longtime supporter of the organization and was an active member himself in the Mead, Neb., chapter. Learn more about the new leader for National FFA.

Q WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT YOUR NEW LEADERSHIP ROLE AT NATIONAL FFA?

A It will be extremely rewarding to play a role in helping shape the next generation of leaders in the wide sphere of agriculture – that is very exciting to me. I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and begin working with the team of professionals at FFA and in agricultural education to continue to advance FFA and have a positive impact on young people across the organization. There's no time to spare in preparing FFA members for their personal development and, ultimately, career success!

Q WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY AS A FORMER FFA MEMBER?

A I had many great memories while I was an FFA member, not the least of which was making friends in neighboring chapters, then across the state, and finally all around the country. From a personal standpoint, winning the FFA Creed Speaking contest as a Greenhand was very rewarding to me. I learned the finer points of controlling my nerves and standing in front of an audience to make remarks, a skill that has helped me throughout my career in agribusiness.

Q WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS AND PASSIONS OUTSIDE OF WORK?

A I enjoy reading (particularly history and biographies), sports and music. You can't come from Nebraska and not appreciate college football! I recently began taking guitar lessons, something I've wanted to do all my life. I enjoy automobiles and keeping our cars in good shape. I also find that mowing my lawn is relaxing and something I truly enjoy doing.

Q WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED AND WHY?

A Listen twice as much as you speak. You were given two ears and one mouth for a reason.

FFA NEWS FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

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



CARVER FFA, MA

Buddy Bags

During its Winter Leadership Camp, the Massachusetts FFA Association partnered with the American Legion Auxiliary. FFA members assembled "Buddy Bags," filled with donated toiletry items, and distributed them to homeless veterans throughout the state.

Members were encouraged to continue the good work once they returned home. They put together "Buddy Baskets," packed with basic household items, and gave them to formerly homeless veterans who just received housing. Members exceeded the state goal and produced 412 Buddy Bags and 28 Buddy Baskets.

MORE ONLINE

Visit FFAnewhorizons.org to get more community service ideas for your chapter.



ANNUAL FFA TEE

The Annual FFA Tee is a new tradition designed to share the organization's past, present and future.

This year the tee is emblazoned with the message that We Are FFA.

We Are FFA is the National FFA Organization's effort to promote diversity through inclusiveness. This tee represents the members who span all walks of life and are united under the FFA crest.

Visit **ShopFFA.org** to order your annual tee!



CLYDE FFA, OH

Organic Recycle Trash

Robert Selvey only set out to research hunger for the FFA prepared public speaking career development event, but as he began researching his topic, he was inspired to do more than just speak. With the help of his chapter, he started the Organic Recycle Trash (ORT) program. After every lunch period, the students collect uneaten food for composting or to feed their hogs. Once harvested, the pork will be donated to the local food pantry.



GARDEN CITY FFA, KS

67 Years of FFA History

Clifford Mayo and his grandson, Tyler Cloud, both donned their FFA jackets at the Garden City High School FFA banquet where Tyler was elected chapter secretary.

Clifford received his jacket in 1949 and won the American Farmer Award in 1955. Tyler has carried on his grandfather's FFA legacy, competing in livestock judging and showing meat goats.

MACKAY FFA, ID

Bidding on Success

Ag teacher VerNon Roche got more than he bargained for when he bid on federal government surplus items for Mackay High School's FFA program.

"One lot of items we bought included a jet engine," recalls Roche. "A student asked me to let him get it running for his senior project. He worked on it for months and one day, I heard a jet engine starting up. He went on to be a successful mechanic."

Roche still buys federal surplus items to bolster the ag program even though he retired in 2012. He worked 27 years as an FFA advisor and ag instructor.



YOUR TURN

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. All photos need to be in color and a minimum of 1 MB in size.

Or, mail to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268

MEET SIX FFA SHINING STARS

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



Mitchell Parham
CLOVIS FFA, CA

Mitchell is a third-generation Hereford cattle breeder and agricultural mechanics enthusiast. He completely restored a 1953 Ford F250 truck and was on the FFA agricultural mechanics team for four years.



Noell Nichols
HEADWATERS FFA, PA

Noell shows market hogs and participates in livestock judging and dairy judging career development events (CDEs). She has served as a chapter FFA officer and hopes to become a large animal veterinarian.



Rachel Derner
MADISON COUNTY FFA, GA

Rachel's FFA awards include Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer and the Outstanding Senior DeKalb Chapter Award. She served as a chapter officer for three years and as the 2015-16 Wyoming State Reporter.



Andres Flores
VARDAMAN FFA, MS

Andres has been involved in the land judging, Envirothon, prepared public speaking and agricultural mechanics CDEs, and was a member of the state runner-up agronomy team. He also works at a local sweet potato farm.



Nathan Arthur
SUMNER FREDERICKSBURG FFA, IA

Nathan served as both the 2015-16 Northeast Iowa District FFA Secretary and chapter FFA president. He has competed in the dairy and agronomy CDEs and is a member of the National Holstein Association.



Heidi Croley
TOLEDO FFA, OH

Heidi most enjoys her small animal management classes at the Natural Science and Technology Center. She hopes to become a vet tech, and eventually a veterinarian, working with livestock or exotic animals.

Nominate yourself to be considered for FFA Faces by following the steps below. Questions? Email newhorizons@ffa.org.

1 GO ONLINE
Visit **www.ffanewhorizons.org/ffa-faces/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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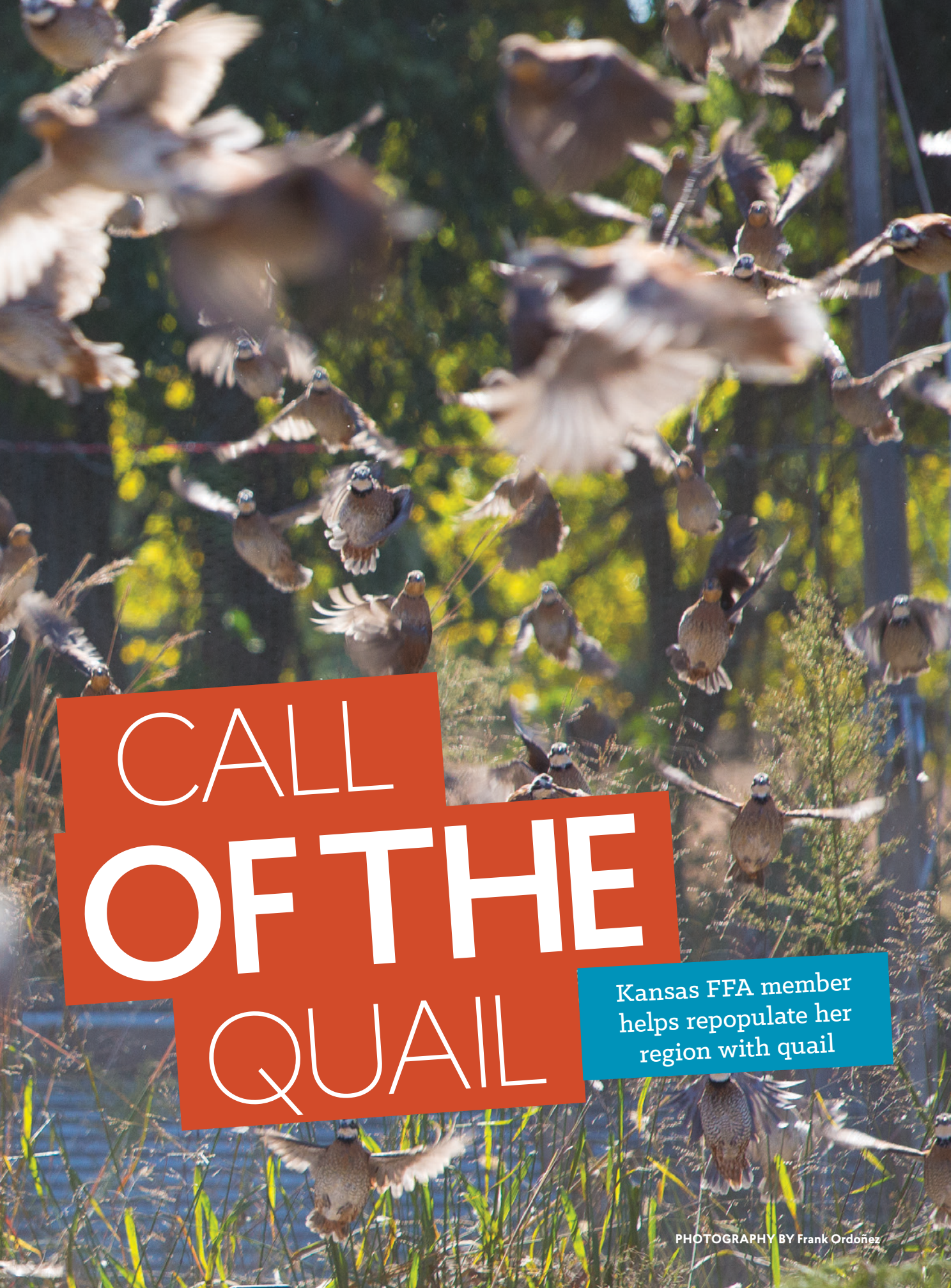
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CALL OF THE QUAIL

Kansas FFA member helps repopulate her region with quail

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Frank Ordoñez





Kacy places the quail eggs in an incubator for 21 days then moves the eggs into a hatcher. Once the birds are hatched, she keeps them under heat lamps before taking outside.

When Kacy Schlesener of Dover, Kan., noticed a decline in the population of bobwhite quail in her area, she made it her mission to help bring back the small, plump birds popular among hunters.

In 2011, when she was a sophomore at Mission Valley High School, Kacy focused her supervised agricultural experience (SAE) project on repopulating her region with quail. She began hatching quail in an incubator at her parents' home and raising them until they were ready to sell to local hunters and hunting preserves. Once she saw the first quail hatch from its small egg, Kacy was hooked.

"It's pretty fun to watch," she says. "I had 250 eggs in my first batch, and it was so cool to see them all hatch."

Kacy ordered her first batch of quail eggs from Georgia, but was concerned about them being damaged during shipping. She then began ordering the eggs from Sharon, Kan., which is closer to her home. Her dad, Bruce, and mom, Jenni, have helped the project become a family business, as has her 19-year-old brother, Lukas.

EMPORIA, KS

Kacy Schlesener is passionate about repopulating her region with bobwhite quail.



"When we first get the eggs, they go in an incubator for 21 days," she says. "Then we put them in the hatcher, where they hatch over the next 24 to 72 hours. We keep them in my parents' basement for a while because it's a constant temperature, and we check on them frequently to see if they are dried off and healthy."

Next, the baby quail go into a brooder pen, where they are divided up equally so they don't get too hot or suffocate one another.

"Occasionally we have some eggs that don't hatch, so my dad and brother use those as trapping bait," Kacy says.

A few unhatched eggs don't cause a huge loss since she buys the eggs for 30 cents apiece and is able to sell the adult quail for about $4.50 each.

The quail stay in the brooder pen for eight weeks, and then are transferred to a separate flight pen that has a mesh netting over the top. Kacy and her dad built the brooder pen from an old shed, and she took out a $1,500 loan to build the flight pen.

"It's neat to watch them grow from the size of a 50-cent piece to a little smaller than a pheasant," Kacy says. "I enjoy it because it gets me outside,

DID YOU KNOW?

- Quail are members of the pheasant family.
- Adults stand six to seven inches in height and typically weigh about six ounces.
- They eat insects, grain and seeds.
- Quail can only fly a short distance.
- These birds are hunted by humans, cats, skunks, foxes, snakes, owls and dogs.
- In some areas of the U.S., quail have been hunted almost to extinction.
- Quail build their nests on the ground.
- They can lay up to 16 eggs at a time.
- Quail can survive 3-5 years in the wild.

and I get to spend time with my dad and brother."

Once the birds reach 16 weeks of age, they are considered adult birds and are ready to sell. Buyers often release them on their own land or use them to train hunting dogs.

"One client buys 25 birds at a time just to keep them near his home because he likes how they sound," Kacy says. "The biggest client I have likes to band them so he can track them a year later. He has bought 500 birds, 1,000 birds and even 1,500 at a time."

Kacy has come a long way since 2011, when she started with her first batch of 250 eggs. Today, she and her family hatch batches of 3,000 eggs at a time, with two different batches per season. She won four district FFA awards and two state FFA awards in wildlife preservation management for her quail repopulation project.

Kacy's FFA advisor, Kelly Hoelting, says since Kacy launched her quail project, three other students have done similar SAEs because of her influence.

"Kacy is such a dynamic young lady who I knew was special," Hoelting says. "I really encouraged her to try agricultural education as she was unsure coming into her freshman year. I saw a spark in her that I knew would help not only grow herself but our entire chapter."

Kacy served in numerous offices and as committee chairs throughout high school and will receive her American FFA Degree at the 2016 National FFA Convention & Expo.

"I am lucky to have taught her all of her years in high school and have had her as a student in my program," Hoelting says.

Kacy is studying dental hygiene at Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia, Kan., and will graduate in 2017. She also works part-time in an orthodontics office. Kacy hopes to continue the quail business with her family on a part-time basis after she graduates.

"Family is big to me, so I plan to stay close to home," she says.

– Jessica Mozo



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LIVE FROM INDY IT'S FFA!

RFD-TV network spotlights FFA to a major audience



An RFD-TV reporter interviews an FFA member during the National FFA Convention & Expo.

When National FFA President Taylor McNeel calls the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo to order this October, the TV cameras will be rolling.

RFD-TV, a longtime National FFA sponsor, airs each of the convention sessions through their gavel-to-gavel coverage – 30 hours of programming in total.

"Only 55,000 members get to go to the convention," explains Patrick Gottsch, founder and owner of RFD-TV. "We feel honored that we get to help make the convention and expo accessible for the other 550,000 FFA members at home who couldn't go this year."

The RFD-TV crew will roll into Indianapolis with a production trailer and set up a stage. Beyond airing the convention sessions, viewers can see interviews with FFA members, learn more about the FFA program and the awards presented during the convention, and catch a glimpse of the excitement of the event.

Covering FFA stories is a major focus for RFD-TV, the nation's only cable channel committed to rural America. It fits nicely within the network's mission – to serve the needs and interests of rural Americans and to reconnect city with country.

That company mission makes sense when you consider that Gottsch grew up on a small farm in Nebraska, raising cattle, hogs, corn, soybeans and alfalfa. He knows agriculture.

And he knows technology too. His "a-ha" moment for building this new network came when he was selling satellite dishes in the 1980s.

"The farming problems of the '80s led to a lot of guys like myself going to find a job in town," he explains. "I got a job selling satellite dishes in the Omaha area. This is when satellite dishes were big, 10 feet in diameter and cost $3,000 or more."

He continues, "People loved them and the accessibility they finally had to great channels. But a lot of them said the same thing – I wish there was a network geared to rural life.



I heard that over and over again. One night I sat down and drew up a business plan for what turned out to be RFD-TV. And those were my two objectives – serve rural America and reconnect city with country."

In the years since RFD-TV was officially launched in 2000, Gottsch and his team have done just that.

As satellite dishes became smaller and more affordable, RFD-TV began airing on those networks, then worked toward presence on cable networks. Today, the television channel reaches 50 million homes, and the media group also owns and operates RURAL RADIO on SiriusXM Channel 147 and a print publication, *RFD-TV The Magazine*.

"People in the city are becoming more interested in where their food comes from. It's been a great advancement in connecting city to the country," Gottsch says. "Today, our largest audience is in urban areas. We've found that a lot of people's parents or grandparents had farms, but they live in the cities now. RFD-TV is the only network that helps connect them back to the past and really, their future."

RFD-TV programming centers around agriculture, equine, traditional country music and entertainment, the rural lifestyle and Western sports. A recent addition has been a focus on news coverage, including the only primetime evening news show that focuses on the issues facing rural America.

"It's been the right mix for us," Gottsch says, adding that FFA fits nicely with each of those categories. FFA has presence in all these media, including a weekly radio show, FFA Today, on the SiriusXM channel.

FarmHer, a new show premiering in early September, will further promote rural America, this time about women in agriculture. Many of the women being featured are FFA alumni.

"We're helping put a face back on the farmer and rancher. And a face on FFA. I'm so proud of that," Gottsch says. He can't say enough about how he enjoys promoting FFA, often to an audience who knows little about the organization or rural life.

"I still read every email that comes to RFD-TV, and we get the most amazing letters about our FFA coverage," he says. "People who had no idea what FFA is all about. They are excited to get their kids or grandkids involved, or get a chapter started in their area."

RFD-TV SUPPORTS FFA

In 2014, RFD-TV committed to a five-year sponsorship with FFA that provides cash and in-kind support valued at $5 million over five years.

The agreement put RFD-TV at the highest level of corporate support within the National FFA Foundation. It is just one of many ways the company has supported FFA during their long relationship, providing opportunities to members and helping grow FFA and agricultural education.

The impact of the relationship is seen and heard throughout the country each October, when more than 30 hours of live gavel-to-gavel coverage of the National FFA Convention & Expo is simulcast on RFD-TV and RURAL RADIO SiriusXM Channel 147.

In addition to coverage from the national convention and expo, stories about FFA members, advisors and supporters can be heard weekly on "FFA Today" on RURAL RADIO, found on SiriusXM Channel 147. The show airs on Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. ET and Sundays at 6:30 p.m. ET.

Thank you, RFD-TV, for your continued support of FFA!

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TRANSFORM
PURPOSE TO ACTION

TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AT

Buckle your seatbelts and let the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo turn your world upside down – in a good way!

This year's convention and expo theme, "Transform," encourages you to stretch the boundaries of what you thought you were capable of.

You may enter as an FFA member, but you will leave a leader, a servant of your community, a friend to new faces and most importantly, a better you.

INTO INDY

This year's convention and expo returns to the city of Indianapolis. A city full of activities, shopping and delicious restaurants, this change of scenery will shake up your convention and expo experience. Indianapolis is home to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis Zoo, Mass Ave Arts District, Canal Walk and numerous other attractions.

CELEBRATE GREATNESS

It's only fitting that the theme of this year's National FFA Convention & Expo should be "Transform," as the expo (previously known as the Career Show) celebrates 50 years of growth, expansion and improvement. This expo will also kick off celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act.

This act forever changed the course of agriculture by providing funds to those "who have entered upon or who are preparing to enter upon the work of the farm."

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Check out the National FFA Convention & Expo's sleek new mobile app. The app has been upgraded to offer improved organization, FFA branding, and even some fun features like a photo hunt and photo filters. Stay in the loop with push notifications and proximity messaging features. There is even a customizable daily schedule feature.

This app is available on Apple and Android platforms and is free to download.



2015-16 National FFA Officers

CONVENTION

Take your FFA experience to another dimension

LIVING LEGACY

This year the officer team has chosen to celebrate FFA Alumni and the impact they have on local chapters.

Alumni provide support to chapters, help train career development event teams, assist with fundraising and fill crucial advisory roles when needed.

Throughout the convention and expo, the officer team will shed light on the importance of alumni involvement through their speeches and in presenting alumni awards. There's also a brand-new "Alumni Day" on Friday.

SPEAKING FROM THE HEART

Speakers are one of the highlights of the convention and expo, bringing inspiration and a whole new way of seeing the world.

Keynote speaker Jason Brown of Henderson, N.C., made his name in the NFL with the Baltimore Ravens and the St. Louis Rams. But after his release from the Rams in 2012, James decided to follow his heart back home to North Carolina, where he purchased a 1,000-acre farm.

In 2014, Brown's farm produced 120,000 pounds of sweet potatoes, which were donated to food pantries and churches throughout his community. Brown has also founded a Christian ministry, "Wisdom for Life."

Colin Ryan will use his humor and charm to show you that money matters are nothing to laugh about. A financial expert and author with the background of a professional comedian and storyteller, Ryan will discuss money management and career goals.

Drawing from real-life experiences and pop culture, Ryan makes personal finances more relatable and enjoyable.

His entire practice is built around one idea: Your ability to manage your money directly affects your ability to have the life you want.

Ryan was named one of the top 10 youth presenters in the nation and has spoken to more than 200,000 students and adults across North America.

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

The cherry on top of this year's convention and expo is rocking out with your new friends to today's hottest musical guests. This year,



Cole Swindell, Chris Young and The Henningsens take the stage as the concert acts. But not to be outdone, be sure to stop by the 2016 National FFA Talent competition and witness the stars of the future showcasing their skills.

TRANSFORM

With a new city, new activities, new entertainment and new friends, the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo will definitely transform your FFA experience.

FFA NEW HORIZONS

MORE ONLINE

Find the latest convention and expo announcements and information at FFA.org/convention.



Read more about your state's top farm products, and find recipes using ingredients grown and raised in your state at FarmFlavor.com.

Horsin' Around

Hitch up to these equine facts

Take a ride back in time 50 million years to discover the origin of today's horses. These graceful creatures originated in North America and spread to Asia and Europe. Originally, horses were used for milk and meat when they were first domesticated around 3000 or 4000 B.C.

Approximately 10,000 years ago, the horses left behind in North America became extinct before being re-introduced by European colonies.

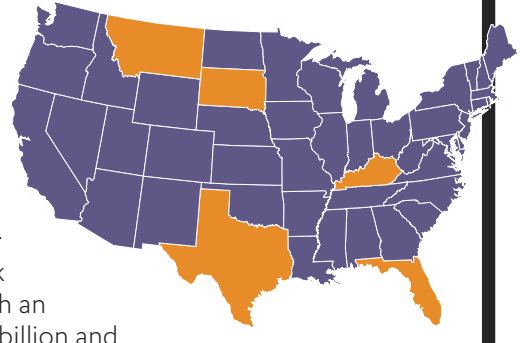
Today, horses can be found in almost every country in the world except Antarctica, representing more than 400 different breeds. There are 9.2 million horses in the United States, used mainly for work, competition, transportation and recreation.

Their versatility in use is linked to the diversity of horses around the world. Horses come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Big Jake, a Belgian gelding, is the world's tallest horse, standing 210.2 cm tall and weighing 2,600 pounds.



Top Equine States

There are currently horses in every state throughout the nation, and 45 states have at least 20,000 horses. Approximately 3.9 million horses are used for recreational purposes.



Kentucky leads the pack in horse production, with an economic impact of $3 billion and close to 40,665 jobs in the equine sector. The horse racing industry plays an integral role in the state's economy.

Florida, South Dakota, Texas and Montana also have high concentrations of horses.

25

Domestic horses have an average lifespan of 25 years.

It Takes All Kinds

FIVE POPULAR HORSE BREEDS

1 **THOROUGHBRED:** Best known for horse racing, this breed is agile, swift and spirited.

2 **AMERICAN SADDLEBRED:** This breed is known for its ability to master the slow stepping gait, in addition to other gaits.

3 **CLYDESDALES:** Known for their size, the horses can stand over 6 feet tall. They are also known for the long hair on their legs.

4 **AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE:** This breed excels at sprinting short distances. Some have even been clocked at 55 miles per hour in short distances.

5 **APPALOOSA:** These horses were bred by the Nez Perce Indians from Spanish stock. Their coats are typically patterned with dark or white spots, and their hooves are usually striped.

HEALTHY, HAPPY ANIMALS

Learn about three types of careers with Zoetis, the world's largest animal health company

If you're passionate about pets or livestock and want to pursue a career related to animals, there are more than 500 options available to you. Many of those careers are available at Zoetis, the largest animal health company in the world, and a National FFA platinum sponsor. We've profiled three Zoetis professionals, showcasing just a few of the many careers the company has to offer.



CHRISTINA LOOD
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

As director of communications for the U.S. pork and poultry team, Christina Lood must be ready for the unexpected. Her workday often begins with monitoring news sources to determine what's truly important in the pork and poultry industries, but it can quickly shift to conducting media training for a Zoetis expert before a news interview or crafting a response to a time-sensitive social post.

"I love jumping on those challenges, finding the perfect words to write and respond to something," says Lood, who describes her position as managing both internal and external communications for the pork and poultry teams. Much of her current work relates to antibiotic stewardship, a topic important to Zoetis customers, but in general, Lood's team weighs in on issues that their customers face when "dealing with pressures from farther down the food chain, like packers or from food companies that are ultimately having to answer to consumers."

Lood says that consumers' preferences are driving the industry – and her career – in new ways.

"Consumers want transparency, and they are much more interested today in where their food comes from and how it was raised. Couple that with social media, which has also continued to increase in importance," Lood explains. "It's given us a great opportunity to talk with consumers and influencers on social media about how healthy animals are raised."

In the spirit of helping educate consumers, Lood advises FFA members who are interested in agricultural communications to think outside the norm and consider companies that are "agriculture adjacent."

She explains, "As an example, food companies are creating policies which ultimately affect how animals are raised on farms. That creates a big opportunity for those who are knowledgeable about agriculture to make an incredible impact through a career at those companies. We at Zoetis are working more to establish dialogue with those companies and help them learn more about how healthy animals are raised on modern farms today, but we need more agriculturalists on staff for those companies, too."



BETSY WHITEAKER
TERRITORY SALES

Betsy Whiteaker recently coached an FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event team, and she says it's very similar to the work she does as a territory business manager. Located in Washington, she sells Zoetis products and services to customers in the dairy and beef cattle industries.

"The portion of the Ag Sales CDE where the team sits down with multiple clients and works to come up with the best solution is extremely similar to how we work," Whiteaker explains, adding that the products and services that Zoetis provides are tailored to the need of that individual customer.

Whiteaker's clients typically include livestock veterinarians and managers of dairies that range in size from 500 to 10,000 cows. Her truck is her office, and she does 80 percent of her customer communication in person, with only 20 percent via phone or email.

Whiteaker was drawn to the fast-paced, relational aspect of sales, and she says it's a great agricultural career choice. Gaining experience is key, though. She recommends, "If you can work in a local feed store or agricultural business to see the sales process, that's a great place to learn."



DR. DENNIS HORTER
TECHNICAL VETERINARY SERVICES

Growing up on a cattle ranch in South Dakota, Dr. Dennis Horter knew at age 5 that he wanted to become a veterinarian.

What he would realize much later, though, is that his specific interest was in providing technical veterinary product support. That's his focus now, as a director of regional veterinary professional services for the Zoetis companion animal division.

Horter oversees a team of technical services veterinarians, all of whom provide education to veterinary hospitals and keep them up to date on recent research findings.

"We're troubleshooters," he says. "We come in if veterinarians are having problems and help them find a way to move forward. We spend 80 percent of our time out with customers, supporting them in the areas that we specialize in."

One example of how Horter's team functions can be seen through their role in a respiratory illness outbreak in dogs in 2015. Local veterinarians were having trouble figuring out the cause of the illness, so the Zoetis team assisted in the diagnosis, which was a new type of influenza not seen before.

This type of veterinary work is specialized, but Horter says it's also extremely rewarding. "There are only so many animals I can help by the ones I can lay my hands on," he says. "But helping veterinarians advance the work they do creates a much bigger impact on our profession."

ZOETIS SUPPORTS FFA

Zoetis discovers, develops, manufactures, and commercializes a diverse portfolio of animal health medicines and vaccines designed to meet the real-world needs of veterinarians and the livestock farmers and companion animal owners they support.

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Zoetis also believes in the future of agriculture and is a platinum sponsor of the National FFA Organization. Its Zoetis Industry Support Program, in its eighth year, provides more than $1 million in donations to selected FFA chapters and veterinary student scholarships.

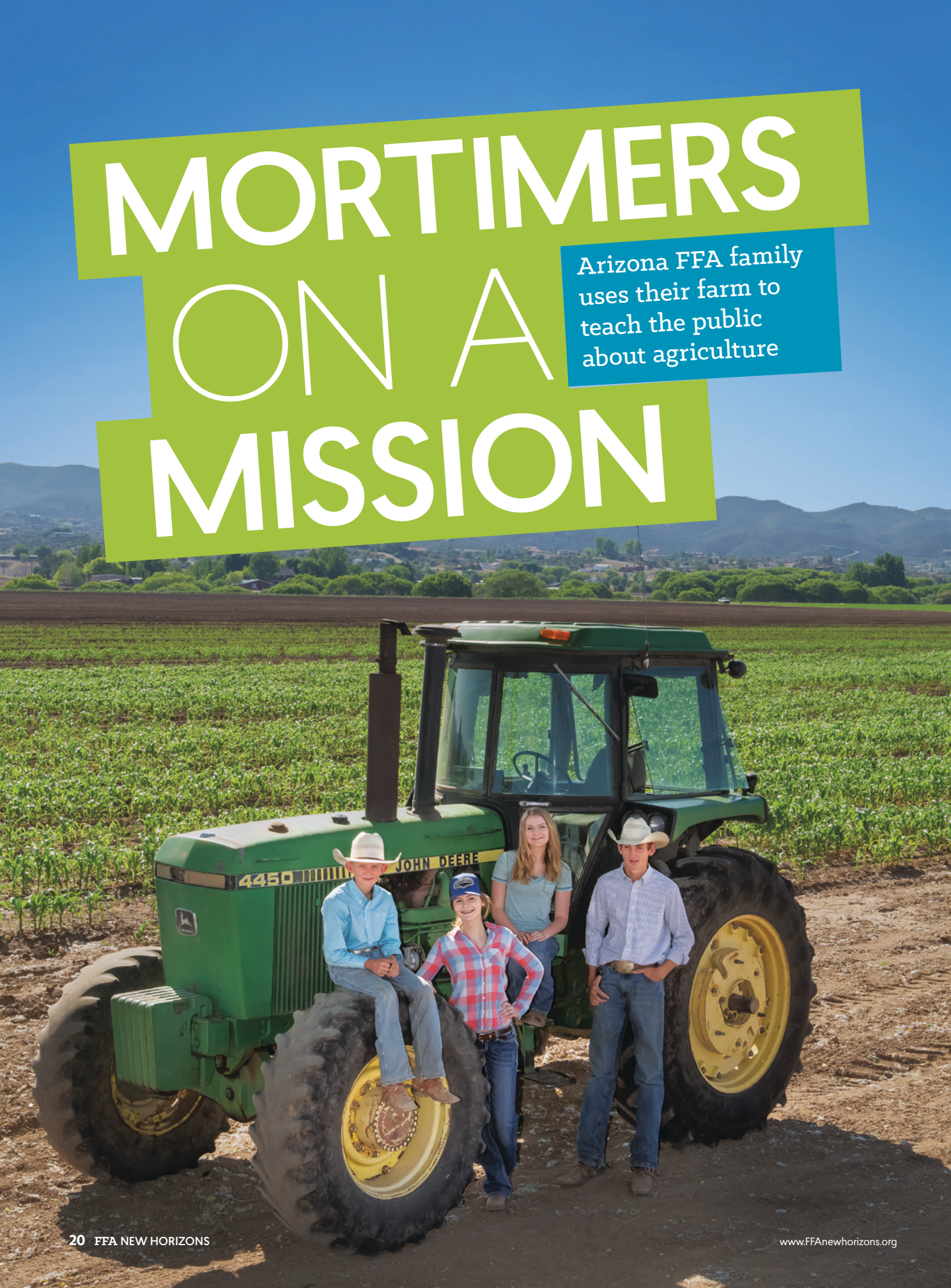
Zoetis also sponsors the veterinary science career development event and supports the National Association of Agricultural Educators' Communities of Practice.

Thank you, Zoetis!

zoetis

MORTIMERS ON A MISSION

Arizona FFA family uses their farm to teach the public about agriculture









The Mortimer siblings say that having a diversified farm means there's always plenty to do, regardless of the season. Here, Kayla harvests produce to be sold, Kolten rides his horse and Hayden pulls corn from a bin to feed animals.

Fall has arrived, and for 18-year-old Ashlee Mortimer of Dewey, Ariz., that means thousands of curious visitors will be flooding her family's farm in search of pumpkins and good, clean fun. For Ashlee and her siblings, Hayden (16), Kayla (14) and Kolten (12), and their parents, Gary and Sharla, fall is a bustling time of year, and the long-awaited season gives them the opportunity to share the story of agriculture with visitors who come to spend a day at Mortimer Farms.

"I love to see families and city kids come out and enjoy the farm," says Ashlee, who graduated from the Arizona Agribusiness and Equine Center, a college preparatory high school, in May 2016 and was a member of the AAEC Prescott Valley FFA Chapter for four years. "They get their hands in the dirt and learn about agriculture and how awesome it is. They get to see how dedicated ag people really are."

> "I love to see families and city kids come out and enjoy the farm."
> – *Ashlee Mortimer*

Mortimer Farms is a popular Arizona agritourism attraction that is open to the public year round. The Mortimers grow sweet corn and more than 20 different vegetables and melons on their 300-acre farm and raise Black Angus beef, chickens, turkeys and pigs. Farm visitors can buy the fresh produce and meats at Mortimer's Country Store, and explore the farm's petting zoo or take a scenic wagon ride.

Each of the kids help with farm chores in different ways. Ashlee helps artificially inseminate the cattle and plan the annual Pumpkin Festival in October and Sweet Corn Harvest Party in August. Hayden enjoys tractors and horses, and helps with planting, harvesting, fertilizing and checking fences. Kayla spends a lot of time with the cattle, horses, goats, chickens, pigs and dogs, and she works in the country store. And Kolten loves all things horses.



Guests to Mortimer Farms enjoy the homemade fudge and canned goods sold in the country store.



"Mostly they do chores willingly – mostly," Sharla Mortimer says with a smile. "Kids are kids, and we try to let them decide in what ways they want to help on the farm. They can use their talents, likes, and ambitions to benefit the family and the farm."

One of Kayla's favorite jobs is working in the country store bakery, where they sell sandwiches, pies, cinnamon rolls and homemade fudge.

"I specialize in baking the cookies, especially the chocolate chip," Kayla says. "They're really good. I enjoy meeting the customers, talking to them and telling them about our farm."

During her four years in FFA, Ashlee served as vice president of her chapter. Hayden and Kayla are currently active in FFA. Mom Sharla is a big fan of FFA.

"I see how much FFA teaches kids to think outside the box – to look to their future and see agriculture as an option," Sharla says. "Americans need to look at agriculture differently if we want to move into the next generations. We need kids who want to be involved, want to grow food and want to be part of a critical – but very difficult – industry. I see FFA as a way to open doors to kids, whether raised on a farm or not, and show them there are options."

In addition to Mortimer Farms' Sweet Corn Harvest Party and Pumpkin Festival, they also host educational school field trips and summer camps for kids ages 5 to 13. During the holiday season, the farm transforms into Christmas Village with pre-cut live Christmas trees for sale, a petting zoo, and a bonfire with s'mores and stories.

Ashlee's goal is to go to college and pursue a career in agricultural public relations.

"I want to help close the gap between consumers and food producers," she says. "I have a blog called Beyond the Barbwire where I do video interviews with producers. For my senior project, I interviewed farmers and ranchers all over Arizona. It's really fun to hear people say they learned something from my blog."

Gary and Sharla hope their children will continue to grow food and protect the land they call home.

"I hope our children and their children will have the opportunity to farm," Sharla says. "I hope many families will visit our farm and understand more about agriculture and why we must protect it. Agritourism is a way for families to connect with the land – an opportunity to walk into the fields and harvest their own food. It is a way for families to make memories that last forever. Just like in FFA, experience is the best education, and we're happy to offer both at Mortimer Farms."

– Jessica Mozo

MORE ONLINE

Learn more facts about the U.S. agritourism industry at FFAnewhorizons.org.

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GET TO KNOW YOUR NATIONAL FFA OFFICERS

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

TAYLOR: I am so excited to see members I've met all across the country again! Maybe the ones I went to Yogurt Mountain with in Florida or the trips to Starbucks during the California State FFA Leadership Conference or the ones who taught me to salsa in Puerto Rico!

NICK: The pre-sessions are going to be amazing. I'm pumped to see the members who will be getting all dancy-pantsy during the Cupid Shuffle, Cha Cha Slide and, of course, Copperhead Road.

ABBEY: I'm definitely looking forward to seeing all the people we've met this year get awarded for the amazing work they do.

ABRAH: I am pumped for the sessions! The music in the arena is always bumpin' and the energy is unreal. It's basically a party!

SYDNEY: I'm excited to award hundreds of members during the convention sessions for their hard work and accomplishments. Their excitement is always heartwarming!

SARAH: Seeing members who I have connected with throughout the year! Be prepared for LOTS of hugs! Plus, my siblings will get to experience what convention is like and what it is exactly we FFA people "do."

WHAT'S A PART OF CONVENTION PREP THAT MANY FFA MEMBERS WOULD BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT YOU DO?

TAYLOR: I was surprised to learn that most of the convention session planning happens in September and October. During that time, we will develop and write over 25 hours of onstage content.

NICK: The national officer team could NEVER do convention on our own. There are hundreds of people who make national convention happen – not just the six on stage. There's more than 20 full hours of content that we get to write in the month prior to the National FFA Convention & Expo! That's like watching 40 full episodes of Fuller House.

ABBEY: When selecting the national theme, we had more than 80 ideas on dry-erase boards, which eventually funneled down to one central theme.

ABRAH: While we were traveling around in the springtime to state conventions, we were asked if we had started prepping for convention. Believe it or not, we really don't start our convention prep (speech writing, sessions practice) until August.

SYDNEY: We got to help pick the theme for convention and give input for concert acts.

SARAH: Many people may not realize that we are involved with the theme song and video. We

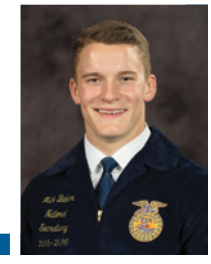
Taylor McNeel
NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT

Taylor grew up on a farm in Vilonia, Ark., where she raised and showed goats. She has a strong passion for agricultural policy and is studying agricultural business and Spanish.



Nick Baker
NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

This Tennessee native had a lawn care business as his supervised agricultural experience (SAE). Nick's goal is to serve in the U.S. military and focus on food security and hunger issues.



Abbey Gretsch
SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Abbey is proud of her strong agricultural roots, as her father is a farmer in Lexington, Ga., and she had her own beef herd. She hopes to become an ag educator.



brainstorm and give feedback to come up with it!

WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR FFA MEMBERS WHO STRUGGLE WITH GIVING SPEECHES?

TAYLOR: I had a camp counselor tell me one time, "If you are nervous, that means you care about doing well." I always remember this and think of being nervous as a good thing. I then channel my energy into speaking loud and smiling.

NICK: Match your delivery to the size of the audience! Make your hand motions, volume of voice, etc., a reflection of the number of people you're speaking to.

ABBEY: The greatest piece of advice I can give is to be the best "you" that you can be, and everything else will flow naturally after that.

ABRAH: I get super nervous before I give a speech, and my heart beats almost one million miles per hour. But it always helps if I say my speech in the mirror. It's uncomfortable to watch yourself, but it always helps me get over those nerves.

SYDNEY: Remember, nobody knows your script. If you miss a few words or sentences, don't let that throw you off! Any speech you give should be from the heart with passion and excitement.

SARAH: Use personal stories to convey points and keep the audience engaged. Stories are 100 percent your own and no need to memorize them – you lived them!



Want more travel updates from the National FFA Officer team? Visit the FFA Podcast to hear about their experiences. The officers check in via phone every few weeks to tell quick stories from the road. You can subscribe to the official FFA podcast on iTunes or PodBean. Visit pulse.ffa.org and click "Listen" for more details.

IF YOU COULD ONLY EAT ONE MEAL FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

TAYLOR: Arroz con pollo, or as it's called at my favorite Mexican restaurant, the Magnolia Plate.

NICK: Easy. Flatbread pizza with barbecue sauce, ham, bacon, sausage, pineapple and jalapeños.

ABBEY: My mother's chicken casserole! This meal is the pinnacle of all things Southern as well as the most delicious-tasting food one has ever tasted.

ABRAH: Iowa pork chop, my Grandma Meyer's corn and noodles, and hot strawberry rhubarb crisp with ice cream!

SYDNEY: Potatoes because there are so many possibilities with them. I could make mashed potatoes, a baked potato, French fries and the list goes on and on!

SARAH: It is my birthday meal that my mom prepares. Country-fried steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade rolls, Caesar salad, and chocolate pie.

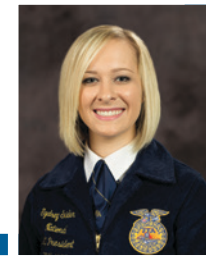
Abrah Meyer
CENTRAL REGION
VICE PRESIDENT

Hailing from Iowa, Abrah grew up playing the piano and four sports – volleyball, basketball, softball and track. Her goal is to work in ag education overseas.



Sydney Snider
EASTERN REGION
VICE PRESIDENT

Sydney grew up on a small farm in rural Ohio, raising beef cattle, swine and goats. Her career plan is to work in public relations for an ag company.



Sarah Draper
WESTERN REGION
VICE PRESIDENT

This Utah native found FFA SAE placements at local dairy and veterinarian's offices, and today, she is studying agricultural education for a career as an ag teacher.



A Cutting-Edge Field

Consider these five careers in precision agriculture



Grab the car keys. Start the engine. Turn on the GPS. When we're traveling somewhere new, this is the normal routine for most. We rely heavily on one piece of technology to get us from place to place. But did you know farmers also rely heavily on these technologies? This field is commonly known as precision agriculture, a form of management that utilizes site-specific information, technology, and data for ideal profitability and sustainability. The technique allows farmers to divide their land into smaller areas to manage individually as opposed to looking at large fields and treating them alike. Methods might include crop rotation, irrigation or growing crops in a wide range of soil environments.

For example, a 100-acre cornfield may have varying needs for water or nutrients. Through technology, the farmer can map the field and then program his equipment to only apply the specific needs for that plot of ground, instead of the same amount applied to the full 100 acres. This saves money for the farmer, increases yield and productivity, and is better for the environment, too.

"Precision agriculture embraces the concepts of economics, agronomy and engineering and offers students cutting-edge information on the agricultural industry," says Jacob Maurer, precision agriculture curriculum specialist for Highland Community College in Kansas. "This career field brings together the interests of traditional and non-traditional agriculturists, and it broadens the horizon of agriculture as a result."

Consider these five precision agriculture careers:

AG ENGINEERING

Technology, technology and more technology. These workers are committed to integrating technology into daily agricultural practices. They are concerned with the design, development and improvement of equipment to ensure greater efficiency for farmers. Participating in the National FFA Agriscience Fair in the Power, Structural and Technical Systems division allows FFA members to learn more about this career choice.

AG SALES

Now that engineers have developed this technology, how do we encourage agriculturists to use it? The answer lies within the strong interpersonal skills of trained sales professionals communicating the benefits of these technologies. Participating in chapter fundraisers can build a foundation for skills needed in a sales career.

AGRONOMY

Agronomists study soil and plants to discover ways to increase productivity. These professionals work hard to determine ways to raise more food on less land. The soil judging and agronomy career development events are perfect ways to learn more about this career.

CROP MODELING

Since 1818, one of the most valuable resources to farmers has been the *Farmers' Almanac* for its long-range data predictions. Today, if we take the almanac and add more tasks, we arrive at a crop modeler. These individuals analyze weather conditions, soil quality and crop management practices to estimate yield. Managing a chapter greenhouse can provide excellent experience for this career.

PRECISION AG SPECIALIZATION

Comparing and contrasting data and technology are the skills these specialists need. They use computers to develop or analyze maps of land and compare physical topography of soil, fertilizer, pests and weather. Interested in geospatial technology? This job is the one for you. Start gaining experience now in this field by riding with local agronomists or visiting a university with a precision agriculture program to learn more about the new technologies available in agriculture.

– Amy Morgan

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Doing Things By the Book

Middle school chapter pens, illustrates book to recruit FFA members

When the Rockford Middle FFA Chapter from Minnesota was asked about writing a book for kindergarteners in their school district, they jumped at the opportunity to share the story of the blue jacket.

Every year, the Rockford school district writes and illustrates a book about their mascot, Rockee. After publishing and printing, the book is distributed to all kindergarteners at Rockford Elementary School.

"When my principal asked me if our FFA chapter would be interested in doing it this year, we were immediately excited because it was a chance for us to share the FFA story in a school district where FFA is fairly new," says FFA chapter advisor Keri Sidle. "It was an excellent opportunity to get material in the hands of students and families who know little about FFA."

Written and illustrated by chapter members, the book shows Rockee joining FFA, participating in FFA career development events (CDEs), volunteering in his community, attending the National FFA Convention & Expo, and learning in his agriculture class.

Sidle says, "As the newly joined FFA members began writing their story about Rockee, they themselves had to do some research to learn more about what conferences, awards, and experiences FFA has to offer and what they wanted to share with the public."

While writing the book, the FFA members included fun facts about FFA, such as information about the more than 1,800 scholarships available to students and that in 2015, FFA awarded $2.7 million to students involved in the organization.

"It's common that people in the community, students and parents alike, are unfamiliar with the scholarship opportunities their students have as a result of FFA," Sidle says. "I hope the community can look at the story and fun facts within the book and see the valuable experiences in FFA, and hopefully we will then witness an increase in membership and support as a result."



Rockford Middle FFA Chapter members read their recruitment book to a group of elementary students.

Not only did the book make an impact on the community, it also made an impact on the students that served as authors of the book.

FFA member Jaiden Sundeen says, "I realized that I was doing a great thing. Not only was I getting a chance to write a children's book, but I was also able to spread the word of agriculture and FFA."

All chapter members involved said they learned the value of hard work, dedication and meeting deadlines.

After completion of the book, the authors traveled to the elementary school in FFA Official Dress to read the book and spend some time talking to the kindergarteners about FFA.

"Seeing the early-morning and late-night hard work pay off as well as the excited faces of the kids was rewarding for all of us," Sidle says.

Member Mitch Johnson adds, "FFA is great because it allows us to learn many different things but in a fun and hands-on way, which is exactly what this book does for kindergarteners."

Even though the book changes next year, Rockford FFA plans to continue visiting the kindergartners annually to read their book. Next time, Rockee himself might even be wearing a blue corduroy jacket. Most importantly, the chapter hopes the community will transition from asking the question, "What is FFA?" to asking, "How can I be more involved with FFA?"

– Amy Morgan

Community is Served

Dripping Springs FFA creates nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger

While many FFA chapters participate in community service activities that support local or national organizations, members of the Dripping Springs FFA Chapter in Texas went above and beyond, forming their own nonprofit, public charity.

FFA members Grace and Faith Baxter combined their love for agriculture with a desire to help fight hunger, and the result is Center of the Plate, which was founded in January 2016.

Center of the Plate is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity with the mission of providing animal protein to families in need in the Dripping Springs community.

The efforts of Center of the Plate are being driven and managed by a joint steering committee made up of the Dripping Springs FFA Chapter and local 4-H Club members.

In its first efforts, the nonprofit donated more than 1,200 pounds of beef and pork to four local families in need. FFA members donated five market hogs and one market steer to the cause.

"Our desire with this initiative is to have a deep impact on multiple families in our community," Grace says. "Providing more than 300 pounds to each family will result in meat on the table for at least four months."



SERVING BY THE NUMBERS

1,200 pounds of beef and pork

22 people reached

300 pounds of meat to each family

The community of Dripping Springs has rallied around the chapter's cause, with a total of 11 sponsors donating time, services and financial support. Wilson AC & Appliance provided two freezers at cost and two as a donation. Dripping Springs Presbyterian Church is generously providing storage for the freezers and covering the electrical costs. Local beef and pork industry organizations provided the families with creative recipes and food safety information. Center of the Plate identified the families in need through existing local meal-service providers School's Out, Food's In (SOFI) and Tiger Totes.

"Center of the Plate offers a unique service to the under-served of Dripping Springs. Meat protein is costly and often omitted from the food budgets of families we serve," says Mandi McNutt with SOFI. "Their efforts complement the SOFI mission. Not only by providing nutritional foods to children, but instilling into the next generation an understanding of community responsibility and loving their neighbors well."

Energized by the success of their own project, Center of the Plate aims to inspire other chapters and communities to start similar initiatives.

"We're capturing everything we're doing and then sharing via social media so that other people can bring a project like Center of the Plate to their community," says Hannah Fults, Drippings Springs FFA member and director of communications for Center of the Plate. "You need everyone pulling in the same direction with a common goal to make everything come together. When it does, it's magic!"

Dripping Springs FFA Chapter and Center of the Plate look forward to continuing their good works long into the future with the help of their community. The Dripping Springs Wild Game Dinner, managed by the United Methodist Men's Group, has pledged enough support to cover the beef and pork processing costs for the fall 2016 campaign.

"This project is a great example of how the future leaders of agriculture in this community are giving back in a way that is unique to their passion – raising livestock that eventually ends up in the center of the plate as beef and pork protein," says Jordan Blount, Dripping Springs FFA advisor.

– Hannah Patterson

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California FFANEWS

FALL 2016
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californiaffa We are having a blast at the CATA Conference! Thank you to the ag teachers who are the rocket boosters to our growth and learning!

Tell us about an ag teacher who boosted you to success?

avacado100 Ms. Tulloch boosted me by encouraging me to seize every opportunity, believing in me when I didn't believe in myself, and helping me to constantly continue to grow. She has definitely given me another person to look up to and I will never be able to thank her! I have had so many accomplishments because of her and so many losses turned into wins because of her! Thank you, MT!

jesus_the_lone_nut Mr. Lopez, who I have had the privilege of having for three years going on four, he has been my motivation and inspiration in my FFA career. He has helped me not in just the classroom but also given me some of the best advice that I follow everyday. I never thought I was capable of doing things that I thought were impossible, but through his guidance I have flourished. He has inspired me in a way no other teachers have and like I said has helped me in FFA. Because of him I am the Riverside Section VP and plan on going for state office he is the reason I have a "DASH" thank you Mr. Lopez for helping me and listening to my constant "am I even good enough." *@uniqueagteacher*

_.madison_mccartyy._ Stroud, she was my first Ag teacher my sophomore year. She made me feel so welcomed in her classroom. I was a shy sophomore not wanting to get involved in anything. I just had one ag class. I never wanted to speak in front of the class, or in front of anyone in general. Junior year was my year I became involved, all thanks to her. I had two ag classes, I joined her CTE floral team, started a SAE project with a lamb and now I am the 2016-2017 Red Bluff Reporter. She pushes me to the greatest extent. She's there when I need a little guidance. She's the one that believes in me when I don't believe in myself. I never thought I would be speaking confidently, and serving on the officer team. I've had so many great memories spent with her that I can add to my "DASH". She's the best. Thanks, Stroud. Ag teachers rock. *@redbluff_ffa*

ranchocordova_ffa_chapter My Ag Teacher, Mr. Harnden from Cordova High School, always pushes me to do my best, no matter the circumstance. He also pushed me to become an officer this upcoming school year so we can grow as a team.

kellenhabib Mr. Wenstrand, Mrs. Tweedy and Mr. G from Caruthers FFA provided me with the opportunity to grow in my time with them. They motivated me to succeed and instilled the concept of service leadership in me. Without their tireless work, I would not have been successful in my life to this day. I could never thank them enough. •

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEP • 1·2 GLC - Modesto **7·8·9** GLC - Bakersfield **13·14·15·16**
GLC - Colusa **13·14** GLC - Menifee **15** GLC - Lakeside **15·16**
GLC - Fresno **16** GLC - Imperial **20·21·22·23** GLC - Tulare
28 GLC - Petaluma **OCT • 4·5** GLC - Redding **4·5·6·7**
GLC - Lodi **11·12·13·14** GLC - Paso Robles **17&18** National
Delegate Trip **19-22** National FFA Convention & Expo **22-25**
Washington DC Tour **NOV • 5** State Cotton Judging Contest

For a list of current FFA events please visit
www.CalAgEd.org

5,318 MEMBERS
620 ADVISORS
650 GUESTS
324 CHAPTERS

2016 State Leadership Conference Recap

Over 6,000 people attended the 88th Annual California State FFA Leadership Conference in April! Attendees witnessed state officer retiring addresses and were entertained by State Choir and Talent, while delegates shaped the future of the organization, and all were "Electrified" by the experience. Thank you once again to the Boswell Foundation for their generous FFA Foundation donation allowing members to attend conference at a discounted rate. With another school year, comes another State Officer Team, visit page four to learn more about this year's team.

STREET BEAT

#ELECTRIFYFFA

briana.may Seriously missing State Conference already. Had a great time being with my friends and learning new things. FFA is seriously one of the best things in my life.

cheyenn99 This years 88th California State Convention was amazing. Getting to spend time with the amazing people in my chapter as well as old and new friends. Bre and Sydney I will truly miss you and thank you for everything you taught me. Also congrats to the new elected state officer team. *#FFA #electrifyffa #stateconvetion #placerffa*

oreomilkshake84 This year has been a huge leap forward for my Chapter. Our first Sectional Officer, our first Regional public speaking winner, and our first ever regional officer. The pride I get, wearing the corduroy, cannot be put into words. At the 88th annual California State FFA Convention, we said hi to some friends, and goodbye (for now) to others. Thank you Joelle, Sydnie, Breanna, Trevor, Danielle, and Tim. Your passion for our organization has been felt, and your part in this inspiring task has pushed so many of us to become better. Thank you to Nick Baker and Taylor McNeil, it was an honor to see and meet you amazing individuals, and your influence can be felt everywhere corn is grown, and FFA members meet. Thank you to my Chapter, for all the laughs, and the beauty of friendship we so dearly hold on to from each other. And thank you to my amazing Regional team, you guys are my second family, and I can't wait to electrify FFA in our own way. *#ffa #ffamily #superiorregion #electrifyffa #stateconference*

monacheffa We all enjoyed the concert last night and the last session today! What an awesome State Conference!! *#electrifyffa #monacheffa*

Saluting the Champions of California FFA

CREED RECITATION
Lili Steele, San Luis Obispo



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE NOVICE
San Luis Obispo



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE ADVANCED
O'Neals – Minarets



EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING
Andrew Skidmore, Atwater



IMPROMPTU PUBLIC SPEAKING
Camille Pryde, Anderson



PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING
Allisa Hastie, Tollhouse-Sierra



JOB INTERVIEW CONTEST
Amber Bierre, San Luis Obispo



{ Continued on page 6 }

MEET YOUR NEW State Officer Team



With the passing of the State FFA Leadership Conference, comes another energetic and passionate team of newly elected officers! CA FFA News caught up with the 2016-17 State Officers to learn a little bit more about these leaders behind the corduroy.

What are you looking forward to most this year of service?

ANDREW This next year I hope to learn more about California agriculture and about what makes FFA so uniquely special (hint, it's all of you!). I'm excited to travel the state and show the world what the FFA believes in.

LAUREN I am looking forward to experiencing new things and traveling up & down our state to meet the talented members of California FFA!

AMANDA I am most excited to truly get to know all of you both in and out of the jacket, because there is so much to learn from your vast knowledge, skills, and experiences. I can't wait to show you my crazy energy and make memories that will last a lifetime!

SAMUEL Being able to travel around the state, visiting industries and seeing California agriculture. I also look forward to meeting members at chapter visits, conferences, and having the opportunity to hear their different stories.

CONNER I'm looking forward to traveling up and down the beautiful state of California. I am also excited to meet every member in the California FFA.

JACE The first thing I'm very excited about this year is learning the difference between urban and rural agriculture industries and how members within FFA impact those respective areas. The second thing I can't wait to do is meet the over 83,000 members within our association and see all of California for the first time in my life.

Favorite quote

ANDREW "Just be you."

LAUREN "Do what you feel in your heart to be right - for you'll be criticized anyway." by Eleanor Roosevelt

AMANDA "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined." by Thoreau

SAMUEL "It's America, you have choices!"

CONNER "We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." by Ronald Reagan

JACE "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." by Mohandas Gandhi

What is your career goal?

ANDREW I hope to obtain my B.S. in Agricultural Engineering and ultimately serve as a CEO of an agribusiness company.

LAUREN I plan on majoring in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Business so that I may serve as an advocate for an industry that I love dearly!

State FFA President
ANDREW SKIDMORE



Birthday: April 9, 1998

Home Chapter: Atwater FFA

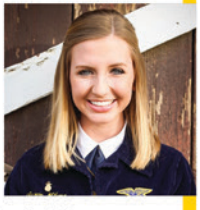
Parents: Denise and Scott Skidmore

Siblings: Amanda Skidmore

SAEs: Breeding & Market Goats, and Agriculture Entrepreneurship

CDEs: Extemporaneous Public Speaking, and Agricultural Mechanics

State FFA Vice President
LAUREN MILLANG



Birthday: March 13, 1998

Home Chapter: Woodland-Pioneer FFA

Parents: Stacy & Herb Millang

Siblings: Austin & Zach Millang

SAEs: Market Lamb, Ag Business Placement – Accounting Assistant, and Woodland Stallion Station Horse Boarding Trainer's Assistant

CDEs: Light Horse Judging, Job Interview, and Prepared Public Speaking

State FFA Secretary
AMANDA SKIDMORE



Birthday: April 9, 1998

Home Chapter: Atwater FFA

Parents: Denise and Scott Skidmore

Siblings: Andrew Skidmore

SAEs: Dairy replacement heifer, Poultry, Breeding goats, Fair Awareness Campaign to Teach, Multiple Work Experience

CDEs: Market Plan, Dairy Cattle Evaluation, Dairy Products, Agronomy Judging, Cotton Judging, Parliamentary Procedure, Prepared Public Speaking, Job Interview, and Creed

{ Continued on page 5 }

{ Continued from page 4 }

AMANDA I hope to pursue a career as an International Agricultural Marketer traveling the world while spreading the message of global agriculture.

SAMUEL After my year of service I plan on attending Fresno State University to pursue a degree in Agriculture Education.

CONNER To become an Agriculture Teacher and have my own sheep and hog operations.

JACE My career goal includes attaining my Master's Degree in international agriculture business and eventually working for a company that allows me to travel the world advocating for American agriculture and joining forces with international agriculture.

Share your most memorable FFA experience.

ANDREW My ag mechanics team had just had a hard loss at a field day and my teammates piled their hats in the center console of our suburban. It was an unspoken moment of reconciliation, and knowing that everything is going to be okay because of the people that surrounded me.

LAUREN Attending the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. is one of many highlights! I learned about the ultimate sacrifice that American men and women have made, and continue to make, for our freedom.

AMANDA Tons of experiences flood my mind when it comes to the FFA, but my favorite would have to be when my FFA chapter taped their name tags from a field day to my back (without me noticing) and as I went up to receive my award the entire auditorium busted out laughing. It made for an entertaining and quite embarrassing day.

SAMUEL My most memorable FFA experience would be going to Sacramento Leadership Experience. Having the opportunity to debate on the California Senate floor, working inside the committee rooms and having the opportunity to learn more about the government process. It was an unforgettable experience.

CONNER Being a national delegate, because I met so many great individuals even some that I'm serving with this year.

JACE My most memorable experience in the FFA would be the very first time I put on my FFA jacket to show my market hogs at the California State Fair.

What is your favorite app and why?

ANDREW BBC News - I love learning about everything in the world as soon as it happens and BBC has a generally accurate, unbiased account of the globe in a concise manner.

LAUREN Pinterest - I just can't avoid the inspirational quotes and DIY crafts that never turn out exactly like the pictures...

AMANDA I'm not one to use a bunch of apps, I actually don't even have Snapchat, but my favorite app would have to be Pandora because I love listening to music and belting out the lyrics when I'm alone.

SAMUEL I really have two, Instagram and Snapchat. Instagram because of the great captions and amazing pictures you can find. Snapchat because of the funny filters and the funny stories from people.

CONNER Snapchat, because I look forward to using the new filters daily.

JACE According to my phone, my favorite app is Snapchat, but I disagree because I enjoy clicking on my picture's app and reminiscing on all of the memories I've made in my life so far. •

Favorite emoji

ANDREW



LAUREN



AMANDA



SAMUEL



CONNER



JACE



State FFA Treasurer
SAMUEL LOOPER



Birthday: July 24, 1998

Home Chapter: Apple Valley FFA

Parents: Lisa & Donald Looper

Siblings: Tawny Peckham, Courtney Looper, and Shelby Looper

SAEs: Market Steers

CDEs: Job Interview

State FFA Reporter
CONNER VERNON



Birthday: June 5, 1998

Home Chapter: Nipomo FFA

Parents: Rosemary Cummings and Scott Vernon

Siblings: Kyler Vernon and Carli Rose Cummings

SAEs: Sheep and Swine Production

CDEs: Livestock Judging

State FFA Sentinel
JACE NEUGEBAUER



Birthday: September 5, 1997

Home Chapter: McArthur - Fall River FFA

Parents: Theresa & Rick Neugebauer

Siblings: Jessica DeCoito and Jonathan Neugebauer

SAEs: Market Hogs and Cattle Breeding Program

CDEs: Creed, Impromptu, Job Interview, and Parliamentary Procedure

{ Continued from page 3 }

STAR FARMER
Andrea Thomas, Colusa





Agricultural Mechanics High Team
Grass Valley-Bear River FFA



Agricultural Welding High Team
Galt-Liberty Ranch FFA

STAR IN AGRIBUSINESS
Nitin Gupta, Tulare





Agricultural Mechanics High Individual
Grass Valley-Bear River FFA



Agricultural Welding High Individual
Galt-Liberty Ranch FFA

STAR IN AG PLACEMENT
Paul Barcellos, Tulare





Agricultural Pest Control High Team
Tulelake FFA



Agriscience Fair Competition High Team (Advanced)
Elk Grove FFA

STAR IN AGRISCIENCE
Halley Lauchland, Lodi





Agricultural Pest Control High Individual
Tulelake FFA



Agriscience Fair Competition High Team (Novice)
Elk Grove FFA



Agricultural Issues Forum High Team
Galt FFA



Agricultural Sales High Team
Elk Grove FFA



Agronomy High Team
Woodland FFA

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Scholarship Winners

Actagro Scholarship
Sponsored by Actagro
Kent Norman, Ripon
Alondra Novoa, Santa Maria

Almond Board of California Scholarship
Sponsored by The Almond Board of California
Alexa Aufderheide, Modesto - Gregori
Sarai Briseno-Calderon, Santa Maria - Righetti
Austin La Salle, Firebaugh
Bradley Livingston, Eureka

Jerry L. Biggs Memorial
Sponsored by California Association FFA
Amanda Simonich, Tracy

Betty Bushong Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by Bushong Trust
Ethan C. Francis, Bakersfield - North
Preslee Moore, Tulare

Jerry T. Davis Honorary Scholarship
Sponsored by California Association FFA
Riley Nilsen, Nipomo

Friends of the FFA Scholarship
Sponsored by Jeff & Nicolina Alves
Alondra Valle, Santa Paula

Paul Freitas Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by Freitas Family
Madison Morgan, Oakdale

Hartford Insurance Company Scholarship
Sponsored by Hartford Livestock Insurance
Mark Borges, Hughson
Fallon Harmon, Exeter
Carly Olufs, Petaluma

Mabel W. Jacks Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by The Jacks Foundation
Mckenzie Carvalho, Maxwell
Jace Neugebauer, McArthur - Fall River
Gabrielle Ribeiro, Tulare

Byron J. McMahon Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by California Association FFA
Lauren Millang, Woodland - Pioneer

Dorothy McMillan Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by California Association FFA
Angel Carillo, Perris

Dean McNeilly Scholarship
Sponsored by Mr. Dean McNeilly
Andrew Skidmore, Atwater

Jaimie Lynne Pettey Memorial Scholarship
Sponsored by The Jaimie Lynne Pettey Family
Hunter Andrade, Tracy
Madison Goss, Nicolaus - East Nicolaus
Lara Macon, Auburn - Placer

The Willey Family Scholarship
Sponsored by Steve Willey & Patricia Sandor
Julia Pitman, Tulare
Bryce Umbarger, King City

Zenith Insurance Company Scholarship
Sponsored by Zenith Insurance Company
Kayla Erath, Santa Ynez
Emma Manoukian, Healdsburg
Amanda Skidmore, Atwater
Wade Joseph Sousa, Tulare



Agronomy High Individual
Hughson FFA



Computer Applications High Individual
Escalon FFA



Best Informed Greenhand High Team
Madera-South FFA



Cotton Judging High Team
Hanford FFA



Best Informed Greenhand High Individual
Madera-South FFA



Dairy Cattle Judging High Team
Hilmar FFA


Citrus Judging High Team
Tulare FFA



Dairy Cattle Judging High Individual
Turlock FFA



Computer Applications High Team
Woodlake FFA



Farm Business Management High Team
Elk Grove FFA

{ Continued on page 10 }







NATIONAL BLUE. CORN GOLD *White House*





{ Continued on page 9 }

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TALIE CLOUD, A MEMBER OF SANGER FFA WAS CELEBRATED AT A WHITE HOUSE EVENT FOR STUDENTS WHO EXCEL IN SCIENCE.

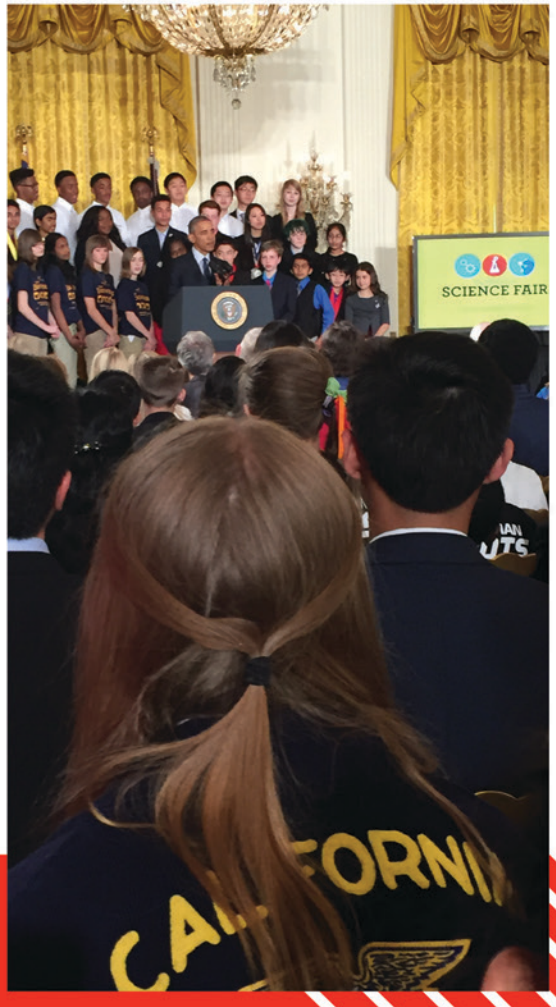
Article courtesy of National FFA Organization Press Release dated April 12, 2016

Talie Cloud, 15, was invited to participate in the sixth annual White House Science Fair. It was the last science fair under President Barack Obama's administration and was held on Wednesday, April 13. The science fair celebrated the accomplishments of student winners in a broad range of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) competitions throughout the United States.

Cloud won first place in the category of Animal Systems at the 2015 National FFA Agriscience Fair, an annual competition sponsored by Cargill, John Deere and Syngenta as a special project of the National FFA Foundation during the National FFA Convention & Expo. The fair features the research and results of FFA members who plan on pursuing careers in the science and technology of agriculture. This accomplishment earned her the special White House invite.

Her project explored the effects of Momordica charantia, or bitter melon seed, on the reproductive rate of Drosophila melanogaster after four generations of exposure. The purpose of the project was to determine whether the bitter melon seed could be used as a potential organic insecticide.

Her findings determined that with more investigation on the chemical makeup, ideal concentration mixture, environmental impact and application method, Momordica charantia would be a cost-efficient and effective agricultural insecticide that acts upon the reproduction of the pest, rather than the mortality rate. •









Talie with House Speaker Paul Ryan

{ Continued from page 7 }



Farm Business Management High Individual
Petaluma FFA



Floriculture High Team
Galt-Liberty Ranch FFA



Grapevine Judging High Team
Tulare FFA



Farm Power and Machinery High Team
Lodi FFA



Forestry High Team
O'Neals Minarets FFA



Grapevine Judging High Individual
Clarksburg-Delta FFA



Farm Power and Machinery High Individual
Lodi FFA



Forestry High Individual
O'Neals Minarets FFA



Light Horse Judging High Team
Santa Maria FFA



Farm Record Book High Team
Elk Grove FFA



Fruit Tree Judging High Team
Modesto-Johansen FFA



Light Horse Judging High Individual
Santa Maria FFA



Farm Record Book High Individual
Elk Grove FFA



Fruit Tree Judging High Individual
Modesto-Johansen FFA



Livestock Judging High Team
Oakdale FFA

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Proficiency Winners

Agricultural Communications
Jeanette Furlong, Tomales

Agricultural Education
Cort Rowley, Visalia - Golden West

Agricultural Mechanics Design/Fabrication
Dustin Suttles, Lakeside - El Capitan

Ag. Mechanics Repair/Maintenance Entrepreneurship
Amanda Morrison, Pine Valley - Mountain Empire

Ag. Mechanics Repair/Maintenance Placement
Jose Rios, Santa Maria

Agricultural Processing
Jessica Brown, Tracy

Agricultural Sales Entrepreneurship
Kenneth Watkins IV, Linden

Agricultural Sales Placement
Michaela Vindel, Merced - Golden Valley

Agricultural Services
Augustus Macy, Tulelake

Agriscience Research – Animal Systems
Tatiana Woliung, Lakeside - El Capitan

Agriscience Research – Integrated System
Shelby Clifford, Elk Grove

Agriscience Research – Plant Systems
Halley Lauchland, Lodi

Beef Production Entrepreneurship
Anna Miller, Linden

Beef Production Placement
Samantha Yates, Lodi

Dairy Production Entrepreneurship
Hannah Van Dyk, Tulare

Dairy Production Placement
Jerry Teixeira, Tokay

Diversified Agricultural Production
Amanda Thomas, Colusa

Diversified Crop Production Entrepreneurship
Blake DeBernardi, Santa Maria - Righetti

Diversified Crop Production Placement
Gissel Neri, Greenfield

Diversified Horticulture
Juan Lemus, Fallbrook

Diversified Livestock
Andrea Thomas, Colusa

Environmental Science/Natural Resources
Steven Nunez, Santa Paula

Equine Science Entrepreneurship
Jessica Baxter, Elsinore

Equine Science Placement
Sara Sullivan, Lucerne Valley

Fiber/Oil Crops
Lauren Lydick, Holtville

Food Science and Technology
Kaitlyn Cubre, Madera - Liberty

Forage Production
Daniel Moules, Tokay

Forest Management/Products
Kendall McBride, Ferndale

Goat Production
Tyson Brem, Strathmore

Grain Production Placement
Devin Lee, Maxwell

Home and/or Community Development
Taylor Richardson, Healdsburg

Landscape Management
Keith Wright, Atwater

Nursery Operations
Madelyn Vigo, Kingsburg

Outdoor Recreation
Aaron McCranie, Lakeside - El Capitan

Pomology Production
Janeen Moore, Nipomo

Poultry Production
Savanna Alexandre, Del Norte

Sheep Production
Sydney Miller, Arcata

Small Animal Production and Care
Paige Cloyes, Lemoore

Specialty Animal Production
Daysee Magana, Fallbrook

Specialty Crop Production
Hattie Faccinto, Madera - Liberty

Swine Production Entrepreneurship
Clayton Sheehan, Madera

Swine Production Placement
Adrianna Begley, Santa Rosa

Turf Grass Management
Danny Fonseca, La Habra - Sonora

Vegetable Production
Vincent Rodriguez, Arroyo Grande

Veterinary Medicine
Jason Sousa, Ponderosa

Viticulture Production
Mark Cavallero, Madera

Wildlife Management
Kailey Lemon, O'Neals - Minarets



Livestock Judging High Individual
Atascadero FFA



Marketing (Co-ops) High Individual
Elk Grove FFA



Meat Judging High Team
Madera-South FFA



Marketing (Co-ops) High Team
Elk Grove FFA



Marketing Plan High Team
Atwater FFA



Meat Judging High Individual
Madera-South FFA

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Chapter Scoops



BAKERSFIELD -NORTH FFA

Bringing Back Traditions

Submitted by Natalie Ryan

The North High Bakersfield chapter is attempting to bring back history with an Ag Communications class project. It was tradition to hang a framed photo of each American Degree recipient in the agriculture department. Unfortunately, during the remodeling of classrooms the framed pictures of all past members who had earned their American degrees were lost. The class is teaming up to search and contact all fifty-four alumni members ranging as far back as 1993. As a class we hope to not only honor our alumni, but also set an example of what can be achieved by our current members.



SUTTER FFA

Improving!

Submitted by Jake Wheeler

It has been a long road and we (Sutter FFA) are very excited that we have a new and improved livestock barn and show ring! Renovations began in October 2015 and are now complete and full of animals! FFA students along with the three FFA advisors all had a hand in redesigning, building, and painting the renovated barn and the new fence. Work that was done includes new concrete, panels, paint, and all the electrical being brought up to date and a brand new show ring! All of the updates were made possible by the 22-acre student-operated almond orchard, amazing administration, and the overwhelming community support! With fair a few weeks away, everything is running smoothly and the all hogs, sheep, goats, chickens and steers are very happy to have such an awesome home!



MENIFEE-HERITAGE FFA

Vegetables For Everyone!

Submitted by Kelsi Cisney

This year the Menifee-Heritage FFA embarked on a mission to follow healthy eating trends and grow the best looking vegetables in all of Southern California! Our leadership class built wooden planters to grow vegetables and then filled them with soil to accommodate the needs of the plants. After weeks of hard work, we finally planted the seeds that would soon grow into delicious veggies, such as zucchini, swiss chard, tomatoes, and even corn! In only a few short months, the crops were ready to be harvested! Afterwards, they were given out to staff members and teachers in our school for them to eat. The harvested veggies will be replaced with new seeds so we can continue to have a flourishing vegetable garden and once again be able to enjoy tasty garden-fresh salads!

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MODESTO-CENTRAL CATHOLIC FFA
Living to Serve

Submitted by Josephine Henderson

Central Catholic FFA has been a chapter for only two years, but that hasn't stopped us from becoming highly active, enthusiastic FFA members! This year, just like last, we were given the chance to help work at Ott U-Pick Blueberry Farms. Five years ago, Ott Farms started off as a small business owned by a local farmer and her husband. It grew to the point where Ott's owner couldn't manage or work there alone. So she turned to Central Catholic FFA to help manage the business. This year, two student managers from Central are in charge of 25 CC FFA members who choose to work eight hour shifts every weekend. When we asked Ott's owner why she chose FFA members, she said "The FFA students have given us the opportunity to expand our business even more. This year, we have more than doubled the amount of customers, because we have been able to provide the community with a friendly atmosphere with FFA kids who are excited to teach the public about the importance of agriculture... Not only do the students get paid for their hard work, they also get hours that go towards their State and American FFA Degrees and they get direct work experience, which is priceless!"



BAKERSFIELD-HIGHLAND FFA
Lip Sync Battle

Submitted by Madelyn Lara

This year our chapter had its very first Lip Sync Battle. We had teams of teachers and students from our chapter compete for awards such as: Best Costume, Best Song Choice, Best Dance Moves, and Best Overall Performance. Our auditorium was filled with FFA members and non-FFA members alike, and it was a fun way to get people excited about chapter events. It was also a great way to get kids out of their comfort zone and perform in front of their peers. We had some amazing entries and chapter members are excited to participate, and see amazing performances next year.



SANTA ROSA FFA
YouTube Challenge

Submitted by Karen Lopez

This was our first time doing the YouTube Challenge, thinking it was good way to motivate our chapter members, and allow them to become more involved. This activity consisted of different nationwide known YouTube challenges in which members participated. These challenges were the Baby Food Challenge, in which you got blindfolded and had to guess the type of baby food you were given. The What Is It Challenge, where you got blindfolded, were given an item, and had to guess what the item was. Finally, the Skittles Straw Challenge where you were given a handful of skittles and had to transfer them from the napkin to your Dixie cup in 30 seconds, with the catch that you could only use a straw and your ability to inhale air to transfer them over.

SANTA MARIA-RIGHETTI FFA
New Year, New Accomplishments!

Submitted by Koby Ernst

As the school year comes to an end, new officers got elected for the 2016-17 school year. Our officer team for Righetti FFA Chapter wants to bring back Greenhand Bootcamp, and make our annual Kinder Patch bigger and better this upcoming year. The new officer team wants to accomplish a lot of new and exciting things this year! We know that this year's officer team will accomplish great things! Stay motivated officers!



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McFARLAND FFA
Ag Bash

Submitted by Gabriel Parra

Ag Bash is a fun event where chapters in the neighboring cities of Bakersfield get together to compete in agriculturally related games. This year we were fortunate to host it at our campus in McFarland. We had four main contests during this event. The first was the FFA Ag knowledge test where FFA members took a test to determine how much they know about agriculture. The second was an obstacle course where members raced to finish a course including a hay bale toss, corn eating, and milking components. The third contest was the welding contest where members welded a pressure box. The fourth contest was Egg Roulette where the advisors would choose from a bowl of eggs and break them on their heads hoping it wasn't raw but hard boiled. The chapters with the most points ended up to be Shafter FFA and Delano FFA and then they battled for the champion title in a tractor pulling contest. Delano took the Ag Bash Champion title home this year and we had a great time hosting. It is definitely one of our favorite events.

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 news@californiaffa.org.

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



HUGHSON FFA
Camp Sylvester

Submitted by Michelle Borges

At the end of May our chapter had an experience of a lifetime. We attended a chapter officer leadership conference at Camp Sylvester. At the conference, chapter officers from the Tri-Rivers Section and Stanislaus-Tuolumne Section met with other chapter officers and shared chapter event ideas. Seventeen chapters attended, including 160 students, all under the supervision of over twenty 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 our chapter! •

{ Continued from page 11 }



Milk Quality and Dairy Foods High Team
Atwater FFA



Poultry Judging High Team
Galt FFA



Small Engines High Individual
Ripon FFA



Milk Quality and Dairy Foods High Individual
Atwater FFA



Poultry Judging High Individual
Santa Maria FFA



Soil and Land Evaluation High Team
O'Neals Minarets FFA



Natural Resource Management High Team
Tollhouse-Sierra FFA



Program of Activities High Team
O'Neals-Minarets FFA



Vegetable Crop Judging High Team
Santa Maria FFA



Nursery/Landscape High Team
Hanford FFA



Scrapbook High Team
Atwater FFA



Vegetable Crop Judging High Individual
Tulelake FFA



Nursery/Landscape High Individual
Hanford FFA



Small Engines High Team
Hilmar FFA



Veterinary Science High Team
Clovis FFA

CALIFORNIA FFA HAS A LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE *for you!*

Greenhand Leadership Conference (GLC)

What: Introduction to Agricultural Education, Career Success
Who: Freshmen
When: One Day Conferences held in August, September, and October

Introduces students to the benefits and opportunities in Agricultural Education, including SAE and FFA. This conference is the "hook-line-and-sinker" to get students to buy into Agricultural Education throughout their four years in high school.

#ffaGLC


@tayfoster


@joshua5234


@yaay_meee_


@ijackaitken


@californiaffa

Made for Excellence Conference (MFE)

What: ME: Student Development, Personal Growth
Who: Sophomores
When: Two Day Conferences held in January and February

Personal development starts with the individual. Self-discovery of talents, strengths, interests and personal character are emphasized as the individual is channeled to discover their passion in life. This conference focuses on "Student Development and ME: one's personal skills and development of the ability to be successful."

#ffaMFE


@ally_highfill



hollister_ffa LEADERSHIP, EXCELLENCE, and CRAZY CAR RIDES - OH MY! These 8 students expanded their leadership skills and opportunities within the FFA. The past 24 hours have taught these students how to exert positive influences in the Hollister FFA. *#ffaMFE #ffaALA*


@neverfeltstronger

Advanced Leadership Academy (ALA)

What: WE: Chapter Development, Personal Growth
Who: Juniors
When: Two Day Conferences held in January and February

Once a leader is comfortable with their own self and self-purpose, they can discover how to work with others and establish a goal. The process for analyzing program needs and planning a project or event is the focus of this conference as students discover how to be teams of innovative leaders in their chapter. This conference about "WE: the individual leader, their relationships with others and how to establish common vision."

#ffaALA


@kendall_wilson3


@coleibbotson



gustineffa 20 proud Gustine FFA members attended the Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academy conferences this past weekend in Modesto. There, they learned different strategies and methods used in order to ensure they make the best out of their FFA experience. Congrats everyone! *#ffaMFE #ffaALA #GustineFFA*

Sacramento Leadership Experience (SLE)

What: SERVE: Community Development, Personal Growth
Who: Seniors
When: Four Day Conference held in March

Students step into the role of one of California's State legislators, are assigned a specific California district and spend four days in Sacramento. SLE is all about the role of government, agricultural policy and advocacy. This conference focuses on Community Development and SERVE: the ability to grow and develop others and serve your community."

#ffaSLE

falfal_98 What an amazing week it has been at SLE, from debating bills to lobbying agriculture education to our local district representatives. It was truly unforgettable. *#ffaSLE*

z_davis1313 Last week I had the time of my life at SLE!! Thank you to the counselors at the conference for teaching me the importance of our government and how I can make a difference advocating for agriculture and FFA. *#ffaSLE #ffa #californiaffa #foreverblue*

jerkuh This past week, I had the opportunity to take on the position of our state legislature. Not only was I able to debate serious issues regarding agriculture on the floors of our state Capitol, I was also able to meet various political figures, as well as some extremely influential members of the agriculture industry. I am so incredibly thankful for this experience... *#ffaSLE*

Georgia FFA News

September 2016

Official Publication of the Georgia FFA



9 Days in Costa Rica

How my SAE opened another world to me

Georgia FFA attends the 2016 Washington Leadership Conference

Gilmer County Secures New Ag Center

A project that began as a "big dream" in April of 2015 is quickly becoming a reality that will bring an exciting future for the Agricultural Education department, FFA chapter and Young Farmer program in Gilmer County. The Gilmer County Board of Education passed an ESPLOT that planned to award $3.5 million for a new agricultural center.

In the 17 months since that critical first step, ground has been broken on the site of the future agricultural education center, livestock facility and food processing center. Additionally, $25,000 was donated by Pilgrim's (formerly Pilgrim's Pride) to secure a new M6060 Kubota tractor, and $310,000 was allocated by the Georgia General Assembly for new cannery equipment.



The April 8 tractor ceremony was attended by Gilmer County FFA members and advisors, Pilgrim's employees along with Speaker Ralston and Commissioner Black.

On April 8, 2016, the Gilmer County FFA chapter and Young Farmer chapter held a dedication and appreciation ceremony for Pilgrim's and other local supporters who contributed to the donation of the new tractor for the Gilmer County Agricultural Education program. The local Pilgrim's division and representatives from the corporate Pilgrim's office in Colorado attended the ceremony.

"By investing in the Gilmer County Agricultural program, Pilgrim's is investing in the future of our county and industry," said Randy Long, Complex Manager of the Ellijay Pilgrim's.

The funds donated were used to purchase the tractor from Mason Tractor of Blue Ridge. Georgia's Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable David Ralston, a Gilmer County native and former FFA member, was also instrumental in securing funding for the project. Ralston and Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black attended the tractor donation ceremony, along with Gilmer County School Superintendent Shanna Wilkes.

In May of 2016, ground was broken at the site of the new agriculture center. Local business leaders and members of the board of education were on hand as a show of support for the project. Plans are in place for the center to house student livestock projects, as well as opening a new community food processing center (canning plant) that will be operated by the agricultural education department.

"Our cannery is one of the top in the state with an average production of 1,000 customers and 20,000 units canned each year," said Superintendent Wilkes.

The agricultural education teachers in Gilmer County are Mr. Michael Bushey, Mr. David Bushey and Mr. Paul Little (Gilmer County High School), as well as Mr. Keith Pankey (Clear Creek Middle School).

"We are very blessed to be given this opportunity," said Gilmer County FFA President Shelby Merrell.



The ground breaking ceremony for the new Gilmer County agriculture center was a great opportunity to bring together leaders of the community and school system in support of the local agricultural education program.

Story & photos provided by Gilmer County Agricultural Education

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10 Reasons "Ticos" Are Like FFA Members

A reflection on my trip to Costa Rica



By: Sarah Spradlin

During the 2016 Proficiency and Stars Travel Seminar to Costa Rica, it was easy to fall in love with not only the beautiful country we found there, but also its wholehearted people. Throughout the nine-day foray into Costa Rican agriculture, I was struck by how quickly we connected to a new culture. It didn't puzzle me for long, however, because the more I studied the Costa Ricans, who refer to themselves as ticos and ticas, the more I realized it wasn't an entirely different culture after all. Costa Ricans are a lot like FFA members, and here are 10 reasons why I believe that.

10. Costa Ricans are service oriented.

Costa Ricans strive, just like FFA members, to "live to serve." The largest employer in Costa Rica is services, claiming about 70% of the workforce. Whether it is working in a call center taking care of customers or spending their time guiding tours, Costa Ricans are committed to helping others through service. We got the chance to experience this firsthand through our tour guides, Jenny and Gustavo, who never hesitated to answer our questions and provided us snacks on the long bus rides. Our bus drivers tirelessly helped us unload our luggage at each new hotel. Freshly prepared fruit juices greeted us at nearly every meal, many times already poured and ready at our places. Perhaps their greatest service, though, was the contagious joy they shared with us each and every day.

9. "Con Mucho Gusto"

At first, no one was quite sure what they were saying, but after a little thinking and shameless Google Translating, I discovered one of the most meaningful Spanish phrases I would learn on the trip: "Con mucho gusto" or, in English, "With much pleasure." My bus driver, Hector, never failed to offer a smile and this quick phrase after a sometimes halting execution of "thank you" or "gracias" from his passengers. It was the same everywhere we went: "con mucho gusto." Packed into this little phrase, it is easy to discover that Costa Ricans believe, just like FFA members, "in being happy [themselves] and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon [them]." Everywhere we went, from the smallest farm to the biggest city, Costa Ricans found happiness and readily shared it with those around them. One of the ways they shared their joy was through the gift of friendship.

8. Costa Ricans value friendship.

Don Fernando, the extremely successful owner of the first carbon neutral cattle farm in Costa Rica, welcomed us into his home about midway through our nine-day seminar. Located near the Arenal Volcano in the province of Alajuela, the Don Fernando cattle farm was not only dedicated to producing quality beef, but also close relationships with its consumers. Don Fernando himself guided us through his farm and later gave us the chance to plant trees on his property. After digging the holes, placing the saplings and shaping the dirt around the tree like the volcano that stood behind us on the horizon, Don Fernando explained that anyone who planted a tree was welcome back any time to visit it. It was an incredible gesture of friendship; one of many that we received while we traveled throughout Costa Rica. Costa Ricans actively "practice brotherhood" by pursuing friendship not only with their consumers but anyone who crosses their path. Although many of the friendships we formed while in Costa Rica were during casual farm visits, there were also times that we put our newly formed friendships to the test.



The La Paz Waterfall Gardens allowed students to get up close and personal with a toucan, one of Costa Rica's many exotic birds.

7. Costa Ricans are relentless adventurers.

Our raft slammed into the rock wall border of a rapid that our guide, Antonio, had called "The Swimmers" only seconds before. As we lurched upward, I fell inward while my feet sharply reminded me of their wedged-in position underneath the seats of the raft. We all almost became swimmers in the Sarapiqui that day. Those kind of half-terrifying, half-exhilarating moments are ones you either love or hate, and, on the whole, FFA members and Costa Ricans both love them. As the current jerked us back into the main stream and we rode out the rest of the rapid, everyone on the raft was rejoicing: big grins, cries of victory and eyes wide open as we continued forward. Adventure is around every corner in Costa Rica; from day-to-day tangles with the wildlife that includes Howler monkeys and poison dart frogs, to hiking volcanos and zip-lining through the rainforest. In Costa Rica, a teachable moment is around each corner.

6. Costa Ricans are committed educators.

I remember asking Gustavo on one bus ride to identify a bright red fruit tree that we often passed while traveling through the Costa Rican countryside. By the time I had managed to get my question out, however, we had already passed the tree. Gustavo made a quick guess, and I didn't think much more about it. I had almost forgotten about the question after our



Spradlin and Kaylee Bunker learned to harvest a 65-70 pound bundle of bananas on the Dole banana plantation.

service project at a school in La Colonia, but Gustavo had not. After only a few minutes on the bus, he showed me what I know now is an achiote fruit—exactly like what I had seen earlier. What had begun as a question quickly turned into one of the many mini lessons we received on our bus rides throughout Costa Rica. Although the method of teaching varied significantly from farm to farm - from the combined lecture-tour style at the Dole banana plantation to hands-on, sample-oriented style of the organic farm, our teachers eagerly shared their vast knowledge about agriculture and their culture that surrounded it. FFA members and Costa Ricans alike possess knowledge about agriculture they are eager to share.

5. Costa Ricans are bold leaders.

FFA members and Costa Ricans both take "leadership from ourselves" very seriously. In 2021, Costa Rica aims to be the first carbon neutral country in the world. This goal, combined with practices throughout the nation, make it easy to see that Costa Rica is leading the way in sustainable agriculture. Costa Ricans are working together to lead their country toward a better future, whether it is through recycling—like we found at the Dole banana farm and organic farm where nearly no waste is created due to recycled materials, conservation - such as rainforest protection throughout the national parks and water quality improvement efforts on the Don Fernando farm, composting - a practice at nearly all the farms we visited, or something else. Costa Ricans have taken it upon themselves to make a difference in the world around them, and are boldly leading others by example, which often means trying out new ideas on their own farms.

4. Costa Ricans are eager innovators.

We stood in front of a large, lopsided brown bag half buried underneath the soil. The words "biodigestor" were carved into a sign nailed on one of the four posts that formed the support for the shelter of the contraption. Immediately our interest was piqued. Elmer, the son of the owner of the organic farm we were visiting, quickly guided us through the process they had established on the farm: conversion of fecal matter to natural gas. Enough natural gas, Elmer continued, to completely sustain the family house. Costa Ricans, just like FFA members, actively seek out "better days through better ways," whether it is through more environmentally conscious ways to manage their farms or ways to maximize their resources. For Elmer and his family, "better days through better ways," looked like finding a way to become entirely self-sustaining, which they have nearly achieved. Although the innovations never looked exactly the same, each farmer we visited had a project or a dream that ultimately looked forward into a better future for their operations.

3. Costa Ricans honor their traditions.

FFA members are no strangers to tradition, from our Creed to our blue corduroy. Costa Ricans take pride in their own traditions. On our first night, we were greeted by dancers decorated in the colors of Costa Rica: red, white and blue. It was our first taste of Costa Rican tradition. Later during our visit, we would have the opportunity to see the same dance again at the school where we completed our service project. Just like our emblem, Costa Ricans also take pride in a symbol: the oxcart, which was responsible for transporting goods such as coffee and bananas during their fledgling years as a country.

2. Costa Ricans are true agvocates.

Agriculture: without it, Costa Rica never would have made it beyond the developing stages of its existence. Although industry has now eclipsed agriculture in the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), agriculture remains closely tied to the people, and they are proud of that connection to the land and to agriculture, just like many FFA members. They make up a nation of people who are united in their desire to become sustainable, a nation of people who welcome strangers onto their farms as friends, who invite questions, who aren't afraid to try out their own ideas and charge ahead into the unprecedented territory of nationwide sustainability. The small nature of their country prevents them from losing sight of where they came from or what they are fighting for.

1. "Pura Vida"

"Pura vida," or "pure life," isn't just a philosophy of Costa Ricans - it's a way of life. A way of life that reminded me of the FFA. "Pura vida" is rooted in thankfulness for the life you have. It reminds us to take time to enjoy what matters: family, friendship, the blessings you have and the gifts you have to share. "Pura vida" – a phrase used both for greeting and farewell – echoes what we learn from opening and closing ceremonies: the sentinel teaches us to welcome others in as friends, the treasurer reminds to cherish and care for what we have been given, and the president asks us to always move forward - out of darkness and into light.

Surrounded in the early morning light by nearly 60 FFA members from all over the United States, new friends from all over Costa Rica and the beauty of a country that reminded me of home - humidity, mountains, beaches, and all, it was easy to feel just that: at home. Although I arrived in Costa Rica expecting to only learn about agriculture and maybe use a little Spanish, I discovered a culture not that dissimilar from the one I grew to love in high school: the FFA. The people we met, despite never having worn the blue jacket, are actively investing in the future of agriculture. And as long as that is the case, I believe, just as our tour guide Gustavo said on our final night in Costa Rica, "FFA has been there for Costa Rica, and Costa Rica will be there for FFA."



AgroTours travel guides Gustavo Abarca and Jenny Villalobos were gracious to get to know each FFA member.

Sarah Spradlin, a member of the Madison County FFA chapter, is a second-year student at the University of Georgia studying Agricultural Communications. Sarah was one of 60 FFA members who earned this trip as national proficiency and Star finalists at the 88th National FFA Convention in October of 2015.

Back to Indy

Previewing the 89th National FFA Convention

October 19-22, 2016





National FFA Vice President
Abbey Gretsch

103 American FFA Degree recipients

Proficiency Award finalists

Agriscience Fair finalists

9 Honorary American FFA Degree recipients

National 3-Star Chapters

Follow Georgia FFA's experience at the 89th National FFA Convention by visiting the National Convention page on www.georgiaffa.org and on social media!

Georgia FFA's 2016 National CDE Competitors

Agricultural Communications CDE
Cambridge
Agricultural Mechanics CDE
Bleckley County
Agricultural Sales CDE
East Jackson
Creed Speaking CDE
Justin Sandlin (Echols County)
Dairy Evaluation CDE
White County
Environmental/Natural Res. CDE
Bleckley County
Extemporaneous Speaking CDE
Willie Sizemore (Lee County)
Farm Business Management CDE
North Oconee
Floriculture CDE
Mary Persons
Forestry CDE
Banks County
Horse Evaluation CDE
Lee County
Job Interview CDE
Elizabeth Beacham (Colquitt County)

TRANSFORM
PURPOSE TO ACTION

Livestock Evaluation CDE
Hart County
Marketing Plan CDE
Franklin County
Meats Evaluation CDE
Perry
Nursery/Landscape CDE
Perry
Parliamentary Procedure CDE
Gilmer County
Poultry Evaluation CDE
East Jackson
Prepared Public Speaking CDE
Laura Alton (North Murray)
Veterinary Science CDE
Islands FFA

Georgia FFA experiences #LivingToServe at the Washington Leadership Conference

The charter bus departed Macon on Monday, June 20, half loaded with wide-eyed students from middle and south Georgia. After stops in Athens and Carnesville to pick up FFA members in north Georgia, the now -full bus headed north for our nation's capital. On board were 39 FFA members and four adults who would experience a life-changing week at the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC).

The 2016 edition of the Georgia FFA's bus trip to WLC transported Peach State students from their local communities to a place filled with rich history and the site of the FFA's premier national leadership conference.

"One of the most exciting parts of this year's WLC trip is that 31 of the 39 students attending from Georgia received a scholarship to offset their costs," said FFA Executive Secretary Ben Lastly. "We are grateful to our state sponsors and various county Farm Bureaus for providing the funds that allow young people to have this experience."

The first stop as the bus approached D.C. was Mount Vernon, in Alexandria, Virginia. The historic homesite of George Washington showcases the life and agricultural pursuits of our nation's first president. Next, the students arrived at the Omni Hotel, where their lives would be enriched through sessions challenging them to grow as servant leaders.



For many FFA members, the opportunity to visit Capitol Hill is a once in a lifetime experience. For others, it leads to the desire to return as interns when they go to college.



As part of the "Living to Serve" model, FFA members packed millions of meals that will go to help feed Americans who are food insecure.

"WLC was the most life-changing event that I have attended during my years in FFA," said Echols County FFA member Emily Leonard. "I made lifelong friends from across the country and learned the true meaning of servant leadership."

In conference sessions, FFA members were coached to identify needs in their local community and seek ways to make their world a better place. Food insecurity was illustrated at the powerful "Poverty Dinner," where students were divided by percentages according to U.S. and world statistics that match those who are food insecure. The image of many of their peers having little to eat, while they enjoyed plenty was eye-opening.

"The most impactful moment was the poverty dinner," said Golden Isles FFA member De'Andre Alston. "We learned that night that even if you can't help everyone, help someone."

Away from the hotel, FFA members visited Capitol Hill; parts of the Smithsonian Museums; and took the powerful D.C. Night Tour, stopping at the Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean, Vietnam, FDR and World War II memorials.

"I found new perspectives on how to be an advocate for agriculture," Leonard said. "I am so blessed to have attended WLC. I encourage every FFA member to attend."

Story & photos by Georgia FFA

2016 Washington Leadership Conference Attendees

Amber Adams, Madison County
De'Andre Alston, Golden Isles
Kirk Beacham, Colquitt County
Samantha Bowen, Irwin County
Megan Cattafi, Franklin County
Charlee Coker, Baconton Charter
Brianna Cox, Pelham
Zach Davis, North Oconee
Abbie Dickerson, Effingham County
Jordan Dupont, Paulding County
Tyler Ertzberger, Franklin County
Shaina Flowers, Brantley County
Matthew Gray, Northside
Carlie Howington, East Jackson
Kellie Keener, White County
Lori Ann King, Colquitt County
Emily Leonard, Echols County
Tayelor Long, Fannin County
Tyler Margita, Dawson County
SaraBeth Massey, Tift County
Hayden Maxwell, Miller County
Shelbie McLauglin, Southeast Bulloch
Allen Miller, Eastside
Danielle Miller, Tift County
Katibeth Mims, Seminole County
Tiffany Mullins, Franklin County
Brentley Odom, Thomas County Central
Duncan Patton, Madison County
Katelyn Pitchford, North Hall
Micaela Pogue, Dutchtown
Edwinae Prime, Northside
Madison Scarborough, Pike County
Blake Segars, Franklin County
Kellie Smith, Franklin County
Maribeth Tomberlin, Irwin County
Gavin Wise, Wilcox County
Kylie Whitworth, Madison County
Carol-Ann Worsham, Gordon Central
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ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION FFA

Fall 2016



2016-17 Major State Officers

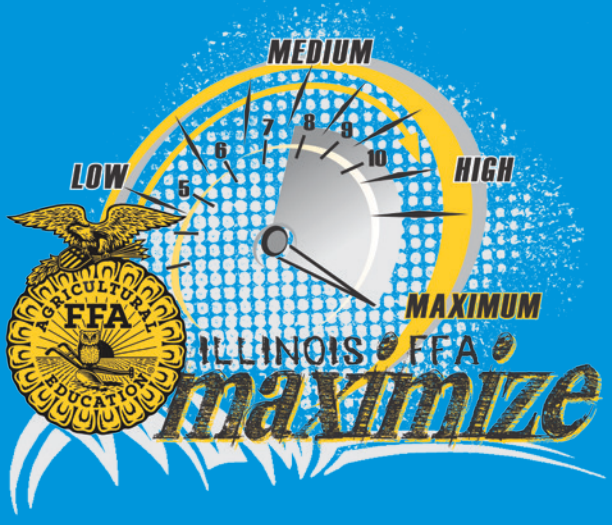


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PAGE H: 2016 Illinois State Convention

Visit us at www.illinoisffa.org

Stars Over Illinois *Winners!*



Star Farmer

Austin Walter is the son of Darren Walter of Grand Ridge and his FFA Advisor is Sarah Farnsworth. For Walter's Supervised Agricultural Experience, he owns and operates a cow-calf herd focusing on high performing carcass steers and top quality show prospects. Over the past three years, he has grown his herd from 15 to 71 head. In addition to his livestock, Walter farms 80 acres of soybeans alongside his father. His hard work had led to great successes over the past few years, and he has hopes to continue expanding his operation in the future.



Star in Agribusiness

Travis Winans is the son of Ben and Amy Winans and Michelle O'Brien of Taylorville, and his FFA Advisors are Sue Schafer and Monty Elvidge. Winans started his Supervised Agricultural Experience mowing eight lawns. He currently mows 21 lawns weekly while maintaining several lawnmowers and weed eaters during summer months. His duties for each yard include mowing, trimming, edging, and blowing off the walkways. His business has grown so much over the years that he had to employ one of his friends part time. The amount of business knowledge and the strong work ethic he has developed over the last four years are irreplaceable. Winans' enterprise has made him respect hard work and taught him many invaluable responsibilities.



Star in Agricultural Placement

Cole Fredrickson is the son of Lane and Karen Fredrickson of Maroa, and his FFA Advisor is Cassie Crouch. For Fredrickson's Supervised Agricultural Experience, he has worked on different farming operations in a variety of production areas including beef, swine, grain, and ag mechanics. Through his project, he has learned how to operate new equipment with the latest technology. Fredrickson learned to set tillage equipment, planting parameters, harvesting requirements, and GPS. Fredrickson says that he will apply the skills he obtained from these experiences to his home farm, where he will manage the operation and make future management decisions.



Star in Agriscience

Kacie Haag is the daughter of Michael and Trisha Haag of Emington and her FFA Advisor is Diana Loschen. In Haag's Supervised Agricultural Experience, she works on her family's large hog farm to take soil samples of the fields and perform water tile tests. Haag has worked with cover crop trials and a new program called N-Watch to study one spot of the field once a month to better understand the movement of nitrogen through the soil profile. Haag's project helps ensure the farm is minimizing its environmental impact.

Meet Your 2016-17 Major State Officers



J.C. Campbell

Position: President

Age: 18

Section: 4

Chapter: United

SAE: Forage Production, Beef Production Ent., Grain Production Ent.

Favorite CDEs: Parliamentary Procedure, Land Use, Livestock Judging

Favorite Color: Yellow

Favorite Animal: Koala

Hobbies: Hunting, Fishing

Excited for this Year: Traveling over the beautiful state of Illinois.

Future Plans: Attending University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in Technical System Management and hopefully work for one of the big three equipment manufacturers.



Paxton Morse

Position: Vice President

Age: 18

Section: 25

Chapter: Eldorado

SAE: Turf & Grass Management, Ag Education

Favorite CDEs: Parliamentary Procedure, Ag Sales, Land Use

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Animal: Penguin

Hobbies: Bowling, Hanging out with my teammates and friends

Excited for this Year: Visiting new chapters and meeting new members

Future Plans: After my year of service I will be attending SIU-Carbondale majoring in Agriculture Education.



Zach Becker

Position: Reporter

Age: 18

Section: 2

Chapter: Amboy

SAE: Wildlife Management, Swine Production Placement

Favorite CDEs: Parliamentary Procedure

Favorite Color: Forest Green

Favorite Animal: Aardvark

Hobbies: Hunting, Trapping, Golfing

Excited for this Year: Planning new events for FFA members across Illinois.

Future Plans: I plan on attending University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in Agricultural and Consumer Economics with a concentration in Agribusiness Markets and Management. I hope to find a career in market analysis.



Goodbye to past state officers



... and hello to the new state officers!



Corrine Harding

Position: Secretary

Age: 19

Section: 12

Chapter: Farmington

SAE: Home & Community Development, Fiber & Oil Production, Grain Production Placement

Favorite CDEs: Parliamentary Procedure, Livestock Judging, Public Speaking

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Animal: Giraffes

Hobbies: Art, hanging out with family, teammates and friends

Excited for this Year: Advocate FFA and meet members across Illinois.

Future Plans: After my year of service, I plan to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in Agriculture Education Leadership.



Cody Suddeth

Position: Treasurer

Age: 18

Section: 6

Chapter: Indian Creek

SAE: Swine Production Ent.

Favorite CDEs: Greenhand Quizbowl, Ag Mechanics, Public Speaking

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Animal: Platypus

Hobbies: Photography, Railfanning, Build Model Railroads

Excited for this Year: Meeting with and impacting members at chapter visits

Future Plans: I hope to someday become a railroad conductor and then move on to become an engineer with either Union Pacific or BNSF Railway.

CONVENTION





KEYNOTES

There is nothing quite as inspirational as a speech delivered under the lights of the Prairie Capital Convention Center. This year at the Illinois FFA State Convention we were lucky enough to be entertained and inspired by two great speakers, Ray McElroy, a former NFL player and Chicago Bears Chaplain, and Mark Hood, a contestant on NBC's The Voice. Mr. McElroy told us about his time in the NFL and to always work hard. The odds were against him making it into the NFL but he worked hard and always got back up when he faced adversity in life. Mr. Hood also discussed how important it is to work hard and how the FFA helped to develop him into the person he is today. Illinois FFA members also got to enjoy a live concert from Mr. Hood at the session!

Keynotes have always been my favorite part of convention and this year it was once again. We were fortunate enough to have two excellent speakers deliver powerful messages at this year's convention.

~ JC Campbell

SLIDERS BASEBALL GAME

My favorite sport is baseball, so it is easy to decide what one of my favorite parts about convention was. The Slider's game is a great time for FFA members to meet members and see an awesome game. The game was a little different this year as the State officers and the Sliders players teamed up to play a three-inning game against each other There were also interactive games going on in the stadium as well. After the State Officers finished, other FFA members teamed up and played a three-inning game. It was great to see FFA members from across the state meet new members and learn about baseball!

~ Paxton Morse





CAREER SHOW

The Career Show was absolutely amazing this year. We had a variety of businesses for members to visit with to see all the opportunities in the agriculture field. There were also a large amount of colleges and universities in attendance speaking to students about the options they can provide for the upcoming future. I know this was one of my favorite events to attend due to the generous promotional material you can receive from each booth. I also loved making connections with industry leaders that I may use during the year. ***~ Zach Becker***

HIGHLIGHTS



NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE

Kade Hill, 2015-2016 State President, has been chosen to represent Illinois as the 2016 National Officer Candidate. His hometown is Paxton, IL where he is a member of the Paxton-Buckley-Loda FFA Chapter. When asked what is his favorite part about FFA, he responded saying, "It is an organization that welcomes all types of individuals who are interested in agriculture. It allows everyone involved to go find an activity that they can excel in and enjoy which makes our organization unlike any other." This fall he will be attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign to major in Agriculture Sciences Education in hopes to obtain a career as a high school agriculture teacher. At the National FFA Convention in October Kade will go through a challenging interview and evaluation process conducted by a National FFA Nominating Committee. We wish him the best of luck during this upcoming endeavor!

WALK-INS

My favorite part of convention were the walk-ins that kicked off each day. The energy that is felt throughout the convention hall is absolutely contagious and it is what I always look forward to when I come to convention. This year was especially exciting because I actually got to participate in the walk-in ceremony serving as Section President. My favorite walk-in was the final one on Thursday when I got to carry in an American Flag. It reminded me of one of my greatest heroes, my great-grandpa, who was a Marine in World War II. Of course I cannot wait for convention next year, but it doesn't need to come too soon.

~ Cody Suddeth







MIDSESSIONS

Energy. Sitting on the chairs on the floor of the Prairie Capital Convention Center can be easily described by energy. With some of my closest friends sitting around me as we twirl the rally towels over our heads. My favorite part of convention was being able to sit with my fellow Section Presidents and try to help bring the energy to the convention hall. Mid-sessions were a new idea we brought to convention, and being a part of this new chapter was an exciting experience. Dancing to songs like Sweet Home Alabama and the Wobble with FFA members was so much fun to do. Even though dancing in heels made it harder to do, it was entertaining to see all the blue jackets dance in sync and bond over our love for music, fun and dancing. ***~ Corrine Harding***













2016 ILLINOIS STATE CONVENTION























THE IMPACT

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



The 2016-2017 Indiana FFA State Officer Team tap the gavel closing the 87th Indiana FFA State Convention.

FALL 2016

Indiana FFA Social Media
Website: www.inffa.org — Blog: www.indianaffa.blogspot.com
Facebook: Indiana FFA Organization — Twitter & Instagram: @IndianaFFA — Snapchat: inffa



Emily Dougherty

State Southern Region Vice President

By Nathan Blume

GET THE FACTS

Birthday: November 5, 1997
Parents: Matthew and Amy Dougherty
Siblings: Eric and Ethan
Hometown: Greenwood, IN
FFA Chapter: Whiteland FFA
Advisor: Hannah Goeb
Favorite Food: Mom's Mac and Cheese
Favorite Movie: *Elf*
Favorite Pastime: Showing Cattle
Favorite Sport: Softball
Favorite Animal: Cow
Favorite Color: Yellow
Favorite Music: Country and Christian

EMILY'S TIMELINE

Freshman Year:
- Chapter President
- Chapter Star Greenhand
- State Dairy Foods

Sophomore Year:
- Chapter President
- Chapter Star Farmer
- State Dairy Judging

Junior Year:
- Chapter President
- District VIII Treasurer
- Silver - National Fiber & Oil Crop Proficiency

Senior Year:
- Chapter President
- District VIII President
- State Soils
- 2nd Place - State Leadership Amabassador

FUTURE PLANS

Attend Purdue University to study Agricultural Communication and Agricultural Economics

THE TEAM VOTED EMILY...

Most likely to trip on nothing!

If I had to choose just one word to describe Emily it would be "determined." Emily is a prime example of being a selfless leader, often being the one completing task behind the scenes using her amazing ability of organization, expecting nothing in return. Whether it be in the show ring, a classroom or in the community, she is always willing to help others. I have no doubt that Emily will continue to use these skills to impact Indiana FFA during her year of service!

- Amy Dougherty, Parent

When I stepped into my role as her FFA Advisor, I was more than excited to be able to work with her and had countless plans of the many things we would help the chapter accomplish together. Anytime we began a new project, contest or event, my expectations for Emily were always exceeded; as she is one of the most hardworking, determined and passionate young ladies I have ever met. She is a true advocate for agriculture and is dedicated to advancing, promoting and improving the industry. It has been an honor to be her FFA Advisor and I can only imagine the countless ways she will impact the Indiana FFA!

- Hannah Goeb, Advisor

Colton Cooper



Chapter: Sheridan
Favorite FFA Memory: Hosting petting zoos for the Sheridan elementary students.
Favorite Animal: Swine
Future FFA Plans: Earn my Hoosier degree and hopefully my American degree later, also running for district office.

Caitlyn Leohr



Chapter: Clay City
FFA has taught me: "to go out into the world and make a difference in the lives of everyone you encounter, because you have the power to do so."
Favorite Quote: "The greatest glory in living lies not in ever failing, but in rising every time we fall."
- Nelson Mandela

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

OUR MEMBERS MAKE US SHINE!

BY CHAELA MINOR AND SNEHA JOGI

Annie Schoetmer



Chapter: Batesville
FFA has taught me: "to continually push myself in order to achieve my goals, to trust in my ability, and it has instilled a love for the agricultural industry."
Activities Outside of FFA: Time spent with family and friends and lots of barn time with her livestock.

Sophie Shultz



Chapter: Woodland
Favorite FFA Memory: Perfecting my shopping cart dance moves and learning swing dancing at conferences.
Why I Joined FFA: My first ag class was mandatory, but I quickly realized the common passion for serving others made FFA something I couldn't wait to be a part of.

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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Ryan & Denise Mills
Joe Park
Neil Runyon
Dan & Martha Webb
Chris & Julia Wickard

INDIANA FFA FOUNDATION



Chaela Minor
State Secretary

By Logan Glassburn

CHAELA'S TIMELINE

Freshman Year:
- Soil Judging
- Chapter Secretary
- Chapter Star Greenhand

Sophomore Year:
- Soil Judging
- Chapter Vice President

Junior Year:
- Chapter President
- District VII Secretary
- 3rd Place, State Food Science Demo

Senior Year:
- Chapter President
- District VII President
- Chapter Star Farmer
- 1st Place, District Leadership Ambassador
- 1st Place, District Extemporaneous Speaking

GET THE FACTS

Birthday: June 2, 1998
Parents: Jesse & Laura Minor, Dawn Curtis
Siblings: Emma and Malerie
Hometown: Reelsville, IN
FFA Chapter: Clay City FFA
Advisor: Pat Powell
Favorite Food: Filet Mignon
Favorite Movie: *Hannah Montana* Movie
Favorite Pastime: Playing w/ sisters
Favorite Sport: Softball
Favorite Animal: Cow
Favorite Color: Maroon
Favorite Music: Dixie Chicks

FUTURE PLANS

Attend Purdue University to double major in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communications

THE TEAM VOTED CHAELA ...

become sick from drinking too much soda.

Chaela is an outstanding agriculture student and FFA member. She is very giving and willing to do anything she can to assist other members, from providing transportation to developing and organizing CDE study resource materials. She habitually makes binders for everything. If you are on the chapter meeting team or soils team, there is a binder available for you. Her commitment to be an advocate for agriculture makes her a valuable asset to the industry and the FFA organization. Chaela is a fantastic role model for young people to look up to and follow.

- Pat Powell, Advisor

Chaela is very dedicated young lady. She cares about her family and all those she is around. She does what it takes to meet her goals. She also is there to motivate others to be their best. She is a great big sister and a great role model to both of her little sisters. I am proud to have watched her grow the past few years and am excited to see where she goes in the future.

- Jesse Minor, Parent



Stationed by the Owl
Advisor Spotlight

by Leah Jacobs

Mr. Doug Walker
Delphi FFA

Quick Facts

1. Has been teaching for 24 years

2. Favorite Part of Teaching: Seeing students succeed and have that "ah ha" moment, but also enjoy giving students new experiences and opportunities through FFA. Creating lasting friendships between ag. students and ag. teachers.

3. Favorite Quote: "Life is NOT what happens to you, but how you HANDLE what happens to you."

Mr. Walker identified a few of his proudest achievements. First, he is proud of former students who have recieved the American FFA Degree. Another achievement of Mr. Walker and his students is the awards earned through the Indiana FFA Foundation. Throughout his time spent at both Forest Park and Delphi, he has enjoyed seeing students giving back as a chapter.

"Mr. Walker is the reason we are so successful as a chapter. He guides and reminds the members of upcoming events. He fills our FFA calendar with events and prepares what needs to be prepared. He gives of himself and cares about his students' success like no other teacher. I'm glad I have a great advisor in Mr. Walker." - Cole Pearson

Indiana FFA Executive Committee

by Emily Dougherty

The Indiana FFA Executive Committee is the governing body on behalf of the over 11,000 Indiana FFA members. It is comprised of the 12 District Presidents, four Section Directors, State Band President, State Chorus President and the seven State Officers. These 25 members vote on crucial decisions for our State Association, including honorary degree recipients, constitutional and bylaw amendments, and community service projects. These FFA members are the voice of all Indiana FFA members; make sure to contact them with your questions or concerns!



Elanco sponsors a training for the executive committee helping prepare them for the year ahead.

2016-17 Executive Committee Members

DI President: Emily Kilmer
DII President: Ross Pearson
DIII President: Lauren Jacobs
DIV President: Owen Coon
DV President: Clara Boles
DVI President: Katie Lyons
DVII President: Colton McMullen
DVIII President: Doug Abney
DIX President: Victoria Keaslng
DX President: Makayla Williams
DXI President: Wyatt Law
DXII President: Shelby Kolb

Section I Director: Dakota Deibel
Section II Director: Claire Baney
Section III Director: Sidney Steele
Section IV Director: Ian Rudolph
State Band President: Eddie Jefferson
State Chorus President: Allison Dragstrem
State President: Jessica Mars
State Northern Region VP: Sneha Jogi
State Southern Region VP: Emily Dougherty
Secretary: Chaela Minor
Treasurer: Nathan Blume
Reporter: Leah Jacobs
Sentinel: Logan Glassburn

Mark Your Calendars

BY JESSICA MARS



SOAR

Seeking Opportunities and Achieving Results, also known as SOAR conference, allows young FFA members to discover all of the opportunities that are available to them in their Supervised Agriculture Experience. Thanks to our generous sponsor, Helena Chemical Company, members can spend an amazing weekend at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center on either ***October 7-9*** or ***October 28-30***.

FIRE

As your time in high school begins to progress, older members can attend FIRE conference, or Foundations in Reaching Excellence. This weekend at the Indiana FFA Leadership Center will give attendees the opportunity to discover how to get more involved and dive deeper into their chapters and communities. Our sponsors, Farm World and Wabash Valley Power Association, have given you the opportunity to attend on either ***November 11-13*** or ***November 18-20***.



District Kick-Off

While many FFA chapter calendars are booked from school year to school year, their giving to the Indiana FFA Foundation begins at District Kick-Off. Join your district officer teams, advisors, state officers and other members in your district at your very own District Kick-Off. Talk to your advisor about joining the fun, and kicking off foundation giving by attending your District Kick-Off sponsored by Ivy Tech Community College.

District Kick-Off Dates

District I: 9/12	District VII: 9/22
District II: 9/6	District VIII: 9/21
District III: 9/7	District IX: 9/20
District IV: 9/13	District X: 9/26
District V: 9/14	District XI: 9/27
District VI: 9/19	District XII: 9/28





Harvesting Safety

It's harvest time, which means you may be on a tractor helping out. But, be careful! Studies show that tractors are the leading cause of farm fatalities and injuries and are especially dangerous to teens. First, always ensure the tractor has a visible Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) triangle properly installed. Before you get on it be aware of potential hazards and always check underneath and behind before starting the tractor. When you're operating a tractor, pay attention, keep a safe speed and avoid steep slopes. And when the day's tasks are done, remember to remove the key, set brakes securely and disengage the PTO when dismounting.

Let's have a safe harvest time, Hoosiers!

70 ANNIVERSARY

Indiana Rural Safety & Health Council
www.farmsafety.org

The Michigan FFA Creed

Fall 2016



Michigan FFA Association

480 Wilson Road | Room 108
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.michiganffa.org
association@michiganffa.org
Phone: (517) 353 - 9221
Fax: (517) 432 - 5632

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Advising Editor: Michelle Sidel
Staff Editor: Lauren Heberling

D Check this Out!
Discover a unique way that Lapeer FFA serves their community.

F Say What
Members share their thoughts on the biggest issues facing Michigan agriculture.

H #Teacher Tuesday
Learn about the advisor who won our Facebook 'liking' challenge.

I Living to Serve
Catch up with our state officer team and hear about their summer adventures!

J The Trip of a Lifetime
Find out how Puerto Rico celebrates their state convention.

K Agricultural Careers
The opportunities in agriculture after high school are endless!

N Student Spotlight
Hear about a member who works to impact her school and community.

O State Officer Stats
Check out what the 2016-2017 officers have in common with you.



Shatter EXPECTATIONS

Expectation - the degree of probability that something will occur. Every day, these routine expectations occur without much thought or effort. We often continue to practice these routines because they are easy and comfortable. We get so comfortable that we continue to live in the world that we know without stepping outside of our comfort zones and trying new things.

As we start our journey this year in the Michigan FFA, we are asking members to Shatter Expectations by going beyond what is expected. Break out of the typical and mundane, and crack open the world of possibility and achievement. Step out of the box to become the best version of yourself that you can be. Stop getting caught up in day-to-day life and tasks. Don't let routine and what you're expected to do hold you back - Shatter Expectations.

I was able to Shatter Expectations by becoming the first state officer from my chapter in 16 years. To achieve this, I broke away from my same old routine, and worked extra hard to achieve my goals. This year we want the same for the members of our association. Michigan FFA, how will you Shatter Expectations?

-Hailey Andres
Region IV State Vice President

DID YOU KNOW

About 97% of U.S. farms are operated by families.



Michigan is number one in the country for blueberry production.



There are 10 million acres of farmland in Michigan.



The Michigan FFA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation or disability. Any student requiring an accommodation as a result of a disability should contact the chapter advisor to arrange such accommodation.

Check This Out!

Lapeer County FFA - Raising HOPE for the Future

By: Channon Turrell - Chapter President

Every FFA Chapter in the United States develops events and activities focused to better three areas: Student, Chapter and Community. Lapeer County's Project Raising HOPE, Helping Other People Eat, encompasses all three categories with many life lessons to be held onto for future life experiences.



In 2013, the Stone Soup Food Bank reached out to Lapeer County's FFA advisor, Tammy Hyatt, and the current officer team, in an effort to begin a partnership that would benefit both organizations. After FFA members visited Stone Soup, they saw a need to provide meat to families in need within the community. The 2013 officer team dedicated their year of service to revolve around Project Raising HOPE with the theme of "Hay it's nice to meat you, now lettuce turnip the beet to FFA!" Project Raising HOPE's main purpose is for students to gain knowledge and experience by raising animals at the school's animal center, which then would be processed, and the meat would be donated to the food bank. Stone Soup food bank services hungry families, and the meat would be distributed across Lapeer County. While raising the animals, FFA members and center-based special needs students "paired up" as pals and learned together about animal care and community service at the Lapeer County Education & Technology Center. Their very first year they raised beef, lambs, pigs, goats and chickens which totaled one ton of donated meat. This inspired them to set even more challenging goals for the years to come.



Students enrolled in Lapeer County's Education and Technology Center's Animal Science program interact with the animals daily and express a considerable amount of love and affection toward each and every animal, and have great agricultural experiences ... but there's more: lessons of teamwork, cooperation and empathy. Here they experience hands-on learning about each livestock species, learning safety precautions, nutrition information and health management of the animals. In addition, students gain the opportunity to advance in their leadership skills. Each 12th-grade Animal Science student participates in the mentorship of a student with a developmental disability by meeting with the Project Raising HOPE pal to feed and care for the animals in the animal center. The mentorship gives these students the opportunity to experience the process of caring for the animals, as well as building relationships and improving communication skills with peers.



Throughout the past three years, Lapeer County FFA has developed a deeper bond within their community. Reaching out to the community for continued support, the FFA and alumni members have made connections with local businesses and big supporters by requesting animal feed donations and funding to further improve the project.



The Lapeer County FFA Chapter was granted the FFA "Food for All" grant for the last three years to assist in funding Project Raising HOPE. This program also received a $19,000 Stebbins Foundation grant to provide support with additional animal center staff and job coaches for the developmentally disabled. The students have realized the impact they are making on numerous individuals and have been inspired to continue their volunteerism even when they graduate from high school and the Agriscience program. Shelby Wampler, a Senior FFA mentor, proudly announced in front of all the Project Raising HOPE participants that her goal will be to begin an equine and animal therapy center for developmentally disabled students in the future, due to her experiences with the program. Another FFA mentor, Gabrielle Davis, stated her future goals were to work with developmentally disabled students as a paraprofessional or teacher because of her involvement with Project Raising HOPE. This program is influencing the lives of not only our FFA members but our community for the future.

As the students advance in their agricultural work ethic, they begin to operate as a team. This then transfers into their chapter's program of activities. Since 2013, Lapeer County has implemented two other events to collaborate with their Project Raising HOPE. Their first event was a golf scramble that allowed FFA families, alumni and community members to enjoy a day out on the range in support of a good cause. In the last three years, the Project Raising HOPE golf outing has raised over $6,000 to raise animals and produce meat for community members in need. But Lapeer County FFA did not stop there; four members who attended the Washington Leadership Conference this past year implemented their Living To Serve plans into Project Raising HOPE by putting on their first Leadership Lock-In, shortly before Christmas, focusing on character building and volunteerism. The members ended their overnight stay with a poverty breakfast to open their eyes to what the majority of the world receives for a meal, which is one bowl of rice. This inspired them to continue taking action, and they concluded the lock-in by packaging 110 chicken dinners totaling 3,850 pounds of food. FFA members then distributed these meals and experienced the smiles of grateful families whose Christmas became more joyful.

Teamwork, collaboration, friendships, volunteerism ... Project Raising HOPE includes numerous individuals who benefit from all experiences involved with this project. This year, 79 FFA members were educated in animal care and assisted in raising the animals for meat for the food pantry. Twenty-five 12th grade Animal Science students became mentors for 68 Project Raising HOPE pals (students with disabilities from five classrooms in our center-based Special Education programs) as they fed animals each day. Since Project Raising HOPE's conception, the Lapeer County FFA and the special-needs students have produced 10,705 pounds, or over five tons, of meat for the community. In the "words of wisdom" from the advisor, Mrs. Tammy Hyatt, "this has truly been the best and most impacting community service project Lapeer County FFA has ever been involved in." Overall, Lapeer County FFA has made a positive impact on the lives of both students and community members, and plans to continue this course of action for years to come. ‡



Say What?

By:
Tyra Jonas
Past State Officer

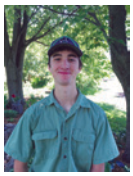


Andrew Wetzkie
Region I
Olivet

"One of the biggest issues MI agriculture is presented with today is the struggling number of ag educators. We need ag education to continue progress into future generations. It pushes students towards careers in the ag industry and prepares them for those careers. This education is vital to the future of Michigan's $102 billion dollar industry (agriculture)."

" Regulations are the most important issue facing Michigan agriculture. Regulations increase costs. For example, the veterinary feed directives will require additional veterinary visits and will decrease the ability of farmers to go to a store like TSC and just buy medications over the counter."

Darren Kullicamp
Region V
Coopersville





Haley Talaski
Region III
Harbor Beach

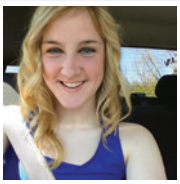
"I think the biggest issue facing MI agriculture is consumer education. We need to inform the public more about things like Genetically Modified Organisms because many think that they are bad for us. But if we don't use GMOs then you don't get your product fast enough. Explaining things like this to the people is something that I believe we can work on."

The question: What do you think is the biggest issue facing Michigan agriculture?

"I think that one of the biggest issues facing Michigan agriculture is the colony collapse disorder within the beehives. It is a big concern because we depend on the bees to pollinate so many of our crops in Michigan, including fruits and vegetables. If we are unable to find a solution for the colony collapse disorder, it could be devastating to our crops."

Trevor Guzman
Region V
Ravenna





Raegan Gembarski
Region III
North Huron

"The two biggest issues are not just MI problems, but national and global, as well as food waste and consumer knowledge. In the USA, 30-40% of the food supply is wasted. The problem surrounding consumer knowledge, is that people are so removed from agriculture that they listen to and believe anything that they see or hear, when almost always, it isn't true."

"Biosecurity is an important issue facing Michigan agriculture, because as agriculture gets more diverse, we will need to work even harder to protect the animals on the farm. We need to ensure the safety of our animals and the products they produce."

Jordyn Skinner
Region V
Caledonia



14 years ago, FFA members answered this exact question with these responses:

Jenna Rose
Birch Run FFA

"Availability of land and quality of our commodities will continue to challenge Michigan agriculture in the future. Many producers and companies continuously focus on producing large quantities of GM commodities rather than providing products consumers desire."

Aaron Fountain
Dansville FFA

"Michigan is losing farmland and wildlife areas rapidly. I believe the only way to lessen this problem is to educate the public and make the government aware of our concerns."

Elizabeth Eadie
Ravenna FFA

"The biggest issue facing Michigan agriculture in the future is urban sprawl. With the addition of every house, precious farmland that can never be restored to its original use is sacrificed."

Diana Niswander
Petoskey FFA

"The lack of windbreaks for soil erosion will threaten Michigan agriculture. Soil is the foundation for planting, so it must be preserved. With the loss of topsoil and fertile land, a farmer cannot have a successful harvest."

#Teacher Tuesday - Mr. Tony McCaul

By: Lauren Heberling
State Reporter



"I grew up on a farm and have always enjoyed farming, but I also enjoy sharing my passion with others." This passion is what led Mr. McCaul to attend Michigan State University to major in Agricultural Education. He is a teacher at the Careerline Tech Center and has taught there for the entirety of his seven-year career. He is a past FFA member from Lakewood, serving as the 2005-2006 Michigan FFA State Treasurer, also earning the highest award through the National FFA Association, his American Degree. The unique programs and activities Careerline offers are a direct result of the dedication and time Mr. McCaul gives to the chapter. He has developed a program that offers labs from poultry phlebotomy to animal rotations and was also the first group of students in the nation to receive in-person OSHA agricultural training. Working with local county park systems is also something the CTC takes interest in, raising goats in the woods that eat invasive species. To further students' career readiness, they are given the opportunity to both visit top agricultural companies in the state and gain internships. "I am willing to work hard for a student if they are willing to work hard for themselves." This core value of pushing students to become better, along with his passion for agriculture, is what has made the Careerline Tech Center agricultural program, FFA Chapter, and every student involved grow and instill knowledge and skills that will stay with them for many years to come. ‡



"Well, let me start out by saying before Mr. McCaul, I had never heard of FFA or understood how important agriculture is, as well as how it affects our everyday lives. So it's because of his true love for teaching and pushing students like me, who may not have an agricultural background, to jump in and step out of your comfort zone and try something new. It's because of him and how much of an impact he has had on my life that I found I want to become an Ag advisor as well. He has opened my, and many other students, eyes to the infinite possibilities for a career in agriculture." –Adrian Garcia



"Mr. McCaul always says, 'You can do it!' It may seem cliché and simple, but he truly means it every time he says it! He often says, 'Nothing is impossible. If you put your heart into it, you can achieve it.'" –Paige Lowe



Q: What are some of the biggest things students can gain from being an FFA member?
A: Leadership skills and learning how to become a better role model in the community. FFA members can see the organization is bigger than themselves and can do amazing things if they work together.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being an advisor and an Ag teacher?
A: I enjoy sharing my passion for agriculture with students and seeing them gain the same passion. I love seeing students succeed that never thought they would be good at something.

Q: Why would you recommend students to consider agriculture as a career path?
A: Agriculture has many different options and it can be a very rewarding career. There is an area for almost anyone; they just need to find what that right area is. We need people to feed this growing world!

Living to Serve

By:
Loren King
State President

John F. Kennedy once said, Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. In Michigan FFA, we have an opportunity to lead in almost everything that we do. Leadership is a focus of our organization and at the core of what we stand for. However, to be leaders we must also take a chance to learn. Anyone who has ever served in a leadership position in their chapter, region, state or even outside of FFA, has had to develop new skills to ensure that they were ready to help others succeed. Leading means setting goals for yourself and the groups you are a part of. Learning is gaining the skills needed to achieve those goals.



This philosophy of learning and leadership has directly impacted the Michigan FFA State Officer Team's first few months in office. We began our year by setting leadership goals for ourselves and the members we serve. Those goals come out of the simple statement Shatter Expectations. We found that everything we hoped to accomplish came back to the idea of shattering other people's expectations of what can be achieved. Each of us has the power to achieve more than the goals we might set for ourselves, and together we can create change. To achieve this change, we had to learn the skills needed to push ourselves and encourage others to step out of their comfort zones. We now believe anything is possible.

At the beginning of the year these abilities were not something that we all understood, but throughout many leadership training events, we learned to help others and ourselves break through our own expectations. We traveled to Lansing for Blast-Off. We then visited Georgia for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) where we met passionate members from other states and continued to refine our leadership and facilitation abilities. Finally, State Vice President John Williams and I spent time in Washington, D.C .for the State Presidents' Conference (SPC). This was an event where we learned about the proposed changes for the National FFA Organization in the upcoming year. We also met with our representatives in Congress to learn about current issues facing agriculture.



Once we learned the skills needed to serve the Michigan FFA Association, the state officer team had a chance to lead at the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO). It was there that we met many of you – the next generation of leaders and learners. You impacted our lives in more ways than we can ever explain and it has been an honor serving you thus far. Yet there is still much more to be done. We, as an officer team, know that you are capable of more than you can ever imagine. Show us. Show yourself. Shatter expectations. Use the leadership skills you've learned to change the world. ‡



The Trip of a Lifetime

By: Maria Blough
Past State Officer





When we became state officers a year ago, we never imagined the blue and gold would lead us nearly 2,000 miles from home to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico to attend their 80th FFA State Convention.

The Caribbean heat and humidity hit us immediately as we walked outside the San Juan airport. We then took a taxi to Dorado, Puerto Rico, about an hour's drive west of San Juan.

As we waited for the convention to begin Sunday evening, we met many amazing FFA members from across Puerto Rico. The main language of Puerto Rico is Spanish, but Puerto Ricans take an English class every year from kindergarten until high school graduation. Though they take 13 years of English, there was still a little bit of a language barrier as they do not use English often. This was a cool experience for us to use and learn a little Spanish, and the FFA members were able to practice all the English they had been taught.

We also became friends with another visiting state officer from Massachusetts named Harley and her friend from the Puerto Rico FFA named David. David was excellent at speaking English, and we often used him to translate for us or teach us some words in Spanish that we wanted to know.

While talking to David we learned about Caribbean time. According to the schedule, the session and dinner were supposed to start at 6 p.m. 6:30 rolled around, and it had not begun yet. David explained that Puerto Ricans run on Caribbean time, so the dinner would not actually begin until 7 or sometime after. At first we did not like this new measure of time, but we came to like it on those days convention was scheduled to start early. We knew we could sleep in an hour and not be late.



In addition to Caribbean time, we had to adjust to convention sessions held completely in Spanish. Thankfully, David served as our translator, so we could understand what was going on.

Each session after opening ceremonies, they sang the Puerto Rico anthem, the national anthem and the FFA anthem. The Puerto Ricans wrote this FFA anthem themselves, and it is absolutely beautiful. They were actually surprised that we did not have one in Michigan.

While in Puerto Rico, we were asked to judge the English division of their state leadership contests. For creed speaking, public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking, members can choose to compete in the all-English division or the all-Spanish division. It was impressive to see these students not only tackle speaking in public, but also speaking in their nonnative language.

Like Michigan, there is always a dance at state convention. Everyone dresses up for this event. They dance to popular English music and do line dances like we do, but they also salsa and play bachata music. It took some time, but the Puerto Ricans even taught us to salsa.



Our trip to Puerto Rico may have been short, but it is one we will never forget. The Puerto Ricans showed us incredible hospitality and friendship. We were so thankful for their acceptance and excitement to meet four girls from Michigan. Though there was a bit of a language barrier, one thing was certain: no matter where we are across this vast nation, agriculture and the FFA will always connect us. Gracias Puerto Rico por su hospitalidad y amistad! ‡

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Student Spotlight

Raegan Gembarski

North Huron FFA

By:
Lauren Heberling
State Reporter

Quick Facts

Grade:
11th

FFA Chapter:
North Huron

SAE's:
-Equine Placement
-Agricultural Communication
-Agricultural Education

Current Office:
North Huron President

Favorite Quote:
"A bad day for your ego is a good day for your soul."

Biggest Accomplishments:
-National Semi-Finalist Ag Issue Team
-State Alternate Extemp Public Speaker
-Second Place Individual Agricultural Communications



Raegan Gembarski is currently a junior at North Huron High School, where she will be leading her chapter this coming year as President. She will also be serving on the Region III Officer Team. Raegan joined FFA in sixth grade, but really became active in eighth grade with a push from her advisor to compete in leadership contests. Fast forward a few years and multiple contests and leadership roles - FFA has helped Raegan not only develop a passion for agriculture, but also has led her to her desired career path in agricultural communications. After high school, Raegan plans to run for State Office and attend Michigan State University to major in agricultural communications and minor in animal science. She hopes to work for a local cooperative elevator.



"Looking at how far our chapter has come in the past few years made me think - I wonder what we can do for our community." This led the way to Raegan's ultimate goal as an FFA member and leader - to continue to help grow her chapter, school and community. Through her SAEs, Raegan does just that. Since the age of 11, she has worked at Knoblock Riding Stables in Port Austin. Starting out, she helped take groups of a few people riding. Now she leads groups of more than 10 people and trains horses herself. In addition to her job at Knoblock's, she also helps with the North Huron Elementary Extended Day program where kids go after school. There she teaches kids about the basics of agriculture and introduces them to FFA. Continuing with her interest in ag education, Raegan heads the Elementary Plant Project where over a five-to six-week span, kids get the opportunity to grow their own plants and learn where their food comes from. Her biggest accomplishment lies in her agricultural communication SAE as she is in charge of the chapter's Twitter account.



Outside of FFA, Raegan had the opportunity to present solutions to world hunger through the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute at Michigan State. She then was selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa. She has played volleyball, basketball, and softball since freshman year and was voted MVP on her volleyball team while also serving as team captain this year. Continuing to better her community and teach younger generations, Raegan has participated in multiple highway cleanups and volunteered at Project RED. Through her many years in FFA, Raegan has learned that the value of the people she has met, the personal involvement and the opportunities for growth are irreplaceable. The most valuable advice she wants to impart to FFA members is to "always push yourself, even when it may seem difficult, give it your all, because in the end the things you learn and the pride you feel are like nothing else." ‡



State Officer Stats



John Williams
State Vice President

Chapter: Olivet

College: Michigan State University

SAE: Beef & Forage Production

Theme Song: "I Lived"

Favorites

Sport: Basketball

Movie: *Wish I was Here*

Hobby: Offroading

Candy: Twix



Jenna Kingsley
State Sentinel

Chapter: Webberville

College: Michigan State University

SAE: Dairy Placement

Theme Song: "Humble and Kind"

Favorites

Sport: Softball

TV Show: *Criminal Minds*

Musician: Dierks Bentley

Book: *The Outsiders*



Claire Laurenz
Region III State Vice President

Chapter: Breckenridge

College: Michigan State University

SAE: Agriculture Education

Theme Song: "American Kids"

Favorites

Sport: Cross Country

Candy: Take 5

TV Show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Musician: Taylor Swift



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Viticulture

Delta College
University Center, Michigan
Agricultural Operations
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management

MISSOURI FFA TODAY
Fall 2016

High Expectations

Troy FFA sets sights high for its members

HARD WORK PAYS

BY ABIGAIL SHIPLEY

Quality, Pride and Tradition — a motto that continues to ring true for Troy FFA.

These words can not only be seen posted throughout their agriculture department, but also more vividly in the work done by members, according to Paige Carroll, Troy FFA chapter president.

Out of 340 chapters in Missouri, Troy FFA was awarded Top Chapter and received the Model of Innovation in the area of Chapter Development at the 88th Missouri FFA Convention. The chapter will represent Missouri FFA in October at the National FFA Convention.



Chaper development plays an important role in the activities of Troy FFA. Named Missouri, Top Chapter, Troy also received the Model of Innovation award for chapter development.

"Chapter development is an important part of what we do," said Matt McCrory, an advisor for Troy FFA. "We want to make sure we are supporting our chapter's needs, as well as recruiting credible members to pass the torch on to."

Troy FFA's achievement for the Model of Innovation Award was credited to their *Brand of Blue* program, designed for FFA members to impress upon their local middle school students the opportunities that are available to them through agriculture and within their own FFA chapter.

"A lot of the students that are leaders within our school are FFA members," McCrory said. We just broaden their horizons so they can see that you don't have to

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FFA Calendar

THE PRESIDENT'S POST

Take Advantage

2016-17 State FFA Officers

Area	Officer
1	Jacqueline Janorschke-Sec. De Kalb
2	Logan Korff Norborne
3	Natalie Ayers Green City
4	Baileigh Horstmeier-1st V.P. Fulton
5	Nick Banze Warrenton
6	Emily Lock Carrollton
7	Hunter Lovewell Sherwood
8	Katherine Imhoff California
9	Jessica Hylton Miller
10	Ashley Spear Halfway
11	Colton Spencer-President Aurora
12	Jessie Peterson Branson
13	Heidi Murry Plato
14	Macey Hurst Fatima
15	Hunter Kay Fredericktown
16	Moriah McLard Richland (Essex)
	Adam Kirby - Past Pres. Trenton

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Phone: (417) 732-8552

BY COLTON SPENCER
STATE FFA PRESIDENT

The FFA organization is full of opportunities, and it is up to every member to take advantage of them. Step outside your comfort zone and try something new. While hard to do, I promise you will not regret it.

My first year in FFA I was a typical freshman who was shy, nervous and eager to find my niche within the organization. I was far from comfortable talking in front of a few people, let alone a large group. Oddly enough, I decided to compete in Division I public speaking. My first contest is one that I will never forget. I walked into the holding room as nervous as I could be. However, the holding room was my favorite part of the night. In that room I made my first FFA friends that I still stay in contact with today. We talked amongst ourselves all night, allowing us to get our mind off of the fear of speaking in front of judges. At the end of the night, I had accomplished two things that made my first speaking contest a positive event; I worked toward eliminating my fear of public speaking and made several lifelong friends.

By the end of my freshmen year, I had competed in five speaking contests and had similar experiences



in all of them. Over the next three years, speaking became my passion. I've since competed in more than 20 contests. These experiences truly changed my life and helped me experience something that I was afraid to do, eventually turning it into a passion.

Looking back on my four years of involvement in FFA, this event is still the one that sticks with me the most. I can honestly say without my public speaking experiences I definitely would not be the person I am today. Every day, the FFA organization presents members with new experiences to enhance their personal skills. Taking advantage is within the hands of you, the members. My speaking example is just one of hundreds of ways how FFA can change your life. I encourage you to step up, take action and watch the benefits change who you are and shape your future.

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2016-2017 Missouri FFA Officers

Who's who on this year's team

Front Row L-R

MORIAH MCLARD
V.P., Area 16 • Richland-Essex

NATALIE AYERS
V.P., Area 3 • Green City

JESSICA HYLTON
V.P., Area 9 • Miller

JESSIE PETERSON
V.P., Area 12 • Branson

JACQUELINE JANORSCHKE
Secretary • De Kalb

HEIDI MURRY
V.P., Area 13 • Plato

EMILY LOCK
V.P., Area 6 • Carrollton

Middle Row L-R

ADAM KIRBY
Past President • Trenton

MACEY HURST
V.P., Area 14 • Fatima

BAILEIGH HORSTMEIER
1st V.P. • Fulton

KATIE IMHOFF
V.P., Area 8 • California

HUNTER KAY
V.P., Area 15 • Fredericktown

ASHLEY SPEAR
V.P., Area 10 • Halfway

Back Row L-R

COLTON SPENCER
President • Aurora

NICK BANZE
V.P., Area 5 • Warrenton

HUNTER LOVEWELL
V.P., Area 7 • Sherwood

LOGAN KORFF
V.P., Area 2 • Norborne



High Expectations

Continued from Page A

be a farm kid to be benefited by agriculture education."

According to McCrory, from day one, Troy students are given high expectations.

"We really challenge and charge them to get the most out of our ag department," he said.

With more than 400 members, Troy FFA offers an assortment of activities and events in which members can be involved.

"The best part about it is we try to have something for everyone," McCrory said. "Whether it's trap shooting, livestock judging or even plant science tours, we try to have something for every member so they have the opportunity to have a place within our chapter."

In fact, Troy FFA offers a major event about once every 10 days, with some events lasting anywhere from three to five days.



Troy FFA members presented an agricultural education program to the school's elementary students as a part of FFA's Helping Communities GROW Agricultural Awareness program.

One of the most memorable programs Troy FFA hosted this year was the FFA Amazing Race, a Greenhand initiation event.

"We do this event at the beginning of the year as kind of a kickoff to help the freshmen get to know people in FFA and their senior officers," Carroll said.

During the Amazing Race, freshmen participated in games, listened to presentations on goal setting, learned how to stay active and involved in their FFA chapter and took advice from their senior officers as they shared testimonials and discussed current projects.

Alongside the chapter events to build camaraderie among members, students are also dedicated to serving their



Members of the Troy FFA help their community by delivering corn to their local food pantry. The chapter is 400 members and offers a variety of activities to encourage involvement.



Despite its urban-like setting, more than 100 Troy FFA members exhibit livestock, horticultural products and ag mechanics projects at fairs across the state. Members can also take part in trap shoots and plant science tours.

community and the next generation.

Troy FFA's Helping Communities GROW Agricultural Awareness program helps students in the district's elementary schools learn about agriculture. Concepts taught include recognizing food origin, understanding food groups and exploring agricultural opportunities.

"There are so many FFA chapters that do amazing things, and we realize that and are so honored to receive this award," McCrory said.

The secret to Troy FFA's success is plain and simple: hard work.

"As an FFA member of the Troy chapter, you are not just another student in class, but a student with class," McCrory said.

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State Officer Q&A

Who's that underneath the blue corduroy?



NICK BANZE
State Vice President, Area 5

FFA Chapter: Warrenton

College/Major: University of Missouri-Columbia, Plant Sciences

SAE: My SAE program consists of diversified crop production where I grow corn and soybeans. I work in placement on my family's farm, and I also have swine and sheep production operations.

What motivated you to want to become a Missouri FFA Officer?

I wanted to become a Missouri FFA officer because of the incredible impact former state officers have had on me. I want to be able to inspire other FFA members to reach their goals and help them have fun in the process. FFA has had one of the greatest impacts on my life, and I want other members to share that experience.

Who is your hero and why?

My hero is undoubtedly my dad. He has taught me the value of hard work and to always try my best no matter what. He is always willing to teach me and to help me grow. He has been an incredible role model and a huge supporter in my life. I would not be the person I am today without him.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia, and major in Plant Sciences — Crop Management. After college, I hope to work for a seed company as an agronomist.

Advice to FFA Members

My advice to FFA Members is to never limit what you can accomplish. If set your mind to something and are willing to put in the work, there is nothing that you can't do!





JACQUELINE JANORSCHKE
State Secretary

FFA Chapter: DeKalb FFA

College/Major: University of Missouri-Columbia, Biochemistry

SAE: I run a beekeeping operation that consists of 17 honeybee hives. I manage the hives, extract, filter and bottle the honey as well as beeswax to sell. This led me to create my

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

State Officer Q&A

Who's that underneath the blue corduroy?

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

own business called Beauty and the Bees. I not only sell honey and beeswax, but also make my own beauty products out of the beeswax like lip balms, soaps and scrubs. In addition to beekeeping, I work at Tractor Supply Company.

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

I once got to sing during the preshow of Kirby VanBurch's Magic Show with a white Bengal tiger on stage with me.

Advice to FFA members:

Try everything because you never know what you are going to enjoy! When I first began FFA, I didn't realize activities such as FFA camp and the Washington Leadership Conference even existed. Last year, I flew to Washington, D.C. to attend WLC as the only member from my chapter. I didn't know anyone when I began my trip, but on the flight there I actually found other FFA members and sat with them. I had a blast and learned a lot about leadership and advocacy. If I hadn't gotten out of my comfort zone to fly across the country to attend the conference, I wouldn't have gained friendships and skills to become a leader.

Name: Hunter W. Kay

FFA Chapter: Fredericktown

College/Major: Missouri University of Science & Technology, Mechanical Engineering



HUNTER KAY
State Vice President, Area 15

SAE: Beef Cattle, Lawn Management, Farm Labor

What motivated you to want to become a Missouri FFA Officer?

I wanted to become a state officer because my grandfather was a state officer in the '60s. FFA has also been a passion since my freshman year of high school, and I wanted to stay in the organization as long as possible.

Who is your hero and why?

My hero is Jesus Christ. He died to save me from sins and laid forth a path for me to follow.

What are your plans for the future?

After graduation from college, I would like to start my own engineering business, begin a family and be able to uphold values taught to me by my parents.

Advice to FFA members: Always be supportive of someone's dreams.



Eyes Wide Open

Chillicothe FFA helps feed the hungry

LIVING TO SERVE

BY ABIGAIL SHIPLEY



More than 300 volunteers in Livingston County teamed up to help with the Meals of Hope program, cosponsored by the Chillicothe FFA chapter. The event helped raise hunger awareness while also feeding the needy.

Chillicothe FFA members put their words to action as they packaged more than 50,000 meals for families in their own community, taking the FFA motto "living to serve" to a whole new level.

Marissa Surber, president, Chillicothe FFA chapter, said she got the idea for the project after attending the FFA Washington Leadership Conference.

"I went there last summer with a few classmates, and we did a Meals of Hope packaging event for the people of D.C.," she said. "When the week was over, they gave us information for our own chapter to do a similar event."

Meals of Hope is a nonprofit organization based in Naples, FL, that helps combat food insecurity and hunger by packaging and delivering meals to local food pantries and hosting food packaging events across the country.

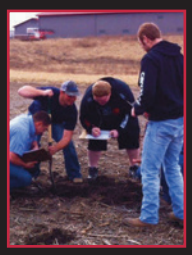
Feeling excited and fulfilled by the work they had done for the D.C. community, Surber and her fellow Chillicothe FFA members decided to bring the idea back home to their own chapter.

According to Surber, nearly 17 percent of households in Livingston County are food insecure.

"People wouldn't think that in small rural communities people go hungry," Surber said. "They think about the big cities, but it was amazing to do the research and see that people in our own small, rural community were going hungry. I think it was really eye-opening for the community to see that as well."

To reach their goal of donating 50,000 meals, the chapter needed to raise $12,500. They not only met that goal, but also exceeded it.





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"We raised $12,500 pretty quickly by our own donations from all of the students and families. A few businesses that heard about it made donations and wanted to be involved," Surber says. "We ended up packaging 51,072 meals."

Surber said community involvement was incredible. The event was scheduled to start at 9 a.m., but that didn't stop the more than 300 volunteers from showing up well before that.

"Luckily, we had people there ready." Surber said. "They started showing up around 8, and we gave everybody gloves and hair nets and put them at their stations."

An event that was expected to take roughly two to three hours, was completed and cleaned up in just an hour and a half, thanks to the willing and helpful hands of the Chillicothe community.

"It was really cool to see kids from the age of 8 years old to 18 years old working side-by-side to package these meals in assembly lines," Surber said.

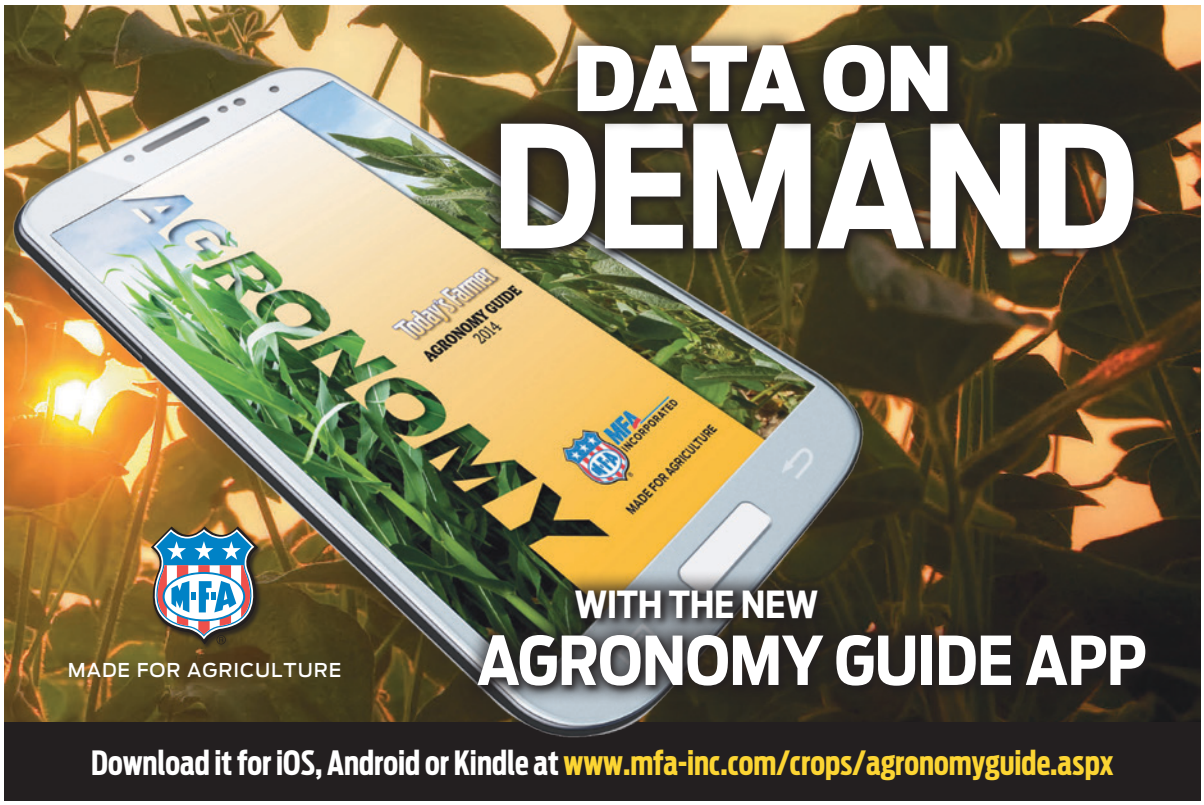
When promoting the event to chapter members, Surber said she really tried to emphasize "living to serve," as stated in the FFA motto.

"It was so much fun, and they got so much enjoyment," Surber said.

"I think that our members gained a sense of pride knowing that they really were living to serve, not just saying it, but actually doing it."

Surber said FFA is very involved with Feeding America Food pantries and trying to raise awareness for hunger.

"I just hope that Meals of Hope showed our community and the members in our chapter that food insecurity and hunger is a real thing, even in our own community," she said. "I think it's important they continue to be aware of that and raise awareness and do what they can to fix it."



In Their Words

Up close with your Missouri State FFA Officers

JESSICA HYLTON



JESSICA HYLTON
State Vice President, Area 9

The quote, "Sometimes you win. Sometimes you learn," has come to mean a lot to me. When I was a sophomore, I competed in the Division II Prepared Public Speaking contest. I had researched, practiced my presentation and had my agriculture advisors ask me any possible question they could think of about my topic. I competed at the district and area contests and advanced through both. I was going to compete at the state level, I was excited and nervous. I prayed that I could give my speech the way I had practiced it in the school greenhouse so many times.

The day finally came, and I advanced to the final round. I was ecstatic! Now all I had to do was calm my nerves and give my speech one final time and answer a few questions. On the walk to the room I would present in, my knees were shaking.

Finally, the door opened and it was time for me to go in. I presented my speech the way that I knew I could, but the questions got tricky. I stumbled through an answer to one of them, just for the same question to be asked again. At that moment I knew that I had blown my chance of becoming a state champion. I finished answering the rest of the questions, thanked my judges, walked out of the room and burst into tears. I swore to myself that I would never give another speech again.

I walked into the holding room where one of the other advisors asked me what had happened. I explained it to him and told him how I was an absolute failure, which then caused him to say something to me that I will never forget. He looked at me and said, "Do you not realize how lucky you are? There are so many other people who would love to be competing in your place, but your talents brought you here. You now have so much knowledge about a widely controversial issue in agriculture, and you can make all the difference by sharing it."

My advisor's comments caused me to realize what seemed like a failure to me was actually a huge accomplishment. I learned how to present myself professionally, and I now know a lot of knowledge about genetically modified organisms. And, I had met so many awesome FFA members through competing at all the different contests. I am honored to say that I did go on to compete in other public speaking contests, and that my love for agriculture has only continued to grow.

FFA members, never let one setback keep you from doing something you love to do. While you may not always win first place, there are often so many other things that you have learned or gained along the way.

Winston Churchill once said, "Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm." I challenge you this year to go at everything you do with full enthusiasm and never be afraid to keep trying!

LOGAN KORFF



LOGAN KORFF
State Vice President, Area 2

"Without labor, neither knowledge nor wisdom can accomplish much." This line spoken by the vice president during FFA opening ceremonies highlights the value of a key component of success — hard work.

Growing up on a farm, the importance of hard work was instilled in me from a young age. From digging post holes to preparing seed beds, each task required initiative to properly complete the job.

Beginning my senior year of high school, I knew it was time to put the hard work I had garnered from my youth into my FFA career. I knew the main two goals I had set for myself would either be hit or missed right there in my senior year as I would reach for Missouri state FFA office and Missouri FFA Star Farmer. I knew the work I had put in over the years would allow me to get to the finish line, but it was the discipline to continue reaching beyond my comfort zone that would enable me to obtain my aspirations.

Every day I would sit amongst my peers in ag class and ponder interview questions or memorize different aspects of my record book, knowing that it was this initiative and time spent that would assist me later in the interview processes that were components of earning both of my goals. When discouraged, I could always look at the poster that was propped on the wall at the front of the classroom that read, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Thomas Edison's encouragement kept me going, reminding me that the work I was putting in would assist me in reaching my goals, now and forever. While I fell short of becoming the state's Star Farmer, I know the recipient, a deserving friend of mine, worked endlessly to achieve that goal of his.

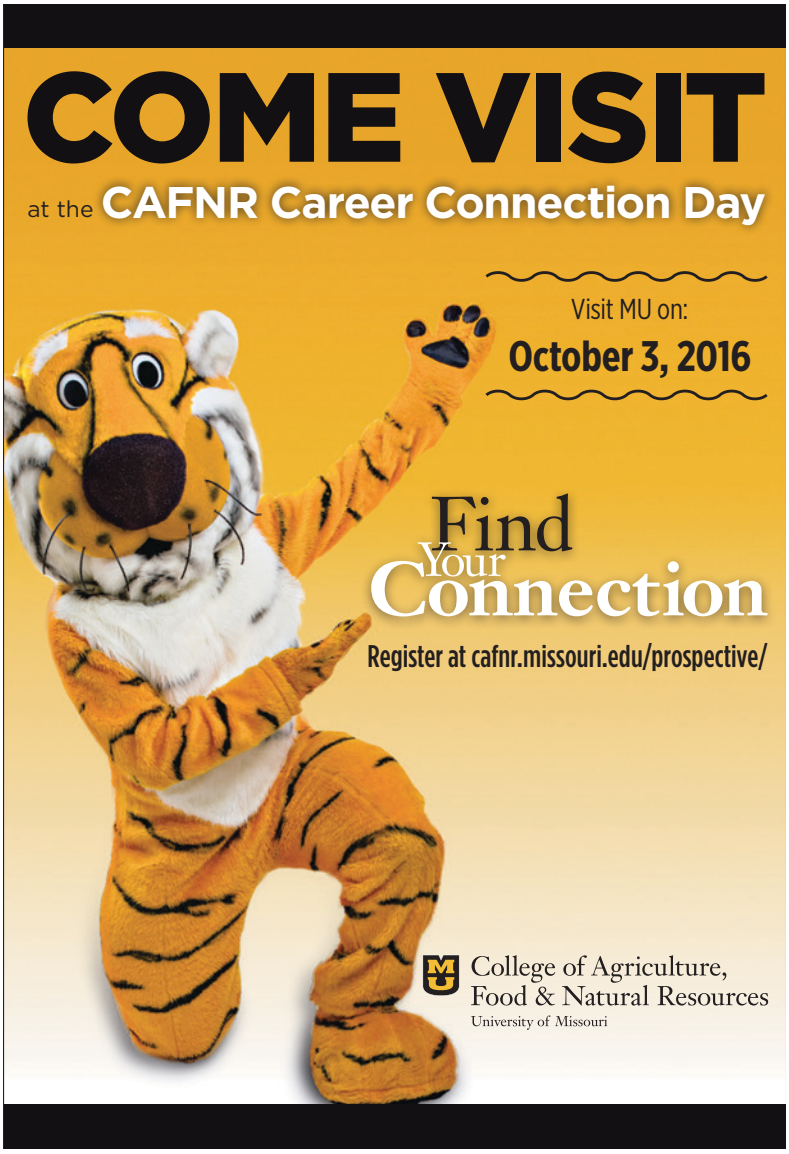
No matter your goals, remember hard work really does pay off in the end.

ASHLEY SPEAR

One of my favorite things about living in Missouri is getting to experience the changing seasons. I like parts about each of the seasons, but my favorite has to be late spring. I love seeing new calves in the field, finding new kittens in the barn, and most recently watching new baby birds in their nest.

Last spring, I spent many hours watching five baby birds anxiously

CONTINUED ON PAGE L



In Their Words

from previous page

waiting to be fed. I watched them get stronger and more daring. It seemed a couple of them were on the verge of taking the leap from the nest and making their first flight. I was excited for them and also a little worried.

This got me to thinking about some of the leaps I have made in FFA. From attempting my first speaking contest to walking into Career Development Events to entering the room for my state officer interview, I have had to balance my worry and excitement.



ASHLEY SPEAR
State Vice President, Area 10

Like those baby birds, I have had to face challenges along the way as I take these leaps and began soaring to new opportunities. And, because I did take a chance and stepped outside of my comfort zone, I have had great experiences, met so many new friends and have truly changed my future.

I encourage you, FFA members, to take a chance and spread your wings. From camps, contests, leadership events, conventions and so much more, the opportunities available to you in FFA can truly be life-changing. Do not set limits on yourself. Take the leap and get ready to soar.

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LinvingstonK@missouri.edu

MO SHEEP PRODUCERS
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Contact: Scott Kaden
rollakadens@embarqmail.com

MO PORK ASSOCIATION
http://www.mopork.com/Youth_FFASpkngCntst.asp
Contact: Diane Slater
diane@mopork.com

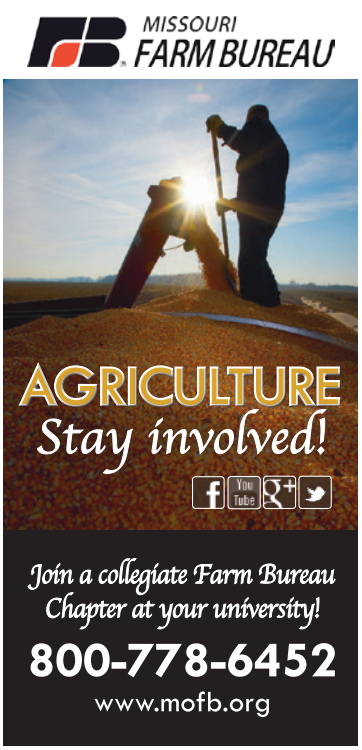
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http://www.maswcd.net
Contact: Peggy Lemons
peggyl@maswcd.net

MO YOUNG FARMERS/ YOUNG FARM WIVES ASSOC.
Contact: Lisa Evans
lisa.evans@dese.mo.gov

MO FARM BUREAU
www.mofb.org
Contact: Eric Volmer
evolmer@mofb.com

MO PET BREEDERS ASSOC.
www.mpbaonline.org
Contact: Debbie Grosenbacher
info@mpbaonline.org





FFA Calendar

Missouri FFA is on the move

SEPTEMBER

2 MU Fisher Delta Research Center Field Day
Portageville

9 Ag Ed Field Day, MU Southwest Center
Mount Vernon

9-11 MJCA Show-Me Leadership Conference
Columbia/Kansas City

10 MYSSA Fall Classic Youth Trap Tournament
Linn Creek

10-17 SEMO District Fair
Cape Girardeau

13 MU Forage Systems Research Ctr Field Day
Linneus

16 Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Graves-Chapple Farm
Corning

18-24 National Farm Safety and Health Week

20 Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Bradford Research Ctr
Columbia

20 MU Thompson Farm Research Ctr Field Day
Spickard

20-23 American Royal Youth Invitation Rodeo,
Hale Arena/Kansas City

22 MU Farm Safety College
Columbia

23 MSU Farm Safety College
Springfield

23-24 American Royal Pro Rodeo, Hale Arena
Kansas City

24 American Royal Youth Leadership Day
Kansas City

27-Oct 1 Delta Fair
Kennett

OCTOBER

1 NE District Trapshoot

1-14 SC District Postal Trapshoot

4 Northwest District Grasslands Contest
Maysville

OCTOBER

5 FFA Field Day, Barton Ag Research Center
SEMO, Cape Girardeau

6 Central District Grasslands Contest—TBA

6 Northeast District Grasslands Contest—TBA

6 Southwest District Grasslands Contest—TBA

6 South Central Grasslands Contest—TBA

6 Southeast District Grasslands Contest—TBA

6 NWMSU Fall CDE's
Maryville

6 Ag Ed/FFA Day, MU Wurdack Farm
Cook Station

7-8 Ozark Fall Farmfest
Springfield

13 State Grassland Evaluation Contest
Columbia vicinity

19-22 National FFA Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana

19-30 American Royal Livestock Show
Kansas City

NOVEMBER

9 Northwest District Fall Speaking Contest
Cameron

9 Central District Fall Speaking Contest
UCM, Warrensburg

10 South Central District Fall Speaking Contest
Rolla

10 Southwest District Fall Speaking Contest
Springfield

10 Southeast District Fall Speaking Contest
Bloomfield

12 NWMSU Celebrate Agriculture
Maryville

15 Northeast District Fall Speaking Contest
South Shelby

15 National FFA SAE grant applications due



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www.missouriffa.org is the online hub for all things Missouri FFA. We hope the site is a useful tool for you and your chapters, and love to hear your comments.

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Zachary Gregory	Derrek Hardy	Jessica Henry	Heather Hingst
Baileigh Horstmeier	Austin Knipmeyer	Logan Korff	Andy Mink
Renee Nelson	Carrie Otte	Robert Parkey	Chris Peterson
Joshua Petzoldt	Natalie Potter	Clayton Robinson	Colton Spencer
Marissa Surber	Rachel Veenstra	Dylan Watts	Iris Wormington

Not pictured: Samuel Fahrmeier, Heidi Murry, Colton von Thon



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OKLAHOMA *OUTLOOK*

Is Parli Pro a Lost Art?

Fall 2016

Some people think it might be moving in that direction.

The number of teams participating in Oklahoma FFA's Senior Parliamentary Procedure CDE has declined significantly in the last few years. Though there was a potential for 10 teams at state in 2016, only five teams participated, and all five of those teams turned down the opportunity to represent Oklahoma FFA in the national competition.

What is the reason for the drop off in interest in the Parli Pro contest? Is there a lack of interest in the topic of Parliamentary Procedure, or is there a problem with the contest? To find out, we talked with five current and former Oklahoma ag teachers, each of whom has extensive experience with the Parli Pro contest:

Bart Harper has been teaching ag for 19 years. He and his wife, Michelle, are the ag teachers at Madill. They have two decades of experience training Parli Pro teams for competition and have had three state champion teams and five runners-up. They have taken three senior teams to nationals (won one Gold), and will be taking a junior team this fall.

Billy Scott, at Amber-Pocasset, has been teaching ag for 40 years and Parliamentary Procedure since 1985. He has taken senior teams to state contest "pretty much every year since 1985," and has won at state several times.

Kenny Beams was an ag teacher for 18 years. He worked for three years in the Ag Ed Division at the CareerTech State Office and has been the superintendent at Ripley Public Schools and a judge at the Oklahoma Parli Pro contest for the last 16 years.

Scott Nemecek has been teaching for 31 years, 28 of which have been at Owasso. His teams have won the state contest two times in the last 10 years. They placed in the top five six times in the junior contest.

Kurt Murray taught ag at Burlington High School for ten years. In 2000, he moved to the Ag Ed division of the state department of CareerTech, where he is Southwest District Program Specialist. Among many other responsibilities, he manages the two Parliamentary Procedure contests for the State Interscholastics at OSU.

Here are some of the highlights from our conversations:

What are the benefits of teaching Parliamentary Procedure?



Mr. Scott: It has always been important that we train young people to be leaders. Whether they're leaders in their local civic groups, local co-ops, school boards or churches – any time you're talking about that, you're talking about people who can conduct meetings.

Mr. Harper: The Parli Pro CDE teaches critical thinking skills, expression of one's opinion, organization of thought, confidence and the ability to speak in front of peers. In addition, FFA is the only student organization still actively teaching Parli Pro and it would be a shame to lose it.

What are the challenges of teaching Parliamentary Procedure?

Insufficient teacher training:

The schools where our new ag teachers are taught do not emphasize Parliamentary Procedure.

Dr. Beams: Until that happens, it is just going to stall out, and we'll never have any more numbers than what we've had the last couple years.

Chapter Meetings:

An outsider might assume that all FFA Chapter meetings are conducted using the rules of Parliamentary

This article is continued on page H.

Meet Your 2016-2017 State Officers







Cleo Giraldo

N.E. District Vice President

FFA members, never let the bad circumstances that you have in your life limit you.

This is what I mean. If your family doesn't have a lot of money, do not let that limit what you believe you are capable of. If you don't have a nice house in a good neighborhood or if you don't drive the newest and nicest car, do not let that define the potential that your future holds.

If you aren't able to afford the nicest clothes and people look down on you, do not look down on yourself and never stop believing in you. At the end of the day, the only thing that determines what you will or won't accomplish in your life is YOU.

I want all of you to know if someone who didn't have a lot of money, who didn't wear nice clothes, who had to pay every dime for his first car, who lived in a trailer park and is from a small town in eastern Oklahoma called Eufaula can make it, so can you.

It's not always easy, but it is possible if you really want it. You have to have a lot of drive, a big heart full of love, the want and willingness to work and an appreciation for those who help and support you.

You have to work hard, really desire what you're working for and surround yourself with a good group of people. Always stay humble, and above all keep God close at all times.

FFA members, life is not determined by the cards you are dealt. It is determined by how you play them.

Some of Cleo's faves: Basketball, football, computers and cooking fusion dishes (ask him).

Meet Your 2016-2017 State Officers







Ridge Hughbanks — N.W. District Vice President

Hello, Oklahoma FFA! I am Ridge Hughbanks, from Alva, Oklahoma, and I am excited for the upcoming year and getting to serve as your Northwest District vice president.

For those of you who do not know, I love quotes. One of my favorites comes from Swiss psychiatrist C.J. Jung: "You are what you do, not what you say you'll do."

FFA members, how great is it to be a part of an organization that does just that? If you did not already know, we are part of one of the greatest youth organizations in the world because our actions speak louder than our words.

The FFA, and more specifically the Oklahoma State FFA Association, has proven, time and time again, just how committed we are to the meaning behind this statement. Not only do we grow and shape future leaders through agriculture, but we do so with a focus on service. It never ceases to amaze me how, when issues arise, FFA chapters and members from all across the state will come together and go out of their way to help whoever is in need.

One of the best examples of our devotion to service was shown last year with the results of the FFA Hunger Challenge. We set a goal to aid in the fight against hunger, and in the process our state was able to provide 765,000 protein sticks and 48,000 meals to those struggling with hunger right here in Oklahoma.

FFA members, I encourage you to continue devoting yourself to service in the upcoming year and to continue to let your actions speak louder than your words. Because if you or your chapter is ever in need of help, THAT help is just a corduroy jacket away.

Ridge can quote the entire *Dumb and Dumber* movie from memory.

Meet Your 2016-2017 State Officers







Tanna Frizzell

S.E. District Vice President

When I first joined FFA, I had little to no confidence in myself. In junior high, I would keep my head down and my mouth closed, refusing to talk to anyone other than the two girls I called friends. For the most part I spoke only when I was spoken to. My classmates soon began considering me unsocial and a loner.

When I selected agricultural education as one of my classes during my eighth-grade year, however, my mom just smiled at me. She knew that it would have the power to completely change the person I was becoming.

When I walked into my first ag class, I was beyond nervous. The ag building at Byng High School is secluded from the rest of the school, and I had no clue what they really did there. My brothers were in FFA, but I still didn't know what my day would entail.

When Mr. Thompson asked us to introduce ourselves on the first day, I was shaking with fear. Being an introvert, this was my worst nightmare. When class let out on that first day, Mr. Thompson asked me to stay after class. He took the time to explain to me what the FFA was all about, as well as the many different opportunities within the organization.

All it took was one year. At the end of my eighth-grade year, I was hooked. I attended my first Made For Excellence conference, participated in a career development event and even gave my first speech. While I may not have excelled at any of the competitive events, my interest was sparked, and I was intrigued.

My freshman year, I competed in the opening ceremony event, the greenhand quiz and FFA Creed speaking. I soon realized that I had grown to become a leader within my chapter and that every time I zipped up my blue corduroy jacket, I was becoming more and more confident.

FFA members, those special jackets are designed for you to grow in. All it takes is faith in yourself and confidence in the path you choose. Keep your dreams alive and continue to believe in the person you can become.

Tanna is majoring in Agricultural Education at OSU and plans to become an ag teacher after graduation.

Meet Your 2016-2017 State Officers







Piper Merritt

State Secretary

Hi, Oklahoma FFA! I'm Piper Merritt, and I have the privilege of serving as your 2016-2017 state FFA secretary. I grew up in Owasso, Oklahoma, and began to get involved in the Owasso FFA chapter the same year I transferred to Owasso Public Schools.

Throughout my FFA career, I was involved in a variety of events, from showing pigs to public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking. When I first began FFA, I had little agricultural knowledge and had no idea the direction that I wanted to take after I graduated high school.

FFA has completely altered that idea, however, and has allowed me to find my passion and develop a plan for my future. This fall, I will be attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in agricultural economics. I am a firm believer that I would not be the person I am today without the influence FFA has had on me.

Your time in the blue and gold jacket is limited; make the most of it. Whether you are a senior this year or an eager eighth grader, I hope you will begin to realize the limitless opportunity you have through this organization. Your FFA experience is a tool that you can use throughout the rest of your life, even in your career and professional journey.

Oklahoma FFA members, I encourage you to have no regrets when it comes to your FFA experience. The four or five years of membership in the FFA will go by in a heartbeat. Take the unique opportunity you have in front of you and chase after it like you have nothing to lose.

We are very blessed to be a part of the Oklahoma FFA Association, and I challenge you to pride yourself in that. This year, try something new and get out of your comfort zone. Be bold! Set a goal and do all that you can to achieve it. Be the leader you were created to be and make a difference.

We'll meet Adrienne, Levi, Garrett and Cale in the Winter issue of Outlook.

Piper almost made it to the national spelling bee when she was 11. She missed the word "brougham."

Great Numbers for Oklahoma

In the year preceding our last State Convention, Oklahoma FFA members donated 511 animals to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

Members of 205 FFA chapters donated animals or cash as part of the FFA Hunger Challenge, presented by the 2015-16 Oklahoma FFA Association officer team.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma made over 700,000 protein sticks from the animals donated, an increase of nearly 250,000 compared to last year. Additionally, the chapters donated $4,868.50, which was matched by the Oklahoma Beef Council for a total of $9,737.00. These funds will provide more than 48,000 meals for our neighbors in need of food.

Lisa Perry, director of giving for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma called the donations "the priceless gift provided by FFA students to hungry children across Oklahoma."

“These animals have an intended purpose to feed the world, and we are able to use them to feed people who otherwise might not have a good meal,” said Roy Lee Lindsey, Oklahoma Pork Council executive director. “I can’t say enough about how proud I am of our kids, that they see a need for helping others and take the initiative to do it themselves.

“Of all the things we do, all the lessons we teach our kids, giving back to the less fortunate might be the most important,” Lindsey said. “The food banks here in Oklahoma have a sterling reputation for what they do regarding the people that they help.

“Throughout the past few years, the program has had a great partnership with FFA and 4-H,” said Amanda Rosholt, Oklahoma Farming and Ranching Foundation director. “We are all excited about the success this program has had and are excited for the future and believe we will continue to make an impact on Oklahomans’ lives.”

Oklahoma FFA members volunteering at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma before and after our State Convention







The original version of this article was written by Ron Hays for the Radio Oklahoma Ag Network.

FFA's Hunger Challenge

The Merritt FFA Chapter in southwest Oklahoma donated 18 animals, the most from any chapter. Additionally, this year students could add monetary donations and multiple chapters donated several hundred dollars to support the program.

Some of the larger donations of animals came from the following chapters:

Guthrie	10
Marlow	10
Duncan	11
Tecumseh	11
El Reno	13
Yukon	13
Cashion	14
Fox	16

The following chapters also made large cash donations:

Colcord	$250.00
Collinsville	$250.00
Woodland	$250.00
Wright City	$250.00
Vinita	$400.00
Tishomingo	$500.00
Morrison	$611.50
Elgin	$750.00

In addition to donating animals and cash, many chapters volunteered to work at the Food Bank on the days just preceding and just after the State Convention. They were: Blair, Cashion, Cherokee, Chouteau, Elk City, Geronimo, Jenks, Kellyville, Navajo, Oilton, Oologah, Savanna, Seminole, Taloga, Thomas-Fay-Custer, Valliant, Vanoss, Wellston and Woodward.

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma provides food for weekends and school holidays to 29,000 chronically hungry Oklahoma elementary school children through "backpack programs." Each backpack of food contains a beef or pork protein stick every other week.

In one year, the food banks give 370,000 protein sticks to children. Each pound of meat makes about eight protein sticks. A 280-pound live hog produces 182 pounds of meat, or 1,456 sticks. A 1,300-pound steer produces 806 pounds of meat, or 6,448 sticks.



Something New on the Horizon

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and the 2017 National FFA Convention, seven of the 26 Career Development Events (CDEs) will now be designated as Leadership Development Events (LDEs).

They are:

Agricultural Issues
Conduct of Chapter Meeting
Creed Speaking
Extemporaneous Speaking
Employment Skills
Parliamentary Procedure
Prepared Public Speaking

Additional information is available at www.ffa.org.

Is Parli Pro a Lost Art?





Procedure. Apparently, this is not the case.

Mr. Murray: We would be naive to think that. That's one of my fears: the less we have opportunities to use (Parliamentary Procedure), we see fewer teachers seeing the importance of it. Therefore, we have fewer teachers teaching it.

Curriculum:

Dr. Beams: There's not anything in our curriculum that covers Parliamentary Procedure. We don't have a good, standard curriculum that we can tell teachers, 'Okay, here's the book on Parliamentary Procedure. If you study this and use this, you will have a good team.' Every student has the FFA handbook, but that just scratches the surface.

What are the benefits of participating in the Parliamentary Procedure Contests?

Mr. Murray: It's more than just training for a contest. It is a life skill that is important for all of our programs to know and learn.

Mr. Nemecek: The senior contest is one of the most valuable contests we have in terms of skills. It goes back to skills students will need regardless of whether they're farming, doing Agri-Business, or in a career unrelated to ag. They're going to need to be able to speak on their feet and present their ideas in a logical process. This contest helps them learn, under pressure, those skills.

What are the challenges of participating in the Parli Pro Contests?

Competing priorities:

Dr. Beams: There were so many other contests added into the mix as we went along: Quiz bowls and that sort of thing. With these eternally competitive teachers who had struggled a little bit and had a hard time with Parli Pro – they had other ways to get students involved.

Mr. Nemecek: We just can't do everything and do it well. If you add something, you've got to take something away. There are other contests that teachers tend to go to because (they) may have interest or knowledge in them, they're more comfortable with them – or that's what, traditionally, their school has done.

Complexity:

There was a time when the Parliamentary Procedure contest was primarily about how to conduct chapter meetings in an orderly way. Over time, the contest has become more about the nuances and the legalistic aspects that were not close to reality for a lot of people.

Mr. Scott: It has become more about Parliamentary law. That may require more memorization and knowledge that's really not quite necessary, in my opinion. I think all kids need to know how to make a motion, second a motion, amend a motion ... but then to know everything there is to know about every part of the Robert's Rules of Order? I don't know.

Is the Contest Worth Saving?

Mr. Harper: Absolutely! The Parliamentary Procedure contest is still the best at helping students learn to formulate ideas, put them into words and convey them professionally, all while understanding how meetings and organizations operate.

Everyone seems to agree that Parliamentary Procedure provides significant value for students by preparing them for leadership roles in their future lives. But the Parli Pro competition is very labor-intensive: It requires six students who must be committed to it over an extended period of time. This has become a problem and chapter participation in the CDE has dropped significantly.

In this article, we've gotten the insights of several current and former ag teachers – now we'd like to hear from you. What do you think? Do you see the value in learning Parliamentary Procedure? How do you feel about the Parli Pro CDE? Do you think we should try to save it? Should we change the contest; and, if so, how?

Please send your thoughts to Mr. Kurt Murray at Kurt.Murray@careertech.ok.gov. We'll compile the results and report back to you in a future issue of *Oklahoma Outlook*.

Photographs for this article courtesy National FFA Organization.

Vision of Virginia

FALL 2016



90th Virginia FFA State Convention

FEATURES

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Secretary **Phillip Saunders**
Vice President **Clay Graham**
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Reporter **Isabelle Leonard**
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Get Published! Submit articles and photos of your chapter to magazine@vaffa.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 23 - October 2:
State Fair
September 14 - 17:
Big E
October 7 - 10:
NJHA Convention
October 19 - 22:
National Convention & Expo

Monk Named Virginia FFA Association Executive Director

Brandon H. Monk has been named executive director of Virginia FFA. In his new position, he hopes to expand program opportunities for students and ensure that youth in agriculture are ready to take over our state's largest industry.

Monk enters this new role having experience working for Virginia FFA in program development and for the National FFA Organization as a conference facilitator. He has also served on the board of directors for the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (VAAE) and Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE) and as a high school agriculture teacher in Nottoway County.

"I am confident that FFA is primed for growth in Virginia," Monk said. "Now, more than ever, our industry leaders, governmental officials and secondary education administrators are looking for hands-on opportunities to engage students in practical skills that can translate into career success. FFA and agricultural education programs have been providing that platform for years. I am looking forward to doing our part as an association to share the story of youth in agriculture as we grow leaders."

Middle and high school agriculture curricula covers a wide range of topics in Virginia, exposing youth to career opportunities from agribusiness to biotechnology. As Virginia's number one industry, Agriculture and Forestry is vital to the success of our Commonwealth. Monk believes that FFA plays a vital role in making sure that youth are ready to take the reins from an aging agricultural workforce in the coming years.

"All students should be given the opportunity to spend some time in an agriculture classroom learning about the industry that provides food, fuel and fiber for a growing Virginia," Monk said. "Together, we will continue to expand opportunities for youth to be involved in agriculture and in their own personal development as we grow Virginia FFA's platform and footprint. I have no doubt that as we look to the future Virginia FFA will be known for its work in growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture across the Commonwealth."

THAT'S A WRAP!
State Convention Wrap-up

by Cailin Orgen
VA FFA 2015-2016 Vice President





The 90th Virginia FFA State Convention is definitely one for the books. Over 1,500 members and guests unlocked this historical convention which was kicked off on Monday, June 20. Members from all over Virginia flooded Virginia Tech's campus eager to compete in CDEs, attend workshops and sessions, and create countless friendships and memories. Monday night's first general session kicked off convention as we heard from Keynote Speaker and past National FFA Secretary, Mr. Landan Schaffert. Landan helped kick off convention by showing all in attendance that having faith in the next step can allow each of us to best unlock the opportunity before us.

Day two consisted of students competing in over 20 different career development events and in the afternoon delegates, state officers and state officer candidates met in Burruss Hall for committee meetings. Topics such as FFA Camp, Constitution and Bylaws and much more were discussed in great detail, and recommendations were made in order to better the future of Virginia FFA. National FFA Western Region Vice President, Sarah Draper challenged us to reach a little further at the second general session and the evening wrapped up with an ice cream social hosted by the Farm Bureau Young Farmers.



Day three kicked off with more CDEs and workshops. Delegates and middle school participants filled Burruss Hall for the third general session where we heard from committee chairs, participated in a workshop run by Ms. Sarah Draper and finally heard the results of our Middle School CDEs. Afterwards, state officers, state officer candidates, proficiency winners, sponsors and many more attended the Virginia FFA Foundation Banquet to help celebrate a great year for Virginia FFA. Students learned how to "Unlock Potential" as we awarded our Proficiency winners, State Stars and State Degree recipients in the fourth general session and heard the Retiring Address of 2015-2016 Virginia State FFA President, Chandler Vaughan.

The fifth and final session wrapped up convention on Thursday morning, as students saw their peers unlocking the future through CDE final results. The 2016-2017 Virginia State FFA Officer team was elected to office and the 2015-2016 state officer team hung up their jackets for the final time.

This convention was certainly one to be remembered. Congratulations to all CDE winners, State Degree and Proficiency recipients and good luck to the 2016-2017 Virginia FFA State Officer team! Always remember to unlock those endless opportunities thrown in our paths, so we can become the true leaders we have the potential to become.

INSIGHTS GAINED

Dear Virginia FFA Members,

The past year with all of you has been purely unforgettable. Each one of you has inspired us and for one last time, we would like to say thanks!

Thank you for making the countless adventures, late nights and early mornings, all worth it; you helped us unlock ourselves by seeing you unlock your potential!

Thank you for always providing us with a home away from home wherever we went and welcoming us with a smile!

Thank you for continually amazing us with your ability to take on the world and make a difference around you.

Thank you for teaching us just as much about ourselves as we learned about you.

Thank you for the amazing memories and laughs throughout this year; remember to keep unlocking your dreams!

Thank you for reminding us how amazing people are when they share their passions.

Thank you for making this past year the best of our lives and always being our family.

Thank you for the memories we will never forget, y'all are amazing!

Signing off,
Your 2015-2016 Virginia FFA State Officers



ADVISOR HIGHLIGHT

Mr. Don Reese

Advisor - *Halifax County High School FFA*



Mr. Reese with his daughter, Sara Beth

What does your agricultural background look like?
Starting in the 1930s, our family owned our own produce farm. We currently raise 110 acres of vegetables that we sell at our two roadside markets in Halifax County. Some of the produce we raise are strawberries, pumpkins, tomatoes, but mostly cantaloupes and sweet corn!

Why did you get involved in teaching?
Originally, I went to interview to be a part time substitute to provide income for the winter months, when we don't have vegetables to sell. Instead of being offered a job as a part time substitute, the school system asked if I would be a long-term substitute for the mechanics program, while they found a teacher, and I agreed. By the end of the school year, I fell in love with it and when the animal-based Agricultural Education position opened up that summer at the same high school, I took it!

What are some characteristics of your program?
Our classroom is located 10 minutes away from the school, where the students are bused to every period. The classroom sits on an acre-sized plot, where we have a barn and pasture that occasionally holds a horse and feeder steer.

How have you been able to transfer knowledge to the classroom?
Practical experience on our family farm has helped me relate to subject matter in the textbook. One of the things I really enjoy is bringing my students to our farm. During the last school year, our forestry class came to the farm and had a forestry lesson conducted by a forester. In the coming semester, I plan to bring out introductory agriculture students to the farm to give them a hands-on experience and application to the things they learn in class!

After one year of teaching, what would your advice be to a new AG teacher?
Being a substitute before I became a teacher, I would say classroom management is just as important as subject matter! Having a degree in Animal Science made it difficult at first to come and teach, but it gave me a lot of practical knowledge and with time, it will pay off!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JACOB LEWIS

Age: 18
Chapter: Fort Defiance
Years in FFA: 7



Why did you join the FFA?
Throughout middle school, I watched the older members transform into leaders through the experience of being a chapter officer. This challenged me to follow in their footsteps and unlock myself through the FFA. I didn't come from a farming family so I was constantly asking myself if FFA was for me and even though farming wasn't my background, FFA helped develop a passion for agriculture within me.

What does FFA mean to you?
To me, FFA is more than an intracurricular organization, it's a lifestyle. Between officer activities, CDEs and fundraisers, FFA easily encompassed 90% of my free time. FFA has led to many friendships with people from other chapters in Virginia and across the US that have become nothing short of family. This organization has also helped me in choosing a career to pursue.

What are you planning to do after high school? How did you get interested in that?
After high school, I will be attending Virginia Tech majoring in Animal and Poultry Science. After I graduate with my bachelor's degree, I plan to pursue a master's in education. My ultimate goal is to become an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor in the Shenandoah Valley. FFA has played a serious role in helping me choose a career. I have learned that I love talking about agriculture and I have had the opportunity to teach others through FFA. I owe a great deal of my success in the FFA to four amazing advisors that have helped me so much. Mr. Stogdale, Coach Hull, Mr. Brown and Mrs. Williams, thank you for instilling a passion for agriculture in me and for making me the FFA member that I am today.

Getting to Know
Your State Officers

2016-2017 Virginia State FFA Officer Team



President:
Ashley Yanego
Home Chapter:
Strasburg FFA



Secretary:
Phillip Saunders
Home Chapter:
Nelson Sr. FFA



Vice President:
Clay Graham
Home Chapter:
Buffalo Gap FFA



Vice President:
Sydney Baxter
Home Chapter:
Dinwiddie FFA



Treasurer:
Kelly Callender
Home Chapter:
Turner Ashby FFA



Reporter:
Isabelle Leonard
Home Chapter:
Riverheads FFA



Sentinel:
Keri Knott
Home Chapter:
Magna Vista FFA

TEAM AVERAGES

Number of years as an FFA member	Number of Advisors	Number of Jackets	Average GPA on a 4.0 Scale
6	3.2	1.6	3.91

What has been your most memorable moment in FFA?

Ashley – Attending FFA Leadership Camp with members from all across Virginia
Clay – Being able to learn new things in CDEs and gain skills such as Parliamentary Procedure
Isabelle – Bonding with my chapter officer team at a ropes course
Kelly – Attending Leadership Conferences, like the Washington Leadership Conference
Keri – Attending National Convention for the first time and seeing the sea of blue jackets
Phillip – Driving to Block and Bridle and a boulder rolling under the bus
Sydney – Trying on my FFA jacket for the first time and that surreal feeling of the future

How do you plan to use your FFA experience this year and in your future?

Ashley – Meeting and getting to know members individually, and helping them be comfortable
Clay – Being someone that is easy for FFA members to talk to and relate with as a friend
Isabelle – Using my agriculture background to educate and share with members
Kelly – Connect with members and help find something in common with each of them
Keri – Inspire others to find what they can do and the potential they have within themselves
Phillip – Forming relationships with members and learning the value of leadership skills
Sydney – Help members realize their potential and abilities as leaders

What made you want to become a member in the FFA?

Ashley – The food and fellowship of my chapter – and all the friendships
Clay – Seeing FFA from a young age (being with and seeing my mom helping a FFA Advisor)
Isabelle – The brotherhood and friendships for youth in agriculture
Kelly – The family and friendships that the FFA and local chapters have to offer
Keri – The open-ended opportunities and friendships
Phillip – The opportunities and contests to test my knowledge and develop skills
Sydney – Hearing my dad talk about his FFA jacket and wanting to have that same journey

What are you looking forward to this year as a state officer?

Ashley – To be able to give back and help members become excited and passionate about FFA
Clay – Meeting other members and students from different chapters across the state
Isabelle – Seeing agriculture and visiting different areas and members across the state
Kelly – Meeting lots of members and connecting especially with new and young ones
Keri – Helping grow and develop FFA members into better versions of themselves
Phillip – Going to different chapters and getting to know members on an individual basis
Sydney – Forming relationships with chapters and helping members set goals

What is one opportunity you would encourage members to take advantage of this year?

Ashley – Leadership Camp because it's a fun way to see the opportunities in FFA
Clay – Experience different CDEs and find something that fits you and your passions!
Isabelle – Community Service because we can impact people outside of the FFA!
Kelly – Washington Leadership Conference because of its perspective on "Live to Serve"!
Keri – Participate in any opportunity to travel and step out of your comfort zone!
Phillip – The public Speaking CDE will help you become more comfortable in front of people
Sydney – Go to an Area Leadership Conference and Rally!

Number of Agricultural Education classes taken	Number of State Conventions attended	Number of different Career Developmental Events	Number of National Conventions attended
7.4	4.5	7.6	3.6

FFA Then & Now

Thomas R. Shirley, Jr.





MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: 73 Years Later

Virginia FFA members attending the 90th anniversary convention of the FFA were host to a special guest. Mr. Thomas R. Shirley, Jr., age 92, of Luray, Va, addressed the Wednesday evening convention session on June 22. A packed Burruss Hall auditorium on the Virginia Tech campus provided Mr. Shirley an opportunity he never received as a result of World War II.

Shirley, born prior to the founding of the FFV and FFA, was raised on a diversified farm near Luray with his two younger brothers. A member of the Luray Chapter in the early 1940s under advisor R. A. "Bob" Wall (Wall would later become a professor at Virginia Tech), Shirley was elected to the office of Virginia State FFA president in 1943. World War II was in full swing and an abbreviated state FFA convention was held at Massanetta Springs between Harrisonburg and Weyers Cave, Va that year. The remainder of 1943 and early 1944 was devoted to numerous chapter visits by Shirley throughout the state and appearances with the Department of Education in Richmond. In an interview during the convention with Agricultural Education Professor Emeritus, Dr. John Hillison, Shirley recalled attending the National FFA convention in Kansas City and many days traveling throughout Virginia accompanied by northern area supervisor, W. R. Legge.

With the pending invasion of mainland Europe, State FFA President Shirley was drafted into the U.S. Army in early 1944, where he later served as an infantryman in the 1st Infantry Division during the closing months of World War II. Shirley's service to his country ended his opportunity to preside over the 1944 Virginia state FFA convention; again an abbreviated convention held in September of that year due to war time restrictions and fear of a polio outbreak, according to John Hillison.

Seventy-three years later, Mr. Shirley returned to the 90th Virginia FFA convention and brought closure to his duties as state president. Shirley shared warm recollections of his days as an FFA member and soldier and how the leadership skills he acquired as an FFA member carried him well throughout his adult life and banking career in his home town of Luray.

Shirley concluded his address from the podium by stating, "May this organization continue to be the greatest organization - God bless you all." Shirley's remarks were immediately followed by an eruption



Thomas R. Shirley, Jr., 92 of Luray, Va, seated at the table where the Future Farmers of Virginia, which later became the FFA, was founded.



1943 Virginia FFA State President addresses the 90th State Convention

of applause and a lengthy standing ovation from a packed auditorium of over 2,000 FFA members and supporters of Agricultural Education.

A special thanks to Dr. Randol Waters, Agricultural Education Professor Emeritus from the University of Tennessee, for providing transportation and companionship for Mr. Shirley throughout his visit to Blacksburg, Dr. John Hillison of Blacksburg and to all Virginia FFA members and teachers for making Mr. Thomas Shirley's historic visit a special occasion.

Article and arrangements for Mr. Shirley's visit provided by Dr. Philip Fravel, Clemson University Agricultural Education Program

2016 VIRGINIA FFA PROFICIENCY WINNERS



Agricultural Education
Strasburg
Austin Weaver



Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication
Highland
Jeremy Johnsen



Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Placement
Lakeland
Christopher Barmer



Agricultural Processing
Alleghany
Bradley Paxton



Agricultural Sales – Placement
Eastern View
Corey Twomey



Agricultural Services
Fort Defiance
Leah Crickenberger



Agriscience - Animal Systems Research
Lord Botetourt
Theresa Seibel



Agriscience - Integrated Systems Research
Strasburg
Tiffany Heishman



Beef Production – Entrepreneurship
George Wythe
Tanner Marshall



Beef Production- Placement
Central
Jenna Kibler



Dairy Production – Entrepreneurship
Turner Ashby
Kelly Elizabeth Callender



Dairy Production – Placement
Riverheads
Isabelle Leonard



Diversified Agricultural Production - Entrepreneurship
Central
John-Robert Helsley



Diversified Crop Production – Placement
Lord Botetourt
Claire Seibel



Diversified Horticulture Production
Magna Vista
Keri Knott



Diversified Livestock Production Entrepreneurship/Placement
Strasburg
Bethany Gochenour



Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management
Holston
Alex McVey



Equine Science – Entrepreneurship
Eastern View
Rachel Burton



Equine Science – Placement
Eastern View
Sarah Miller



Forage Production
Dinwiddie Senior
Wade Reiter



Forage Management and Products
Appomattox Senior
Frankie Hoffman



Goat Production
Central
Samuel Rhodes



Grain Production – Placement
Magna Vista
W. Austin Brinegar



Home and/or Community Development
James River
Samantha Jackson



Nursery Operations
Tunstall
Madison Sexton



Outdoor Recreation
Appomattox Senior
Jordan Moore



Poultry Production
Central
Maranda Dawn McDonald



Sheep Production
Broadway
Caley Ellington



Small Animal Production and Care
Fort Defiance
Autumn Garber



Swine Production – Placement
Holston
Pride Arrington



Turf Grass Management
Sherando
Elijah Williams



Vegetable Production
Dinwiddie Senior
Colton Williams



Veterinary Science
Massanutten Tech
Darby Boontarue



Wildlife Management Entrepreneurship/ Placement
Fort Defiance
Cameron Little

2016 VIRGINIA FFA STATE Stars



Star in Agribusiness
Appomattox Senior
Jordan Moore

Inspired by watching her father as a young girl, Jordan now cares for her family's hunting dogs, as well as other community members' dogs. She is responsible for their care and training, selling the puppies and entering hunting competitions. Goals of her SAE project include learning proper training techniques and gaining trust from others to train their hunting dogs leading to having repeat customers.



Star in Agricultural Placement
Central
Mariyah Viar

Mariyah has shown market lambs and helped with her family's 300-acre farm since she was 10 years old. Beginning in eighth grade, she began raising livestock. For the past two years, Mariyah has participated in a co-op program with her school, where she manages feeder calves, cow-calf pairs, lambs and various crops. To continue the family tradition, Mariyah hopes to own her own farm in the future.



Star Farmer
Nelson County Senior
Phillip Saunders

Since the age of nine, Phillip has raised and shown cattle, goat, and hogs in various livestock shows throughout Virginia. As an employee for the family business, Saunders Brothers, Phillip supervises the farm-to-market process of hog and beef operations. Through his SAE project, Phillip has learned about the agricultural industry, keeping business and financial record, and marketing product.

Honorary Degree Recipients

Dr. Jeff Comer
Mr. J. Bruce Cumbie
Mr. Donald Curtis
Mrs. Ashlee Whitfield Edwards
Mr. Jeffrey Gochenour
Mrs. Kimberly Gochenour
Mr. James Hammer
Mrs. Jaime Hammer
Mr. Robert C. Helsley
Mrs. Carolyn Helsley
Mr. Robert Himmler
Mrs. Laura C. Himmler
Mr. Allen Melton
Mr. Thomas L. Miller
Mrs. Lindsay B. Miller
Mr. Kevin Moyers
Mrs. Kimberly Moyers
Mr. Patrick Orgen
Mrs. Eileen Orgen
Mr. Morgan B. Ott III
Mrs. Katie Ott
Mr. Claude Shell
Mr. Thomas R. Shirley Jr.
Mr. Scott Stevens
Mr. Eric D. Stogdale
Mr. Richard Vaughan
Mrs. Lisa Vaughan
Mr. Christopher Wimmer
Mrs. Edria Wimmer
Mrs. Sharon Yates



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2016 VIRGINIA FFA CDE Results

The following teams and individuals competed and were recognized at state convention this past June as State Winners in their respective event.

Senior Avian Bowl
James River FFA
Madelyn Cummings, Davis Fenster and Mason Sowers
Coach Zach Wakeman

Computer Applications
Lord Botetourt FFA
Caleb Rich
Coach Stuart Byrd

Senior Horse Hippology
Louisa FFA
Chelsea Bickley, Victoria Protasenko, Sarah Seay and Lauren Smith
Coach Charley Carrol

Senior Soils
Strasburg FFA
Ethan Gochenour, Courtney Hodges, Nathan McDonald and Ashley Yanego
Coach Brian Fisher

Senior Talent
Magna Vista FFA
Alyssa Moxley

Junior Ag Mechanics
Sherando FFA
Nick Corbit, Megan Gross, Tyler Hazelwood and Jacob Nicholson
Coach Ashlee Edwards

Nelson Middle FFA
Louisa FFA
Brittany Hall, Sarah Harvey, Nathan Sanders and Jacob Tomlin
Coach Lauren Goff

Junior Dairy Cattle
East Rockingham FFA
Colton Allison, Nick Grubbs, Jacob Layman and Hallie Pence
Coach Rebecca Holloway

Junior Forestry
Chickahominy Middle FFA
Laci Miller, Meredith Peters, Jameson Norton and Nick Williams
Coach Nick Robinson

Junior Horse Evaluation
Admiral Byrd FFA
Emily Blanton, Hannah Burton, Sarah Moreland and Mya Witt
Coach Kathy Ritenour

Junior Horse Hippology
Louisa Middle FFA
Savanna Goodwin, Kora Hall, Grace Hoosier and Sophie Karney
Coach Hannah Poole

Junior Livestock
Louisa Middle FFA
Henry Alexander, Matthew Floody, Tyler Gibson and Elizabeth Rosson
Coach Hannah Poole

Junior Meats
Peter Muhlenberg FFA
Faith Dellinger, Melanie McDonald, Jeremy Viar and Henry Wakeman
Coach Derek Ritenour

Junior Prepared Public Speaking
Sherando FFA
Grayson Moyer
Coach Jeff Stout

Junior Poultry
Elkton Middle FFA
Alison Frank, Kevin May, Jamison Meadows and William Meadows
Coach Sarah Keyser

Junior Soils
Strasburg FFA
Mckenzie Kline, Allyson Neal, Nadia Rulhala and Shelby Smith
Coach Brian Fisher

Ag Mechanics – Middle School
Admiral Byrd FFA
Gage Canter, Brady McKnight, Gabby Osborne and Charlie Shepley
Coach Kathy Ritenour

Food and Fiber – Middle School
Beverley Manor Middle FFA
MacKenzie Blackwell, Kessla Donald, Emily Kegley and Kevin Myrtle
Coach Sarah Smith

Plant Science – Middle School
Chickahominy Middle FFA
Avery Bowers, Jameson Norton, Meredith Peters and Brian Quillin
Coach Nick Robinson

Small Animal Care – Middle School
Robert E. Aylor FFA
Karli Brown, Jacob Bundrick, Jessica Fransen and Kylie Gill
Coach Pam Hogmire

Quiz Bowl State Winning Team – Middle School







2016 VIRGINIA FFA STATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

APPALACHIAN AREA

Abingdon	Joshua	Brewer
Abingdon	Meagan	Garrett
Abingdon	Audrey	Morris
Abingdon	Emma	Wampler
Blacksburg	Michaela	Bethard
Blacksburg	Holly	Newberne
Blacksburg	Claudia	Van Dyke
Bland	Stephanie	Blankenship
Carroll County	Justin	Light
Floyd County	Riley	Carr
Floyd County	K. Scarlett	Lucas
Galax	Ellie	Bottomley
Galax	Heather	Cox
Galax	Chassney	Hodges
Galax	Meghan	Honaker
George Wythe	Thomas	Coble
George Wythe	Tanner	Marshall
Giles	Johathan	Ash
Giles	Kelsey	Holt
Holston	Austin	Bowman
Holston	Katie	Hicks
Holston	Alex	McVey
Holston	Adriennea	Olinger
Holston	Kimberly	Prater
Holston	Joshua	Rouse
Holston	Brian	Rouse
Holston	Seth	Sullivan
Holston	Timothy	Trent
Holston	Seth	Walls
Holston	Chloe	Yates
Lee	Hannah	Allen
Lee	Austin	Dean
Lee	Kaitlin	Fleenor
Lee	Billie	Johnson
Lee	Kaylee	Marcum
Lee	Harley	Marcum
Lee	Justin	Miles
Lee	Bradley	Neff
Lee	Alex	Sexton
Lee	Brooklyn	Warner
Pulaski County	Kyrie	Harrison
Pulaski County	Courtney	Jones
Pulaski County	Victoria	Kegley
Pulaski County	Leigh	Meek
Pulaski County	Hannah	Reed
Ridgeview	Elizabeth	Mullins
Ridgeview	Mattie	Stanley

CENTRAL AREA

Atlee	Hailey	Humphreys
Atlee	Jack	Marsh
Atlee	Jake	Martin
Atlee	Ashton	Seifert
Atlee	Timothy	Sutton
Atlee	Madison	Tunstall
C. L. Payne	Jordan	Carter
C. L. Payne	Isaiah	Defnall
C. L. Payne	Evan	Wasson
Culpeper County Sr	Ashlee	Heflin
Culpeper County Sr	Hunter	Mills
Eastern View	Rachel	Burton
Eastern View	Sarah	Miller
Eastern View	Taryn	Tretick
Eastern View	Corey	Twomey
Fauquier	Katelyn	Barb
Fauquier	Camden	Franklin
Lee Davis	Devin	Akers
Lee Davis	Rachel	Buehren
Louisa	Lindsey	Anderson
Louisa	Kylie	Hoffman
Nelson Senior	Jamie	Conner
Nelson Senior	Phillip	Saunders
Powhatan Senior	Emma	Bennett
Powhatan Senior	Caitlin	Reamy
Powhatan Senior	Jared	West
Riverbend	Lauryn	Dix
Riverbend	Garrett	Minter
Spotsylvania	Sarah	Heberlin
Spotsylvania	Erin	Perry

EASTERN AREA

Dinwiddie Senior	Sydney	Baxter
Dinwiddie Senior	Thomas	Chappell III
Dinwiddie Senior	Gracie	Hart
Dinwiddie Senior	Danielle	Powers
Dinwiddie Senior	Shelbie	Wells
Gloucester	Heidi	Hickman
Lakeland	William	March

NORTHERN AREA

Alleghany	Margaret	Webb
Broadway	Kaylyn	Beach
Broadway	Jacob	Depoy
Broadway	Caley	Ellington
Broadway	James	Ritchie
Buffalo Gap	Sam	Blackwell
Buffalo Gap	Travis	Cash
Buffalo Gap	Clay	Graham
Buffalo Gap	Caitlyn	Harris
Buffalo Gap	Wyatt	Lotts
Buffalo Gap	Mason	Mawyer
Buffalo Gap	Sara	McCutcheon
Buffalo Gap	Harrison	Powell
Buffalo Gap	Tanner	Simmons
Buffalo Gap	Jeanne	Smith
Buffalo Gap	Eric	Sprouse
Central	Gracie	Bailey
Central	Ashton	Duncan
Central	Mariyah	Viar
East Rockingham	Josh	Holloway
East Rockingham	Joseph	Lam
Fort Defiance	Daisy	Brown
Fort Defiance	Justin	Crickenberger
Fort Defiance	Anna	Foley
Fort Defiance	Autumn	Garber
Fort Defiance	William	Good
Fort Defiance	Jessica	Hughes

Fort Defiance	Calvin	Heatwole
Fort Defiance	Jacob	Lewis
Fort Defiance	Cameron	Little
Fort Defiance	Jyssica	McCormick
Fort Defiance	Jacob	Wright
Highland	Jeremy	Johnsen
Highland	Emily	Kimble
Highland	Cameron	Simmons
James River	Hanna	Brunner
James River	Morgan	Curry
James River	Wyatt	Hix
James River	Samantha	Jackson
James River	Michael	Roney
James River	Mason	Sowers
James Wood	Jacob	Duvall
James Wood	Victoria	Miller
James Wood	Michaela	Raines
James Wood	Courtney	Walls
Lord Botetourt	Katherine	Alexander
Lord Botetourt	Michael	Harlan
Lord Botetourt	Ryan	Newton
Lord Botetourt	Andrew	Pfeifer
Lord Botetourt	Caleb	Rich
Lord Botetourt	Laurel	Stevens
Luray	Jacob	Deavers
Luray	Cordel	Rothgeb
Luray	Jonathan	Snyder
Luray	Dylan	Tinsdale
Millbrook	Madalyn	Swaner
Riverheads	Isabelle	Leonard
Riverheads	Katie	Stogdale
Riverheads	Rebecca	Straley
Sherando	Victoria	Allen
Sherando	Brooke	Fletcher
Sherando	Austin	Gottshall
Sherando	Cara	Hedrick
Sherando	Nicole	Masiello
Sherando	Bailey	McGill
Spotswood	Cody	Atkins
Spotswood	Morgan	Kanney
Spotswood	Bryce	Phillips
Spotswood	Geneva	Weaver
Stonewall Jackson	Faith	Funkhouser
Strasburg	Rachel	Funkhouser
Strasburg	Courtney	Hodges
Strasburg	Miley	Hupp
Strasburg	Ashley	Yanego
Turner Ashby	Kelly	Callender
Turner Ashby	Hannah	Craun
Turner Ashby	Hannah	Cupp
Turner Ashby	Jessica	Keagy
Turner Ashby	Christopher	Payne
Turner Ashby	Walker	Shull
Turner Ashby	Tori	Smith
Wilson Memorial	Abigail	Holland
Wilson Memorial	Brenden	McReynolds
Wilson Memorial	Mark	Phillips

SOUTHSIDE AREA

Amelia County	Jerry	Easter
Amelia County	Susannah	Gonia
Amelia County	Aaron	Jones
Amelia County	Matthew	Major
Amelia County	Jonathan	Moore
Amelia County	Jake	Morris
Amelia County	Chad	Philpot
Amelia County	John	Stockner
Appomattox Senior	Andrea	Hodges
Appomattox Senior	William	Hoffman
Appomattox Senior	Estella	Mason
Appomattox Senior	Jordan	Moore
Bluestone Senior	Anna	Crump
Bluestone Senior	Lauren	Jones
Bluestone Senior	Nick	Sullivan
Chatham	Jeffrey	Dalton
Chatham	Hunter	Davis
Chatham	Courtney	Eanes
Chatham	Ricardo	Luck
Chatham	William	Rickets
Chatham	Chase	Shelton
Chatham	Nathan	Shumaker
Gretna	Robert	Blankenship
Gretna	Rachel	Marr
Gretna	Tara	Scruggs
Gretna	Jessie	Worley
Halifax County	Amanda	Harris
Halifax County	Sara	Reese
Halifax County	Jasmine	Vaughan
Liberty	Bo	Ashworth
Liberty	Hailey	Croft
Liberty	Kane	Dews
Liberty	James	Edwards
Liberty	Jared	Fizer
Liberty	Destiny	Meador
Magna Vista	William	Brinegar
Magna Vista	Emily	Gardner
Magna Vista	Kristen	Robertson
Magna Vista	Cheyenne	Shaffer
Magna Vista	Kalee	Smith
Magna Vista	Whitney	Wood
Park View Senior	Cristen	Hall
Randolph Henry	Hannah	Adams
Randolph Henry	Ryan	Hamlet
Randolph Henry	Cassandra	Long
Randolph Henry	Alivia	McComb
Randolph Henry	Scott	Pugh
Randolph Henry	Conner	White
Smith Mountain	Katelyn	Spradlin
Tunstall Senior	Randall	Bowman
Tunstall Senior	Devin	Motley
Tunstall Senior	Madison	Sexton

Chapter Chats



Powhatan FFA



What goes on at the Celebration of the Horse?

Celebration of the Horse is an event put on by the Powhatan County Farm Bureau to help support the Powhatan FFA and 4-H. This event features a horse show, silent auction, vendors, demonstrations and so much more. There is also a children's area, including pony rides, a livestock petting zoo, dunk tank, hayrides, face painting, arts and crafts and a corn hole tournament.

How did the event get started?

This event was started when the Powhatan County Farm Bureau discussed hosting an event to promote agricultural education through the youth. One of the four founders of the event suggested hosting a large horse show in Powhatan County and thus the Celebration of the Horse was born. Seeing their event grow, they hope to inspire other counties to do the same!

How are your members involved throughout the day?

Before the event the Powhatan Senior FFA officer team attended the majority of the planning meetings to help organize and plan the event, where they sought out sponsors and found items for the silent auction. The day of the event members helped with setting up the event, assisted with the silent auction, manned an FFA Booth, sold FFA products and helped run sponsors' booths.

What would you say to a chapter thinking about beginning an event like this?

Caitlin Reamy says, "Go for it! The whole process is a great learning experience for everyone involved. It takes a lot of hard work and drive, but if you're willing to buckle down it will all be worth it. Have fun, learn and connect with the people and organizations in your county.

Dakota Stroud says, "Have fun. It's all about raising funds to help primarily those who cannot afford to participate in your chapter events. It takes a lot of planning and dedication, but if you stay with it you will succeed."

James River FFA

The James River FFA chapter has several ways of bettering their community. Food for America and "Feed A Family" are two of their favorites.

During the Food for America Program, FFA members and Agriculture Education students created and led nine different stations to teach the elementary school visitors more about agriculture, healthy eating and staying active. Students participated in a hands-on activity at each station and constructed multiple projects to take home with them. They led stations on careers in agriculture, livestock and their by-products, dairy and the milk pasteurization process, and the importance of soil and horticulture. At these stations, second graders milked a Holstein dairy cow made of plywood, used an ice cream cone to plant a flower into soil, and they were even able to see and pet chickens and a baby lamb.

The "Feed A Family" campaign used $5 donations that were collected during the annual citrus fruit sale to purchase extra boxes of fresh fruit. Members then packaged mesh bags, donated by the River Brite Fruit Company, with fresh citrus oranges that were distributed to local families in need. The mesh bags included two juice oranges, two red navels, two tangerines, one grapefruit and four tangelos. One hundred and twenty bags were made and delivered to two local food pantries. Sixty "Feed A Family" bags were delivered to both the Springwood and Buchanan Food Pantries.