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Winter 2017

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MOORE**
DIGS DEEP AND
HARVESTS
SUCCESS

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PERDUE
ON FFA
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IS BRIGHT**

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NONTRADITIONAL
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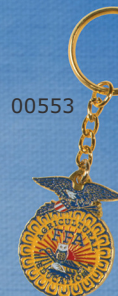


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FFA MISSION: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

THE LIFELONG IMPACT OF FFA

I always love hearing life stories like that of Terren Moore, an FFA member and college student from Texas. You know, stories about the times one random decision impacts a life for the better. Moore, who had limited agricultural experience, first took an agriculture course in high school, and it changed the course of his life. "I gave it a shot, and I did pretty well," he says. "I decided I liked this ag thing and wanted to see where it might take me." Moore became active in FFA and even served as his chapter's treasurer, secretary and then president. All the while, he tended a small garden on his family's property. He got his hands dirty and quickly found success. He still manages what has grown into a 5-acre farm with a single-row planter, and he harvests the produce by hand. You can read more about his inspiring story in "One Thing Leads to Another," on page 10.



Stories like Moore's are often made possible by the support of FFA Alumni members in the community. In "Strength In Numbers," on page 16, we profile companies and universities around the country whose employees and students band together to rally around nearby chapters, even if it's not a program from which they graduated or in a state where they grew up.

Finally, the 2017 National FFA Convention & Expo was held last month. We welcomed a new crop of national officers, and we also thanked the 2016-17 officers for their year of service. In the "National FFA Officer Q&A," on page 6, the outgoing national officers share their highlights of their year at the helm.

Enjoy and have a wonderful winter!

Justin Davey

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



Read all about
Texas member
Terren Moore's
path to produce.
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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.

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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.

Record Keeping IS IN THE BOOKS

BRUSH UP ON YOUR RECORD KEEPING SKILLS TO BOOST YOUR FUTURE CAREER.

Record keeping may not sound exciting, but it's a big part of life – and the FFA experience.

Why not use the winter months to review and update your books for the year? It will help you start the new year with your best foot forward. Just ask Tyler Schnaithman, an FFA Alumnus and fifth-generation farmer from Oklahoma who won the 2016-17 American Star Farmer award.

“In my experience, the ability to keep accurate records is the most important skill of a successful business person,” he says. Here are three tips from Schnaithman for keeping good records.

1. ALWAYS CARRY A CALCULATOR.

It's easier than you think since most smartphones have them built in. “A calculator helps me calculate the cost of items and potential returns,” he says. “Fixed and variable costs are very

important for a producer to know and understand.”

2. SET A WEEKLY REMINDER TO UPDATE YOUR RECORDS.

“When I was in high school, I felt extremely busy, but I always sat down on Sunday afternoon to go over my expenses, to make sure my invoices were sent out and to reconcile everything,” he says. “It's easy to forget something if you don't put aside time to make sure your records are straight.”

3. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

“For on-the-go record keeping, I use apps on my phone,” he says. “It keeps my numbers handy. For example, I use an app called Pen Rider to help keep up with our cattle health. Another app called FarmLogs helps me measure precipitation, record planting dates and keep up with every application on the farm.”

Festive FIGURES

Test your knowledge of these holiday-themed agricultural statistics, then break them out at your next family gathering!



1. Selling poinsettias is a popular holiday fundraiser for FFA members. How much money do poinsettias contribute to the U.S. economy each year?

2. On average, how many turkeys are eaten each Thanksgiving?

3. On average, how many turkeys are eaten each Christmas?

4. How much did American consumers spend on pumpkins in 2016?

5. On average, how many harvested Christmas trees are sold each year?

In 2012, Willmar FFA members raised two turkeys that were eventually pardoned by the White House to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Many FFA chapters grow and sell Christmas trees during the holidays. It takes seven to 10 years for a Christmas tree to grow to 8 feet tall.

- A. 34.5 million
- B. 46 million
- C. \$650 million
- D. \$250 million
- E. 22 million

TO COMPLETE THE QUIZ, VISIT
FFANewHorizons.org/HolidayQuiz.

CALENDAR

Nov. 14:

ZOETIS VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Visit AgExplorer.com at 1 p.m. EST to learn how Zoetis creates customer-centric solutions for animal health. Can't join live? Watch an archived video at a later date.

Dec. 5:

ALUMNI LEGACY GRANT APPLICATION DUE

Looking to create an FFA Alumni chapter or to improve the quality of an existing FFA Alumni chapter? Visit FFA.org/AlumniGrants to apply.

Jan. 1:

SECOND SEMESTER LIVING TO SERVE GRANT APPLICATION OPENS

Visit FFA.org/LivingToServe/grants to apply for \$1,200 to implement a semester-long service-learning project in your community.

Feb. 17-24:

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Celebrate alongside FFA members from across the country. Find event ideas and resources at FFA.org/ffaweek.

Feb. 20:

GIVE FFA DAY

Give now at donate.FFA.org to help prepare and inspire FFA members to become active leaders in agriculture.

Last Day of Each Month

LIVING TO SERVE DAY OF SERVICE MINI-GRANTS

Visit FFA.org/LivingToServe/grants to apply for \$400 to conduct a one-time community service event.

THE *feed*

GROW YOUR *Future*

The America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders scholarship, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, awards rural youth \$1,500 scholarships to support studies in ag-related fields after high school. Scholarships are available in 1,331 counties across 41 states and in a variety of fields, including farming, agronomy, education, science, technology, business, communications and more. In 2017, more than \$500,000 in scholarships was awarded to students across the country. The application is open from Nov. 15 through Feb. 1. To apply, visit FFA.org/scholarships.

Why I'm a **MEMBER**

EVERYONE HAS HIS OR HER OWN REASON FOR BECOMING AN FFA MEMBER. HERE'S WHAT SOME HAD TO SAY:

"No matter how different we are, we are in the same family with the same goal."

— Maria Justo, Dodge Middle School FFA, Eastman, Ga.

"I am an FFA advisor by choice, not by chance. I hope that my love for agriculture will inspire my students every day!"

— Troy Ducote, Sam Houston High School FFA, Lake Charles, La.

"I've always felt at home in FFA. Being a nontraditional and African American student, I feared I wouldn't fit in. My misconceptions and fears turned into why I love this organization. From my first chapter event to my first national convention, I have always been comfortable with others who wear the blue jacket. This family atmosphere and welcoming environment are why I am and will always be an FFA member."

— Erica Wearing, Seneca FFA, Seneca, S.C.

Share your reason for joining FFA at
FFANewHorizons.org/Submit-Your-Story.



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America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, would like to help you get there with a **\$1,500** scholarship for rural youth. Farmers in your community can help support your ag-related studies after high school by endorsing your application.

Grow Ag Leaders scholarships, administered by the National FFA Organization, are available in a variety of fields including: farming, agronomy, education, science, technology, business, communications, and more.

Learn more at www.GrowAgLeaders.com and apply
November 15 – February 1, 2018 at FFA.org/scholarships.
FFA membership not required.

TO PARTICIPATE, GO TO
www.GrowAgLeaders.com

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@AmericasFarmers
#GrowAgLeaders



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For 2017/2018 America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders official rules and a complete list of eligibility requirements, visit www.GrowAgLeaders.com on or after November 15. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © Monsanto Fund. *USDA Employment Opportunities Report, 2015

MORE THAN \$500,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR
AG EDUCATION IN 2018

TALKING POINTS: *Animal Health*

Consumers are increasingly asking about farm animal welfare and treatment. Christina Lood, director of communications for U.S. public affairs for Zoetis, says you'll be most convincing if you can tell consumers about your own farm or one you've seen. "Invite them to visit a farm," she suggests. "Seeing is believing!" Here are her suggestions for answering common animal-related questions.

Q: WHY ARE FARM ANIMALS GIVEN ANTIBIOTICS?

A: Farmers care about the health and well-being of their animals. They work with their veterinarians, who prescribe antibiotics primarily to treat or control an infectious disease. In some cases, antibiotics can be lifesaving – just like they are for people.

Q: ARE FARM ANIMALS MISTREATED ON LARGE FARMS?

A: Not at all. Farmers want their animals to be comfortable and healthy. For example, dairy farms typically have mattresses or sand bedding for cows to lie on and cool-water misters for hot weather. Pigs and chickens are comfortable year-round in climate-controlled barns.

Q: HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT FARM ANIMAL WELL-BEING?

A: If you can't visit a farm, engage with farmers on social media. Here are a few of our favorites:

- **Erin Brenneman:** @SowMamma (Twitter and Instagram) and spookgal (Snapchat)
- **Dairy Carrie:** @dairycarrie (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)
- **Debbie Lyons-Blythe:** www.kidscowsandgrass.com, @DebbieLB (Twitter)
- **Troy Hadrick:** advocatesforag.com, @troyhadrick (Twitter)

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- I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Julie Woodard, National FFA Organization



OFF-SEASON

OCCASIONS

YOU MIGHT HAVE EQUIPMENT TO SERVICE OR CROPS TO SELL WHILE YOU WAIT OUT WINTER, BUT CONSIDER USING THE DOWNTIME TO TRY SOMETHING NEW. HERE ARE THREE IDEAS.

1 LEARN A NEW TECHNOLOGY.

Drones, for instance. They offer an increasing array of possibilities for farmers and even full-time career potential.

The University of Nebraska Unmanned Aircraft Innovation Research and Education Center (nuaire.unl.edu) offers courses for operating and applying drone technology. Sinclair College (sinclair.edu) in Dayton, Ohio, offers not only beginning and advanced drone courses but also a degree program in unmanned aerial systems. Chances are, there's a drone program in your state.

2 TAKE AN ONLINE CLASS.

Spanish language, for instance, is increasingly valuable in agriculture. Kirkwood Community College (kirkwood.edu) in Iowa offers 24 hours of noncredit online Spanish training for just \$125.

Also, JetStream (srh.noaa.gov/jetstream), an online weather school from The National Weather Service, provides free climatology instruction on topics such as clouds, lightning, remote sensing, Doppler radar and more.

3 ATTEND A NEW CONFERENCE.

Organic enthusiasts call the MOSES Conference (mosesorganic.org), held each February in LaCrosse, Wis., the can't-miss meeting of the year.

Also, the North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association (farmersinspired.com) has several gatherings for direct-to-consumer marketers. It also offers agritourism resources.

— By Gene Johnston

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IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 10 - FEB 14
Submit Grant Applications

FEB 14
Grant Applications Due

FEB 16 - FEB 25
Grants for Growing Fundraiser

FEB 26 - MAR 5
Fulfillment Form Due

NATIONAL FFA OFFICER Q&A



YOUR TIME AS A NATIONAL FFA OFFICER CAME TO AN END AT THE 2017 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION & EXPO. LOOKING BACK, WHAT WAS THE MOST REWARDING THING ABOUT YOUR YEAR AT THE HELM?



David Townsend



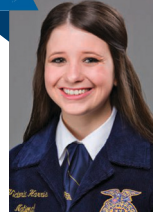
NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT

I crave pouring time into meaningful relationships and spending lots of time with people. This year, however, was more conducive to building

lots of relationships in a short amount of time – also amazing. One of the most rewarding experiences happened when I had second or even third encounters with people I met throughout the year. Getting to reconnect and pick up where we left off didn't happen often, but each time was incredibly fulfilling.



Victoria Harris



NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

The most rewarding part of my year was seeing how each FFA member creates his or her own unique experience in the

blue jacket. As I've traveled, I've realized there is no cookie-cutter way an FFA member must look, think or act in order to fit in. We are allowed to be different. It's so encouraging to see how each of us can be entirely who we are and still find a home in FFA.



DeShawn Blanding



SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

I spent most of my year with stakeholders in the Northeast and out West. The most rewarding part, by far, was getting to embrace and immerse myself into different cultures. From Hawaii

to Connecticut, swing dancing to salsa dancing, aquaponics to mango farms to horse ranches, every state is uniquely different, but all have at least one thing in common – some amazing FFA members.



Ashley Willits



EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

For me, it has been the people! It was incredible to see the passion that FFA members across the nation have and to see them take action for what they believe in. Whether it was advocating for a new FFA license plate with members in New Mexico or talking to middle schoolers from Carroll

County, Va., about agricultural education, FFA members take ownership in their future. I believe that is one of the best things about our organization!



Valerie Earley



CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

The most rewarding part of the year was seeing the true potential each person has to influence. I had the opportunity to travel to over 30 states for conventions, camps and chapter and foundation visits. I saw individuals influencing their classmates, chapters, communities, workplaces and the agricultural industry, no matter if it was

at a community event or in the White House with our country's leaders. Each of us has influence.



Trey Elizondo



WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

The most rewarding part of being a national officer was seeing how uniquely different everyone is around our nation. Yet, we are all drawn together by our jackets. Every member I met this year had such different passions and personalities, but all

had the same goal of creating an influence through this organization. It is a true testament to the fact that no matter who you are or where you come from, you have a place in our organization.

AG 101

THE MOTHER SHIP

BY THARRAN GAINES

PROGRAM TURNS

Headland management allows the operator to program 20 or more consecutive functions at the field headland (the area at each end of a planted field) — all activated with the single push of a button.

TRACK EQUIPMENT AND DATA

New advanced farm-management systems allow a farmer to access information on every machine in the fleet, including machine location, diagnostics, fuel economy and engine performance.

PERFECTLY PICK SPEEDS

Continuously variable transmissions provide stepless, variable-speed technology that allows the operator to perfectly match ground speed to the application.

ADVANCEMENTS IN TRACTOR TECHNOLOGY HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN A FEW SHORT YEARS. TO THE POINT, IN FACT, THAT MODERN TRACTORS MIMIC A COMPUTER AS MUCH AS THEY DO A DRAFT MACHINE. TODAY, FARM TRACTORS EQUIPPED WITH THE RIGHT TECHNOLOGY NOT ONLY HAVE THE ABILITY TO DRIVE

THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO CAN TRANSMIT TRACTOR DIAGNOSTICS TO THE HOME OFFICE OR CONTACT THE DEALER WHEN THERE IS A PROBLEM. IN EFFECT, TODAY'S TRACTORS HAVE BECOME THE MOTHER SHIP OF FARMING OPERATIONS. HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MACHINERY.

AUTOMATE STEERING

GPS-based auto guidance steers the tractor (without operator input) along established lines to save time, to minimize overlap and skips, to reduce fuel consumption and equipment wear and to minimize operator fatigue.

USE MOBILE DEVICES

Remote-management systems allow the operator to monitor and control irrigation, grain dryers and more with a smartphone from the tractor seat while performing fieldwork.

CONSERVE INPUTS

Precision technology called section control automatically turns planter row units or sprayer nozzles on and off to eliminate overlap on headlands, end rows and more, saving seed, fertilizer and other inputs from overapplication.

CONTROL IMPLEMENTS

The plug-and-play ability on newer tractors allows the operator to monitor and control ISOBUS 11783-compliant implements with the tractor monitor without the need for additional control boxes in the cab.

MAKE MAPS

Using a planting prescription map, a producer can maximize yield potential and minimize input costs by planting a crop at variable seeding rates and creating an as-planted map for his or her records.

For information about jobs in machinery, technology, farming and more, visit AgExplorer.com.



1 THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

**A ONE-TIME AGRICULTURE
NEWBIE FINDS HIS
FUTURE IN FFA.**

**STORY BY JESSICA WALKER BOEHM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RUSSELL GRAVES**

Terren Moore in his
Winona, Texas, field
with a bushel of zipper
cream peas.





Left: Moore has a laugh in the field with his cousin, Nathan. “He has helped me a lot on the farm,” Moore says. Above: Moore harvests a purple hull pea by hand, as he does with all of his produce.

WHEN TERREN MOORE SIGNED UP FOR AN AGRICULTURE COURSE TO FULFILL HIS HIGH SCHOOL’S ELECTIVE REQUIREMENT AS A FRESHMAN IN 2010, HE HAD NO IDEA THAT DECISION WOULD CHANGE HIS LIFE.

“I didn’t have much experience in agriculture at the time,” says Moore, who attended Winona High School in the small community of Winona, Texas. “I just went to class every day, did what my teacher told me to do and hoped for the best. I was definitely out of my element.”

Despite his lack of experience, Moore’s agriculture teacher signed him up to participate in a local farm skills demonstration, and the rest, as they say, is history.

“I gave it a shot and I did pretty well,” Moore says. “I decided I liked this ag thing and wanted to see where it might take me.”

CULTIVATING AN FFA JOURNEY

Moore went on to compete in career development events (CDE) in live-

stock judging and agricultural mechanics, and during his junior and senior years, he participated in radio broadcasting CDE contests. In 2012, he advanced to the state-level competition.

In addition, Moore completed supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs, during which he showed livestock.

Along with playing drums in the school band and running track, Moore served as his chapter’s treasurer during his sophomore year, and he was elected secretary for both his chapter and his district as a junior. He became his chapter’s president during his senior year.

“To become the president after starting out with no agriculture experience, especially as an African-American, was

a humbling experience,” Moore says. “I’m grateful to have had the chance to learn about leadership, because those lessons still help me today. Being a leader in FFA taught me how to stand up and let my voice be heard, and that’s something you can’t learn by reading about it in a book; you have to experience it.”

INSPIRED TO KEEP GOING

Throughout his time in FFA, Moore grew peas in a small garden on his family’s property, where his father formerly farmed, as well. Although he had no experience with production agriculture (aside from driving a tractor), he got his hands dirty and quickly found success.

“After I joined FFA, I felt like I should grow something to be truly involved,” he says. “I didn’t know what I was doing, but I had a great crop my first year, and that inspired me to keep going. I was lucky that everything went correctly. I had plenty of rainfall, no issues with pests and my field was nearly perfect. Because of FFA, I knew what hard work was all about. I knew I wasn’t alone out there sweating in the field because there were lots of other young people doing the same thing.”

“TERREN IS A REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN.”

– CASEY WILLIS, MOORE’S TEACHER AND FFA ADVISOR

INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE 2018 NEW CENTURY FARMER CONFERENCE?

Application opens on Dec. 15, 2017. Visit FFA.org/newcenturyfarmer for more information.

The New Century Farmer Conference is sponsored by DuPont Pioneer, Case IH, CSX, Farm Credit Services and CHS with media partner *Successful Farming*.

Moore's hands-on experience in the garden piqued his interest in soil health, and to his surprise, his local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent volunteered him to host an event educating seasoned farmers on the topic.

"I hadn't been growing peas for very long, but I shared how growing cover crops could help small-scale farmers improve their operations, and the response was fantastic," Moore says. "It was yet another humbling experience I was able to have because of my participation in FFA and agriculture."

A FUTURE IN AG

After graduating from high school in May 2014, Moore took general education courses at Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas, and played in the school's drumline. He graduated with an associate degree in December 2015, and then he moved on to Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Moore will graduate from Tarleton State in December 2017 with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture services and development with a concentration in agri-industries and agencies. He is interested in pursuing a career as an agent with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Smith County, where he interned in college.

Moore also hopes to continue growing crops and expanding his business, Moore Peas Co., which provides him the opportunity to share his harvest with the Winona County and Smith County communities. He still operates the farm he started in high school that now covers approximately 5 acres. In addition to purple hull peas and cream peas, Moore recently started growing okra.

"I love production agriculture, and I want to keep growing vegetables as long as I can," Moore says.

Although he stays busy, Moore still participates in FFA events when time

allows. For example, he attended the five-day New Century Farmer conference in July 2017 after his high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Casey Willis, encouraged him to apply for the program.

Because of the volume of applicants, Moore was sure he wouldn't get chosen, but Willis believed Moore had what it took.

"Terren is a remarkable young man," Willis says. "I had him as a student during his senior year of high school, and he was heavily involved with agriculture and FFA. When I saw on Facebook the opportunity for him to attend the New Century Farmer conference, I tagged him because I knew it would be a great experience. He is driven and self-motivated, and he always wants to learn more about agriculture. That's why he has been so successful, and it's why he'll be a wonderful asset to the industry during his career."

Moore says he is grateful for FFA and the many lessons he's learned along the way, and he hopes to share his journey with other FFA members in the future. He's already inspired

others, including his cousin, who has also served as the Winona High School FFA president. Willis says her students still look to Moore as an example of what success looks like.

"I'd love to show high school students how to grow crops in a self-sustained garden," Moore says. "In my years of farming, I've learned so much, and I would be honored to pass that knowledge on to other young people." •

Below: One of Moore's customers, Mrs. Jackson, visits the farm to pick up her order of fresh cream peas. Bottom: Moore and his father discuss customers who need to be served that day.





Interested in Scholarships?

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Through the National FFA Foundation, corporations, businesses and individuals stepped up to provide more than

\$2.7 million

in scholarship opportunities.

1 in every 5 members who applied received a scholarship!



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Don't miss this great opportunity to help prepare for higher education!

Visit FFA.org/scholarships after Nov. 15, 2017, for details.

READ TO *Feed*

Indiana FFA members combat illiteracy, fight world hunger and raise money for a good cause.

What can be accomplished in 217,460 minutes? You can watch every game of an NFL football season, including the postseason, in roughly 3,600 hours (216,000 minutes). You can plant, harvest, store and sell an entire field of corn in less than 150 days (also 216,000 minutes). If you took a straight line, you could walk across the entire United States of America in five months (219,000 minutes).

Indiana FFA members proved that they can do something significant and have a global impact in that amount of time.

The Read to Feed program is a community service project associated with Heifer International that began during the 2015-16 school year. Heifer International is a nonprofit organization that works to combat poverty and hunger by providing livestock and education to families in developing countries. Eleven chapters from across the state of Indiana took part in the program and connected with third- and fourth-grade students in their local communities to encourage them to read and also to teach them about international agriculture and world hunger.

“The goals of the Read to Feed program are to combat illiteracy by encouraging students to read, to help high school students connect with elementary students, and to fight world hunger by raising funds and support-

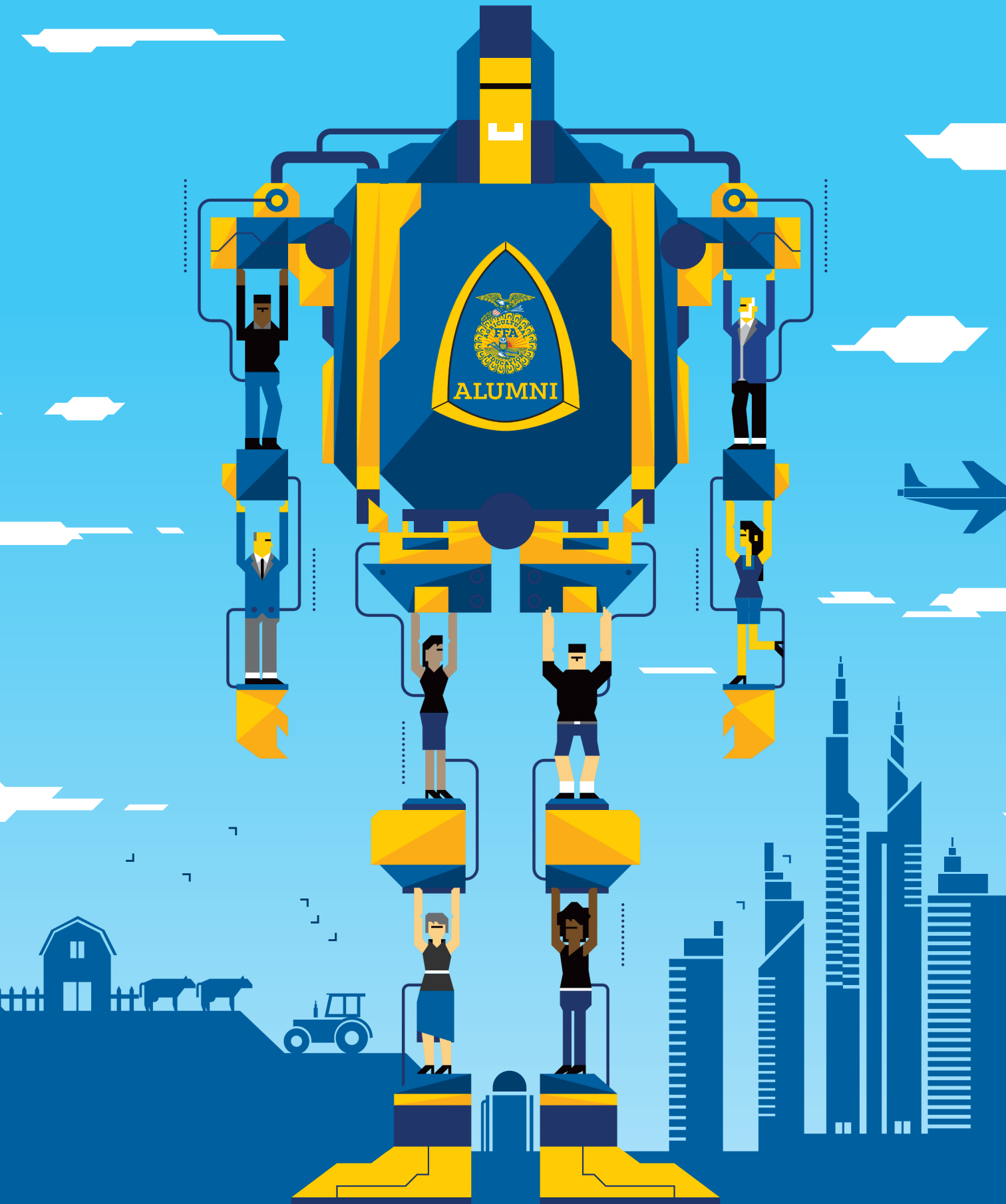
ing international agriculture,” says Claire Baney, Indiana FFA state president. “We measured the success of these objectives by evaluating how many students and chapters were involved in the project, how many minutes were served and how much money was raised.”

The numbers only further prove the program’s success. During the 2016-17 school year, the 11 chapters were able to impact 925 elementary students who read for nearly 217,500 minutes. In addition to the money raised for each minute of reading, company matches from Elanco and Cargill resulted in \$17,362 raised for Heifer International.

The Indiana FFA Association hopes to grow the program next year to 20 participating FFA chapters and to raise more than \$15,000 by chapters alone.

“To any chapter or association that has the desire to make a difference and to create a similar project, just know that the opportunity to do so is out there,” Baney advises. “There are so many awesome philanthropic organizations looking for great young leaders like us to help serve. Make sure to do some research so you can create the best service opportunity possible. If you need assistance, don’t be afraid to ask someone with experience. Each of these things will help you be successful so that you can turn your ideas into reality!”

— By Bev Flatt



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

FFA Alumni members come together to impact future generations of agriculture students and FFA chapters.

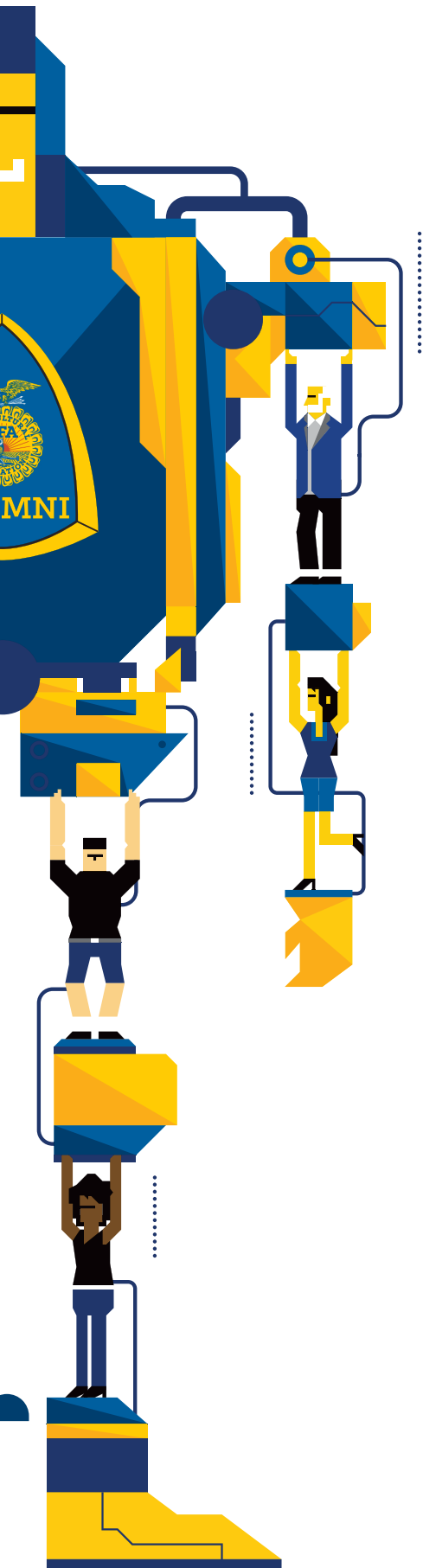
STORY BY BEV FLATT • ILLUSTRATIONS BY BLINDSALIDA

ZZZIIIP. IT'S A BRIEF, SHARP SOUND THAT SIGNIFIES THE LAST TIME AN FFA MEMBER TAKES OFF HIS OR HER CORDUROY JACKET.

The soft material is a little faded at the elbows. The front left side is riddled with holes from officer badges, event awards and degree pins. The pockets are filled with

programs from leadership conferences, sticks of gum and mementos from the past few years. Taking off an FFA jacket for the last time can be an emotional moment for FFA members who have grown to love and respect the National FFA Organization. However, it can also be seen as a step toward the next blue jacket to be worn in life: the FFA Alumni jacket.

Businesses, corporations and other organizations across the country are continuing to develop ways their members and employees can come together to support agricultural



education programs and FFA chapters. By chartering a nontraditional FFA Alumni chapter, these groups connect geographically separate, but otherwise connected, individuals with one another. These alumni chapters allow members to rally around nearby chapters, even if those chapters are not a program from which they graduated or in a state where they grew up.

GREEN AND YELLOW AND BLUE AND GOLD

In 2010, Cory Reed wanted to get back to his FFA roots. After serving as the chair for the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board, the John Deere executive learned about the concept of corporate alumni affiliation. Seven years later, what began as a grassroots effort with 12 initial employees has grown to more than 300 members across multiple states.

"We like to think of our chapter as a success because our members take the time and make the commitment to connect with young men and women who they've never met before because they know there is great value in the next generation of leaders," says Steve Conrad, FiHRE IT project manager and the current president of the John Deere FFA Alumni Chapter. "They don't back away from helping. They put their hearts into it, and they love it. You don't have to have worn the blue jacket to feel that way."

In fact, some of the members from John Deere did not grow up in an area with FFA chapters. While a few have experience through other youth leadership organizations, there are others who had never heard of the National FFA Organization before joining as alumni.

"While we love being in the schools and working with the home chapters near our facilities, bringing the students onto our campuses makes a huge difference," says Conrad. "During National FFA Week, we invite members in their Official Dress into the office to welcome our colleagues to work with a smile and a handshake. This seemingly small event makes a huge impact on our employees and really encourages them to join the alumni chapter and to get involved in everything we do."

John Deere's alumni chapter of-

"We want to give back just as much as what was given to us."

– Kodi Fietsam,
Monsanto FFA Alumni
Chapter president

Officers and members also support the efforts behind the John Deere Dealer scholarship program, as well as the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers and the National Leadership Conference for State Officers.

GROWING LEADERSHIP

As a more recently established nontraditional FFA Alumni chapter, Monsanto has found that formalizing its engagement with FFA has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Twelve months ago, we clearly supported the mission of the National FFA Organization, but we wanted more opportunities to give back," says Erik Curry, strategic accounts, regional account manager and the Monsanto FFA Alumni Chapter secretary. "We have a number of employees who already pursued lifetime alumni membership, so with the support of our executive leadership team, we formally chartered in January 2017."

Months later, the chapter, which is currently focused on Missouri and Illinois, is now up to 100 members and gaining momentum.

"While we are just starting with our alumni chapter, we are very excited for the opportunity to engage with FFA members and to help students in their personal development and career goals," says Kodi Fietsam, global biotechnology regulatory af-

fairs manager and the Monsanto FFA Alumni Chapter president. “Many of our members were FFA members, too. Many of us attribute our experiences in FFA as a huge part of our development and getting us to where we are today. We want to give back just as much as what was given to us.”

The Monsanto FFA Alumni Chapter is always looking forward to continuing its support by judging, coaching and participating in food drives and community service events. In fact, the group hosted its first FFA Fishing Derby in July to raise money for local chapters. Members awarded prizes, hosted a silent auction and held a raffle. It was also a chance for alumni members to get their families involved in the new organization.

BRIDGING THE GAP

For those FFA members who choose to go to college after graduation, nontraditional alumni chapters like the one at the University of Arkansas provide an excellent way to bridge the gap between high school and the career world. The alumni chapter at Arkansas has nearly 30 percent of its membership enrolled in a major outside of the agriculture department.

“Many collegiate chapters have been structured like high school chapters,” says Kate Shoulders, associate professor of agricultural education,

communication, and technology at the University of Arkansas. “We want our students to feel like they are ready to move on to the next step when they graduate. They know what it’s like to be an adult and to serve the students of FFA, and they know what the next step will be.”

One of the most unique activities the University of Arkansas FFA Alumni Chapter does is support the work of the Leadership Development Event (LDE) superintendents at the National FFA Convention & Expo. They organize, judge and give dedicated feedback to FFA members. While this is a great opportunity to understand how contests are run, it is also an excellent way to network and develop relationships with key business contacts.

CHAIN REACTIONS

Regardless of whether an alumni chapter is considered traditional or nontraditional, the impact that members have on local FFA chapters is unparalleled. The decision to become an FFA Alumni member starts a chain reaction that benefits the alumni member, the FFA member and future generations of agriculture students. After unzipping the corduroy jacket, it is the perfect time to reach for an alumni blazer and button it up with great pride. •

HOW TO CHARTER A NONTRADITIONAL FFA ALUMNI CHAPTER

Formalizing membership and service to the National FFA Organization can be a quick-and-easy process. Resources and quick links are found at FFA.org/StartAlumniChapter. By filling out and submitting the “Application for Chartering a Nontraditional FFA

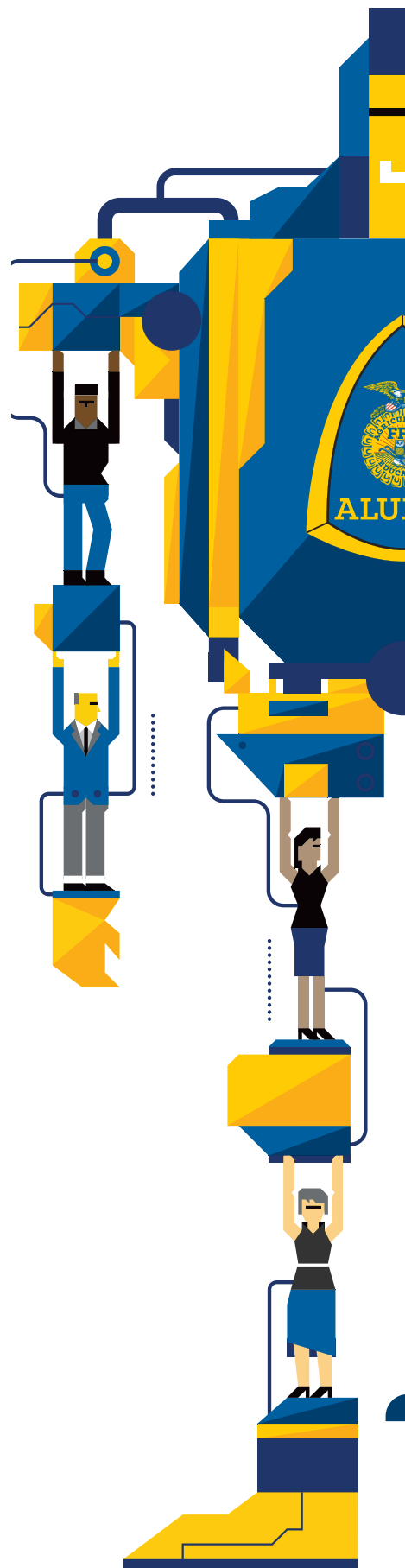
Alumni Chapter,” members can rapidly and efficiently begin to serve FFA members.

In order to be an active and official non-traditional FFA Alumni chapter, the group must meet these annual requirements:

- Have at least 10 annual or life members at the state or national level.

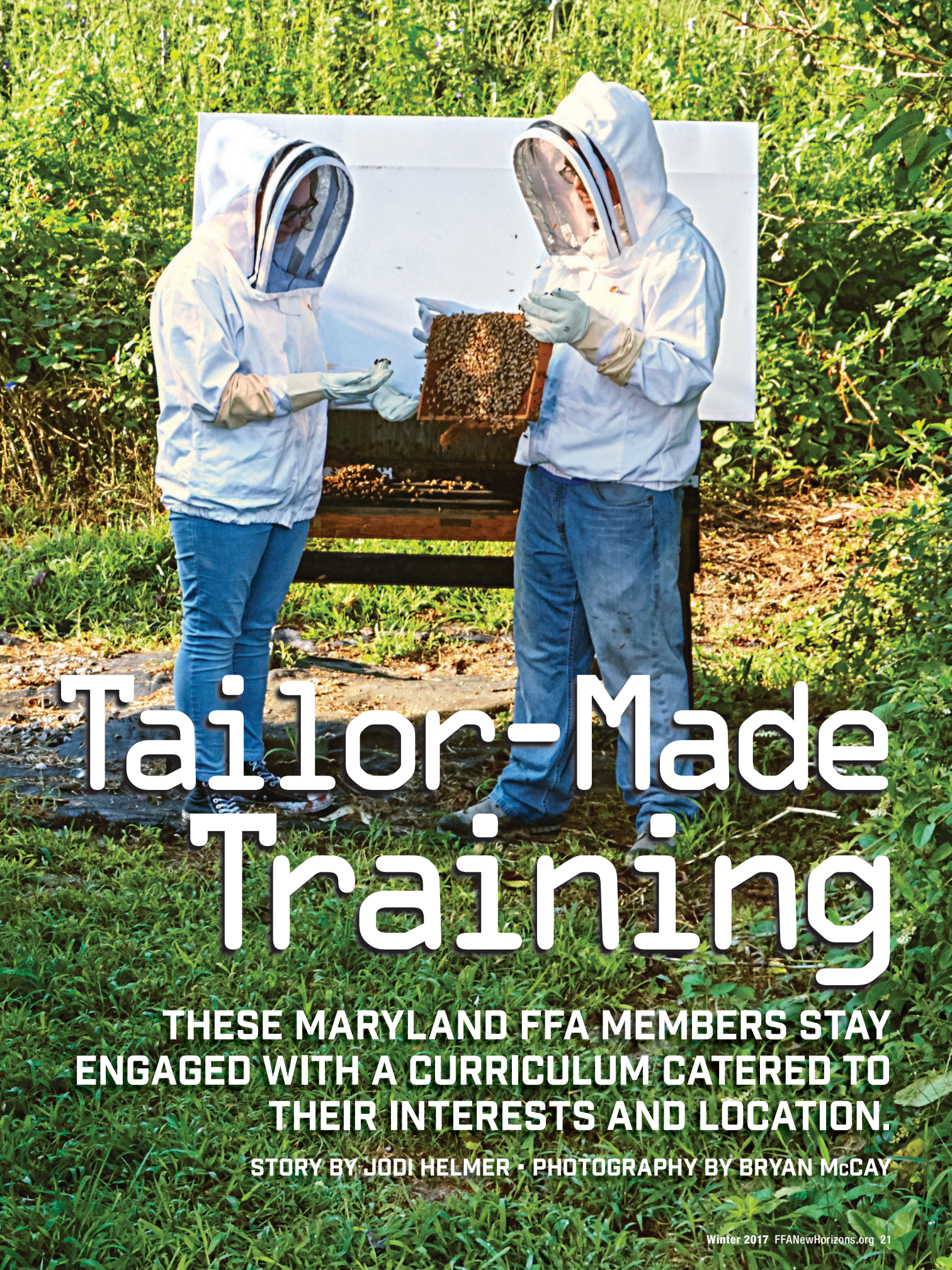
- Have a current constitution and bylaws.
- Have a council of elected leaders.

Participants can choose to be members through traditional dues or affiliation programs. Membership will also be considered in the delegate count in the state where the charter is registered.





Parkside High School FFA advisor Jerry Kelly and members Em Gass and Logan Renshaw inspect an apiary.



Tailor-Made Training

THESE MARYLAND FFA MEMBERS STAY ENGAGED WITH A CURRICULUM CATERED TO THEIR INTERESTS AND LOCATION.

STORY BY JODI HELMER • PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRYAN McCAY



Left: Kelly and member Em Gass discuss upcoming activities for their FFA chapter. Below: Members Logan Renshaw and Em Gass maintain plant health in Parkside High School's greenhouses.



i

n the five years since Jerry Kelley began teaching agricultural education at Parkside High School, he's taught just two students who grew up on farms or had prior knowledge of FFA. The rest of the students enrolled in agricultural education at the Salisbury, Md., high school were raised in the city with limited access to crops and livestock.

"In rural areas, a lot of kids sign up to be in ag classes and FFA because their parents were," says Kelley. "Most of our kids have never even heard of agricultural education."

Experience with raising or showing livestock, growing tomatoes and driving tractors is not a prerequisite for agricultural education or FFA membership. In fact, FFA membership in urban areas is on the uptick, and programs can now be found in 19 of the 20 largest U.S. cities.

SMALL SIZE, BIG IMPACT

While agricultural education is offered in both rural and urban high schools, location often dictates the curriculum. For starters, urban schools often lack space for the barns, pastures and field crops prominent in rural programs; in cities, bylaws may prohibit raising livestock. But Kelley believes these nontraditional FFA members have different opportunities and interests.

In the urban high school, he explains, there is little interest in growing crops like corn and wheat or raising livestock,

which are the focus of the agricultural education program at rural high schools across the state. Instead, students at Parkside High School are interested in organic farming, horticulture and the environmental impact of agriculture. To foster their interests, students oversee projects such as beekeeping, growing native pollinator plants and building bat houses. This fall, students want to grow mushrooms – another project that can be accomplished in their small urban facility, which includes two greenhouses and small patches of outdoor space surrounding the school.

To learn about large-animal agriculture, students participate in field trips to local farms. Sometimes farmers load up their animals and bring them into town, meeting students in the high school parking lot for lessons about animal production and care.

Despite its small size and nontraditional setup, Parkside High School offers a world-class program that provides unique opportunities for its urban students.

Students operate the A+ Garden Centre, a popular retail greenhouse located on school grounds that sells ornamental annual and perennial bedding plants, vegetables and honey. Students are involved in running all aspects of the business, from growing and maintaining the plants to providing customer service. It's one of just two high school programs in the nation with an All-America Selections Display Garden showcasing beautiful, award-winning plants.

Thanks to strong community interest in the Buy Local movement and urban vegetable production, the student-run business is thriving. Production increased from 15,000 plants in 2012 to 150,000 plants in 2017.

A BLOSSOMING URBAN CHAPTER

In an effort to provide a comprehensive agricultural education, students are introduced to traditional examples of agriculture during field trips to nearby farms. The

"The story here is that the students run the show. Tailoring the curriculum to their interests keeps them engaged."

- Jerry Kelley, Parkside High School FFA advisor

field-based learning approach is part of the national Lexicon of Sustainability's Project Localize program, now in its third year at Parkside High School. Project Localize facilitates student engagement in relevant, local ideas about sustainability practices by documenting their learning digitally through art. The student-created graphic essays are eventually shared with the community. For example, one essay promoted nutrition education and documented vegetable harvesting and culinary creation. With vegetables in hand (and information about what it takes to grow produce), students rolled up their sleeves in the kitchen and used the vegetables as the main ingredients in a nutritious meal.

"The story here is that the students run the show," Kelley explains. "Tailoring the curriculum to their interests keeps them engaged."

The approach works. Since 2012, the program has grown from 15 students to 50 and is expected to continue expanding.

Until Parkside High School revived its agricultural education program in 2012, Wicomico County hadn't had an FFA chapter in 15 years. After just five years, the Maryland FFA state director named the urban program the top-ranked program in the state; the chapter also received a two-star rating at the national level out of a possible three stars.

"The students were so excited when we got the news," Kelley recalls. "They take a lot of pride in what they do, and to get that kind of recognition was really meaningful to them."

Students from Parkside High School have participated in the Global Youth Institute of the World Food Prize in Des Moines, Iowa; earned accolades from the National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat Initiative; accepted internships with the USDA and received invitations from the White House to share their experiences.

Kelley attributes the success of the FFA chapter and agricultural education program to the tenacity of his students and the support of the Maryland FFA directors, officers and chapters that embrace urban members and the local community. In fact, he believes tailoring the curriculum to the needs of urban students wouldn't be possible without the support of local experts, including master gardeners, beekeepers,

Project Localize posters document local perspectives in sustainability. This part of the national Lexicon of Sustainability program is in its third year at Parkside High School.

Extension agents and university professionals who offer guest lectures and resources.

"We have access to all of these resources that wouldn't be available if we were outside the city," he explains.

DEVELOPING URBAN INTERESTS

Although the agricultural education program at Parkside High School has been successful, Kelley admits that attracting urban students to a class with unfamiliar subject matter is challenging. To bolster enrollment, the school allows students to test-drive the class for six weeks before committing to the program.

"Our students don't get to high school knowing they want to take agricultural



education," he says. "If we didn't let students test it out, there wouldn't be a program. Once the kids realize it's a cool place to be, they want to be part of it."

In the process of learning lessons about math, science and business through agriculture, students at Parkside High School develop strong interests in the field; several have even accepted summer jobs on farms.

"Kids come into the program not wanting to be competitive, just wanting to have fun, spend time outside and learn with hands-on lessons," Kelley says. "They start with no knowledge of agriculture and leave with a passion for it." •

FFA FOR ALL

Ask FFA members what it means to be part of the organization and their responses will include words and phrases such as *acceptance, family, valuing others for their unique talents and providing opportunities based on hard work and passion for the blue jacket*. This commitment to inclusiveness is the crux of the We Are FFA platform, a national initiative promoting a culture of diversity and inclusiveness that enriches the

organization and its members.

To demonstrate a commitment to the goals of diversity and inclusiveness, the 2016-17 national officer team chose We Are FFA as its legacy project. The officers – who hail from Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, New York, South Carolina and Texas – spent the year working on projects that emphasized innovation and collaboration that encourage diverse thought processes. During the term, each officer trav-

eled more than 100,000 miles, visited 25-plus states and experienced the diversity of FFA membership.

The team also traveled to Japan and spent two weeks visiting dairy and beef farms as well as fish and produce markets to learn about agricultural practices abroad. Despite the distance, there was no culture shock. Instead, the national officer team embraced the We Are FFA spirit, recognizing that agriculture is an industry that ties the world together.



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Sara Wyant and Allan R. Johnson

YOU'RE *Hired!*

Discover interview tips that will help you land the job you want.

Job interviews often cause anxiety in the minds of job seekers and for good reason. Your future career depends, in part, on the first impression you make on a hiring manager. But the experience doesn't have to be stressful. By knowing what to expect, you'll be prepared to answer an employer's questions and to even ask a few of your own.

We talked with Adam Bogren, manager of recruiting for Tractor Supply Co., about how job candidates can put their best foot forward when trying to land their dream job. Following are his answers to our questions.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME KEY QUESTIONS JOB APPLICANTS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER DURING AN INTERVIEW?

A: "Tell me about yourself" is an icebreaker often used when interviewing someone. Others are "What is your greatest weakness and strength?" or "What accomplishments are you most proud of?" "Describe a situation when you used your leadership skills" is a question asked for entry-level positions.

Q: WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES, WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD JOB APPLICANTS CONSIDER ASKING?

A: When people have thoughtful questions about our company, my role or their potential new role, it shows they took the time to prepare and are taking the interview seriously. Possible questions to ask a potential employer might be, "Can you share details of what a typical day would be like in this role?" "What are the prospects for growth and advancement?" "What are the biggest challenges of this job?" and "What are the rewards of the job and working for this company?"

Q: WHAT THINGS TEND TO RAISE A RED FLAG ABOUT AN APPLICANT?

A: When interviewing candidates, I can tell early on if they are familiar

with Tractor Supply Co. I don't expect them to know the entire company history, but if they ask questions about information I know is readily available on our careers page, I know they didn't take time to research the role. When people don't take the interview seriously or don't respect my time by not answering the phone or showing up late, it raises a red flag.

Q: CAN YOU OFFER A FEW INTERVIEW TIPS?

A: Research the company and, if possible, the people who will interview you. Many business people have profiles on LinkedIn.com, and that's an easy way to learn about them. Always be yourself. Write down questions ahead of time.

— By Jessica Mozo

Looking for more job resources?

The My Journey platform on FFA.org has the FFA Resume Generator®, cover letter template and job interview practice tips. Find them online at FFA.org/my-journey.

Plus, get additional interview tips and tricks from Tractor Supply Co. in our video at FFANewHorizons.org/InterviewTips.

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

Over 400 members learned about the state's vast natural resources during the Woods, Water and Wildlife FFA Day hosted by the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

ALASKA

Members saw amazing innovations, including a geothermal screw expander, during the Renewable Energy Fair in Chena Hot Springs.

ARIZONA

Each January, members develop leadership skills at a two-day Peoria Mini Camp sponsored by the Peoria FFA and alumni.

ARKANSAS

When floods hit northern Arkansas, chapters from across the state teamed up with Pochontas FFA to provide money, food and other items to help flood victims in the area.

CALIFORNIA

Every spring, the Sacramento Leadership Experience hosts the association's top senior students, who take on the role of assembly member or senator, debate on the floor of the state capitol and learn to advocate for agricultural issues affecting the state.

COLORADO

Colorado FFA will induct agriculture leaders and producers from the state into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame in February.



CONNECTICUT

Mattabeset FFA hosts a themed freshman orientation each year. Led by the chapter president, members hold several workshops, and students participate in Ag Olympics.

DELAWARE

Produce that is grown and harvested by the William Penn FFA during the summer is processed, saved and used for student meals during the winter.

FLORIDA

Bradford Senior FFA members improved the landscape around their community hospital by putting in some plants, applying fertilizers and mulching garden beds.

GEORGIA

Hundreds of Georgia FFA members traveled to Moultrie in mid-October to attend the Sunbelt Agriculture Expo and to learn about trends and technology in production agriculture.

HAWAII

Hawaii welcomed the state's first two active alumni chapters, chartered in Honolulu and Kealahou, during the 2016-17 membership year.

IDAHO

During Ag Days (an annual event at the University of Idaho), members enjoy FFA leadership workshops, a livestock judging contest, a football game and campus tours.

ILLINOIS

Interested in seeing hundreds of tractors driving through a gym? Who isn't? Attend the ROWVA FFA Toy Show this spring!

INDIANA

Each winter, members hold an annual Christmas luncheon to celebrate retired agriculture teachers. Last year, the state hosted 54 retired teachers and their spouses.

IOWA

In its largest annual fundraiser, the Pleasantville FFA Alumni Chapter recruits and organizes volunteers to drive the Iowa State Fair trams for all 11 days of the fair.

KANSAS

The Kansas Commissioner of Education highlighted five state FFA chapters when he initiated the Kansas Can vision, which prioritizes career and technical education.

KENTUCKY

Crittenden County FFA transformed a school bus into a mobile greenhouse and plans to visit elementary schools to educate students about where their food comes from.

LOUISIANA

Zachary FFA started a program at the governor's mansion where it not only plants and maintains the vegetable garden but also helps host a farm-to-school teaching event.

MAINE

Caribou FFA members are working hard on a new greenhouse and managing their chicken coop.

MARYLAND

In February, state and chapter officers will travel to Annapolis, the state capital, to share the importance of FFA with government officials.

MASSACHUSETTS

Essex FFA has an annual turkey drive to raise money for families in the community who cannot afford to have Thanksgiving dinner.

MICHIGAN

More than 40 FFA chapters across the state plan or assist with Farm Bureau's Project R.E.D. (Rural Education Day) to educate the next generation about agriculture.

MINNESOTA

Benson FFA collected food and packed nutritional snacks for the school's weekend Feeding Our Own Thru Backpacks program.

MISSISSIPPI

Each year, the Mississippi FFA Association sets up a children's barnyard to educate the public about agriculture.

MISSOURI

In January, more than 4,000 members will participate in 18 Greenhand Motivational Conferences across the state. New members are encouraged to "Go for the GOLD" as they explore opportunities within FFA.

MONTANA

Thanks to generous sponsors, high school seniors and state officer candidates attend the GOLD Conference each January to understand the role of a state officer and to practice interview skills.

NEBRASKA

Ord FFA members developed official FFA-licensed fragrances for men and women that are bottled by Murcielago Fragrances. Visit [Facebook.com/officiallylicensedffafragrances](https://www.facebook.com/officiallylicensedffafragrances) to learn more.

NEVADA

A member of the Smith Valley FFA raises and sells turkeys for his SAE. The chapter then harvests and processes the turkeys, which are sold for Thanksgiving.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Granite State Association will hold its annual Winter Leadership Camp this January.

NEW JERSEY

Salem County Tech FFA will host its annual Jersey Fresh Cook-Off in February. Students make their tastiest creation using only products grown and donated by New Jersey farmers.

NEW MEXICO

State officers rolled out #Agvivate, a legacy platform that encourages members to use the opportunities provided by FFA to benefit their communities.

NEW YORK

Southern Cayuga FFA uses the Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) mentoring program to teach elementary and middle school students about the importance of agriculture.

NORTH CAROLINA

High school juniors and seniors interested in sustainable forestry and conservation attended the state's first-ever Sustainable Forestry Day, hosted by the College of Natural Resources at North Carolina State.

NORTH DAKOTA

The state officer team announced its #AskMeAboutMySAE social media campaign, which helps members and alumni promote the diversity of the state's agricultural and SAE projects.

OHIO

Members partnered with Ohio 4-H and Ohio Farm Bureau to discuss community issues and to make policy proposals at the Ohio Youth Capital Challenge.

OKLAHOMA

Members are working to wipe out childhood hunger through the FFA Hunger Challenge. Their goal? To raise 1 million meat sticks for the Pork for Packs program.

OREGON

Burnt River FFA started an exchange program that enrolls students from cities or abroad in agricultural education classes and exposes them to the local agricultural community.

PENNSYLVANIA

This February, 1,500 members will attend the Agriculture Cooperation Establishes Success (ACES) conference to learn about leadership and opportunities in agriculture.

PUERTO RICO

Miss Universe Puerto Rico Danna Hernández visited the Capitulates FFA Chapter to discuss health and well-being.

RHODE ISLAND

State officers recently hosted a Soup & Pound auction. Members brought a 1-pound item to auction off while enjoying soup and homemade bread.

SOUTH CAROLINA

FFA members attend the Ag Tailgate each fall before a Clemson football game to learn about agricultural university majors and careers.



SOUTH DAKOTA

The Tri-Valley FFA Chapter gives local elevator employees a sack lunch during the busy harvest season.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee FFA Alumni Association hosts an alumni convention each year. Events include auctions, workshops and competitions including job interviewing, public speaking and outstanding collegiate chapter.

TEXAS

Texas FFA created a new video series entitled "Leadership on Demand," which serves as a monthly leadership development opportunity for members.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Ivanna Eudora Kean FFA is building two greenhouses, which the chapter has never had before. Members will grow tomatoes, thyme, peppers, ginger and more.

UTAH

Box Elder FFA started a social media campaign called Member Monday to recognize the hard work of its outstanding members.

VERMONT

In February, FFA members will participate in the Vermont Farm Show. Activities will include CDEs, a scavenger hunt, a state officer workshop and more.

VIRGINIA

Each year, James River FFA collects donations for its Feed a Family program. Members donated more than 100 fruit bags to their community in 2017.

WEST VIRGINIA

To encourage entrepreneurial SAEs, West Virginia FFA and partners give young farmers a head start on their agricultural endeavors by providing funding for animals or crop supplies and equipment. Over \$80,000 has been distributed in the first round of the project.

WISCONSIN

New Auburn FFA used grant funds to create a Heart Walk to benefit the American Heart Association.

WYOMING

During Advocacy Week in January, members create local campaigns and state officers meet with the governor to increase support for Wyoming agriculture.



WASHINGTON

Enumclaw FFA members raised four guide dogs, and three more are in training. This is the first Washington chapter to partake in the fascinating guide dog SAE.



On the RECORD

Sonny PERDUE

The 31st U.S. secretary of agriculture fields questions from FFA members nationwide about the future of ag and the role FFA can play.

Q: WHERE DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE WILL GO?

– Calista Overman, Greenfield Central FFA, Ind.

A: The future of agriculture is bright. The hope of America is the young people I'm with today. I'm excited and optimistic about the possibilities of American agriculture. There is an exciting future out there, and I'm glad that FFA members are learning about all the career opportunities. I hope you'll continue to pursue a science-, tech-, and business-based education. All those skills are needed in the future of agriculture.

Q: WHAT ROLE CAN FFA MEMBERS WHO DIDN'T GROW UP ON FARMS PLAY IN AGRICULTURE

– Caleb Green, Eau Claire FFA, Wis.

A: I think the great thing about agriculture is that it is open and inclusive as far as having people who didn't have the advantage of growing up on a farm. I was one of those who did, and I think it instilled in me a work ethic. But the fact is, you're a member of FFA. Not having grown up on a farm doesn't disqualify you from learning more about it and telling the story of agriculture. You may even be more persuasive not being a farm kid yourself.

Q: HOW CAN WE EXPAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN SMALLER STATES SUCH AS NEW HAMPSHIRE?

– Kathryn Pelletier, Dover FFA, N.H.

A: Agriculture is important in every state. That's the good thing. Become innovative. Grow where you're planted and thrive where you're started. You might be responsible for resolving some very difficult issues of how we feed a growing population across the globe.

Q: THERE IS \$165 BILLION WORTH OF FOOD WASTED EVERY YEAR IN OUR COUNTRY. DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE ANY MEASURES AGAINST FOOD WASTE?

– Kaylee Brunsting, STAR Academy FFA, Indianapolis, Ind.

A: I'm going to challenge you and all the smart FFA members across this nation to help me solve that situation. It's really a tragedy that we could waste so much food, whether it's in our schools, our homes or our restaurants. I would love to challenge you all and for that to be a national FFA project. I can assure you that the secretary of agriculture will take that very seriously and look to you to be an army of problem solvers.

**TO WATCH A COMPLETE VIDEO Q&A, VISIT
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Ag Angle

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WHENEVER WE HAVE A SIGNIFICANT WEATHER EVENT IN TEXAS, I ALWAYS TAKE THE BACK ROADS AND LOOK FOR SOMETHING INTERESTING. On this trip, I was wandering a dirt road in blowing snow near my hometown when this lone tree caught my eye. What attracted me to the monotone scene was the starkness of the winter landscape and the loneliness of the tree.

Check out more of Graves' photography on the cover of this issue and in "One Thing Leads To Another" on page 10.



* **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.

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