



NEW

Spring 2018

HORIZONS

FFANEWHORIZONS.ORG

THIS ALUMNI CHAPTER
IS SERIOUS ABOUT SERVICE P.20

HOMETOWN Heroes

PLUS: OUR 2017-18 NATIONAL OFFICERS P.10
A SECOND-YEAR AG EDUCATOR GETS AN 'A' P.16
QUIZ: WOMEN IN FFA P.4



LIVING TO SERVE GRANTS

How will your chapter make a difference in your community?

Ideas to Get You Started:



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Need: Personal safety.

One Day: Organize and host a self-defense workshop.

One Semester or One Year: Partner with city officials to research and place street lights or crosswalks at dangerous intersections.



HUNGER, HEALTH + NUTRITION

Need: Healthy living.

One Day: Host a bone marrow registration drive.

One Semester or One Year: Organize an anti-smoking campaign and host a 5K breathe-easy walk.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Need: Tolerance and understanding.

One Day: Help students feel welcome by assembling and distributing new student survival kits.

One Semester or One Year: Work with community members to research their ancestries and publish oral histories.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Need: Animal populations.

One Day: Partner with an animal shelter to organize a pet adoption day.

One Semester or One Year: Hold low- or no-cost spay and neuter clinics with veterinarians.

Important 2018 Dates

Yearlong: \$3,000 - Application due June 15.

Semester-long: \$1,200 - First semester application due Sept. 1.

Day of Service: \$400 - Rolling application due on the last day of every month.

For more information, visit FFA.org/LivingToServe.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE AG EDUCATORS!

For many teachers, the first year commanding a classroom is daunting. They are responsible for providing the best education to their students. Lesson plans, student dynamics, clubs and other activities – they have to figure it all out. Many variables contribute to – or prevent – success, but so many teachers find a way to succeed. Cole Ramsey is in his second year as an agriculture teacher at Nelson County High School in Virginia. While these pressures surely face him, he has found ways to rise to the challenge.

"My first day of school was really nerve-racking," Ramsey says. "I was fortunate to student-teach where I now work, but there was a whole new group of kids I didn't know. We were able to connect over our similar FFA experiences and time spent on the farm since I work in a rural area."

Read about the tips that have made Ramsey's classroom time a success in "First Class" (page 16).

As a parent and an FFA alumni member, one area you can assist your local agriculture educator is through your FFA alumni chapter. "A Class on Collaboration" (page 20) details the work of the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter in Georgia, which was honored by the National FFA Alumni Association as the 2017 Outstanding Alumni Chapter. I hope you are encouraged by their efforts and inspired to engage with your local program.

In this issue, you'll find articles about the 2017-18 National FFA Officers, universities and colleges with areas of study for some specialized agriculture, an Oregon chapter's successful Agriculture in the Classroom Literacy Project, the benefits of a memorandum of understanding, and more.

Enjoy and have a happy spring!



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



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FFA COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Julie Woodard
EDITOR Justin Davey
CREATIVE DIRECTOR Matt Strelecki
COPY EDITORS Janis Gandy, Paula Barbour
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Diana Weesner
EXECUTIVE ACCOUNT DIRECTOR Doug Stark

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Subscription Information

FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X) is published quarterly by the National FFA Organization, 6060 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. Publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, art or any other unsolicited materials. For subscription information email FFA New Horizons Subscription Services at newhorizons@FFA.org. Periodical postage rate is paid at Indianapolis, Ind., and additional mail offices.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960.

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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.

Star POTENTIAL

Congratulations to the four 2017 American Star Awards winners. The highest honor a member can achieve, the American Star Awards are presented to FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through the completion of a supervised agricultural experience (SAE). A required activity in FFA, an SAE allows students to learn by doing – from owning or operating a lawn care business to conducting an experiment that examines alternative methods for antibiotics. We asked the 2017 crop of Star winners for their advice on creating and maintaining a successful SAE.

“You have to make sure you’re passionate about it. It can’t be viewed as just work or it won’t work out for you.” – Joseph Arnold, Lac qui Parle Valley FFA, Minn., 2017 American Star Farmer

“Make sure you provide customer service and that your customers are happy with the job you’re providing. Without customer service, you don’t have any kind of base for employment or sales.”

– Austin Nordyke, Hugoton FFA, Kan., 2017 American Star in Agribusiness

“Do not be afraid to try something different. Don’t be afraid to stand out, even though it may be a little uncomfortable at the time. Always stay committed to what you believe in, stay organized and, most importantly, stay passionate about what you are working on.” – Chrysta Beck, Pettisville FFA, Ohio, 2017 American Star in Agriscience

“Find something you love so you’re passionate about it and it’s easy to stick with.” – Kellie Einck, South O’Brien FFA, Iowa, 2017 American Star in Agricultural Placement



CALENDAR

Feb. 17-24:

NATIONAL FFA WEEK

Take time to share the message of FFA and the impact it has on members, alumni and sponsors. 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.

March 20:

NATIONAL AG DAY

This year’s theme is “Agriculture: Food for Life.” Promote American agriculture and celebrate your FFA membership as part of the festivities.

March 23-24:

REGION VI (A) ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Registration opens Jan. 29 for this RDC in Woodbury, Conn. Visit FFA.org/gordc for more information.

April 6-7:

REGION IV (A): ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

This RDC will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., and registration opens Feb. 12. Visit FFA.org/gordc for details.

April 20-21:

REGION II (A): ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Registration opens Feb. 26 for this RDC in Fayetteville, Ark. Visit FFA.org/gordc for more information.

BE *Transported*

GET BEYOND YOUR CLASSROOM WALLS BY TAKING A VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP.

Did you know you can visit far-off places and learn about cool jobs you never knew existed without even leaving your classroom? You can, thanks to the Virtual Field Trips made possible by AgExplorer and Discovery Education.

In November 2017, students in classrooms around the country watched live as global animal health company Zoetis opened the doors at its headquarters in New Jersey for a Virtual Field Trip. Participants got a

behind-the-scenes look at how Zoetis employees in STEM careers research, develop and manufacture medicines, vaccines and devices to improve animal health around the world. Students were even able to submit questions in advance for a chance to have them answered during the live broadcast.

Find out about upcoming Virtual Field Trips and watch past ones on demand at AgExplorer.com/Virtual-



Field-Trip. It is free to participate and an educator guide containing classroom activities is offered for each trip. No special equipment is needed – just an internet-connected computer and a way to share it with your class, such as a projector and speakers.

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WOMEN IN FFA

March is Women's History Month. How much do you know about the impact women have had on the National FFA Organization? Test your knowledge with our quiz.

1. What year did the National FFA Organization begin accepting women as members?
2. When did Anita Decker of New York and Patricia Krowicki of New Jersey become the first female delegates to attend the National FFA Convention?
3. What year did Julie Smiley of Washington become the first female national FFA officer?
4. When was Janice Eberly from California elected the first female national FFA president?
5. What year did Karlene Lindow of Wisconsin become the first female to be named American Star Farmer?

- A. 2002
- B. 1970
- C. 1982
- D. 1969
- E. 1976

Learn more about Janice Eberly on page 28.

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

#FFAPROUD

USE THIS HASHTAG ON YOUR FFA-RELATED SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS. YOU JUST MIGHT FIND THEM IN FFA NEW HORIZONS MAGAZINE!

A @TexasFFA grandpa just received his FFA jacket – 66 years later! #FFAProud

@NationalFFA via Twitter



Breakin' barriers, pushin' limits, & pumpin' up those leadership skills @ Area7 Leadership Conference! #FFAProud

@Drexel_FFA via Twitter



Blue and gold are all I need. #FFAProud

@katiee_moneyy via Instagram

TALKING POINTS: **GMOs**

The topic of genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, gets many questions from interested consumers. Holly Butka, the global consumer engagement lead for Monsanto, helps you offer an intelligent and productive response.

Q: WHAT EXACTLY IS A GMO?

A: Scientists produce GMOs when they take a desired trait or gene from one plant and insert it into another plant.

Q: WHICH CROPS HAVE BEEN GENETICALLY MODIFIED?

A: There are 10 GMO crops commercially available in the U.S.: potato, apple, corn (field corn and sweet corn), canola, rainbow papaya, soybean, alfalfa, cotton, sugar beet and summer squash.

Q: HOW CAN GMO CROPS HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

A: Farmers who use GMO seeds are often able to practice no-till farming, which improves soil health and water retention, and requires fewer field passes. GMO crops that protect against insects have eliminated the need for 600

million pounds of insecticide. They may also utilize water and nitrogen more efficiently, which can help reduce agriculture's environmental footprint.

Q: ARE THERE HARMFUL EFFECTS FROM CONSUMING FOODS THAT CONTAIN GMOs?

A: GMO foods have a long and safe track record. Since they were introduced over 20 years ago, extensive testing shows that eating foods from GMO crops does not cause any effect that is different than non-GMO foods, and they don't differ nutritionally.

Q: DO GMOs BENEFIT CONSUMERS?

A: Without GMOs, some crops such as papaya might have been completely wiped out by disease. GMOs also help keep food available and affordable for consumers.

Q: WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF GMOs?

A: Biotechnology, the process used to develop GMOs, promises to continue to deliver new ways to produce nutritious food for our growing world population while also preserving our natural resources. The future of scientific solutions is very exciting!

For additional information on GMOs and tools that help farmers, visit ModernAg.org or GMOAnswers.com.



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NATIONAL FFA OFFICER Q&A

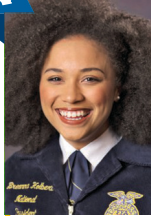
Learn more
about our
national
officers on
page 10.



**IN YOUR ROLE AS
AN FFA LEADER,
YOU WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY
INSPIRE OTHERS
TO PURSUE THEIR
PASSIONS. WHO
INSPIRED YOU TO
REACH FOR A
NATIONAL FFA
OFFICER POSITION?**



Breanna Holbert



NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT

I once suggested that a student interested in mechanics try applying for an FFA Agricultural Mechanics Proficiency Award, and he said he would think about it.

Two months later, I saw him in line at California's FFA state convention receiving his agricultural mechanics proficiency award. This moment solidified my goals in running for national office. Our words and actions are so powerful. If we choose to direct them to others in a positive way, we can create positive change. I wish to create that same change this year.



Erica Baier



NATIONAL FFA SECRETARY

It is definitely hard to pick just one! Laila Down, Steven Brockshus and Abrah Meyer, all past national officers, have

served as amazing role models for me. I can recall a time when I barely knew each of them, and yet they offered encouragement, support and guidance without question. Their selflessness undoubtedly guided me toward pursuing this goal, and I'm excited to serve members in the same way!



Ian Bennett



SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

I'd have to say one of my high school ag teachers, Dr. James Corbett. He's the one who really got me involved in FFA. Without him, I probably wouldn't have been involved past the local level, and I wouldn't have had the chance to go to the national convention, where I got to see what the National FFA Organization is all about.



Gracie Furnish



EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

I've been blessed with so many people in my life who have inspired me: my agriculture teachers, family and friends, mentors, former national officers and FFA members from my home state. They've always made me feel valued and loved. They also challenge me to grow each and every day. My goal is to do the same for everyone I interact with.



Piper Merritt



CENTRAL REGION VICE PRESIDENT

In addition to many others, my family and my FFA advisors, Jonathan Holloway and Scott Nemecek, inspired me to reach for the position of national officer. Their continued support throughout my entire FFA career gave me the courage to be involved in the organization and to further my experience in this capacity. I'm so excited to share with others the inspiration that they poured into me this year.



Bryce Cluff



WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Throughout my FFA career, there has really been one person who pushed me toward new and challenging goals. One of my best friends, Colton Elmer, started out as my camp counselor at Arizona FFA state camp, and he instantly got to work helping me find my place within the organization. His example of leadership led me to run for state office and continue on to national office. I wouldn't be the man I am today without him.



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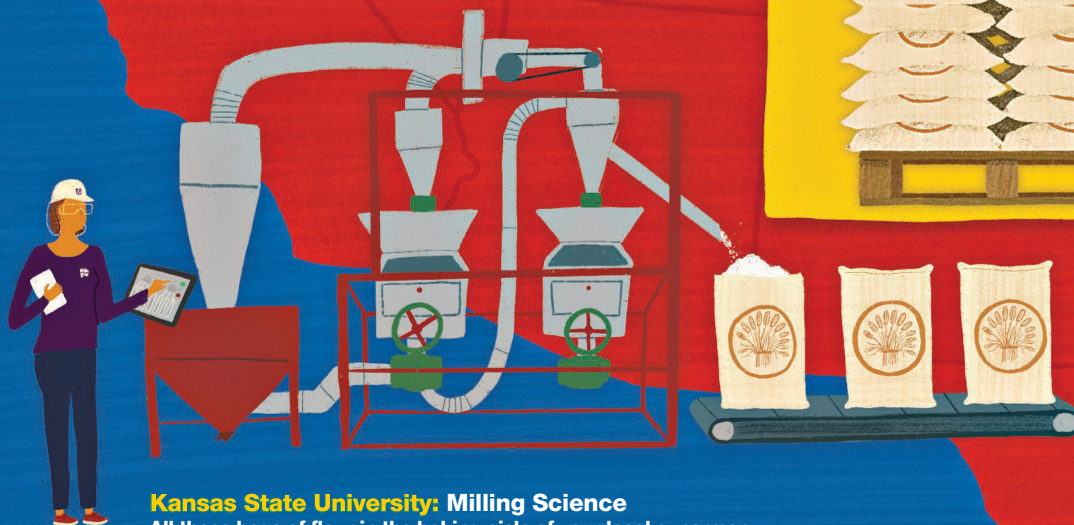
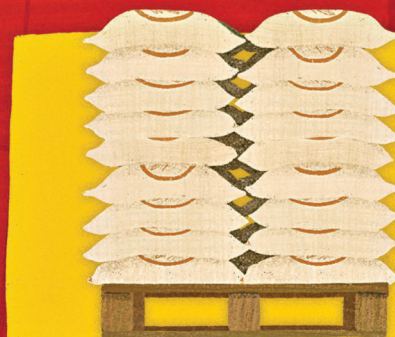


AG 101 MAJOR DECISIONS



Washington State University: Organic Agriculture Systems

Washington State University is helping agriculture keep up with the growing demand for organic foods by offering a major in organic agriculture systems. The first of its kind in the United States, this new major gives students hands-on experience at WSU's 4-acre, certified organic teaching farm. Students produce organic fruits, veggies, herbs and flowers, then distribute them to food banks, on-campus food service and the local farmers market.



Kansas State University: Milling Science

All those bags of flour in the baking aisle of your local supermarket didn't happen by chance. There's a complex science behind flour milling, and students in Kansas State University's milling science and management program learn all about the art and business behind it. Students with a degree in milling science often go on to work in high-paying careers at major milling and grain companies such as General Mills and Sara Lee.

You probably already know that agriculture reaches far beyond farming and ranching. But did you know the vast extent of career opportunities it has? Colleges and universities around the nation offer agricultural degree programs in many specialized areas of study, so you can find an agricultural degree program that closely matches your interests.

Those who yearn for wide-open spaces might consider studying ranch management at Texas A&M University, while airplane aficionados (think aerial applicators) can consider majoring in aviation technology at Utah State University.

Food science majors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison can learn about candy-making in a confectionery technology course, while North Dakota State University offers a graduate course in cereal and grain science. Have a soft spot for pets? The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has a bachelor of science degree in food technology for companion animals – the first academic program of its kind.

Read on for more cool college degree programs, and use **AgExplorer.com** to research careers in each area of study.

– By Jessica Mozo

Kentucky State University: Aquaculture/Aquatic Science

Interested in fish and shrimp farming? Kentucky State University Division of Aquaculture offers students the opportunity to minor in aquaculture/aquatic science and even get a master of science degree in aquaculture/aquatic science. Students can dive into classes on water quality, reproduction, fish disease, aquaculture nutrition and more.



Middle Tennessee State University: Horse Science

Do you love horses?

Middle Tennessee State University has a degree program in horse science with its own Horse Science Center, complete with an equine reproduction lab, teaching arena, heated barn and outdoor jump course. A degree in horse science could lead to a career as a horse trainer, riding teacher, barn manager, veterinarian or dozens of other jobs that support the horse industry.



Florida Southern College: Citrus and Horticulture Science

Could you picture yourself growing oranges? How about lemons? Florida Southern College's citrus and horticultural science program is the only one of its kind in the country and gives students hands-on experience with on-campus citrus trees. Courses include citrus grove management and citrus pest and disease management. Florida Southern's citrus program is widely known in the industry and often welcomes guest speakers. Now that's sweet!



What Leads to Leadership?



The **2017-18** national officers share the special FFA moments that have led to one of the biggest accomplishments of their lives.

Here are a few things you probably don't know: One of our new national officers is a twin. Another bleeds "America's brightest orange" for the Oklahoma State Cowboys. If Tejano music is playing nearby, this officer may swing you into a two-step.

Countless things make our new national officers unique, but one thing binds them to a legacy that spans nearly 100 years: the blue jacket. Members of the national convention newsroom crew recently sat down with the 2017-18 officers to learn how their days of sitting in ag class as a Greenhand transformed into leading an organization that is paving the way for the future of agriculture.

Breanna Holbert

National FFA President

Hometown: Lodi, Calif.

FFA Chapter: Lodi-Tokay FFA

College: California State University, Chico (sophomore)

Major: Agricultural science and education

SAEs: Egg sales, turkey co-op, landscaping, composting and organic farming education

The moment FFA became something more than a school club for Breanna “Bre” Holbert was when she received her first blue corduroy jacket.

“I remember unwrapping it from the plastic. I zipped up the jacket and immediately felt like, ‘Wow, I’m not only part of my chapter and state, but also I’m a part of this organization,’” she says. “I’m connected to someone, and we don’t even know each other. I’m a part of something bigger than myself.”

As the first African-American female to serve as national president (and to have a twin sister), Holbert understands that people across the U.S. come from a wide range of backgrounds, but they can find common ground through FFA.

“I think it’s important for students to understand that they’re not alone, and that there are students, stakeholders and teachers out there who’ve gone through these very same things or had the very same successes,” she says. — **By Dene Dryden**

Erica Baier

National FFA Secretary

Hometown: Adel, Iowa

FFA Chapter: Earlham FFA

College: Iowa State University (junior)

Major: Agricultural education

SAEs: Vegetable production entrepreneurship and beef production placement

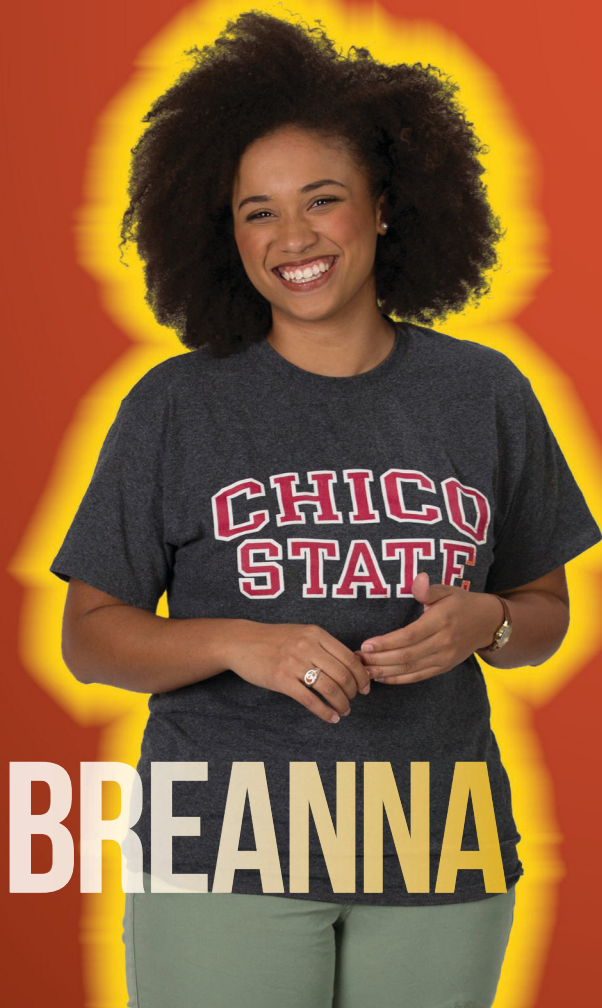
Erica Baier grew up working on a cow/calf operation and pumpkin farm in Iowa. Her high school did not offer agricultural education, so she traveled 20 minutes to a neighboring school to attend ag classes. This is where she first became involved with FFA, where she participated in career development events (CDEs) and grew and sold pumpkins for her supervised agricultural experience (SAE). “That eventually led me to understand the true meaning of service and living a servant life,” Baier says.

The turning point in her FFA career came while she attended a Washington Leadership Conference.

“It was in that moment that my group leader told me that I was worth it. I knew this organization had completely changed my life,” she remembers.

Now, as a mentor to many FFA members, Baier shares her own motivation to keep going.

“Be courageous and understand that failures and wins are going to come together to create these really beautiful moments.” — **By Kelsey Litchfield** ▶



BREANNA



ERICA

Gracie Furnish

Eastern Region Vice President

Hometown: Cynthiana, Ky.

FFA Chapter: Harrison County FFA

College: University of Kentucky (sophomore)

Major: Agricultural education

SAEs: Specialty crop production placement, agricultural education exploration, beef production and agriscience research

For Gracie Furnish, the journey to national office started with a seventh-grade introduction to agricultural education class. “I fell in love with the ways you can learn hands-on and be challenged to learn and grow,” she says.

She continued to grow with FFA, and her experience as a state officer allowed her to meet members who found their home in the organization. “I want more members to have that feeling,” she says. “This organization gives us a way to feel comfortable and allows us to grow. I want to do everything I can to advocate for and to enhance that feeling in the lives of all members.”

Furnish also wants to encourage members to take chances and to have the courage to pursue their goals. “The worst thing you can do is sit back and not even take that chance,” she says. “If you don’t go on to achieve the goal, it’s OK. Think of it as an opportunity to grow.”

– By Lauren Schwab

Ian Bennett

Southern Region Vice President

Hometown: Hahira, Ga.

FFA Chapter: Lowndes County FFA

College: University of Georgia (junior)

Major: Agriscience and environmental systems with an emphasis in plant breeding and genetics

SAEs: Livestock showing, agriscience research and farm production placement

Hailing from a family farm in southern Georgia, it was natural for Ian Bennett and his siblings to be FFA members.

“I joined FFA in the sixth grade when I was in my first ag class,” Bennett says. “I started showing livestock and never looked back.”

Bennett also conducted research projects through FFA and went on to compete in the National FFA Agriscience Fair and Agricultural Proficiency Awards. In middle school, he was the first researcher ever to prove that digital infrared thermometers can be used on sheep and cattle.

Bennett also served as the Georgia FFA state secretary, after which he decided to seek his state’s nomination for national office candidate. “I wanted to give more,” he says. “There’s so much more to do in FFA.”

Through his year of service, Bennett hopes to help members be successful within FFA. His advice? “Take chances and accept opportunities. Get out there and try that, whatever it may be.” – By Abby Marion



GRACIE



IAN

Piper Merritt

Central Region Vice President

Hometown: Owasso, Okla.

FFA Chapter: Owasso FFA

College: Oklahoma State University (sophomore)

Major: Agricultural economics

SAE: Raising and selling show pigs

Piper Merritt joined FFA in eighth grade after transferring to Owasso High School in Oklahoma. “I immediately became involved in FFA because my ag teachers and FFA advisors motivated me to get involved in public speaking,” she says. “Participating in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking throughout my high school FFA career is my favorite memory. I’m so thankful they pushed me to succeed in everything I do.”

Similarly, Merritt wants students to feel empowered because of their involvement in FFA. “I want to be a part of the change students experience whenever they put on the blue jacket. In my mind, there is no clearer answer than to offer myself up to serve the organization.”

Merritt encourages FFA members to say “yes” to the organization and to the life change that can happen. “I truly believe that whenever you step outside of your comfort zone in FFA, that’s when the real life change begins.” – **By Lauren Schwab**

A portrait of Piper Merritt, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling and wearing a tan cardigan over a maroon shirt. The name "PIPER" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a yellow shadow effect.

PIPER

Bryce Cluff

Western Region Vice President

Hometown: Queen Creek, Ariz.

FFA Chapter: Queen Creek FFA

College: University of Arizona (junior)

Major: Agricultural technology and management with an emphasis in education

SAEs: Poultry and goat production

Bryce Cluff blames his friends and FFA advisor for his introduction to FFA, an unexpected choice he now touts as one of the best he’s ever made.

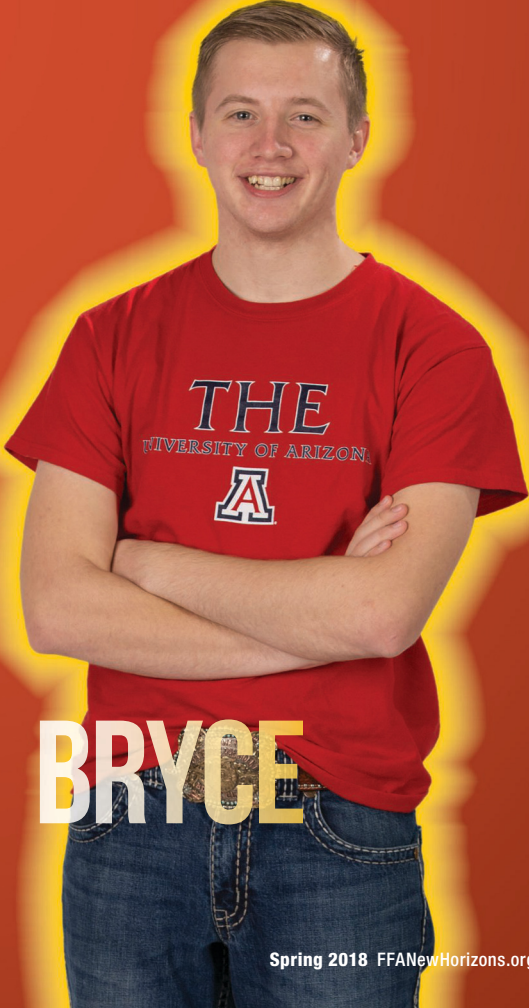
“My sophomore year, I was elected Greenhand president, but not necessarily because I wanted it,” Cluff admits. “I just did it because my advisor thought I would be good at it.”

The role caused Cluff to start setting small goals, such as participating in different CDEs or LDEs. From there, he became a state officer and then a national officer.

Cluff was only in FFA for three years during high school, but that relatively short time left a significant impact on him. National officer candidates normally wear their state officer or national officer candidate jackets during the nominating process. Cluff wore his Queen Creek FFA Chapter jacket.

“Potentially being elected to national office was going to be one of the most important days of my FFA career,” Cluff says. “I wanted to honor what got me here.”

– **By Katie Burns •**

A portrait of Bryce Cluff, a young man with short blonde hair, smiling and wearing a red t-shirt with "THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA" and a large "A" logo. The name "BRYCE" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a yellow shadow effect.

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05



06



07



08



09



10

1. 2017-2018 ANNUAL TEE (S-5X)
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3. BJGS TEE (S-2X)
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TEE17	\$12.50	\$9.38
01932	\$19.50	\$14.63
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02090	\$15.50	\$11.63
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7. FFA ZIGZAG LETTER LOGO TEE (S-2X)
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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 ABCS OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Oregon's Wallowa FFA Chapter earns accolades for its hands-on approach to teaching children where food comes from.

Does chocolate milk come from brown cows? The Wallowa FFA Chapter in Wallowa, Ore., helped school children discover the answer to that question – and taught them a lot more about where their food comes from – as part of the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Literacy Project.

The statewide program selects a book (the 2017 book was *Allison Investigates: Does Chocolate Milk Come from Brown Cows?* and the next selection is *Apples to Oregon*) and asks volunteers to read it with students and complete a hands-on lesson. Oregon AITC provides free curriculum and resources for teachers. In 2016, the program engaged 757 volunteers and 21,354 students in 902 classes across Oregon. The FFA chapter at Wallowa High School has been participating since 2011.

"It's something our FFA kids take a lot of pride in," says Jeremy McCulloch, agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor.

The goal, he explains, is to provide engaging opportunities to help schoolkids learn about agriculture. In addition to the Oregon AITC-provided curriculum, the FFA chapter plans its own lessons, such as hosting petting zoos and planting hanging baskets. McCulloch also encourages FFA members to plan activities around their agricultural interests, which

has led to lessons in roping cattle and incubating chicks. To complement the Apples to Oregon curriculum, students operated a caramel apple booth at the school harvest festival.

"We want to make real-world connections to agriculture and do activities that the kids get excited about," McCulloch says.

In 2016, the Wallowa FFA Chapter was a finalist for a statewide Agriculture Advocacy Award from Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, and one member, Ashley Starner, won an FFA individual proficiency award for the literacy project.

McCulloch believes the benefits extend beyond awards, noting, "For our FFA kids who want to become teachers, this gives them an opportunity to test out a potential future career path."

Several students who participated in Oregon AITC in their younger years are now older FFA members with fond memories of the hands-on classroom lessons, and they want to carry on the tradition. The program is so popular that students campaign within their FFA chapter to take on the role of AITC chair.

"It's a great way to get involved in community service and one of the most popular projects we do as a chapter," McCulloch says. "Everyone benefits when we promote agricultural education."

– By Jodi Helmer

“

It's a great way to get involved in community service and one of the most popular projects we do as a chapter," Jeremy McCulloch says. "Everyone benefits when we promote agricultural education.

”

Visit FFA.org/LivingToServe for information about the Living to Serve platform, including ways to educate your community about agriculture and the grants to help you get started.

first CLASS

While this second-year agricultural education teacher faces the same pressures as many other new teachers, he has risen to the challenge.

Story by Bev Flatt • Photography by Lindsay Galatro

In a small town in central Virginia, an alarm clock blares through the silence early on a pitch-black morning. The screen shows it is 3 a.m. on a Thursday, and Cole Ramsey is getting his day started. After taking care of the beef cattle on his farm, Ramsey makes the hour-long trip to open up the doors to his classroom at Nelson County High School in Lovington, Va. Students arrive hours before the first bell rings for class to make apple butter for the chapter's annual fundraiser. Another bell blares and classes start promptly at 8 a.m. A few sections of agricultural science, mechanics, horticulture and animal science get him through the first four hours of the day. The afternoon is filled with career development event (CDE) practice before an evening meeting at the local Farm Bureau.

It's a long day filled with intense responsibility, but it is not atypical for an agricultural education teacher in today's world. A recent report from Scholastic and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation noted that the average teacher works nearly 11 hours per day, or more than 53 hours per week.

For many first-year teachers, the first year commanding a classroom is daunting. They are responsible for providing the best education to their students, and there are many variables that contribute to – or impede – success. During his first year as an agricultural education teacher, Ramsey has faced many of the same pressures as other first-year teachers, but he has found five keys to making his years of teaching a success.

Make Connections With Students

Ramsey was able to connect with his students through a shared love and passion for agriculture. Ramsey grew up as the son of an FFA advisor.



Cole Ramsey attributes some of his classroom success to having student-taught in the school where he now works. "We were able to connect over our similar FFA experiences and time spent on the farm since I work in a rural area," he says.





Left: Ramsey meets with students Stormy Sutherland-Wallace and Brittany Hall at the school's laying hen facility. Opposite, top: Will Fitzgerald and Jackson Bell build nesting boxes for the laying flock. Opposite, bottom: Josh Woodson reviews his hay wagon frame.

Even before he became an FFA member, he had been to countless banquets and spent his summers at FFA camp. After graduating from Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education, Ramsey came back to Virginia to teach full time.

"My first day of school was really nerve-racking," Ramsey says. "I was fortunate to student-teach where I now work, but there was a whole new group of kids I didn't know. We were able to connect over our similar FFA experiences and time spent on the farm since I work in a rural area."

Making these connections with stu-

dents has been essential to the success of his first year of teaching and instrumental to engaging students in class.

Build a Community

According to an African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child." This time-honored message is never truer than during the first year of an agricultural education teacher's career. Oftentimes, FFA chapters look at community building from the lens of how members can impact the community. However, it can also be viewed in the ways the community can lift up an FFA chapter and its teachers.

Strong relationships with colleagues, administrators, community members, FFA Alumni, students and parents can be the key support you need to persist through adversity.

"Our community goes out of its way to make sure students get what they need to succeed," Ramsey boasts. "Everyone is as invested in the success of our program as I am. This has led to us having a great and supportive group of students the entire community trusts to turn activities over to."

Take Care of Your Body

With CDEs that end at 10 p.m., supervised agricultural experience (SAE) project visits every weekend and county fairs and sheep shows during the summer, FFA advisors and agricultural education teachers are some of the busiest education professionals in the school system. The stresses of time management and the pressures of an endless schedule can quickly deplete an immune system. Sleep. Eat well. Exercise. Don't wait until you need a substitute teacher to commit to taking care of yourself. Start now.

"Being able to balance your time between teaching, your FFA program, and your life is challenging. Throw in owning a small business such as a farm, like many agricultural education teachers have, and time management is especially difficult," Ramsey says. "Set limits on when you'll head home for the day. Figure out a plan that will allow you to spend those hours with your friends and family and will keep you from worrying about what's happening at school."

Take Note of Your Successes

It's easy to get caught up in the competition- and numbers-driven atmosphere of education. Be sure to catalog every moment that feels like a success during your first year of teaching. This can range from students succeeding in a proficiency area to remembering all of your students' names during the first week of school to seeing the spark of knowledge in a

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION: DO THE MATH

Education can be measured by all sorts of numbers. From test scores to attendance rates, numbers in education are countless. The same can be said for agricultural education. There are more than 13,000 FFA advisors in all 50

states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands who teach more than 653,000 FFA members about agriscience, biotechnology, mechanics, horticulture, animal science, environmental science and more. Nearly 23 percent of these teachers have five or fewer years of experience in the

classroom. More than 3,000 students are currently enrolled in college agricultural education degree programs across the country, and many of these programs boast a 100 percent job placement rate for their graduates. The numbers don't lie. A future in agricultural education certainly adds up.



Being able to balance your time between teaching, your FFA program, and your life is challenging.



new FFA member's eye. When the year gets overwhelming, this list can be an excellent reminder of what is important to you as a teacher.

"During that first year, I found myself getting in my own way by worrying too much or stressing over small details," Ramsey says. "Ultimately, we need to be concerned with the direction of our program, serving our students and serving our school. By focusing on our little victories, we can avoid impeding our own success."

Be a Mentor

Finding a great mentor is essential to first-year success. But being a great mentor can impact others to pursue a career in agricultural education. There will be new skills and innovations you can share with your colleagues. There will be tips and tricks you can trade with other first-year teachers. There will be students who will someday become your coworkers.

"I decided I wanted to be an agricultural education teacher while I was a senior in high school. I had a great mentor who took me under his wing and encouraged me along the way," Ramsey says. "If you care for students, want to see them succeed and like working with youth, then being an agricultural education teacher may be the right path for you." •

Visit AgExplorer.com to learn about the responsibilities of an agriculture educator and potential careers in the agricultural education field.







Miller County High School
agriculture educator Bert
Bodiford (left) with Georgia
FFA Alumni Association
President Jim East.

A Class On COLLABORATION

**THIS GEORGIA FFA ALUMNI CHAPTER WAS
RECENTLY NAMED BEST OF THE BEST
BECAUSE OF ITS SUPPORT TO ITS LOCAL
MEMBERS. IT SERVES AS A LESSON FOR ALL.**

**STORY BY JESSICA WALKER BOEHM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TYLER SMITH**

In Miller County, Georgia, agriculture is far more than a profession or a pastime – it's a way of life. As a result, it's no surprise the county lays claim to a strong FFA chapter. What is a little more uncommon, however, is the way in which members are bolstered by their alumni chapter.

"The Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter is absolutely phenomenal," says Bert Bodiford, agriculture teacher at Miller County High School and Miller

County's Young Farmer advisor.

"The people involved in our alumni chapter are truly dedicated to helping the Miller County FFA members and to giving them opportunities that they might not have otherwise."

The National FFA Organization recently recognized that strong support and named the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter the 2017 Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter at the 90th National FFA Convention & Expo.

OUTSTANDING FROM THE START

The award – designed to recognize FFA alumni chapters for their exceptional accomplishments and to encourage other alumni chapters to strive for excellence – was well deserved and a long time coming, according to Jim East, who has been a member of the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter since it began and currently serves as the president of the Georgia FFA Alumni Association.

East's daughter, Erin, who served as president of the Miller County FFA from 1998-99, was instrumental in organizing the alumni chapter. She received assistance from her FFA advisors and agriculture teachers, Bill Spooner, Bobby Cox, Wes Pace and Mandy Long. The chapter received a national charter in August 2001.

Although the chapter started small

Top: Members Joseph Lawhorn (left) and TJ Brown (right) stand with former Miller County FFA Advisor Kitty Bodiford, who completed the 2017 Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter entry form. Bottom: Students and alumni members come together at a chapter party.





with just 24 charter members, its impact was significant from the start.

"It was clear right away that the alumni chapter was going to be a big help to the FFA members and their advisor," East says. "Where we live in Colquitt, production agriculture is alive and well, and most of the people here have a connection to the farm. That's a big reason the community is extremely supportive of FFA, and we've never had a problem getting people involved in the alumni chapter."

The Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter now comprises more than 150 members, many of whom were never in FFA and do not have children in the organization. Their motivation is simple: They're passionate about supporting the next generation of leaders in agriculture and doing their part to ensure the community's agricultural legacy lives on.

"Everyone pitches in to help make sure we have a successful FFA program," East says. "The Miller County FFA has been named our state district's Outstanding FFA Chapter four out of the last five years, and this community

is proud to help and support it. In my opinion, the chapter has more than earned it."

SERIOUS ABOUT SERVICE

According to Kitty Bodiford, Bert Bodiford's wife, who served as the Miller County FFA advisor from 2012-17 and completed most of the Outstanding FFA Alumni Chapter award application, the alumni chapter has developed a reputation for going above and beyond for FFA members.

"The Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter has done so much for the Miller County FFA over the years," Kitty Bodiford says. "It doesn't just help with one or two activities; it helps with anything and everything the members need. I truly believe that level of support from the alumni is one reason the Miller County FFA has excelled and why the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter has been named the top FFA Alumni Chapter by the National FFA Organization."

Along with chaperoning events, the alumni chapter regularly raises money



Top, left: FFA member Kohler Tabb plays at the chapter's annual Beast Feast Cookout. **Above, right:** Kimberly Smith and GJ Douglas. **Above:** Vic Fleet, Miller County school board member and FFA alumnus, with his daughter, Chapter President Victoria Fleet.

and secures sponsorships for the Miller County FFA. For example, the alumni helped raise funds to purchase a 2006 Ford F-250 Super Duty crew cab truck for the chapter in 2009, which continues to help members travel to and from FFA competitions and other agricultural events across Georgia and beyond.

"That pickup truck was much needed," Kitty Bodiford says. "Having it eliminates the need for agriculture teachers to use their personal vehicles



Left: A group of Miller County FFA members huddles at the Beast Feast Cookout and Corn Hole Tournament. Right: Former Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter President Rodney Bryan with TJ Brown and KaCee Holt.



to transport FFA members to different events, and that's greatly appreciated because of the wear and tear all of that travel can cause."

The alumni chapter also helped sponsor a new livestock trailer that's used to help FFA members carry their animals to shows and contests. It also solicits financial support from local businesses, farmers and people

across the community to ensure FFA members can attend annual events, such as the Georgia FFA State Convention and the National FFA Convention & Expo.

Plus, the alumni chapter assists with the Miller County FFA's fundraisers, including the FFA Chicken-Q (a barbecue plate sale) and the smoked pork chop plate sale.

"We all work together to guarantee the Miller County FFA has the funds it needs," East says. "We want these kids to take advantage of every opportunity available to them."

In addition, alumni chapter members serve as judges for local FFA contests and help conduct Miller County FFA officer training. In the past, the alumni chapter has assisted with the Miller County FFA's annual Beast Feast Cookout and Corn Hole Tournament,

and alumni members with farms have invited students to tour their operations and learn more about what a career in agriculture looks like.

Rod Bryan, previous member of the Miller County FFA and former president of the alumni chapter, particularly enjoys Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, when FFA members come to his peanut farm to learn how the crops are processed, then enjoy peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch. He says it's a way for him to give back to an organization he believes in, and that's an attitude evident across the board in the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter.

"We live in a very giving community, and the Miller County FFA Alumni Chapter is a huge part of that," Bert Bodiford says. "We're all grateful for our alumni and can't thank them enough for what they've done and continue to do for the Miller County FFA." •

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

Participating in an FFA Alumni chapter is an easy and effective way to impact young people's lives, and it's something you can be part of whether you have previous FFA experience or not. Plus, it's a worthy investment in your community – after all, your local FFA members will likely play significant roles in your area's agricultural economy going forward.

The opportunities to assist your com-

munity's FFA chapter are nearly endless. For example, many chapters need financial support, while others can benefit from help with event planning, marketing and transportation. From cooking meals and promoting events to fundraising and organizing field trips, chances are, there's something you can do to enhance your local FFA chapter.

Not sure where to start? Consider reaching out to your area's FFA advisor to identify the chapter's greatest needs and ask how you can use your unique talents and resources to help it thrive.

"All FFA alumni should have an

established, active alumni chapter," says Kitty Bodiford, former Miller County FFA advisor and current advisor for the Pataula Charter Academy FFA. "The alumni can help provide an advisor with the support that he or she needs, whether it's raising funds, chaperoning events or coaching teams, and I see alumni chapters as extensions of agricultural programs. An alumni chapter is part of an FFA chapter, and I truly believe that if you're going to have a successful FFA chapter, you need to have an alumni organization in place. The two go hand in hand."

PRODUCTIVE *Partnership*

FFA and the American Farm Bureau Federation work together to better serve members of both organizations.

Formalizing a long-held relationship between FFA and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), the two organizations recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlines new ways in which they will collaborate to grow leaders, build communities and strengthen agriculture.

“FFA and AFBF have always gone hand in hand,” says Riley Pagett, director of advocacy and government relations for the National FFA Organization. “When we started a conversation about formalizing our relationship, we realized it made sense. The overlap of membership is pretty significant in both organizations; for example, many FFA members go on to become Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers members and Farm Bureau members.”

Pagett says the next step was to “put something on paper describing how, together, we could inspire the next generation of agriculture.” Leaders from the two organizations joined forces to identify ways they could serve and support one another, resulting in a detailed plan that ultimately received input from a wide variety of FFA and AFBF staff members.

“This MOU also outlines how our organizations can work together better on policy issues and initiatives, as well as how FFA can use the AFBF advocacy resources to help our students better tell the story of agriculture,” Pagett says. “In addition, both FFA and AFBF have great career kits for those wanting to pursue careers in agriculture, and this MOU helps ensure that members of both organizations have access to those.” (Find the AFBF career kit at agfoundation.org/free-resources.)

After the MOU was finalized, Mark Poeschl, CEO of the National FFA Organization, and Zippy Duvall, president of the AFBF, signed the document in Washington, D.C., during a national meeting of state Farm Bureau presidents from across the U.S. in July 2017. The MOU is valid through July 12, 2018, at which time the two organiza-

tions will reevaluate the agreement.

“There is a commonality in all of our goals, and both FFA and AFBF value raising young people to know food and agriculture, and to be involved in the industry,” Pagett says. “Formalizing the agreement by creating an MOU was a way to discuss with one another how our partnership could fully benefit our organizations now and in the future.”

Duvall agrees. “Farm Bureau is a long-time supporter of agricultural education’s critical role in creating opportunities for the next generation of agriculture professionals,” he says. “Through the Farm Bureau-FFA collaboration, we will build on that legacy and inspire young people to explore the many ways they can be part of agriculture’s bright future, whether in farming and ranching, agribusiness or a food-related career.”

– By Jessica Walker Boehm

“THERE IS A COMMONALITY IN ALL OF OUR GOALS, AND BOTH FFA AND AFBF VALUE RAISING YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, AND TO BE INVOLVED IN THE INDUSTRY.”

– RILEY PAGETT

FFA *in the* USA

FFA MEMBERSHIP HAS REACHED A RECORD-BREAKING 653,359 MEMBERS FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS AND FROM THE STATE OF MAINE TO HAWAII! CHAPTERS ARE DOING AMAZING THINGS TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS WHILE ENGAGING AND RETAINING CURRENT ONES. HERE ARE THE LATEST MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS BY STATE, ALONG WITH SOME OF THE EXCITING THINGS CHAPTERS AND STATES ARE DOING TO BUILD ON THEIR MEMBERSHIP SUCCESS. — Compiled by Julie Woodard

ALABAMA

14,325 members

As part of its state convention, the Alabama FFA Association annually recognizes FFA chapters that obtain 100 percent membership. Chapters host tailgates or cookouts, trips to the Sunbelt Ag Expo and other fun events for members.

ALASKA

258 members

ARIZONA

9,433 members

Westwood FFA visits its feeder junior high school to showcase FFA and the chapter's activities, which include a Halloween festival and icebreaker, land lab workdays and days of service.

ARKANSAS

11,895 members

CALIFORNIA

87,209 members

California FFA uses the Three-Component Model to engage members. The experience starts in the classroom, where students are able to receive college preparatory credits and meet graduation standards. There are also leadership and work-based opportunities.

COLORADO

5,897 members

CONNECTICUT

3,285 members

DELAWARE

3,688 members

FLORIDA

16,693 members

Buffalo Creek FFA hosts a CDE Day for fifth-grade students at a local elementary school. The event introduces the students to the contests they can participate in once they're in middle school.

GEORGIA

41,408 members

Jefferson Middle FFA members kick off the school year with an event to give prospective students an opportunity to check out an FFA meeting before joining.

HAWAII

345 members

IDAHO

4,810 members

Hagerman High School's agriculture department retains members with its double greenhouse. The hands-on community garden, maintained by FFA members, funds the FFA chapter and is also part of a farm-to-table classroom experience.



ILLINOIS

17,393 members

Pontiac FFA has developed "FFA Live," a public relations campaign to attract and inform members, their families, alumni and the community about chapter events. The campaign includes a series of member-created video blogs shared on social media.

INDIANA

12,514 members

Many chapters in Indiana have engaged members with a reward system in which they earn points for every event they attend. At the end of the year, the members with the most points attend a rewards trip.

IOWA

14,896 members

KANSAS

9,209 members

Chapman FFA hosts Greenhand Greetings, which includes a Freshman Frenzy where members visit the homes of all incoming freshmen enrolled in agricultural education and give them an Official FFA Manual, the chapter constitution, Program of Activities and an officer contact list.

KENTUCKY

14,617 members

The Jackson County FFA Chapter holds an annual Donkey Basketball game that engages the community.

LOUISIANA

9,420 members

Ponchatoula FFA sponsors a back-to-school FFA tailgate for all members before the school's football season opener. This gives upper-class students a chance to meet and encourage new members.

MAINE

368 members

MARYLAND

2,322 members

MASSACHUSETTS

1,991 members

Massachusetts FFA encourages involvement by offering leadership conferences and opportunities to compete in 45 different CDEs and LDEs.

MICHIGAN

7,715 members

MINNESOTA

10,404 members

Sleepy Eye FFA hosts junior high fun nights and an annual lock-in dedicated to encouraging and engaging younger members to join the chapter.

MISSISSIPPI

3,627 members

MISSOURI

25,426 members

Missouri FFA hosts statewide Greenhand motivational conferences that help students learn about CDEs and leadership opportunities, and network. The state also hosts Helping Youth Maximize their Agricultural eXperience, a weekend camp that is designed for Greenhand members to help ignite their passion for FFA and agriculture.

MONTANA

5,074 members

Each year, Montana FFA invites representatives from the Montana State University Agricultural Education department to speak with students about careers in agriculture and agricultural education to illustrate where FFA can lead them.

NEBRASKA

7,807 members

Boyd County FFA recruits members through a summer event called New Found Leaders. Attendees enjoy a day on the river and learn about FFA.

NEVADA

2,547 members

Nevada state officers travel more than 2,000 miles to visit every chapter in the state and to encourage all students to become active FFA members.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

461 members

Chapters engage members by holding events for middle schoolers – in particular, eighth-graders – to spark their passion for agriculture.

NEW JERSEY

2,507 members

Freehold FFA hosts a Greenhand conference to help freshmen discover the opportunities in FFA.

NEW MEXICO

3,389 members

NEW YORK

4,130 members

NORTH CAROLINA

19,301 members

NORTH DAKOTA

5,389 members

Belfield FFA hosts a junior high ag day for neighboring schools. Participants learn

about CDEs, topics in agriculture and leadership skills through hands-on experiences with other junior high students and chapter/state officers.

OHIO

24,705 members

The Northeastern FFA engages its members with an annual powder-puff football game, which has raised almost \$42,000 in five years for its local Breast Cancer Endowment fund.



OKLAHOMA

26,798 members

Tecumseh FFA hosts an annual mud volleyball tournament at the beginning of the school year to welcome new members to the program.

OREGON

6,203 members

PUERTO RICO

2,625 members

RHODE ISLAND

112 members

State officers help chapters recruit students from outside the district into their career and technical programs and FFA chapters. Members are encouraged to be involved in contests and activities sponsored by the state officers.

SOUTH CAROLINA

7,030 members

State officers facilitate Chapter Officer Workshops, where students are taught how to effectively plan, host and facilitate their own workshops.

SOUTH DAKOTA

4,626 members

TENNESSEE

13,671 members

McGavock FFA conducts Pet Friday to recruit members. Once FFA members pay their dues, they are eligible to sign up for the Pet Friday schedule, allowing them to bring their pet to class on a Friday of their choice. In total, 30 interesting pets were presented this year, including a guide dog for the blind.

TEXAS

119,690 members

Texas FFA has placed the FFA experience into members' hands through the innovative app and website MyTexasFFA.org.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

55 members

UTAH

7,084 members

VERMONT

311 members

VIRGINIA

8,572 members

Throughout the year, James River FFA officers host mini-CDEs at each chapter meeting to encourage member participation.

WASHINGTON

10,728 members

Yelm FFA organizes recruit-

ment seminars in the fall and spring to educate members, potential members and their parents about opportunities available in FFA. FFA

101 covers the benefits of becoming a member, while FFA 102 details career and leadership development event competitions and SAE pathways.

WEST VIRGINIA

4,629 members

WISCONSIN

20,867 members

Wisconsin FFA is on a 38-year high for membership. State officers visit every school within their respective section and put on Sectional Leadership Workshops to educate chapter officers.

WYOMING

2,969 members



PENNSYLVANIA

12,931 members

At Mid-West FFA, all new agricultural education students and their families are invited to an Ag Open House and Back 2 School BBQ to tour the agricultural education facilities, learn about FFA programs and activities, and get ideas to help them begin their SAEs.



On the RECORD

Janice EBERLY

The first female national FFA president discusses her place in FFA history and the ways in which the organization prepared her for a successful future.

NH: YOU GREW UP IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIF. CAN YOU TALK A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR FFA ACTIVITIES THERE?

JE: I was involved in FFA with both horticulture and livestock, and later on with leadership responsibilities and public speaking. My family always stood behind me, allowing me to find my own vision while providing enthusiasm and support.

NH: YOU WERE THE FIRST FEMALE STATE AND NATIONAL FFA PRESIDENT. WHAT IMPACT DID THAT HAVE ON THE ORGANIZATION?

JE: It was an opportunity to showcase the organization as growing, nimble and changing to prove an opportunity for people who have lots to contribute in many different ways. It was gratifying to me to fill that role, but it was also a reminder that I was representing the talents and aspirations of many others.

NH: HOW DID THE SKILLS YOU LEARNED IN FFA TRANSLATE TO YOUR CAREER?

JE: As our national FFA leadership team traveled, we saw different cultures and different families, whether in North Dakota, Puerto Rico or Japan. Being able to talk and listen to a wide range of people and to come together to work intensively with people who are strangers, for the most part, delivered valuable life and workplace skills that are useful every day.

NH: AS AN FFA ALUMNA WITH A HIGH-PROFILE CAREER AS AN ECONOMIST, YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL. HOW DO YOU APPROACH THAT RESPONSIBILITY?

JE: I try to project a positive attitude and approach to challenges, recognizing that some experiments are successful and some are not, but you learn from all of them. It is important to apply that to yourself and also to the people around you. Give the people you are working with the chance to take risks and to grow, as well.

— By Karen Bernick

BIO

HOMETOWN: Fallbrook, Calif.

FFA CHAPTER: Fallbrook Union High School FFA

FFA INVOLVEMENT: Elected the first female national FFA president and California state FFA president

CURRENT LOCATION: Evanston, Ill.

JOB HIGHLIGHTS: Currently the James R. and Helen D. Russell professor of finance at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University; served as the assistant secretary for economic policy at the U.S. Treasury from 2011 to 2013

**Snap 'em
& send 'em!**
— WE WANT YOUR PICS —

Ag Angle

JENNA FLETCHER

AGE: 22

LOCATION: Milburn, Neb.

CHAPTER: Verona FFA (Verona, Wis.)

INSTAGRAM: Wiscowsingal

FACEBOOK: @Wiscowsingal

BLOG: crazycalf lady.com

THIS PHOTO HAS THREE OF MY FAVORITE THINGS: A SUNSET, A CALF AND A SUNFLOWER. Sunsets remind me that no matter how difficult the day may have been, it will end beautifully. Calves bring me the most joy, and I'm thankful I get to work with them every day. Sunflowers can bloom in the strangest places, but they always stand tall and face the sunshine. It's a good reminder.



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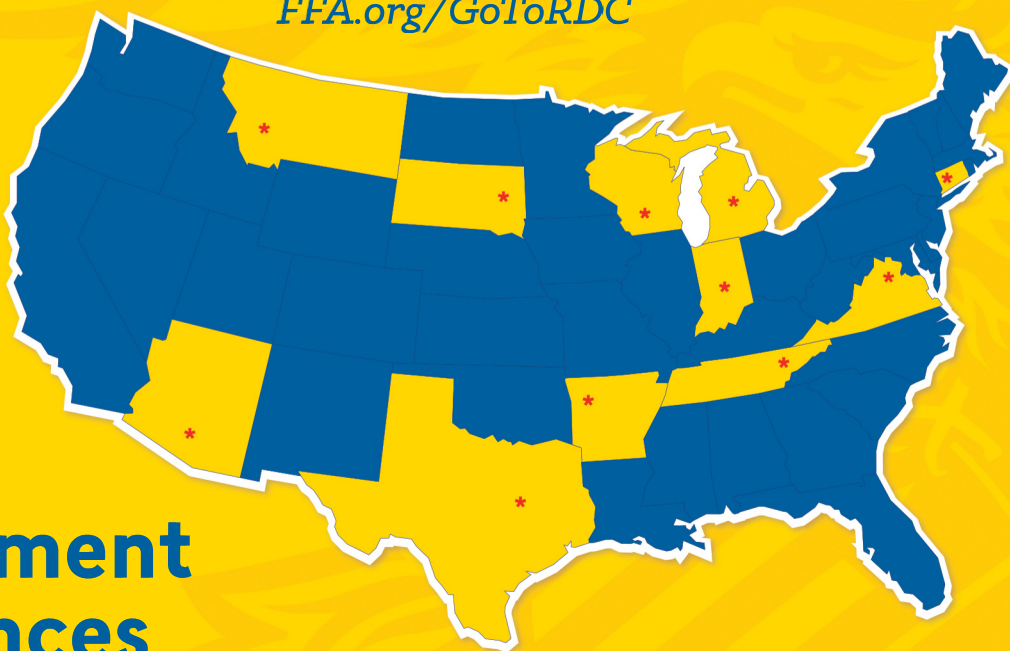
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