

The Michigan FFA Creed



Fall 2012

100 years of
agricultural
education at
Fremont High
School



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2012-2013 State Officers



L to R: Darcy Lipskey, Region III State Vice President; Hannah Fallowfield, Region VI State Vice President; Jaime Curth, Region I State Vice President; Lizzi Pine, Region II State Vice President; Emily Calderone, Region IV State Vice President; Abby Spickerman, State President; Nathan Krohn, State Treasurer; Samantha Engelhardt, State Reporter; Levi Voorhies, State Sentinel; Juliana Forbush, State Vice President; Max Kempf, Region V State Vice President; Morgan Stuart, State Secretary

State Officer Excursions

By:
Jaime Curth

Seventeen FFA members from around the state of Michigan made their way to East Lansing to take part in a potentially-life changing interview process. The interviews were divided into a three day process. The candidates were tested on their overall knowledge of FFA, agriculture and education. An interview process consisting of personal, panel and group interviews were mixed inbetween.

Two weeks later the candidates arrived at the 84th Michigan State FFA Convention where the slate was announced. From there, the candidates delivered a one minute speech to the delegates - followed by two questions.

Twelve individuals were elected to represent the Michigan Association of FFA for the 2012-2013 year. The team has a packed year ahead of us and this past summer has been no exception. Our team has already broke ground volunteering and attending leadership conferences.

In early May, we got our first dose of volunteering at Michigan State University's Small Animals Day. Small Animals Day is an educational program at the university to teach more about agriculture and animals. Our



team used this time to help reach out to the public and make an impact in the community.

June 4th-6th our team headed back to East Lansing where we attended Blast-OFF training. This conference was facilitated by Barrett Keene a 2001-2002 National FFA Officer. We were able to use this time to bond as a team, grow as leaders and further develop our plans for the year.

Additionally, our team had many other responsibilities and opportunities this summer ranging from NLCSO, the National Leadership Conference for State Officers held this year in Paris, Tennessee. We also got to facilitate SLCCO, the State Leadership Camp for Chapter Officers - meeting tons of awesome members. The year is off to a busy start but the team and I are all very excited to be involved with members and begin the year.



Fremont: Rich History,

In 1912, vocational agriculture was first offered in Fremont, Mich. What began as a test or experiment stuck and found a home.

This year, the Fremont FFA Chapter held a community-wide celebration. Former students and agriculturalists came from all over the country and state to celebrate with the program.

The Fremont FFA Alumni was the core to this celebration. Loretta Towne, president of the alumni affiliate, was the chief planner of the event. Chapter officers put together a video showing pictures from the past 100 years.

educators took time to take group pictures with their former students in attendance.

Smith, the current agriscience teacher and



FFA advisor is working to continue the illustrious legacy of the program.

“This has been a very memorable year for Fremont High School’s AFNR [agriscience, food and natural resources] program and the Fremont FFA,” he said. “We had the opportunity to look back at the



“It was such a fun time being able to see pictures from the past 70 years and to interview past FFA members and agricultural education students,” said Jordan Schutt, the 2012-2013 Fremont FFA Chapter President.

Three men that have been Fremont agriscience teachers attended the event – Jack Sanderson, Phil Rottman and Rebel Smith. During the celebration, each of the



Bright Future

By:
Darcy Lipskey

accomplishments of the of the past 100 years of ag education and also look forward to the many new opportunities that await us.”

In addition to celebrating a century of success, the Fremont FFA has been involved in numerous community activities. They take part in the Living 2 Serve program, raising ten raised garden beds full of beans, lettuce and tomatoes. All food produced from this garden is donated to a local food pantry and some it is used in the school’s Farm Business Management class.

Another activity has been Adopt-a-Family. In the fall, Fremont FFA hosts a hog roast with all proceeds being donated to the project.



Their works extend into elementary classrooms, specifically the third grad students where they utilize the Bonnie Cabbage Program. The high school members take cabbage plants into the classroom, teaching the students how to

care for it. Students then take their own plants home and raise them. Students and teachers will take a picture of their product and the students are entered for a \$1,000 scholarship.



In the meanwhile, first grade students are educated about greenhouses and how they work. Second graders will learn about the plant cycle what plants need to survive. At the state level, Fremont also has much to celebrate.

For the first time in its history, two of their members will be serving on the same state officer team. Abby Spickerman has been elected State President while Max Kempf will serve as the Region V State Vice President during the 2012-2013 school year.

“The Fremont FFA has a lot to be proud of,” said advisor Rebel Smith, “but the best still lies ahead.”

Do yourself a favor. Read a newspaper online or at your local library from 100 years ago. In 1912, women were not allowed to vote. The average lifespan in the United States was 51 years. Local newspapers – especially rural papers – wrote stories about farmers winning blue ribbons at the fair.



It was OK, though, because 100 years ago, people still understood farming. Newspaper reporters didn't have to connect their readers to ag because they were already connected. They yearned to leave for an easier life, perhaps, but they were connected. The reporter's job on the ag beat was probably the easiest job in the world

because most readers, even the ones in cities, had either worked on a farm or had immediate family who still did.

In 100 years, the world has flipped on its head. Some people think it landed there and suffered brain damage, but that's a whole different story.

If you're interested in communicating about agriculture, be prepared to step into a world that holds onto an image of farming from 100 years ago. It's a world of seemingly brain-damaged stares, apathy, confusion, lies, stereotypes, wildly uninformed opinions and passion. Lots of passion.

That can be good and bad. It's bad when passion is grounded in misunderstanding, and there's

plenty of that around. But it's good when you understand that agriculture communicators have a passion for their work that's unmatched in any other communications field.

That's because agriculture, more than any other endeavor, still has character. Political writers write about characters. So do sports writers and business writers and entertainment writers. But farm writers write about people with character. People who still bust their backs for their animals and for their fellow humans, whether they deserve it or not. They write about people who are unimpressed by politicians and celebrities because they have first-hand experience with what manure smells like.

Those are the characters that inspire passion, and luckily for you who are just getting started, an entire industry is out there for you to find that passion and carry it forward.

Writing stories, of course, is in my biased opinion the best way to keep your passions alive all your life, but there are many other opportunities in ag communications.



At Michigan Farm Bureau alone, we communicate through publications, videos, radio, the Web, social media, still photography,

Agriculture's Passion



advertising, sales, public policy position papers, speeches, and a whole bunch of stuff that hasn't been invented yet.

But through it all, and despite all the attempts to water down agriculture's mission to feed the world, preserve the rural lifestyle and protect the soil and water, there is passion.

If you don't have passion for agriculture now, leave. You won't make it. Sell cars or insurance instead. Do something that will earn you lots of money, but remember that you get out of life what you put into it. If you want to keep your passion and use it to do something worthwhile, find it in ag. But be sure it's there to begin with, because if it's not there at your age, it will never be there.

When you come to grips with your passion, you'll find amazing opportunities in agriculture communications, and in places you might not have thought about before. Agriculture, whether people acknowledge it or not, affects everyone's life. Agriculture's technology turns the ag world on its head every few years.

Unfortunately, the mainstream population is so well fed that it doesn't have to keep up with

those technologies. It's up to the communicator to tell them about it and bring them 100 years forward to the present day.

Communicating with the non-farm public is one thing, and it's becoming more important by the day. But there is also a compelling need to communicate to farmers. Without communicators, how will farmers know that they can buy a product that improves their yields? How will they know when a law has been passed that will put their farms at risk?

How will they know unless you tell them?

Agriculture communication isn't for everyone, nor should it be. Just as farmers are an elite one percent of the population, so only about one percent really care about it or are capable of understanding it.

So if you're going to do it, do it right. Find your passion and stick to it. What you do today will last 100 years and turn the world on its head.



Paul Jackson, Editor, Michigan Farm News

L.H. Bailey: Michigan's Renaissance Man

By:
Dustin DuFort Petty

Liberty Hyde Bailey was born in 1858 in South Haven, Mich. with the name of his abolitionist father and a love of the natural world that guided all of his 96 years.

His home, now the Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, was on a farm that his father settled after moving from New York. At the age of ten, Bailey was involved in the family fruit orchards grafting trees for clients of the 80-acre farm. Five years later, he was delivering a speech to the Michigan Pomological Society due to his passion of ornithology (the study of birds).

The obvious choice was for Bailey to attend Michigan Agricultural College. Here, he found a mentor in William Beal (namesake of MSU's famous Beal Botanical Gardens).

Eventually, he was offered a teaching position at the college, establishing the department of horticulture and landscape gardening. It wasn't long, however, until he was offered greener pastures.

A story (perhaps legend) goes that as Bailey was on board a train that would take him to a new job as Dean of the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, the President of Michigan Agricultural College was running alongside the train, hoping to persuade the renaissance man not to leave.



Bailey statue found at
Michigan State University

After his retirement from Cornell, Bailey dedicated the last portion of his life to using the knowledge he had acquired during his professional life. He traveled the world, collecting botanical samples for study.

Bailey found his greatest fame through his books. In his work, *The Holy Earth*, Bailey spoke of connecting preservation for Earth's resources with religious and moral values.

We have assumed that there is no obligation to an intimate thing, as we consider the earth to be; but man should respect the conditions in which he is placed; the earth yields the living creature; man is a living creature; science constantly narrows the gulf between the animate and inanimate, between the organized and the inorganized; evolution derives the creatures from the earth; the creation is one creation. I must accept all or reject all.

Scott McLemee of *Inside Higher Ed* wrote about Bailey's cult-like status at the time of his death.

"By the time he died in 1954," he wrote, "Bailey was a sage and a legend – part Al Gore, part Indiana Jones, avant la lettre."

To learn more about Liberty Hyde Bailey, check out <http://lhbm.south-haven.com/>, website of his birthplace and museum in South Haven, Mich.

1858: Bailey was born in South Haven, Mich.

1882: Graduated from Michigan Agricultural College

1883: Married Annette Smith

1885: Moved to New York

1888: Named chair of Experimental Horticulture at Cornell University

1900: Edited *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture*

1913: Retired from his work in education

1915: Bailey published *The Holy Earth*

1954: Bailey passed away

State Officer Stats



Abby Spickerman State President

Chapter: Fremont
College: Michigan State
SAE: Agricultural Education
Theme song: "Big Green Tractor"

Favorites:

Sport: Cross County & Softball
FFA event: State Convention
T.V. show: Swamp People
Book: *The Kite Runner*
Candy: Sour Patch Kids



Levi Voorhies State Sentinel

Chapter: Corunna
College: Grand Valley
SAE: Swine Production
Theme song: "Life is a Highway"

Favorites:

T.V. show: NCIS
Hobby: Fishing
Sports team: MSU Spartans
Movie: Hatari
Quote: "It's a gift, not a given"



Emily Calderone Region IV State VP

Chapter: Dansville
College: Michigan State
SAE: Specialty Crop Production
Theme song: "Crazy Dreams"

Favorites:

Candy: Starburst
Musician: Rodney Atkins
Hobby: Hunting
Sport: Taekwondo
Book: *Do Hard Things*

94.1 Billion Reasons Why



Nicole Schaendorf,
Agri-News Reporter,
Michigan Farm Radio Network

Making an impact could mean being a great teacher whose students succeed and are engaged in the classroom. It could mean recycling for a healthier world. It could mean volunteering to help those in need. Talking dollars and cents, Michigan food and agriculture systems are making a \$91.4 billion impact on our state, along with all the people making impacts as part of those systems.

Michigan State University recently released an updated study on the Economic Impact of Michigan's Food and Agriculture System (www.productcenter.msu.edu) and it is showing these sectors are growing. In fact this new figure shows a 51.9 percent increase since their 2006 study. This includes the farm sector, with a total impact of \$13 billion, as well as processing, food wholesale and retail outlets. The study also shows that food and agriculture account for 923,000 jobs in our state.

Walk through your food chain and think what processes it went through before it gets to your mouth. An apple from the supermarket came from an apple grower, was shipped, packaged and moved onto a wholesaler, then found its way to your

retailer. It's much simpler for that whole food, but what about breakfast cereal or going out to eat at a restaurant? Our food goes through several hands before touching our forks, and all of those people along the way benefit. They work as farmers, food scientists, grocers, waiters and in many more careers, over 300, getting farm products to your table.

What a great process with a multiplier effect for our economy. While sometimes consumers' questions can get lost in the chain, that chain also means commerce, innovations, and growth for our state.

The farm community is striving to match the milk to the cow and all of the other wonderful food items on your plate to the farmer who produced it. But we are also thankful for all of those innovators taking our product beyond their original commodity. Whey from milk is now available in protein bars. Pharmaceuticals are made from plant materials. The list goes on.



Michigan Ag Rocks

By:
Nicole
Schaendorf

FFA members are also making impacts on agriculture. Tracing back the origins of careers involved in that economic study, FFA offers skill contests, SAE projects and classroom instruction that starts a path for each of you. The number one challenge, not only study author Chris Peterson with the MSU Product Center, but endless agricultural organizations and businesses note, is finding the people to fill the roles in the future. With the food and ag economy expanding, one thing is for sure, that



means more jobs, more skill sets and more opportunities.

Having hands on experience now can be a door opener for your interests. Maybe you've found you love working with animals, being in food service, or teaching others about why agriculture is important. All of your passions toward food and agriculture

can be aligned with a career path, and boy are employers ready for you!

Whether you're a brand new member or going into your senior year of high school, FFA offers exploration into so many areas. With SAE programs alone, you can take your interests and apply them to jobs and experiences that might become the foundation for your future. Hands on experiences are invaluable. You've been there, you've done the work and you see

some changes that could make an impact. Life experiences are yours to keep, you are free to share them with those around you, but no one can take them away.

Go ahead, it's okay to play with your food! Learn about where it came from, how it got to your plate, and even think about putting yourself in the shoes of someone who helped it along the way. Not a foodie? Nursery, landscape, turfgrass and floriculture are about the third largest sector in

Michigan's agricultural industry. Next time you get a job mowing lawn or planting flowers, it could be the first experience toward a career in Michigan's green industry. Our economy is growing and FFA members are taking the first steps toward filling the careers Michigan needs.



Michigan FFA Alumni

CALLING ALL AFFILIATES!

Attention high school administrators, counselors, and school board members: do you want to gain a better understanding of the FFA and see America's premier leaders in action?

Join us October 24-25, 2012 for the Michigan FFA School Officials' Experience!

This action-packed two-day trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN will provide school officials with a closeup look of FFA members in action. Participants will attend convention sessions, meet their local FFA chapter members, and visit with state FFA officers, MSU Agricultural Education staff, and FFA Alumni members.

Act now! Registration ends October 3, 2012. Email officials.trip@michiganffa.org for more information.



Attendees of the 2011 Michigan FFA School Official's Experience



The Michigan FFA Alumni Council meets quarterly in the Lansing area, meeting next on September 29th.

Each alumni affiliate is eligible to send a representative to the council meetings, making your voice heard on issues affecting alumni across the state.

For more information on the council meetings, please email pettydus@gmail.com

The Michigan FFA Foundation

The Michigan FFA Foundation believes that the members taking advantage of the FFA opportunities are the leaders of tomorrow's agriculture. We work to provide these member with the necessary materials to accomplish their goals and strengthen their abilities through the FFA organization.

Our board of directors is made up of agricultural business and FFA leaders from across Michigan and continue to point our Foundation in a direction that encourages other individuals and businesses to take part in the FFA mission.

The Michigan FFA Foundation Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

- Chairman: Jeff Haarer; Michigan Department of Agriculture
- Vice Chair: Sarah Salmon; Pfizer Animal Health
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FFA Foundation Staff:

- Ramey Lunceford: Executive Director
- April Meersdom: FFA Foundation & CANR Development Administrative Assistant
- Emily Swartzendruber: Michigan FFA Foundation Intern



The Michigan FFA Endowment program continues to grow and provides thousands of dollars in support of the FFA mission



Businesses that partner with the Michigan FFA Foundation expose their mission to the thousands of current and past FFA members with a passion for agriculture and the FFA

Contact any of these individuals to receive information about the Michigan FFA Foundation or visit us on the web at www.michiganffa.org and help make a difference in the lives of students as we aid in providing them Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success.

Coffee Can Creations

By:
Samantha Engelhardt

Flowering Cans

Items Needed:

- Tin Cans*
- Hammer
- Nail
- Paint (optional)
- Mod Podge
- Pebbles
- Soil
- Flowers

Instructions:

1. First of all, collect as many tin cans as you want to plant flowers/plants in. They can be any size that you would like.
2. Take your hammer and nail and pound holes into the bottom of all the cans for drainage.
3. Use paint to decorate your cans (I used acrylic) or leave them the way they are to create a rustic country feel.
4. After I painted some of my cans I used Mod Podge to seal them...and to make them shiny.
5. Put pebbles in the bottom of the can and then plant your flowers/plants.
6. Enjoy your new pots....and don't forget to water.



*To get rid of the sticky adhesive on the cans use peanut butter and leave on for 1 day. Just wipe off and start your project.

Can Lamp

Items Needed:

- Large Tin Can*
- Hammer & Nail
- Pattern (optional)
- Water
- Enough room in the freezer
- Light Bulb
- Light Bulb Converter
- Extension Cord
- Electrical Tape

Instructions:

1. Fill your tin can with water (not quite to the top) and put it in the freezer.
2. Once the water is completely frozen take your pattern or free-hand a design onto the can using your hammer and nail. This can take a long time and you might have to occasionally put it back in the freezer to harden again.
3. Next pound holes right next to each other on the top of the can that is big enough for your cord to fit through but small enough so the bulb doesn't come out. Dump the ice out and dry.
4. Screw the bulb into the converter and plug it into the extension cord. Use Electrical tape to keep the bulb in place.
5. Hang up and let there be light!



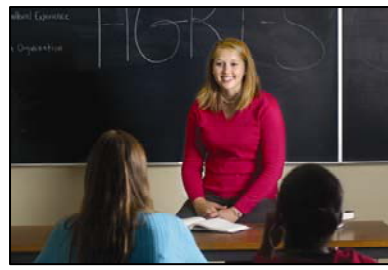
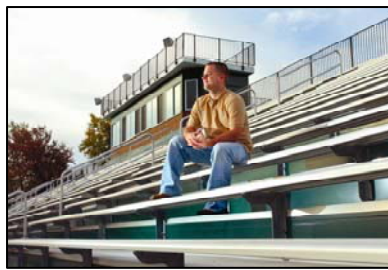
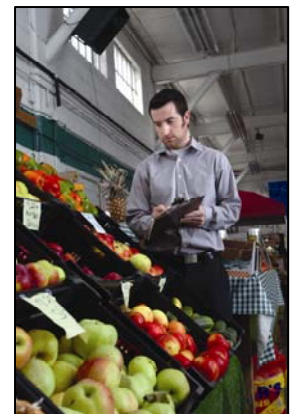
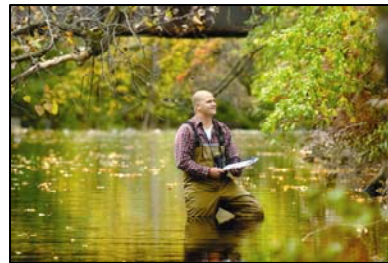


Certificate programs available:

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- Landscape & Nursery Management
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