

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a vast cornfield. The corn plants are tall and green, with some showing signs of ripening. In the distance, a white barn with a dark roof is silhouetted against a bright, orange and yellow sunset sky. The overall mood is peaceful and agricultural.

The Michigan FFA Creed

Fall 2011

The Michigan FFA Creed



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C I Believe...

Checkout why the National FFA Organization is right for everyone, written by your State President.

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Find out what six chapters across the state are up to.

F Our Motto in Motion

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J Fall Fun In Michigan

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M Word Scramble

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N The Rest of the Story

Learn more about three of your state officers.

The Michigan FFA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation or disability. Any student requiring an accommodation as a result of a disability should contact the chapter advisor to arrange such accommodation.

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I believe...

...that the FFA is an organization for everyone.

I am willing to bet that the 33 farm boys who founded the Future Farmers of America in 1928 never would have thought that the organization would have grown to the National FFA Organization that we know and love today. Their idea of an organization for young men who were planning on a career in agriculture spread rapidly and today has molded many great leaders and innovators.

Currently, there are approximately 523,309 FFA members in the United States, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. With so many members it's amazing to me the number of people who still have no idea what the FFA is or what the members do. Many people still perceive the FFA as strictly for students who live on a farm or hope to pursue a future in the agriculture industry. While some members do plan on an agriculturally related career, many do not.

The FFA is one of the few organizations that does not turn anyone away. You don't have to be

athletic, a "straight-A" student, or have any other special talent to become a member.

There are very few careers, if any, that the FFA couldn't provide you with skills and experiences that would help you become successful. So, you want to run a business? Well in order to do that you need to know how to sell your products and Agricultural Sales would be a great contest for you. So, you want to be a wedding planner? Get involved with planning your chapter events like a year end banquet or a Food for America Day. So, you want to be a rock star? What better way to show off your skills than at the FFA talent show.

The National FFA is an organization for everyone. All you need is a blue corduroy jacket, and an open mind.

For more information on how to get involved visit www.michiganffa.org

Dates to Remember...

September

- 12 Deadline for ordering Broilers
- 15 Fall Leadership Conference Scholarship Applications Due (e-mail to Michigan FFA Alumni)
- 22 FFA Board of Directors Meeting - MSU - 5-8 p.m.
- 27 Start date for Broilers

October

- 14 Broiler entries due
- 16-22 National FFA Convention
- 26 Fall Leadership Conference Fall PDI Registrations Due
- 31 Broiler weigh day

November

- 3-4 Contest for Broilers - Munsell's Poultry Processing
- 8-9 Fall Leadership Conference/Fall PDI
- 15 FFA Membership Rosters Due

CHAPTER C

Region 1

Charlotte

Advisors: Mrs. Lorin Stewart
Mr. Nick Thompson

Almost everyone is affected by cancer in some way and for the past 3 years Charlotte FFA has stepped up to make a difference in their community by participating in the Relay for Life of Charlotte. Relay for Life is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Charlotte FFA has helped raise over \$6,000 to fund cancer treatment and research. By participating in Relay for Life, members are helping to ensure that future generations will not have to face fighting cancer or losing a loved one. So far, this year, Charlotte FFA has raised over \$2,248 exceeding their goal of \$2,000. Congratulations to the Charlotte FFA chapter for experiencing great success with their fundraising event.



Camden-Frontier

Advisor: Mr. Nathan Gust

This past April, the Camden-Frontier FFA chapter held its annual plant and flower sale. With the help of the Zoology, Botany, and Ag business classes, the chapter was able to grow and produce hundreds of plants for the sale. Ashley Jagger, an active member, says "this is a great way to get our fellow classmates that are not familiar with the FFA involved in what we do." The plant sale also involves elementary students getting hands on experience in the chapter's greenhouse. In all, this was a very successful event for the chapter, raising over \$1,200.



Ubly

Advisor: Mrs. Melissa Kramer

Recently, the Ubly FFA Chapter hosted a new event, Ag Olympics. The event took place during national FFA Week to promote FFA to their school and community. The entire student body was invited to the event. Each grade (7-12) had ten representatives that participated in the activities. The Ag Olympics were composed of four activities including: pedal tractor relay, dizzy potato toss, egg spoon race and hose through the clothes. The Ubly FFA chapter was presented a check at the end of their Ag Olympics from Monsanto through the Grow Your Communities project. The money that was awarded to the chapter will be used to help them do other projects throughout their community such as Ag. Literacy, Grow Your Own Soup, and Project R.E.D. Ag Olympics turned out to be a great success and may be a new Ubly tradition.



2011/02/25

CHATTER



Durand Middle School Advisor: Mr. Torey Birchmeier

The Durand Middle School FFA Chapter has been extremely active, even though they were recently chartered. Under the direction of Mr. Birchmeier, students have participated in leadership contests, skills contests and various community service projects. The recently chartered chapter sent one team and two speakers to leadership contests in February and had two teams compete in the milk quality skills contest at MSU in April. One team placed second in the state at skills contests. The members have raised money by selling candles and have worked to raise funds for local food banks during the holidays. Throughout the year, students have enjoyed meeting the state officers and attending state convention. We look forward to seeing the success that Durand Middle School will achieve in the next few years.

Belding Advisor: Ms. Kate Feuerstein

The members of the Belding FFA have been quite busy this year with many activities. In the fall, the PALS group carved pumpkins, traveled to national convention and had a successful community hog roast and auction. In the winter, the chapter competed in leadership contests, the PALS group had a sledding party, and Belding FFA adopted a family for Christmas. Members have also volunteered at Dairy Days at the Grand Rapids Museum. A huge success for Belding FFA has been their blanket drive competition with the Ionia FFA. Both chapters collected over 100 blankets with the Belding FFA collecting a few more and earning the win. This spring was busy with Drive your Tractor to School Day, Skills contests and working at the elementary field day.



Wexford-Missaukee Advisor: Mr. Mark Johnson

The Wexford-Missaukee Career Center FFA has been putting their hard work to good use. Over the past year, Wexford-Missaukee FFA has participated in numerous events including District and Regional Leadership Contests, Region VI Decathlon which resulted in 1st place and 3rd place teams, Ag Skills contest, Broiler contest and State Convention. Students have been actively participated in Harvest for America collecting over 700 pounds of food, Artificial Insemination (AI) training for dairy cows resulting in the certification of six students, the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) and Region VI Leadership Camp. With such an active chapter it's no wonder that they have 17 more students enrolled in their natural resources based curriculum for this coming school year. This interest will help with Wexford's future plans to involve more community service in their Program of Activities (POA) and the possibility of starting an alumni group.



Our Motto in Motion



Learning to Do

By: Katie Jo Gentner
State Treasurer
&
Bethany Schruer
Region I State Vice President

An FFA chapter is more than just taking part in leadership contests or participating in the classroom it should also include community service and involvement. The North Huron chapter, located in Region III, is doing just that. Like many chapters throughout the state the North Huron chapter participates in a fruit sale during the winter, having their members go out into the community and sell fruit needs to be done in order for this project to be a success. But for this chapter's members they can also learn about giving back and helping those in need. The North Huron chapter donates all of the unsold fruit that they have to local food pantries. As a chapter they have also purchased extra fruit to ensure that they have additional quantities to give away. The members feel that this is their top project due to the participation of members and their willingness to help others.

Gardening can be a way of life, for this chapter it's a way to offer their hands in the community. At the Oakwood Senior Center in Harbor Beach, Michigan the chapter was asked to help clean up and make the landscaping look pleasing to the occupants and visitors. This all started last summer and has been maintained by the advisor Mr. Kirk Forsyth and his members. Chapter President Katie Alexander said that she wanted to look for a summer project that they could do similar to the one at the senior center. She contacted the local Homeless Coalition and they told her that they were going to open a new center and would like the North Huron FFA to help with the landscaping and upkeep of the grounds.

Staying active in their community is extremely important for this chapter. Besides donating leftover fruit and the garden projects they have also been involved in the county's Rural Education Day or Project R.E.D. During their time volunteering at this event the members were tour guides or gave a lending hand at one of the stations. This fall they are hoping to have their own station at this event. They would like to teach the local elementary students about hydroponics or lawn care safety.

They hope to become more involved at their local Kinde Polka Festival by being the shuttle service and hopefully putting on a tractor show. They would have people from the community bring their new or antique tractors to this event. The chapter would then donate half of their profit to an organization in their area.

Coming from an area that is strongly influenced by agriculture it was easy for the chapter to come up with a way to get the whole school involved in the FFA for a day. Drive your tractor to school day is a way they accomplish this. For this upcoming school year they would like to incorporate an Agricultural Olympics along with a bonfire and tailgate at their school's homecoming game.

As one person's time ends, another starts and then another. At least this is the case at North Huron High School. The FFA chapter has had three different advisors in the last few years. It would be predicted that the chapter would suffer from this, but that has not been the case. They still have had members attend national and state conventions, leadership contests, and career development events and raise chickens for the broiler contest. They also have two members who attended the Washington Leadership Conference this past summer which will be the first time in thirteen years a member of North Huron FFA has been fortunate enough to attend this event. Advisor Mr. Forsyth said that he is impressed and proud of how his members have handled the advisor changes and how they have kept on track and continued moving forward while keeping the traditions of the chapter alive and strong.

It is clear to see that the lack of funding and a budget cut along with new advisors has had no negative effects on the North Huron FFA Chapter. The chapter has prospered and does all it can to stay involved in the different FFA events while also staying active in their community. We all wish you the best of luck in everything that you do and keep up the good work.



Doing to Learn

By: Mallory A. Weber
State Sentinel
&
Sara Fosburg
Region V State Vice President

Adam Guernsey is a member of the Saranac FFA chapter and works very hard on his Supervised Agricultural Experience. He started his Poultry Production SAE in the spring of his sixth grade year. He started out using a shed that belongs to his neighbor that sits behind his house. Adam started out with 35 Rhode Island Red chicks and once they were old enough to start laying eggs, he started selling the eggs to his neighbors, friends, and family. Adam did not want to stop with just laying hens, so he built another pen in the shed and began raising broiler hens. After raising some broilers for both himself and a few customers, Adam started competing in the FFA broiler contest. During the summer of Adam's sophomore year in high school, he began his own poultry processing business. Adam had a huge advantage to his processing, as the school needed a place to store the chicken plucker they had purchased. Adam started his business through word of mouth and the news that he could butcher poultry spread rapidly.

Adam purchases his chickens through Townline Hatchery, in Zeeland, Michigan. Since Adam does not currently own any of his own equipment he uses his family ties to the Saranac community and is able to rent the equipment when he needs something done. Adam believes that treating the farmers with the utmost respect will help him in the future. The very first time Adam sold his broiler hens he sold them to family and friends. The customers could not say enough good things about his birds and Adam now has people calling him asking when he will have broilers ready. Guernsey's business has already started expanding so much that he has now began hiring people to help with the poultry processing aspect



of his business. Adam tries to hire fellow FFA members when his grandpa and his good friends are not able to help.

Adam had many important goals he wanted to achieve when starting his SAE; the most important goal he had was to form a customer base to market his products. He needed a way to market his broilers and the eggs from his laying hens and to make money. Adam really hopes to start expanding out beyond his neighbors, friends, and family. To help with that, he markets his products as being homegrown, without hormones or antibiotics, and as being raised humanely.

Working with several area farmers and seeing how they make a living in the agricultural industry is something that Adam really enjoys, and it's helping him to find his own niche in this industry. He is really hoping to profit from his passion in agriculture, and hopes to find a business that will be able to prosper even with his lack of land, buildings, and machinery. "I want this business to grown by 20% each year." Adam said when talking about the growth of his company.

Since Adam began participating in the FFA broiler contest, he takes the advice from the judge to heart. He then directly applies it to his next pen of broilers, hoping to improve before next year's contest. He also uses this advice to experiment with different methods on different broiler pens, finding what works and what doesn't.

Adam's biggest advantage for his SAE products has been the support of his family. His immediate and extended family is always there to assist him. They help each other with chores, field work, the family garden, and various projects throughout the year. "My family has given me total control over my projects," Adam said, "They understand the importance of responsibility." Adam is able to make all of his own decisions, right or wrong. Other advantages he has is the use of his neighbor's shed, where he is able to house his birds and his grandpa's old milk house, where he does all the butchering for the birds that people bring to him. Adam also has a good customer base, keeping him very busy butchering the poultry. Adam's biggest disadvantage for his SAE project is that he does not currently own his own land, equipment, or his own buildings, but hopes to in the future as his business expands. Adam was the 2011 state winner in the proficiency area of Poultry Production and his enthusiasm towards his SAE goes to show that Adam Guernsey truly is "Doing to Learn".

Earning to Live

By: Brittny Bommarito
Region II State Vice President
&
Rebecca L. Gulliver
Region III State Vice President

What comes to mind when asked, “What is a good career field to go into because there will always be job opportunities?” It is most likely the health industry – including physical therapy, nursing, doctors, etc. – however, an industry that most people do not think of is the agriculture industry. The ag industry is crucial to the United States’ and world’s future. It is up to agriculture to provide enough food and fiber to support the increasing world’s population. The Ag industry has so many opportunities for people and it is our job as agriculturalists to educate others and make them aware of these opportunities.

Marshall R. Jenkins is a small town man who took advantage of his opportunities to better himself and see to it that he succeeds. He was raised in the Breckenridge area, the youngest of five children; he has one brother and three sisters. Growing up he was always very active in agriculture; he showed steers at the fair, helped out on the family farm, and was a member of the local FFA chapter. Through Marshall’s involvement in FFA he held offices at the chapter, regional, and state levels. When asked about the opportunities he had through FFA, Marshall replied with, “Many fond memories ... FFA gave me numerous opportunities to travel and meet some lifelong friends. The skills that I learned during my FFA years have made a very positive impact on my career; from basic knowledge of plant and animals sciences to leadership and communication skills, they have all been valuable in my career.”

Marshall always knew he wanted to be involved in agriculture; however, he knew there wasn’t really room for him to stay home on the family farm. After graduating high school he decided that retail ag business was the next best thing because it allowed him to work with local farmers on a daily basis. While attending Michigan State University, for a two year program, Marshall obtained his first “real” job in the agri-business industry through job placement at the Hemlock Elevator in Hemlock, MI. There, Marshall worked in the grain plant and ran one of the sprayers, he then worked his way up to do some sales, and eventually he earned a spot in management. Jenkins recognized the importance of agriculture, but where he was needed was not home on the family farm. He knew he was supposed to go out and get involved with something in the ag industry that was bigger than

where he was currently, so he worked to find his spot, and take a look at him today.

Today, Jenkins manages a multi-million dollar retail ag supply outlet, Wilbur-Ellis, in Edmore, MI. Wilbur-Ellis was developed in 1921 and is an international supplier of agricultural products; Jenkins has worked hard to earn his position of management. Through his twenty-plus years in his career there have been many people who have inspired him and that he holds great respect for. He suggests to, “pay attention, seek out those who are outstanding and make a difference in the industry, and learn from them everything you can.” When asked to give young agriculturalists and FFA members advice he replied, “get involved, stand up and be noticed, keep your nose clean, and work your tail off. The rewards will follow.”

Marshall is well respected in the agriculture community and has earned all of his accomplishments through his commitment and dedication to agriculture. Jenkins is a strong supporter of the Breckenridge FFA Chapter. Katie Eldred, Breckenridge FFA Advisor, said “Marshall Jenkins is an active member of the Breckenridge FFA Alumni & Boosters. He has judged numerous leadership contest events and is always more than willing to lend a hand to the Breckenridge FFA whenever there is a need. Mr. Jenkins has been instrumental in helping with the agriscience program and has even secured funds from his employer, Wilbur-Ellis, to aid in updates to the school greenhouses.” He has not only impacted his local FFA chapter but also the school, and entire community. Lori Cross, a member of the Breckenridge Community School Board of Education, said “Marshall is a very dedicated individual. He gives his time and resources to the FFA organization. He is a life member of the FFA Alumni Association, sits on the Ag Advisory Committee for Breckenridge, and is very appreciated by the Breckenridge Community Schools.”

Mr. Jenkins’ story is just one example of an opportunity in the ag industry. It is also just one example of the many success stories. Marshall said himself that “students today need to realize the vast career opportunities that agriculture has to offer.” There are many more stories to be both told and written; there are opportunities, and risks to be taken. It is up to us as FFA members and ag advocates to keep agriculture strong and help grow it into the future along with the health industry, automotive industry, and any other industry that will be around forever. Take this story as one of inspiration to set your goals high, to not be afraid of failure, and to constantly push yourself to become a better person.



Living to Serve

By: Jennifer DeClerg
Region IV State Vice President
&
Connor Hubbard
Region VI State Vice President

Going above the call of duty is how Chelsea Zdunic practices “Living to Serve.” At 17 years old this Corunna High School junior spends most of her spare time on her SAE (Supervised Agriculture Experience) working at Harvest Mills, a family owned and operated grain elevator in Durand, Michigan. Besides being an active Corunna FFA member and serving as an officer, Chelsea avidly plays softball, basketball, and volleyball all while still juggling her Supervised Agriculture Experience, Science Club and National Honor Society. Even with her busy schedule, Chelsea still finds the time to raise and work with her steer which she showed at the Shiawassee County Fair this past summer.

Harvest Mills has been in the Zdunic family since 1965 when Chelsea’s grandfather originally bought it for farm-storage use only, but as time went on, her grandfather was convinced by local community members to get his grain dealer license so he could operate the business as a grain elevator. Her grandfather ran the mill until the early 1990’s when he passed away, which is when Chelsea’s father, Mr. Joe Zdunic, decided to take over the business. Not long after that, Chelsea took interest in the business as a young kid following her dad around and watching him as he worked. As Chelsea grew older she learned how to do more and more around the mill. “I began to understand more about the work and that motivated me to work hard and as often as I could,” Zdunic said.

Being raised on a family farm and spending most of her childhood years at the family grain elevator made it only natural that Chelsea became interested in working at Harvest Mills. A typical day for Chelsea at Harvest Mills involves weighing trucks, answering phones, sorting grain tickets, filing grain tickets and paperwork, inputting data on to computers, and cleaning any of the three pits at the grain elevator. Chelsea also does work that involves custom spreading for lime and fertilizer. “You have to be a people person, you have to know marketing, you have to have patience and be able to work without a schedule; there are no two days a like,” Chelsea comments about her work.

Harvest Mills handles over 1,000,000 bushels of grain per year and offers nearly twenty different services such as: seed cleaning, custom trucking, fertilizers, ear corn, hay, grain, and the list goes



on. With so much business, there is no doubt that Chelsea is invaluable at the family elevator, but she still strives to learn and do more for the grain elevator. She would like to learn how to drive semi trucks like her brothers do and haul grain out of the mill. She also wants to learn how to operate all of the three pits at Harvest Mills and learn more about where to send grain and what bins it should go in. Even though Chelsea wishes to do more, her Supervised Agriculture Experience has taught her more than just the work it takes to operate a grain elevator and a business. Through her work, Chelsea has also developed the useful traits of responsibility, leadership, independence, and the importance of using professionalism when needed. There is no doubt that an SAE like Chelsea’s is a great tool for FFA members to develop skills that are helpful in the game of life.

Just like Harvest Mills, FFA is a family thing for the Zdunic’s. Chelsea joined FFA because her two older brothers were in it and because she also grew up on the farm. For Corunna FFA, Chelsea has served as Junior Vice President, Chapter Reporter, and is currently serving as the Chapter Vice President. When asked what her favorite part about FFA and her SAE were Chelsea claimed, “I love being involved with everything, I have met so many people from being in FFA and I have learned so much.” After her high school career, Chelsea plans to attend Michigan State University and study a subject in the agriscience field.



Fall Fun in Michigan



By: Caitlin R. Pell
State Vice President

To the residents of Michigan, fall can mean a wide variety of things. Summer is winding down, teachers and students are preparing for school to begin, and farmers are busy harvesting their crops. The leaves are changing color and the weather is slowly getting colder. Although the warm summer days are gone, there are still plenty of fun fall activities to participate in, from corn mazes and farm tours, to pumpkin carving and hayrides. Michigan's second and third largest industries are agriculture and tourism. This is why it makes sense for them to join forces to help create a stronger economy and a more enjoyable stay. Welcome to the great business of Agri-Tourism in Michigan!

Senate bill #25 defines agricultural tourism as, "The practice of visiting an agribusiness, horticultural, or agricultural operation, including, but not limited to, a farm, orchard, or winery or a companion animal or livestock show, for the purpose of recreation, education, or active involvement in the operation, other than as a



contractor or employee of the operation." In simpler terms, this means that agricultural tourism is visiting any type of farm or agriculture based business in order to

have fun and/or learn something.

The benefits of agricultural tourism are outstanding. Some of the major positives include interacting with and educating visitors and customers about farming, generating additional or "off-season" income, and increasing the diversity of the market. Far too often, consumers create a false and misleading representation of farming and today's farmer. What they don't realize is that farmers are the people who work around the clock, 365 days a year. There are no vacations or holidays; they truly are some of the hardest working people in the country. Agricultural tourism allows for the public to see the positives of farming and what it can do for others.

Jollay Orchards in Coloma, Michigan is a great example of Agricultural Tourism. This orchard provides a bountiful selection of fun fall activities to choose from. As the fall feeling begins to enter the air, the apples at Jollay Orchards are ready to be picked! There are activities for people of all ages, from an animal farm and corn maze to a haunted house and fishing pond. There are plenty of fun activities to fill the day. Also included at this fine fall destination are a newly added ferris wheel, bakery, picnic area and "u-pick" fruit! "We have been perfecting the art of fruit growing since 1857. Over the last 150 years, our farm has grown and changed creating today's u-pick fruit experience. Located in the heart of Southwest Michigan's fruit-rich region, along the shores of Lake Michigan, Jollay Orchards offers the best in homegrown fruit." For more fall family fun information, visit the Jollay Orchard website at www.jollayorchards.com!

Fall in Northwestern Michigan is very energetic, especially along the Grand Traverse Bay region. The climate, high elevation and surrounding water bodies make this a fast

growing region. Lake Michigan and its many bays take on a rich tone when the brightly colored trees reflect in their waters. Located in Atwood, Michigan is Friske Orchards, where you can find a Fruit Stand, Old World Bakery, Orchard Café, Country Haus, and a General Store. The Old World Bakery features delicious treats made daily from scratch, with some of the most popular items being cherry and apple pie, cinnamon rolls, sticky buns, danishes, turnovers, cookies and cake donuts. The General Store at Friske Orchards contains a vast selection of locally produced, gourmet foods, old-fashioned candy, and specialty coffee and tea. It also has a full line of kitchen gadgets, homemade soy candles, and natural skin care products.

Country Dairy is a family dairy farm located in New Era, Michigan. They have been producing and bottling milk in West Michigan since 1983. Country Dairy is a “producer-handler” farm, which means that they control the entire process of producing the milk. Everything from their herd of registered Holsteins, to the processing plant and the gallons of milk sold in stores. They currently milk about 1,000 cattle and make ice cream, butter and cheese from the milk produced by the cattle. Major tourist attractions include the Farm Store and “Moo School.” Farm tours are available Memorial Day through Labor Day. On the tour, guests are able to see the working dairy farm and milk processing facility. The “Moo Store” serves as the visitor center and the start of the tour. At Country Dairy they educate guests about the history of their farm, dairy farming, and the dairy industry in general. For information on Farm Tours, be sure to visit their website at www.countrydairy.com!

Heritage Farms Market is located on Maple Island Rd, 3.5 miles south of Hesperia. The same family has owned it for over 100 years, making it one of Michigan’s oldest Centennial Farms. A family pass can be purchased for \$25.00 and includes all of the activities available to visitors at the farm. Some of the activities include a corn maze, enclosed honeybee hives on display, a “pick your own” pumpkin patch, hayrides, and an opportunity to watch them press their own apple cider. Heritage Farms Market runs educational field trips for schools, daycare centers, church groups, birthday parties and scout troops. They grow a variety of produce at Heritage Farms. To name a few: asparagus, apples, cherries, strawberries, raspberries, pumpkins, sweet corn, squash, carrots, onions, celery, tomatoes, potatoes, and hot peppers. Along with produce they have a large assortment of baked goods to choose from like, donuts, pastries, muffins, pies, breads, and pasties. For more information about any of the activities or services available, visit the Heritage Farms Market website at www.heritagefarmsandmarket.com.



In addition to these four family-friendly farms, there is a wide selection of county fairs to attend across Michigan. At these fairs, local 4-H and FFA members exhibit their projects (animals, artwork, home-grown goods and so much more) for a week of fun! Animals are not the only things found at fairs, nightly entertainment attracts many different crowds. Motocross races, tractor pulls and demolition derbies are also very common at county fairs. For more information about a fair near you, visit the Pure Michigan website at www.michigan.org for a directory and contact information.

As FFA members it is our job to promote the FFA and agriculture in a positive way in our chapters, communities and our world. There are several chapters in our great state that do a lot of different fall activities that promote agricultural tourism. It is very easy for chapters to participate in a parade, or host a fall fundraiser. As mentioned previously, it seems that far too often in today’s society, the media portrays agriculture in a negative way. Farms like Jollay Orchards, Friske Orchards, Country Dairy, and Heritage Farms Market work hard to show the benefits that farming can have. By combining a learning experience and fun, these farms are promoting agricultural tourism in very effective ways.

When producers combine the sale of fresh, locally grown products and a recreational or educational opportunity, the farm becomes a desired destination. Agricultural tourism creates many fun filled adventures for families of all sizes! Don’t be stuck inside missing the sunshine this fall. Encourage others to get out and enjoy the many wonders that Michigan has to offer! Whether it is participating in a local harvest festival parade, taking a farm tour at Country Dairy, picking apples at any number of orchards, or attending a corn maze, you are supporting agricultural tourism!

“I employ more
than **one million**
Michigan residents
—24% of our
work force.”

—Michigan Agriculture



Support Michigan... Support our youth!

Michigan agriculture plays a significant role in our economy. By purchasing an *Agricultural Heritage* license plate, you are making an investment in our future—Michigan's youth. And for just \$35 you can help support K-12 agricultural education programs.

Get your plate today, visit your local Secretary of State or call 517.432.2482

www.michiganffa.com



Word

Scramble

By: Lindsey Garner
State Reporter

Unscramble each word at the bottom.

1. A schedule of events for the chapter and its members is called the Program of _____.
2. Individualized program designed for a student to apply hands-on skills learned in the classroom is a Supervised Agriculture _____.
3. Every October, 50,000 FFA members and guests travel across the country to attend _____.
4. FFA members can submit a _____ application for their SAE programs in order to compete for awards, money, and scholarships.
5. Each February, the FFA celebrates the week of George Washington's birthday with _____.
6. Many chapters and states have a group of supporters that are called their _____.
7. FFA is never called a "club" because it is an integral part of the classroom instead it is an _____.
8. Less than half of one percent of FFA members will ever earn their _____ degree.
9. FFA members travel together to gain leadership experience in our nation's capital for WLC – Washington _____ Conference.
10. Michigan is the _____ most diverse state in agriculture lagging behind California.

Word Bank

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) TIICTESVAI | 2) IENCEREPEX | 3) LTNANOAI TIOONNENCV |
| 4) OFIPCCYRIEN DWRAA | 5) LTNANOAI FAF KWEE | 6) UNLMAI |
| 7) NIZATINAGOOR | 8) MERIANCA | 9) DEASHPIERL |
| | 10) CONSED | |

For the correct answers go to:

www.michiganffa.org/association/creed

The Rest of the Story...



CONNOR HUBBARD
REGION VI STATE VP

Chapter: Alcona FFA

SAE: Biodiesel Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Agri-Business Management

Favorite Sport: Football

Favorite Homemade Meal: Thanksgiving dinner

High School Activities: Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, and Yearbook

Theme Song: "I Don't Want To Be" by Gavin DeGraw

Favorite thing to do with friends: Go camping

Personal Hobby: Hiking in the woods

Person looked to for strength and guidance: My Grandmother



CASIE FORBUSH
STATE SECRETARY

Chapter: Corunna FFA

SAE: Diversified Livestock Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Agricultural Education

Favorite Book: "The Last Song" by Nicholas Sparks

Word used to describe self: Mighty

Favorite Athletic Team: Michigan State Spartans

Personal Hobby: Making stained glass windows

Favorite FFA Activity: Washington Leadership Conference

Favorite Movie: Armageddon

Favorite thing to do with friends: Go to the Shiawassee County Fair



SARA M. FOSBURG
REGION V STATE VP

Chapter: Lowell FFA

SAE: Agricultural Services

College: Grand Rapids Community College

Major: Business

Favorite thing to do with friends: Go to the Silver Lake sand dunes

Favorite Musician: Reba

Favorite book: Water for Elephants

Theme Song: "Roll With It" Easton Corbin

Word used to describe self: Passionate

People looked to for strength and guidance: My mother

Favorite Athletic Team: Michigan State Spartans

Personal Hobby: Showing horses



CARRS...
*transforming
the future.*

**Community,
Agriculture,
Recreation &
Resource
Studies**



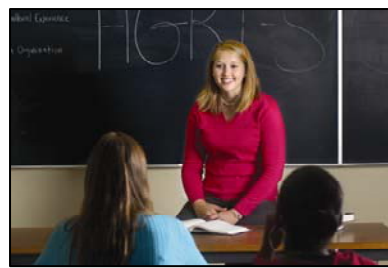
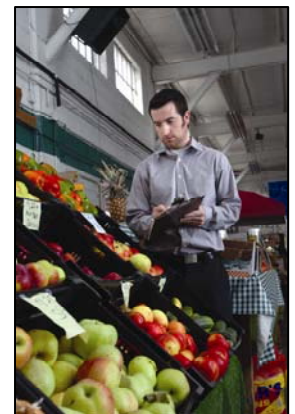
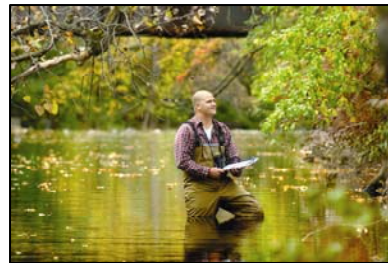
Environmental Studies and Agriscience

- Teacher Education ■ Communications ■
- Science and Policy ■ Community Engagement ■

Natural Resource Recreation & Tourism

- Natural Resource Recreation Management ■
- Commercial Recreation and Tourism ■

For More Information Contact:



More than you imagined.

MICHIGAN STATE
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College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
Institute of Agricultural Technology

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