



SOCIAL MEDIA MAVENS

THESE ACCOUNTS ARE RUN
BY WOMEN WITH TIES TO FFA.
FOLLOW AND LIKE THEM TO BE
INSPIRED AND INFORMED!



LIONS AND TIGERS AND RHINOS, *Oh My!*

Six FFA members from Kalamazoo County, Mich., got up close and personal with elusive wild African animals last August. The students came from four schools but were all enrolled in the Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency's Veterinary Science program of the KRESA South FFA Chapter. Together they embarked on a two-week journey to Hoedspruit, South Africa, to study with wildlife veterinarians at the Vets and Wildlife/Selati Vet Experience. Students assisted veterinarians in performing health checks, preparing animals for transport, administering dewormers and antibiotics, applying parasite medications, injecting microchips and treating wounds.

"Because the animals are wild, this involved darting them with tranquilizers first, then quickly accomplishing the tasks before the animals awoke," says Noreen

Heikes, a veterinarian, FFA advisor and veterinary science teacher who accompanied the students on the trip. "We had hands-on experiences with lions, a cheetah, elephants, giraffes, a rhino and a hippo (which is the deadliest animal in Africa)."

James Porter, a graduate of Gull Lake High School, says the trip boosted his interest in working toward becoming a licensed veterinary technician.

"Every experience left me in pure amazement," he says. "I would go back in a heartbeat."

For Brooklyn Joslyn, a 2018 graduate of

Portage Central High School, the best part of the trip was the realization that she was meant to pursue a career helping wildlife.

"Nothing about vaccinating a wild sable in South Africa should be normal," Joslyn says. "But after a day or two, doing that vet work just felt right. It proves I am meant to put this career in my life."

— By Jessica Mozo

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— NOREEN HEIKES



Artha Jonassaint
@akj_8

The president of the Florida FFA Association travels all over the state. Tag along for the ride!

Chyenne Deno
@chyenne.deno

Follow along as Deno serves as state reporter for the Indiana FFA Association.



Anna Brown
@annagracebrown

Brown shows off her run as Tennessee state reporter and a member of the #FFAStyleSquad. Use her discount code for 20 percent off at **ShopFFA.org**.

Andrea Escher
@andreaa.escher

Escher provides regular dispatches as she navigates being a district sentinel in Minnesota.



Laurie Link
@laurie_countrylinked

This fourth-generation farmer from Missouri shares photos of her family, animals and other moments on the farm.

AJ Teasley
@avajaneteasley

Teasley shares her year as Georgia's state FFA north region vice president. Also a member of the #FFAStyleSquad, use her discount code for 20 percent off at **ShopFFA.org**.