



NEW

Fall 2017

HORIZONS

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THE JOBS ISSUE

AG CAREERS ABOUND
FIND YOUR FIT!
AG EDUCATOR • WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN
FARMER • PLANT BREEDER • HYDROLOGIST
DRONE TECHNOLOGIST • MORE INSIDE



THIS YEAR WE'RE CELEBRATING BLUE JACKETS, GOLD STANDARDS.

\$1 MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

With over 4,000 jackets gifted to students of need since January 2014, this fall — with every purchase of an official jacket — \$1 will be contributed to the Give the Gift of Blue program. These dollars will buy jackets that will be gifted to members who would not otherwise be able to afford one. In addition, the National FFA Organization will donate a tie or scarf with every jacket, as well as cover the cost of shipping. Between what is donated to this program directly and the \$1 from each jacket sold, our goal is to gift a minimum of 2,000 jackets each year.

This year, we're celebrating "Blue Jackets, Gold Standards." Let's walk the walk and live up to those standards by ensuring every FFA member has the opportunity to experience the pride of wearing his or her blue. Those who've worn the jacket know it's more than just a shade of blue; it's a representation of who you are.

GIVE BACK. GIVE BLUE.



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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.



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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.



FIND YOUR FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE

Ag careers. It's a topic on the minds of many FFA members and parents. Maybe you're a high school student who wants to make sure you take the best classes for your future. Maybe you're trying to settle into the right college major. Or, maybe you're an alumni member considering a career change yourself. Regardless of your situation, agriculture has a variety and abundance of careers.

Careers in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields are poised for particular growth. Predictions indicate there will be more than 9 million STEM jobs by 2022. Yet, if we continue at today's pace, there won't be nearly enough graduates to fill these jobs. In "Which STEM Career Is Right For You?" (page 8), we use AgExplorer.FFA.org data to help you explore a variety of STEM jobs.

Similarly, the American Welding Society predicts a shortage of 400,000 workers by 2024 in that industry alone, and women can be a key component in filling that gap and changing the face of welding. "We Can Do It!" (page 25) discusses how high school STEM and agricultural education programs help interest girls specifically in pursuing trade careers.

In "The Future Belongs to Agriculture" (page 5), we consult with AgCareers.com to predict a list of the careers destined to gain – and retain – popularity in the next three years.

In addition to ag career exploration, you'll find articles about an FFA chapter's leading alternative energy program, outstanding agriculture educators, successful alumni members and more.

Enjoy and have a happy fall!

Justin Davey

Justin Davey
Editor, *FFA New Horizons*
ffanewhorizons@meredith.com



TO EASILY NAVIGATE
TO THE JOBS ARTICLES
THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE.
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
THE AG CAREERS FLAG.

AG
CAREERS

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THE FFA VISION

Students whose lives are impacted by FFA and agricultural education will achieve academic and personal growth, strengthen American agriculture and provide leadership to build healthy local communities, a strong nation and a sustainable world.

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.

THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION MISSION

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

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STATEMENT

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

Handy HANDBOOK

The 16th edition of the Official FFA Student Handbook is now available. The handbook features updated opening ceremonies, Official Dress guidelines, supervised agricultural experience descriptions, information on career and leadership development events, tips, resource connections and stimulating thoughts designed to engage readers. Keep a copy nearby as a trusted resource for your FFA career. The handbook and printed poster set is available for purchase at ShopFFA.org. Advisors: Additional free resources are available at FFA.org/student-handbook-advisors-guide.

**KEEP A COPY
NEARBY AS
A TRUSTED
RESOURCE
FOR YOUR
FFA CAREER.**



CALENDAR

July – November:

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT DOLLARS APPLICATION OPEN

Apply for a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by local AGCO, Chevy Trucks, Ford Trucks, John Deere and Ram Trucks dealers. Visit FFA.org/localengagement for more information.

Sept. 5:

SAE GRANT APPLICATION OPENS

Apply for a \$1,000 grant to start or to expand your SAE. Visit FFA.org/participate/grants-and-scholarships/sae-grants for information and to apply.

Sept. 8-9:

REGION FOUR (A) ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Registration is currently open for this RDC in Springfield, Ill. Visit FFA.org/gotordc for more information.

Sept. 20:

SYNGENTA VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Visit AgExplorer.com at 1 p.m. ET to learn more about how the company helps improve global food security. You can also view archived field trips on demand.

Sept. 21:

NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY

Celebrate school-based agricultural education and share the story of agricultural education's importance and effectiveness. Visit naae.org/teachag/ for event ideas from the National Teach Ag Campaign.

Sept. 22-23:

REGION FIVE (B) ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Registration is currently open for this RDC in Raymond, Miss. Visit FFA.org/gotordc for more information.

**READ ABOUT THE INSPIRING 2016
OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
TEACHER AWARD WINNERS [ON PAGE 16!](#)**

Oct. 25-28:

90TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO

Join tens of thousands of other attendees in Indianapolis to celebrate FFA, participate in competitions, receive world-class education and more. Registration is open. Visit FFA.org/convention for information, including how to watch live via RFD-TV.

THE *feed*

CSX GOES BEYOND ITS *Rails*

CSX FUNDS 10 \$4,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS PURSUING FOUR-YEAR DEGREES IN A VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL AREAS. HERE ARE THE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED FUNDS FOR THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS, STUDENTS - AND THANK YOU, CSX!

SYDNEY REED

Doddridge FFA
West Union, W.Va.
Agricultural Economics
West Virginia University

JONI THOMPSON

Monroe County FFA
Tompkinsville, Ky.
Agricultural Finance
University of Kentucky

EMILY CLEVELAND

Thurmond FFA
Johnston, S.C.
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Management
Clemson University

HANNAH BRUDI

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Stockton, Ill.
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Highland Community College

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Communications
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Management
Bainbridge State College

RYAN WEAVER

Clear Spring FFA
Big Pool, Md.
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& Equipment
*Pennsylvania Institute
of Technology*

HAILEY VIARS

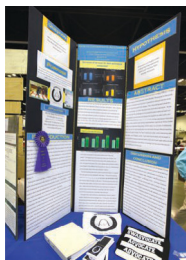
Loudon FFA
Loudon, Tenn.
Agricultural Communications
*University of Tennessee Institute
of Agriculture*

HOW TOMORROW PROVIDES

Whether it ends up in your cupboard today or your driveway tomorrow,
CSX moves the essentials of life every hour of every day.

HOW TOMORROW MOVES





THE FUTURE BELONGS *to*

AGRICULTURE

CHECK OUT OUR PREDICTIONS FOR THE TOP FIVE CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE IN 2020.

Advances in science and technology are keeping farmers and agriculture professionals on top of their game, and by 2020 there will be even higher demand for skilled individuals in agriculture than there is today. Here are our predicted top five careers in agriculture in 2020.

- 1 DRONE TECHNOLOGISTS.** Show farmers how to increase yields and reduce crop damage using sensors, robotics and images from the air.
- 2 HYDROLOGISTS.** Protect the environment and promote sustainability while helping supply the world with clean, safe water.
- 3 AGRICULTURE COMMUNICATORS.** Share the story of agriculture and engage the public to better understand it. The industry needs to advocate now more than ever.
- 4 FOOD SCIENTISTS.** Improve food products and create new ones using scientific principles that help maintain a wholesome food supply.
- 5 PRECISION AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGISTS.** Teach farmers how to work better, not harder, by using new technologies that increase crop yields and decrease inputs.

Erika Osmundson, director of marketing and communications for **AgCareers.com**, says while many people perceive agriculture as “old fashioned,” advancements in the use of technology have created crucial, innovative solutions in many aspects of agriculture.

“The increasing demand for agriculture to grow more food with less leads to significant opportunities in science and research to help us meet this demand while preserving our natural resources,” she says.

Also in high demand are research scientists, agronomists, veterinarians, salespeople, finance experts, information technologists, electricians and mechanics – just to name a few.

Visit **AgExplorer.FFA.org** for details on these careers and use the career finder assessment to discover which career matches your interests. Also see **page 8** for more on STEM careers.

Convention QUIZ:

Can you ace this by-the-numbers quiz about last year's National FFA Convention & Expo?

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. How many American FFA Degrees were awarded? | A. 530 |
| 2. How many downloads did the National FFA Convention & Expo app receive? | B. 3,780 |
| 3. How many members participated in the National Days of Service? | C. 13,499 |
| 4. What was the official convention and expo attendance? | D. 188 |
| 5. How many members participated in the National FFA Agriscience Fair? | E. 1,188 |
| 6. How many members qualified as national proficiency finalists? | F. 64,094 |

**FIND THE ANSWERS AT
FFANEWHORIZONS.ORG/CONVENTIONQUIZ**

**THE 90TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO WILL
BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT! FOR DETAILS,
VISIT FFA.ORG/CONVENTION.**

THE *feed*

JOHN DEERE *Farm Hacks*

1rying to get a job done, but you don't have the right tools? Or maybe you're looking for ideas to organize the odds and ends in your farm shop. Check out "John Deere Farm Hacks" on *Successful Farming* magazine's website, Agriculture.com. These short videos provide helpful tips for quick fixes – from using existing tools to make repairs in a pinch to employing common devices in uncommon ways to store tools, cords and straps. Visit Agriculture.com/quickfix to watch.

Photography: Jules_Kitano, iStockphoto.com

We see a world without hunger.
Are you in the picture?

With another 2 billion people to feed by the year 2050, the need for young people to enter agriculture-related fields is greater than ever. FFA members all over the country continue to make a pledge to help double food production. And we believe your generation can accomplish it. After all, as the longest-running sponsor of FFA, we've been putting our faith in the next generation for more than 70 years.



JOHN DEERE

#mission2050
JohnDeere.com/FFA

NATIONAL FFA OFFICER Q&A

THE 90TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, AND YOU'LL DELIVER SEVERAL FORMAL ADDRESSES THAT WEEK. WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR MEMORIZING YOUR LINES - FROM THE OPENING SCRIPT TO YOUR RETIRING ADDRESS AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN?

DeShawn Blanding



SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Whenever I have an idea, I quickly talk it out using a voice memo app and then write it in the way I would say it on stage. Writing in the way I speak helps with memorization. Once the entire script is complete, I read along with a recording of the script and then, piece by piece, try reciting without the paper.

Valerie Earley



CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

When I memorize scripts for speeches, banquets or anything in between, I write the script, record myself saying it and listen to it at least three times a day. This helps it to naturally sink in before I sit down and go through the script line by line. I memorize the first line and then add in the next, eventually saying the whole thing. It takes

time, but it is so worth the feeling of confidently stepping on stage with everything memorized.

David Townsend

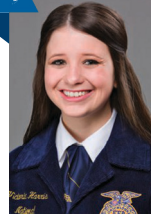


NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT

Really know the message behind what you are saying. That way, even if you mess up a word or two, you are still communicating the

same meaning. My favorite way to practice scripts or speeches, however, is to say them passionately while driving. I get to practice and other drivers get to laugh while trying to guess what must be happening in my car.

Victoria Harris



NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

I typically handwrite what I need to memorize. As a kinesthetic learner, I find that this helps

me because I'm able to engage that hands-on style. I also try to give myself plenty of time so I can memorize little parts at a time.

Ashley Willits



EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

One of the ways I memorize speeches is to take them one section at a time. I get one section down and then move on

to the next. I also remember that the important thing is to know my message by heart, not by head. Know the key message you want to share, but don't get hung up on every little word. Speak from your heart, and the words will come!

Trey Elizondo

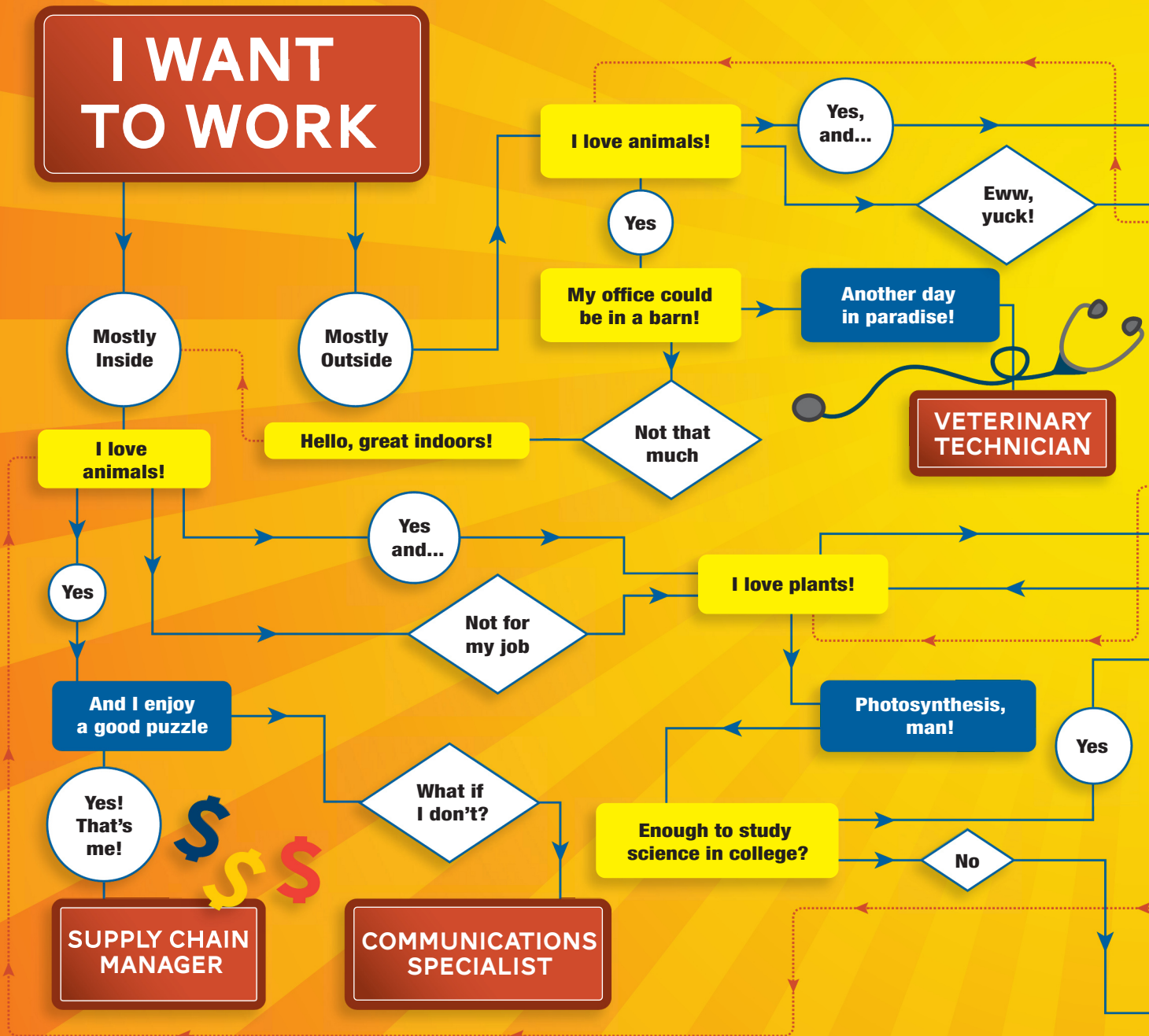


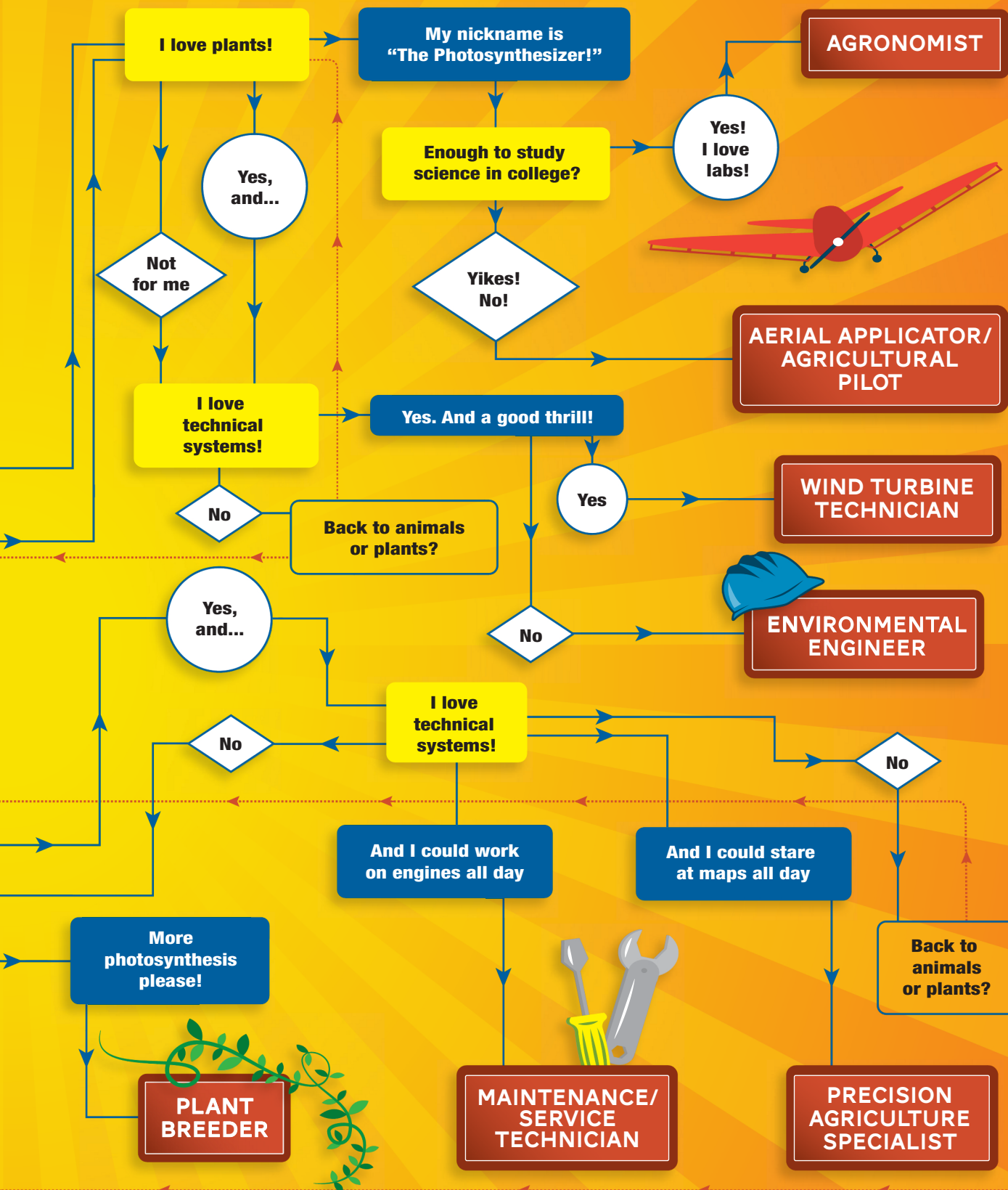
WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

I take two easy steps to memorize lines. First, I chunk everything up into small pieces because it is hard to memorize everything at once. Second, once everything is memorized, I practice in the mirror to see what it looks like in real life.

WHICH **STEM** CAREER IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

USE THIS FLOWCHART TO FOLLOW YOUR INTERESTS AND EXPLORE A FEW OF THE MANY AGRICULTURE-RELATED STEM OPPORTUNITIES. EACH HAS AN EXCELLENT FUTURE OUTLOOK.





Explore More!

For descriptions, recommended education, average annual salaries, and more for the STEM jobs listed above and for information about even more career opportunities in agriculture, visit AgExplorer.FFA.org. Also, watch this information come to life in our video at FFANewHorizons.org/STEMCareers.

Energy- Powered EDUCATION



Gabby Kendrick with
Dr. Garry Gibson.

**FOR WHITES CREEK FFA MEMBERS
IN NASHVILLE, AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION IS A RIDE FUELED BY
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY.**

STORY BY NICOLE WARD AND JULIE WOODARD

**ILLUSTRATION BY ROCCO BAVIERA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAIGE RUMORE**

With her blue-tinted hair pulled into a loose topknot and proudly wearing a school-mascot sweatshirt, FFA member Gabby Kendrick could be any teenager in any high school in any town in America.

Well, not quite.

That's because, at this moment, Kendrick has traded LOLs and emojis for words like hydrogen, nuclear energy, biodiesel and greenhouse gas emissions. She sounds more like a master's student than a teenager, but that's to be expected. As one of 38 FFA members enrolled in the award-winning Whites Creek Alternative Energy Academy in Nashville, Tenn., Kendrick is not alone in her passion for energy conversion.

"These kids are awesome," says Dr. Garry Gibson, Whites Creek FFA advisor. "We are a city school, so most of these kids don't have a farm background. But they love the program. They would bleed blue tomorrow. They love FFA."

The only program of its kind in the U.S., the Whites Creek FFA alternative energy program introduces high school students – most of whom have never considered agriculture – to the world of alternative energy. The four-year program prepares students for a future in this fast-growing, high-paying industry.

A RENEWABLE PLAYLAND

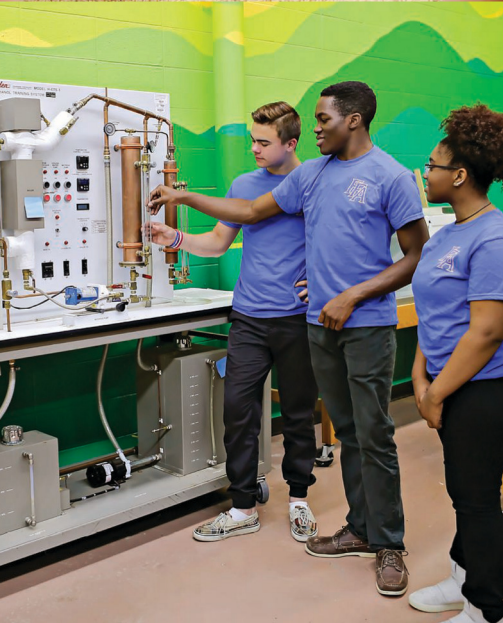
The program began when Dr. Gibson, a graduate of The Ohio State University with a doctorate in agricultural education and more than 25 years of experience under his belt, started teaching at Whites Creek High School in 2014. Students in the program study several energy sources including solar and wind energy,

Last fall, 16 Whites Creek FFA members journeyed across the U.S. and Canada to share their knowledge of alternative energy.





Top: Soybeans grown by students at a community garden will be converted into biodiesel. Bottom: Students demonstrate how they use an ethanol processor to make biodiesel.



ethanol and biodiesel production, geothermal, hydroelectric, nuclear and fossil fuels. Each student enrolls in four main classes: agriscience, introduction to alternative energy, greenhouse management and advanced

alternative energy production.

Adding to the program's uniqueness, students grow soybeans to produce their own biodiesel, which they use to power everything from cars and trucks to tractors and go-karts. The city of Nashville allows the program to use an 8-acre community garden plot near the school.

On 4 acres, students grow vegetables. In the last two years, the chapter has grown over 12,000 pounds of produce that is given to those in need in the community. The other 4 acres are used to grow varieties of soybeans. A local farmer harvests the soybeans, which are then taken into the school's lab, pressed into oil and processed into biodiesel.

"This is how we get back to agriculture. We make the fuels from renewable plant sources that farmers can grow," Dr. Gibson says.

What's learned in the classroom is then put into action next door in the program's laboratory, which is strewn with an assortment of pieces and parts: biodiesel-, solar- and ethanol-powered

go-karts, fuel pumps, processors, portable solar panels, auto motors, tabletop canisters with protruding tubes, and a stripped-down, economy-size red car that actually runs on renewable hydrogen. This renewable playland is dominated by a bold sign high overhead reminding students to "Think Safety."

"Originally, before I joined the program, I heard they had go-karts, and I was real excited," says junior and Chapter Vice President Allen England. "Not only did I get to build go-karts, but I also learned more about alternative energy and life lessons. I feel like we're making changes. It's great."

ON THE ROAD

Whites Creek is all about sharing the knowledge of alternative energy with others.

Every October, the chapter exhibits an alternative energy education booth at the state and national FFA conventions, where the members teach more than 60,000 students about alternative energy and feature their hydrogen tractor.

Last year, the chapter notched a first-place win in the national Ford STEM Community Challenge. Powered by its \$10,000 winnings and the chapter's F-250 truck fueled with biodiesel from the chapter's soybeans, a small group of students took their mobile lab, which is housed in a 24-foot enclosed trailer, on the road. The more than 2,000-mile, nine-day trip across the United States

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY CAREERS

Alternative energy is one of the fastest-growing industries – and one that will shape the future. Are you interested? Here are a few careers to consider. You can learn more about these and other careers at AgExplorer.FFA.org.

ENERGY SALES SPECIALIST

Generates fuel sales in an assigned territory through a variety of methods, including target marketing, competitive analysis and providing value-added energy products, services and recommendations.

BIOREFINING MANAGER

Converts biomass into fuels, power and chemicals to create more sustainable solutions to fuel our planet.

CLIMATE CHANGE ANALYST

Looks at research and data to predict future climate and recommend environmental practices.

WIND SUBSTATION TECHNICIAN

Performs installation, maintenance and testing of wind-energy collection sites where the power from the turbines is gathered.

ETHANOL ENGINEER

Helps an ethanol plant with cost-saving projects, such as energy reclaim/reduction, yield optimization and chemical-usage reduction.

WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN

Installs, maintains and repairs wind turbines.

and Canada brought FFA members face-to-face with students in 17 high schools, colleges and universities.

"It brought us as close as a family," Dr. Gibson says. "We are a close-knit group here, particularly the kids in FFA. It's awesome when we take these kids out and they start talking about all this stuff and they have this lab. It just blows everyone's minds."

A highlight of the trip included a visit to the University of Florida, where FFA members taught two different classes of future agriculture teachers about alternative energy. The thought of high school students teaching teachers was a little scary at first.

"Is this really happening?" laughs sophomore and Chapter President Rachel Rhea. "We did awesome, though. The teachers were intrigued by what we had to say and were picking our brains for information. They were very engaged."

For Dr. Gibson, it's part of the plan.

"Having the kids teach raises the education to a higher level," he says. "It's way out of the box. As a teacher, they have to learn it and learn it well. The students do an excellent job

when they get out there. Our students become the teachers."

TRUE SUCCESS

In 2017, the chapter again won the national Ford STEM Community Challenge, but this time it received \$20,000. The chapter will use the money to build a 40-panel solar farm, convert a tractor and truck to run on hydrogen, and build a hydrogen reactor to make its own hydrogen as an alternative energy fuel. In June, the six chapter officers drove the mobile lab to Ford's corporate headquarters in Michigan to discuss the chapter's success with alternative fuels with Ford executives from around the world.

In addition, the program has won many state and national awards and garnered recognition. *Successful Farming* magazine recognized Whites Creek as one of three high schools in the United States that is shifting its focus with the changing landscape of agriculture. It also won the Governor's Environmental Award in 2015.

Winning awards aside, the true success of the program is measured by the lives transformed. Four students



McKenzie Broyles, a junior, fills 5-gallon containers with biodiesel processed in the school lab.

graduated from the program in 2016; all four are now at Tennessee State University majoring in agriculture. College freshman Shakarah Nelson is one of those graduates new to the world of alternative energy and FFA, thanks to Dr. Gibson.

"Dr. Gibson – we call him our dad. He saw potential in all of us that no one else could," Nelson says.

"When I see all of my kids doing these successful things," Dr. Gibson reflects, "sometimes I just stop and say, 'Thank you, God, for making me a teacher.'"



©2017 Farmland

Table TO FARM

Setting the table for tomorrow's farms.

Farmland has proudly partnered with FFA to ensure that young agricultural leaders get the support they need when facing the farming challenges of tomorrow. Find out how you can join us in supporting this important organization at

www.farmlandfoods.com



THE THIRD ANNUAL FFA TEE



Featured corduroy texture

TEE17 | \$12.50

ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION!

ORDER YOURS TODAY AT ShopFFA.org

In celebration of our revered history and the countdown to our 100-year anniversary in 2028, FFA has created the Blue Jackets Gold Standards 2017-2018 Annual Tee.

It is a shout-out to the colors that define us and the heritage that makes us FFA. Wear it with pride!

CELEBRATE BLUE JACKETS, GOLD STANDARDS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!



3PACK | \$30.00

HOOD17 | \$29.50

02136 | \$24.50

02064 | \$39.50

PINK *Out!*

The Yelm FFA shows what can happen when a chapter works together to serve its community.

What happens when your FFA chapter is tasked with raising breast cancer awareness? If you're a member of the Yelm FFA Chapter in Washington state, you rise to the occasion in a big, pink way.

The chapter was given a week to plan and distribute materials for a Pink Out! breast cancer awareness football game in October 2015. Thanks to its efforts, approximately 368 Yelm High School (YHS) students received pink face paint, hair dye and spirit materials as they entered the stadium, which created an impressive and impactful sea of pink.

"We told our FFA members that the YHS administration would love for a student-led organization to do something different for breast cancer awareness – something that wasn't just our student athletes wearing pink – and our members really embraced that idea," says Hillary Hull, a Yelm FFA advisor.

Hull says FFA members promoted their plans during the week leading up to the football game, and the chapter received donations and obtained sponsors to make the ideas a reality.

The chapter was rewarded for the hard work. In addition to raising breast cancer awareness, it gained six new members inspired to join the organization after attending the football game.

Another bonus? Due in large part to the success with Pink Out!, the Yelm FFA was named the 2016 National Model of Excellence Chapter Award winner at the 89th National FFA

Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

"We applied for the award at the state level and won. We were one of 10 chapters in the running for the award at the convention," says Matt Mounts, a Yelm FFA advisor of nearly 20 years. "When it was announced that the Yelm FFA won the National Model of Excellence Chapter Award, the excitement was through the roof."

MAKE YOUR CHAPTER EXEMPLARY

Although there's no specific formula to ensure success, there are several ways FFA chapters can grow their reach and stand out.

For example, Hull says it's important for chapters to be member-driven rather than advisor-driven. She points out that exemplary chapters typically think outside the box when it comes to planning events.

In addition, Mounts suggests that chapter advisors work to ensure their chapter activities fill community needs and engage community members.

"The success of our FFA chapter is not just due to the members and advisors," Mounts says. "It's also due to the school district and the community coming together to make our initiatives successful. You can put on the best-planned activities and have the best intentions, but if you don't have people who are willing to participate, you're not going to be successful."

– By Jessica Walker Boehm

The National Chapter Award program is sponsored by John Deere.

The chapter was given a week to plan and distribute materials for a Pink Out! breast cancer awareness football game in October 2015.

BEST in CLASS

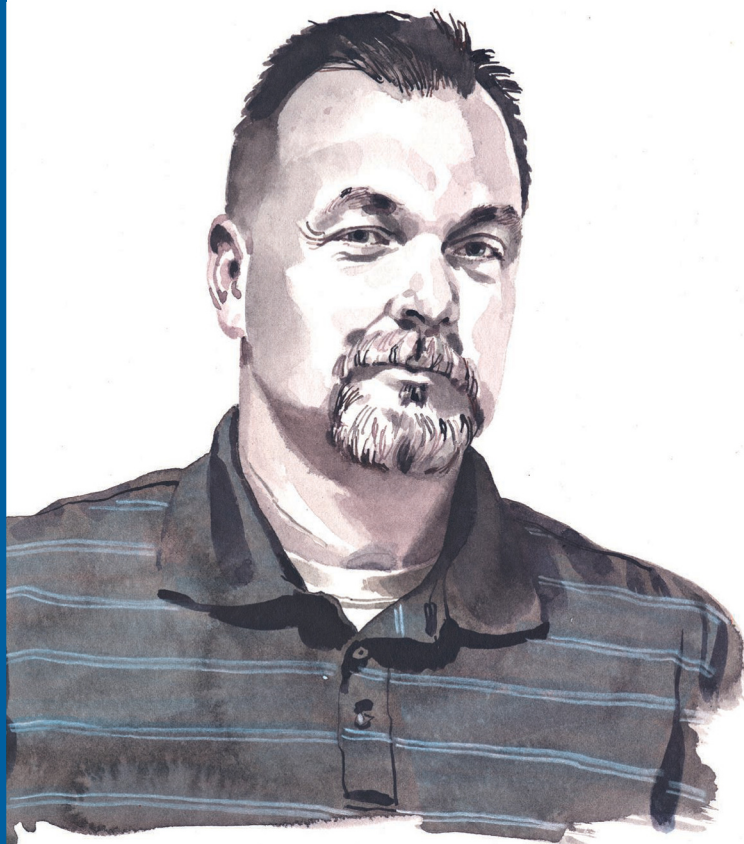
The National Association of Agricultural Educators presents six passionate educators with the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award.

By Jodi Helmer

For agriculture educators, winning the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award from the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) is akin to a movie star winning an Oscar. The awards are given to teachers who are at the pinnacle of their profession.

The NAAE honored the following teachers at the 89th National Convention & Expo for their stellar combination of passion for agricultural education and creative classroom lessons that excite students about the future of agriculture.

Illustrations by Matt Cook



JACOB LARISON

The agricultural education program and FFA chapter at Riverton High School in Kansas were almost defunct when Jacob Larison joined the faculty in 2001, but he was committed to reviving them.

Ninety-five students are enrolled in agricultural education at the school today – the highest enrollment in school history – and the FFA chapter has earned multiple awards. Rather than focusing on accolades, Larison says, “We celebrate the small successes in the classroom and quality participation over awards.”

In a high-tech world, Larison takes an analog approach to teaching agriculture, using tools like card games to teach livestock reproductive systems.

“I try to create hands-on opportunities where they don’t naturally exist,” he explains. “I have to adapt the curriculum to the kids. What worked 15 years ago doesn’t necessarily work now, so I’m always changing things up.”



ELLEN DOESE

After graduating from college in 1983, Ellen Doese accepted a job at Wapsie Valley High School in Fairbank, Iowa, with plans to teach agriculture until the farm crisis ended and then to transition into a career in public relations. Once the former Iowa state FFA officer got into the classroom, she was hooked.

“I really enjoy watching the students grow and develop life skills they’ll need no matter what they do,” she says.

Thirty-four years later, Doese still teaches agriculture at Wapsie Valley High School, and she still has the same goal for her students. “I want all students – regardless of whether they go on to careers as surgeons or hairdressers or farmers – to understand the value of agriculture in the world, in this country and in our community,” she says.



TOM ANDRES

Tom Andres spent 17 years teaching high school science using the same real-world, project-based learning experiences that agriculture educators were using with their students. Recognizing the overlaps between science and agricultural education, Andres got recertified and took over those ag classes (including the role of FFA advisor) at Big Sky High School in Missoula, Mont., in 2008.

Andres feels compelled to teach the students in the urban school district about agriculture.

“These are city kids, not farm kids, and they need to be connected to the source of their food,” he says.

The farm at Big Sky High School is the largest pork producer in the county, and the agriculture program is so popular that the school needs three full-time and one part-time teacher to meet the demands of 330 students. In 2018, the school will open a state-inspected meat-processing plant.

“Students will follow the process from conception to the dinner table,” Andres says. “The administrators call the ag program the jewel of the school.”



NELSON McCracken

On the bus ride home from his first FFA camp, Nelson McCracken asked his teacher what it would take to pursue a career in agricultural education.

"I was the first one on either side of the family to go to college, and my ag teachers helped guide me through the process," recalls McCracken.

After graduating from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1992, McCracken accepted the position he set his sights on as a high school FFA member.

As the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Bagley Middle School and North Murray High School in Chatsworth, Ga., McCracken appreciates the lessons the curriculum teaches students.

"Thanks to ag ed, we're graduating well-rounded students who can set goals, make decisions, think on their feet and act with honesty and integrity," he says.



SHERISA NAILOR

Sherisa Nailor was hooked on agricultural education after taking classes as a high school freshman. Nailor was active in FFA throughout high school and even served as a Pennsylvania state FFA vice president and national FFA officer candidate. When she started teaching agriculture at Big Spring High School in Newville, Pa., in 2006, she wanted to pass that same enthusiasm on to her students.

"When kids get to use their hands and their minds together, the lessons become exciting to them," Nailor says.

In addition to participating in supervised agricultural experiences, which range from raising livestock to working at agritourism attractions, students can also earn college credit, thanks to partnerships with local colleges that offer dual-enrollment classes.

When students graduate, Nailor says, "Thousands of our community members will know what it means to work in agriculture and how important it is in their daily lives."



WES YORK

When Wes York accepted a position as one of the agriculture teachers and FFA advisors at Caldwell County High School in Princeton, Ky., he knew the expectations were high. That's because York took over for his retiring ag ed teacher – a teacher he credits for his passion for agriculture.

"It was intimidating. But at the same time, it felt like where I was meant to be," he recalls.

It's been 20 years since York accepted the position, and he still builds his curriculum around the FFA motto – Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve – that he first learned in the classroom. This hands-on approach, York believes, ensures his students are engaged.

"We can sit in the classroom and talk about small-engine repair for weeks, but that doesn't make students good mechanics," he says. "For the lessons to mean something, we have to learn and then go out and do."

The Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award is sponsored by Caterpillar Inc. and Tractor Supply Company.

IS AG ED RIGHT FOR YOU?

Agriculture educators cultivate the next generation of farmers, environmentalists and informed consumers. Check out the following highlights to see if teaching might be a good career for you. Visit [AgExplorer](#), [AgExplorer.org](#), or [AgExplorer.com](#) for even more details. Here's adition what the job entails:

- Generally requires a combination of skills such as science, math, communication and leadership, as well as a passion for agriculture and teaching.
- Typically works in middle and high school classrooms, planning lessons, facilitating discussions and developing hands-on activities that give students the skills and knowledge about agriculture.
- Possibly oversees SAEs and may advise FFA chapters.

Average salary for a full-time agriculture teacher is \$40,132, according to [AgCareers.com](#). The future job outlook for agriculture educators is excellent, thanks to a growing interest in agriculture and an increasing demand for fresh, local food.

LET'S CELEBRATE NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY!

On Thursday, Sept. 21, the National Association of Agricultural Educators will host a live webcast from 1 - 3 p.m. EDT to honor the positive impact agriculture teachers make in and out of their classrooms, and to encourage others to pursue careers in agricultural education. Check out [NAAE.org/teachag](#) for more information.

**A BOND ESTABLISHED
IN FFA HELPED THESE
ALUMNI CREATE
A THRIVING FARM
OPERATION.**

HARVEST THE BENEFITS

STORY BY JESSICA WALKER BOEHM • PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF NOBLE



Though John and Alicia Boelts (left) and Jenny and Kent Inglett were classmates for several years, their personal and professional relationships began to take shape through Kofa FFA in Yuma, Ariz.

It's no secret that FFA involvement often enhances members' high school experiences. But for some, it also significantly impacts the course of their lives.

That's the case for married couples John and Alicia Boelts and Kent and Jenny Inglett, who were part of the Kofa FFA Chapter in Yuma, Ariz., in the 1990s. The couples now own Desert Premium Farms together. Although they were classmates for several years, it was through FFA that their personal and professional relationships truly began to take shape – and they're still reaping the benefits more than two decades later.

"I owe a lot to FFA, and I think we all feel that way," John says. "We really believe in the

foundational principles of the organization, and we think our participation in it gave us a big leg up in life and in our business."

THE PATH TO PRODUCE

Both the Boelts and the Ingletts say the lessons they learned as members of the Kofa FFA still resonate today. Jim Armbruster, who was the chapter's advisor, taught members about the business and financial aspects that go along with farming, and John says those lessons have come in handy over the years.

"One of the most important things I took away from FFA was the realization that, although there's a romantic side to farming – there is something special about growing crops and producing food, fiber and feed from the



“WE’RE VERY PROUD OF WHAT WE DO. WE LOVE FARMING, AND WE’RE GLAD WE CAN PROVIDE SOMETHING USEFUL TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.” - JOHN BOELTS

soil – at the end of the day, you have to make a profit,” John says. “We were taught that there’s a business side to farming, and we learned to keep good, detailed records, which is something we have implemented with Desert Premium Farms from day one. We also learned the importance of having plans in place so we could face whatever came our way.”

Alicia echoes John’s sentiments and recalls how she gained valuable experience by competing in a business-focused career development event (CDE) during her FFA career.

“When we started Desert Premium Farms, I felt so grateful that we learned about the business side of agriculture in FFA and in the classroom,” says Alicia, who helps manage the farm’s finances. “I liked math, so I decided to focus on

agricultural business for my second CDE, and I definitely learned a lot. It actually helps me do the accounting work I do today for the farm.”

The Boelts and Ingletts also obtained leadership skills and learned to network while participating in FFA. Both John and Kent served as president of the Kofa FFA Chapter during their respective junior and senior years, and Alicia was elected district state FFA vice president after graduating from high school in 1998. In addition, Jenny was an active FFA member who competed in livestock shows each year.

“The times when we had to learn how to interact with potential business associates while in FFA were

important,” John says. “We learned to meet others’ expectations and to be responsive to the customers we worked with, as well as those we hoped to work with.”

Kent remembers participating in FFA competitions, including Creed Speaking, as well as learning about the technical and mechanical aspects of



John and Kent manage the farm together. Alicia is responsible for the detailed farm accounting and Jenny, who also has a full-time, off-farm job, helps as needed. Both families have three children.

production farming. He says the skills he picked up in FFA helped him get a job as a 15-year-old high school

student, and those skills are still proving valuable today.

"I learned so much in FFA, and I know I wouldn't be where I am today without it," Kent says. "FFA was a vital, instrumental part of my education."

FROM YUMA, WITH LOVE

Established in 2010, Desert Premium Farms is an approximately 2,000-acre farm in Yuma that primarily grows iceberg and romaine lettuce, which are planted in the fall and harvested in the winter. In fact, 80 percent to 90 percent of all leafy greens consumed by Americans during the winter come from the Yuma area, and Desert Premium Farms is a big contributor. The families also grow spring and summer crops, such as durum wheat, cotton and cantaloupe, and

they've recently expanded their farm to include organic vegetables and organic rotational crops.

Although the operation started out small with just 100 acres of seed crops, it didn't stay that way for long, and John and Alicia soon sought help from their lifelong friends.

"We dove right in," John says. "Our business kept expanding, and after about a year, we decided to partner up with Kent and Jenny. We also ended up partnering with Jenny's parents during a period of major growth, and they're currently our landlords. Working with them helped us make it over some of the hurdles we encountered early on."

While John and Kent manage all aspects of the farm together, Alicia is responsible for the detailed farm accounting. Jenny, who also has a full-time, off-farm job as an administrator at a local hospital, helps as needed, along with their base of approximately 18 employees. During its busy season in the cooler months, Desert Premium Farms employs around 40 people to meet the needs of customers. Currently, the farm's products are available in restaurants and grocery

stores across the U.S. and Canada.

"We're very proud of what we do," John says. "We love farming, and we're glad we can provide something useful to millions of people."

With the couples managing a booming farm operation and caring for their children (both the Boelts and Ingletts have three children), their free time is limited, but they make time to give back to the ag community and to promote the industry.

John and Kent serve on the Yuma County Farm Bureau board of directors and take on leadership roles with the organization when possible. Additionally, John has served as the vice president for the Arizona Farm Bureau for more than three years, and the Boelts recently joined the National FFA Alumni Association, to which they are looking forward to contributing. After all, John says, FFA has done so much for them.

"It's amazing the things you can end up doing with people you build relationships with early in life," John says. "When you find compatibility with the right people, you are able to accomplish incredible things." •

90TH NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO WEDNESDAY CONCERT

FEATURING

RASCAL FLATTS

OCT. 25, DOORS: 7:30 P.M. EDT

PRESENTED BY

Culver's



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BLUE FOR LIFE!



Did you know?

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After a century, your one-time dues investment will help provide leadership training for over

60,000

FFA MEMBERS

Join today or upgrade your membership and become an FFA Alumni Life Member!

FFA.org/alumni or alumni@ffa.org

WE CAN *Do it!*

How women can meet growing demands in the American welding industry.

In the 1940s, Rosie the Riveter became an American cultural icon, encouraging women to join the workforce in previously male-dominated careers. Working in munitions factories and shipyards, the power of women in the economy was apparent. More than 70 years later, there is a worker shortage in another previously male-dominated career. Now, America needs Whitney the Welder.

Although women make up a small percentage of the welding workforce, there is a high demand for skilled workers. The American Welding Society predicts a shortage of 400,000 workers by 2024, and women can be a key component in filling that gap and changing the face of the welding industry.

"I feel like there are many students who think their future careers have to be a sedentary job, and there isn't a whole lot of diversity and action there," says Sue Kuhl, campus president of Tulsa Welding School. "When you pursue a career in welding, you get to play with fire. You get to make a spark. You get to travel. And, you have a skill that cannot be outsourced."

In fact, the American economy is seeing sharp growth in careers in the

areas of science, technology, engineering and manufacturing. This results in increased demand for workers in these fields. Welding training programs, such as Tulsa Welding School, often host large manufacturing companies on campus to interview students and to offer employment for students immediately upon graduation.

"We have a young lady on campus who wasn't really sure about her future in welding when she started her coursework," Kuhl says. "Physically, she is very tiny and tends to be very girly, which is not your stereotypical welder. Currently, she is halfway through her program and loves it. She can provide for herself and her family after graduation. She just had to realize that all she needed to do was give it a shot."

The National FFA Organization provides

many opportunities for women – and men – interested in welding to "give it a shot," as well. Many ag classes offer welding instruction, and the My Journey platform on **FFA.org** has extensive information and resources for learning more about future careers and training programs in the welding industry. For example, the average annual salary for a full-time welder is a comfortable \$42,267, according to data from **AgCareers.com**. FFA members can also gain hands-on experience by participating in the agricultural technology and mechanical systems career development event with a team. Members can also gain first-hand knowledge by seeking employment or an apprenticeship in welding, and participating in the agricultural mechanics repair and maintenance proficiency awards program.

To learn more about scholarships and career opportunities at Tulsa Welding School, visit **weldingschool.com**.

– By Bev Flatt



“WHEN YOU PURSUE A CAREER IN WELDING, YOU GET TO PLAY WITH FIRE. YOU GET TO MAKE A SPARK. YOU GET TO TRAVEL. AND, YOU HAVE A SKILL THAT CANNOT BE OUTSOURCED.”

– SUE KUHL

FFA *in the* USA

THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION HAS STATE ASSOCIATIONS AND LOCAL CHAPTERS IN ALL 50 STATES, PUERTO RICO AND THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT AND EXCITING THINGS HAPPENING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. — Compiled by Julie Woodard

ALABAMA

Eufaula FFA harvests sugarcane every year to make homemade sugarcane syrup. Sweet!

ALASKA

The Alaska FFA Association partners with the Alaska Farm Bureau to host an Alaskan Grown meal at the state capitol in Juneau. FFA members also participate in two days of legislative visits.

ARIZONA

The Arizona FFA Association gave out a record number of scholarships this year.

ARKANSAS

Lamar FFA collaborated with the local police department to raise awareness of seat belt safety. FFA members checked drivers for seat belts as they exited the school parking lot.

CALIFORNIA

San Luis Obispo FFA joined its local Salvation Army to hold a produce drive and distribute baskets of fresh produce to families in need.

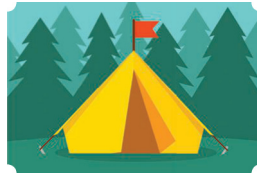
COLORADO

To increase the understanding of the benefits of locally sourced food, Bennett FFA hosted a Taste of Agriculture Day for the school and community.

CONNECTICUT

Wamogo High School juniors and seniors made different blends of biodiesel in

an electricity and alternative energy class. The students then successfully ran one of the school's tractors on 100 percent biodiesel.



DELAWARE

The Delaware FFA Association is creating a camp for all state FFA members that will take place in spring 2018.

FLORIDA

Tenoroc FFA taught local elementary students about agriculture in their daily lives and planted a hydroponics system that will provide food to families in the area.

GEORGIA

Eastside FFA members hosted a poverty dinner to raise money for students of low-income families during the summer months.

HAWAII

Keaau FFA members hosted classes on how to prepare healthy traditional Hawaiian food. They also constructed planter boxes to grow healthy foods.

IDAHO

Three times a year, Idaho officers organize state-wide career success tours that cover agricultural mechanics, and plant and animal sciences for junior and senior members.

ILLINOIS

Each fall, state officers lead STAR conferences in five locations across the state. The conferences are used to train section officers on their activities and responsibilities for the year.

INDIANA

Prairie Heights FFA organization and hosts the community-wide Heritage Days. More than 3,000 people make crafts, cook food over open fires, cut logs and attend antique tractor pulls on the chapter's school farm.

IOWA

This summer, state officers offered blue lemonade to bikers participating in the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI).

KANSAS

Riverside FFA designed, created and distributed emergency preparedness packs to each classroom in its school to ensure students and teachers are prepared for an emergency.

KENTUCKY

More than 1,500 members attended the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center this summer, participating in leadership and team-building activities, networking and planning chapter activities for the new school year.

LOUISIANA

Manghan FFA launched a school recycling program and placed bins in every classroom.

MAINE

Maine FFA recently chartered a state FFA Alumni affiliate to engage students locally and to help guide them down a path to success.

MARYLAND

Members supported Operation Gratitude by making paracord bracelets, writing thank-you letters to the troops and collecting stuffed toys for military members to share with children.

MASSACHUSETTS

Members participated in a Grow Together service project during state convention to increase awareness of locally grown food. They assembled 500 handmade bags filled with seeds, soil and growing instructions, and then they distributed the bags statewide.

MICHIGAN

Munsell's Poultry Processing hosts the Michigan FFA Annual Broiler Contest. Last year, 750 members and chapters participated in the contest.

MINNESOTA

FFA members welcomed nearly two million state fairgoers to the CHS Miracle of Birth Center to experience livestock births firsthand and to learn about animal care on the farm.

MISSISSIPPI

Pine Grove FFA constructed a footbridge and picnic tables to be placed in a local memorial park.

MISSOURI

Missouri FFA Association members traveled to Sedalia to exhibit their livestock and FFA projects at the annual Missouri State Fair. In total, there were 2,900 exhibitors with over 6,900 exhibits.

MONTANA

Members advocated for agriculture and FFA at the Montana Ag Summit. Local farmers and ranchers, industry professionals and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue attended the two-day event.

NEBRASKA

After speaking with the local crisis center, Blue Hill FFA collected supplies to provide domestic abuse/emergency care packages and clothes to those in need.

NEVADA

Community members donated leashes, feed and other items as part of a pet-supply drive held by Capitol FFA. Members then donated the items to local animal shelters and nonprofit organizations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Granite State Association is holding a 5K for FFA cross-country race in late October to support members across the state.

NEW JERSEY

In October, members will attend a three-part Leadership, Education and Assessment Division (LEAD) Conference that will serve chapter officers, first-year members and active members.

NEW MEXICO

Mayfield FFA members worked with their school's special-needs classroom to plant a garden that the class can use throughout the year.

NEW YORK

In August, members hit the road and toured colleges on the annual inTENse Conference. Students learned about college admissions and a variety of career options through hands-on experiences.

NORTH CAROLINA

Southwestern Randolph Middle FFA members created and distributed thoughtful handwritten cards to elderly people in their community through a local service club.

NORTH DAKOTA

Maddock FFA hosted a statewide chapter officer retreat. Officers from across the state worked on team building and goal setting for the upcoming year.

OHIO

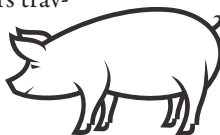
To learn more about the array of agricultural careers and to enhance employment skills, members worked with state officers and agriscience interns at an Ag Careers Camp.

OKLAHOMA

Congratulations to Purcell FFA for winning a brand-new Ford truck that was used as a state incentive to complete the National 3-Star Chapter Awards application.

OREGON

In June, Santiam Christian FFA participated in a Pass the Pig fundraising event. Members traveled around their community with a pig, visiting chapter supporters. This event provides the public with a hands-on experience and a unique photo opportunity.



PENNSYLVANIA

In October, more than 400 students and teachers will attend a Fall Leadership Conference. First-year members will learn about the opportunities waiting for them, while chapter officers will learn how to serve their members.

PUERTO RICO

State officers recently spent a day showcasing FFA at the Sugarcane Festival, which celebrates cane harvesting and the important role it plays in the island's economic stability.

RHODE ISLAND

Newly elected state officers attended Blast Off training, NLC SO and SPC. They also participated in Washington County Fair contests and activities.

SOUTH CAROLINA

FFA members from across the state gathered at the state capitol and donated over 300 flats of plants to beautify the grounds.

TENNESSEE

The Fayetteville City FFA renovated a local nursing home's courtyard, and residents can now enjoy the beautiful, safe outdoor space.

TEXAS

Hundreds of awards, thousands of state FFA degrees and more than \$2 million in scholarships were awarded during the 89th Texas FFA Convention in July.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

As part of National Agriculture Week, members participated in Virgin Islands-Grown for Virgin Islands Kids Week, with farm tours, a youth ag symposium, a career day and more.

UTAH

Riverton FFA members created blankets for young refugee students in their district.

VERMONT

The Randolph Technical Center FFA split a hardwood log and donated the

90

SOUTH DAKOTA
2017 has been
a big year
for South
Dakota FFA – it
officially has
90 chapters!

smaller logs to community members in need of firewood to heat their homes.

VIRGINIA

More than 150 Clarke County FFA members built a facility to raise and assist with farrowing and processing piglets. Students also vaccinate and bottle-raise sheep and cattle on a nearby farm.

WASHINGTON

Omak members taught fifth-grade students about social media safety, including being careful about who you allow to "follow" you.

WEST VIRGINIA

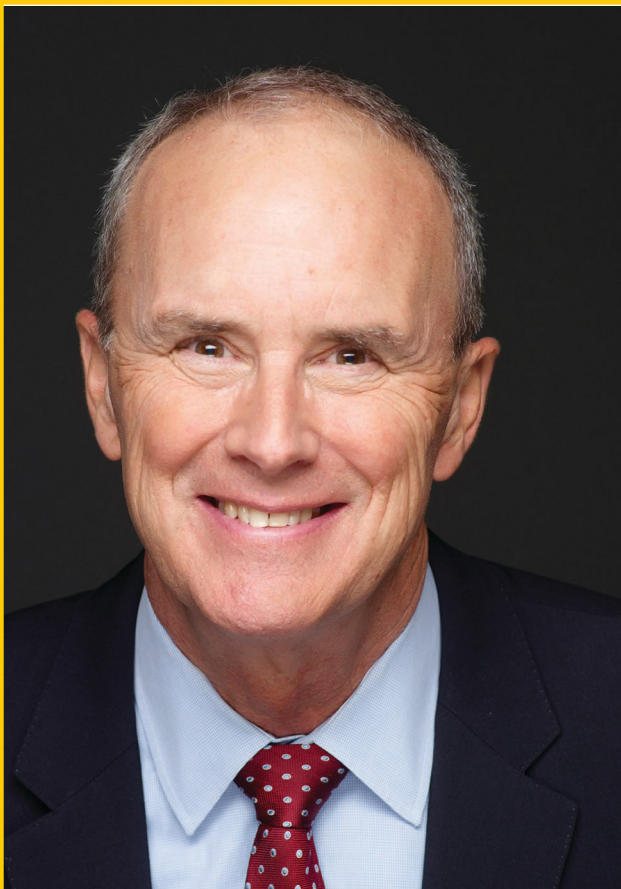
The state association and various partners will conduct an agricultural app and invention design contest for students interested in creating the latest agricultural innovations.

WISCONSIN

In September, state officers will host 10 workshops across the state for more than 2,000 members and tour 20 agricultural businesses.

WYOMING

Members across the state will unite Sept. 22-24 to better their communities during the Wyoming FFA's Annual Day of Service.



On the RECORD

Chris JOHNS

Award-winning National Geographic photojournalist Chris Johns says FFA gave him the life skills and leadership training for career success.

AGE: 65

LOCATION: South-central Nevada

CHAPTER: Former member,
Crater High School FFA, Central Point, Ore.

HOMETOWN: Medford, Ore.

NH: WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER OF YOUR FFA EXPERIENCE?

CJ: I grew up in the Rogue River Valley of Oregon on a small farm. I joined FFA and really liked the ag mechanics classes, learning how to build and fix things. I particularly liked metalworking and animal husbandry.

And I really liked the leadership aspect of FFA. I was elected Oregon FFA president and visited every FFA chapter in the state. It was an incredible learning experience in how to interact with people.

NH: WHEN DID YOU DISCOVER YOUR PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY?

CJ: That happened at Oregon State University. I was going to become a veterinarian, or maybe an ag teacher, but along the way I took a journalism class and really liked it. Then an FFA

friend of mine, Dennis Dimick, got me interested in photography. I was hooked.

My dad asked if I was still thinking of becoming a veterinarian, and I told him that I had decided to be a photojournalist. He just said, "Well, be a good one."

NH: HOW DID THE FFA EXPERIENCE SERVE YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

CJ: I can truthfully say that nothing has so profoundly impacted me as to who I am or how I make a living as FFA. Those shop classes gave me the skills to repair a broken turbo-charger on a diesel engine in the middle of an African desert. The leadership training enables me to connect with all kinds of people – rich or poor, conservative or liberal, all ethnic backgrounds – all over the world.

NH: HAS AGRICULTURE STAYED WITH YOU?

CJ: Of course, it never leaves you. For example, when I was editor in chief of *National Geographic* magazine, we did a series of articles about what it would mean to have seven billion people on Earth and what it would take to feed nine billion by 2050.

NH: WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR FFA MEMBERS?

CJ: Nurture your curiosity. Be a lifelong learner.

Strive for excellence in whatever you do. My dad told me to "be a good one." That's still good advice.

And one other thing: Always do good work for humanity.

– By Gene Johnston

“MY DAD ASKED IF I WAS STILL THINKING OF BECOMING A VETERINARIAN, AND I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD DECIDED TO BE A PHOTOJOURNALIST. HE JUST SAID, ‘WELL, BE A GOOD ONE.’”



Ag Angle

THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN DURING A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC STORY I WAS DOING ABOUT HIGHWAY 93 IN NEVADA. I was living on the ranch with Cheth Wallin, pictured, and other ranch hands. Cheth and I are riding in the back of an old pickup truck after gathering cattle in the late afternoon. As you can see, the cattle dog in the truck cab has the best seat. – Chris Johns

✿ **SHARE YOUR AG ANGLE WITH US!** It's as simple as completing the submission form at FFANewHorizons.org/submit-your-story/. The editors will review all entries and publish one in each issue of *FFA New Horizons*. All material submitted becomes the property of the National FFA Organization. If your idea is used, you give FFA the right to use it in any manner.

AG EXPLORER

Find *your* Future in Agriculture



What an exciting time to be engaged in agriculture! The diverse number of agricultural careers available today is unbelievable. AgExplorer, a website to help you learn about these careers through interactive videos and assessment tools, features more than 230 agricultural careers. Use the Career Finder to discover what agricultural careers best fit your educational goals, skills and interests.

Visit **AgExplorer.FFA.org**
to explore and find your future in agriculture.



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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.