



Camas County FFA member Logan Schofield was born with multiple birth defects, rendering him nonverbal, blind in one eye and bound to a wheelchair. But that hasn't stopped the Idaho chapter from helping Schofield fully experience FFA.

A junior at Camas County High School, Schofield and his two brothers, Max (ninth grade) and Xander (seventh grade), all participate in the school's agriculture program led by first-year agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Riely Geritz.

"I have a background working with people with disabilities, and I feel strongly that agriculture programs should be completely inclusive," Geritz says. "It isn't always easy, but with a combination of support from his incredible paraprofessional, Sharon Kepford, deliberate conversations, and trying new things, Logan is able to be part of our class and get the objective out of hands-on assignments. His classmates have made that happen; they work to include him, fight over who gets to sit by him and talk to him about his favorite TV shows."

Schofield's care team noticed he enjoys smelling different scents and realized an opportunity for a one-of-a-kind supervised agricultural experience (SAE).

"His family uses lavender to relax him,

and you can tell by his actions when he likes the way something smells," Geritz says. "His favorite scents are lavender and orange."

Schofield's paraprofessional educator found a recipe for bath bombs and helped Schofield mix the ingredients to make them for his SAE.

Fellow FFA members jumped onboard, creating natural body products including lip balms, foot and hand scrubs, bath salts, soaps and hand sanitizers to be included in Schofield's SAE, which they named For the Love of Logan. The products are sold and the proceeds are given to Schofield's family for his medical expenses.

"We began selling them at our town's Christmas tree lighting in December 2019, and by mid-January, we'd already sold \$500 worth of products," Geritz says. "It's been a great way for our members to learn skills and show compassion, which they can use in their future careers."

For more information about the products, contact Geritz at rgeritz@camascountyschools.org.

— By Jessica Mozo



HIGH-TECH GARDENING

When members of the Sutherlin High School FFA, in Sutherlin, Ore., began experimenting with FarmBot, an open-source agricultural robot, their goal was to put it to work in their campus greenhouse.

"We used the technology to talk about things like automation and variable-rate application," says agricultural education instructor and FFA advisor Wes Crawford.

Funds from Grants for Growing, sponsored by retailer Tractor Supply Co., allowed students to build a 10×20-foot raised bed with tracks for the robot to run along. The robot was programmed to perform tasks

like planting, watering and weeding.

"It presented a lot of opportunities for students to learn about CNC [computer numerical controlled] farming, coding and running experiments," explains Sterling Foster, 17.

Daniel Lyons, a senior, admits that building and troubleshooting the track system proved challenging, but it also provided a chance to work as a team to overcome obstacles.

"The biggest takeaway for me was perseverance," adds Alyssa McCormick, 17. "Technology comes with a lot of variables. When you get it figured out and you're able to actually witness it working,

it's really amazing."

Sutherlin High School FFA set up the FarmBot at the Douglas County Fair in Roseburg, Ore., last summer. The project attracted a lot of attention, allowing students to showcase a unique FFA project and to challenge the views of a traditional agricultural program.

"An ag program is ultimately about production," Crawford says. "It's about all of the steps involved, from traditional ag methods to the real-world applications of technology, for things like irrigation and plant nutrition and the teamwork that goes into making it happen."

— By Jodi Helmer

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Consider applying for Grants for Growing funds in the future. Learn more about the program at [FFA.org/GrantsForGrowing](https://www.ffa.org/GrantsForGrowing).



The Sutherlin High School FFA Chapter experiments with FarmBot, an agricultural robot.

