

# The Michigan FFA Creed



Fall 2014



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Check out what the 2014-2015 have been up to since beginning their journey

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L to R: Gaige Tucker, Region II State Vice President; Brandon Borke, Region VI State Vice President; Ken VandenBout III, State Secretary; Lance Fowler, Region III State Vice President; Cameron Hayden, Region I State Vice President; 2nd row- Ethan Haywood, State Vice President; Sam Ellison Region V State Vice President; Kim Forbush, State Sentinel; Dalton Hard, State Treasurer, Front Row- Alexandria Schut, State President; Emma Blough, State Reporter; Emily House, Region IV State Vice President

# From Sea to Shining Sea

By: Alexandria Schut  
State President



From the moment a state officer is elected, they immerse themselves into a new, invigorating

chapter of their life. While balancing school, they think about theme ideas, prepare for summer, continue to meet members and try to get to know their fellow team members. As they attended their own banquet, officers also traveled to other chapter banquets in order to expose themselves to a larger realm of members and some officers had the opportunity to travel out of their own region. Additionally, they became close with the state officer team of the current year and are guided by their suggestions.

When summer hit, the team stepped into a new segment of their responsibilities. They attended leadership conferences to prepare for the upcoming year with the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLC SO) being held in Arkansas. A love for traveling is a must! These conferences prepared state officers for the upcoming year by bonding them as a team and teaching them to prepare workshops for chapter visits. These skills were utilized during the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO) in July. SLCCO was the first time the state officers got to interact with members on a large scale as a team which made this a very special time for friendships to form! Shortly following this adventure, Ethan and Alexandria took an

excursion to the nation's capital for the State President's Conference (SPC) where they met officers from across the nation who were dedicated to a common purpose of serving the FFA Organization. Once again, the team came together in August for the Business and Industry Tour with a purpose of making connections with agriculture businesses. With Michigan being the second most diverse agricultural state in the nation, the state officers experienced the dense range of agriculture emphasis and pride that Michigan displays!



As school begins, the team is excitedly preparing to visit members between

the Upper Peninsula and the Michigan border with Indiana and Ohio and between the beautiful waters of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Our hope is to help members open their eyes to magnifying their impact and in the same manner, the team knows Michigan FFA members have a large heart for service and are dedicated to make a difference that can be shared with FFA members who reside from Alaska to Puerto Rico and from Maine to Hawaii. Now is the time to magnify those from sea to shining sea!





# From Blue Jackets to Bylines:

## *Career success.*

Two words that often get overlooked in the FFA motto. In many cases, the FFA is thought of as only a student organization – an activity to keep kids busy outside of class. However, my sophomore year of college, a professor said something that has always stuck with me.

“You had a variety of good experiences in the FFA. That’s great, but now you’re to the point where no one cares to hear about the awards you’ve won or the people you met. What matters now is the lessons you learned through that experience, and how you utilize them to make something of yourself and contribute to the industry,” she said. I rocked back on my heels, at first offended that she took (what I considered) great accomplishments so lightly. After a while, however, I realized that she was right.

At some point during high school, I decided that no matter how much I loved raising beef cattle and spending my summers at agricultural events, I was NOT going back to the farm after college. Scratch that. I didn’t want anything to do with agriculture at all. No farm, no muddy boots in my office and certainly no piece of paper representing years of studying and over thousands of dollars spent learning about an industry I grew up in.

Not exactly an expression of faith from a girl that spent seven years in a blue corduroy jacket, representing the best of agricultural education.

In hindsight, my lack of interest in careers in agriculture stemmed from my lack of knowledge regarding my options. I equated agriculture with driving tractors, scooping manure and wasting hours on phone calls with annoying salespeople. Fortunately for me, I had an epiphany during freshman orientation at Michigan State University. I came to the realization that I belonged in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, had my academic advisor make the switch and never looked back.

Fast-forward four years. I now split my time between an office and my vehicle. At least two days a week are spent attending meetings, field days and other events. I manage a website and social media channels, write press releases and coordinate advertisements on behalf of Michigan’s soybean farmers. I even get to stay involved in the FFA as part of my job by judging contests and coordinating programs that give back to agricultural education, like our Ag Education Day grant.

When reflecting on the experiences that led



# FFA Contributes to Career Success

By: Beth Oliver  
Communication Director  
Michigan Soybean  
Promotion Committee

me to this point, involvement in the FFA heads the list. Granted, I'm just starting in the industry; just beginning to find my place. However, I know without a doubt that the FFA gave me a solid starting point. In fact, I can pinpoint five specific ways that FFA has contributed to my career.

Don't worry, I'm not going to give that same tired line that we've all heard at more FFA banquets than we can count. You know what I'm talking about, that: "If it wasn't for the FFA I'd never be able to stand here in front of you speaking to the crowd" line. Yeah, we get it, FFA teaches kids public speaking. Fortunately for all of us, it also teaches so much more.



## Service

FFA is where I first learned the value of serving others. There is something so fulfilling about giving back to your community, however you define it. The ability to identify the needs of others and

take action to meet those needs motivates me to get up and go to work every day. The greatest pride I take in the work I do is based on the fact that I am continually working to serve the best interests of our soybean farmers.

## Writing

Let's face it. We've all had that moment when our FFA advisor asks us to write an

article for the newspaper or a handwritten thank you note to the FFA. You know, that "aw-shucks-do-I-really-have-to (cue eye roll here)" moment. Don't underestimate that experience. For my job, I write on a daily basis. Even if I my position didn't have that requirement, I'd still be thankful for the experience of writing good thank you notes.

## Contacts

Who you know gets you places. What you know keeps you there. Shake hands and thank the judges after a contest. The next time you see them could be in a job interview.

## Work Ethic

I thought the nights working until nine p.m. to prepare for a leadership contest were an irregularity. Little did I know, those nights prepare you for the real world, where your boss doesn't care how long it takes you to get a task done. Moreover, we live in a world of deadlines. Late nights happen.

## The Value of a Name

My favorite part of any FFA banquet is watching the kids who JUST got their own jacket. The smile when they zip it up and brush their hand over the name embroidered on the front makes the limp salad worth it. There's a certain pride in taking ownership – whether it be ownership of that blue jacket, or the ownership of a major project at work. Take ownership. Be proud. Work to live up to the potential of that name.

# Learning to Do,

*In* 1912 Vocational Agriculture was first offered in Fremont, today the Fremont FFA continues the rich tradition that began one hundred and two years ago. The Fremont FFA has enjoyed a very productive year. They had many students participate at the district, regional and state levels for Leadership contests. They also had students that served as Region V officers and students that participated in many leadership conferences on the regional, state and national levels. The Fremont FFA also had many students participate in spring skills contests where they had a very cold but enjoyable day of putting their newly learned agricultural skills to the test against other chapters from around the state. The Fremont FFA is constantly working to expand the opportunities that they have available to their agricultural students. In the fall, the Fremont FFA opened the doors to its brand new greenhouse. This 28'x40' hoop greenhouse was purchased using a grant from Monsanto's "America's Farmers Grow Rural Education" Program.



The greenhouse will be used by Botany and greenhouse management students as well as for small projects during the biology classes at Fremont High School. Fremont also saw the return of a longtime tradition in the Fremont FFA. In October, the Fremont FFA hosted a Livestock Judging Contest for any youth that were interested. The contest included 2 classes of hogs, 2 classes of sheep, one class of steers and a class of breeding boer does. More than sixty high school and junior high school aged students participated in the event and had a great time. In the past, the Fremont FFA hosted a contest for several years during the 1990's and 2000's, but had not had a contest since 2005. In the future they are hoping that the Livestock Judging Contest will again become an annual event and will encourage more community youth to learn these skills that become very useful within the agricultural industry. In March, the Fremont FFA lost a legend.





# Doing to Learn

By: Ethan Haywood  
State Vice President

Mr. Jack Sanderson who taught at Fremont High School from 1962 to 1988 passed away. In his honor, his family asked that contributions be made to the Fremont FFA, in lieu of flowers. In June, the family held a life-celebration event for Mr. Sanderson. At the event the Fremont FFA was able to reveal its "Jack Sanderson Memorial Wagon." The wagon was made possible because of all of the contributions made in Mr. Sanderson's name and will allow the FFA to do many cool projects. Already nicknamed "The People Mover", it has been used to help students get from the high school to the greenhouse (saving about 20 minutes of class time) and is a great asset to the chapter. In the future they hope to be able to offer community open houses and give tours utilizing the wagon. In addition, the Jack Sanderson Memorial Wagon will be used during the community wide Fall Harvest Festival in order to give the public tours of the festival. Another asset to the Fremont FFA, the Packer Land Lab, continues to grow and flourish. This year the 60 acre land lab, which is managed by 6 students, is planted with carrots which are contracted to Nestle / Gerber. During the past year the Fremont FFA secured

a 5-year commitment from Nestle, and the Fremont Public School Board of Education to continue the project. They have worked to improve their land lab by constructing a center pivot in order to irrigate the land and increase crop production. The Fremont FFA also had power lines moved to make the field more accessible to their equipment and they have picked rocks from the fields to maintain the valuable machinery needed to harvest the crops. These improvements were great learning experiences and will help increase the productivity of their investments. A wet spring challenged the Fremont FFA, but overall the project is off to a great start for the 2014 growing season and they look forward to harvest. The Fremont FFA plans to set and reach new goals in the future while expanding the current projects that they are involved in. This year's newly elected officer team will continue to bring new ideas to the table, and future Fremont FFA members will continue the long running tradition of excellence that has been exemplified by the Fremont FFA Chapter. Congratulations to the Fremont FFA on all of their accomplishments, and good luck to them in the future!



# MFB Supports Tomorrow's

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) is proud to support the premier leadership, personal growth and career success of the Michigan FFA Association's nearly 6,500 members. With a shared vision, MFB and FFA work together to strengthen the state's agriculture industry by helping young people acquire the skills necessary to become the next generation of ag leaders.

roundtable discussions with industry professionals and interactive workshops. FFA members interested in attending the conference should act quickly; registration deadlines are just around the corner. Visit the "Events" tab of MFB website, [www.michfb.com](http://www.michfb.com), for more details.



## Get Involved!

To help you—our future leaders—reach your aspirations, MFB sponsors leadership development programs and events, including the annual Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Focus Conference, Oct. 11. This conference will introduce you to career opportunities in the agriculture, food and natural resources industry. Participants gain insight about careers and educational programs through

MFB's state-level Young Farmer committee sponsors the Michigan FFA Discussion Meet annually, bringing together members from throughout the region and state to discuss current topics affecting agriculture. FFA members will hone their public speaking and analytical skills while sharing ideas, identifying cause and effect and evaluating and comparing alternative solutions. This year's discussion topics, along with the regional and state contest dates and locations, are available on the MFB website.



## Connect with your county Farm Bureau!

The volunteers involved with your local county Farm Bureau are knowledgeable, experienced farmers and agribusiness professionals. They work hard every day to share the story of agriculture with the



# Agricultural Leaders

By: Nikki L. Baker

MFB Local Media Specialist

public and advocate for important issues facing the industry—all while supporting their families and feeding the world. MFB encourages FFA members to work with their local Farm Bureau for assistance with supervised agriculture experiences (SAE). Countless farms across the state need reliable employees, and agribusinesses frequently hire interns or offer job-shadowing to expand members' horizons by “doing to learn.” A great opportunity to expand a SAE program would be Project RED (Rural Education Day) events hosted annually by county Farm Bureaus around the state. These events give elementary-age students a fun-filled adventure through hands-on learning stations that help explain the role agriculture plays in everyday life.

Similar programs are often organized for county fairs and community festivals. As high school concludes and the path to your future begins, many county Farm Bureaus offer scholarships to new and returning college students. The requirements and deadlines vary; most are reserved for students pursuing a degree related to agriculture and some require a Farm Bureau membership.

To learn more about how you and your FFA chapter can get involved with Farm Bureau, contact your county Farm Bureau office; click the “Counties” link on the MFB website, [www.michfb.com](http://www.michfb.com), for contact information.



# Arthur Berkey Science Fair:

*“His gift will assist Michigan in moving to higher levels of academic excellence and this involves maintaining agriculture and natural resources secondary education programs, including FFA, of national prominence.”*

Dr. Eddie A. Moore, MSU Professor

When one of Michigan State University’s most distinguished graduates (agricultural education, B.S. - 1953, M.S. - 1961, and Ph.D. - 1967) and professor emeritus at Cornell University created an endowment of \$100,000 at MSU, it was established in the context of the above quote. Since Michigan did

Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Animal Systems	4 <sup>#</sup>	2	6	16	21
Enviromental Services/Natural Resources Systems	3	2	8	8	6
Food Product and Processing Systems	0	1	2	4	10
Plant Systems	3	1	4	16	21
Power, Structural and Technical Systems	0	0	0	7	2
Social Sytems	0	0	2	3	7
Total Participants	10 <sup>*</sup>	6 <sup>*</sup>	22	54	67

\* In 2010 and 2011 the Arthur Berkey AFNR Science Fair was held at Ag Expo in 2012 and 2013 the Science Fair was held in conjunction with the Michigan State FFA Convention

# One 4-H participant

# It's Blowing Up

By: Eddie A. Moore  
Michael W. Everett

not have an Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Science Fair, and secondary students were not participating in the National FFA Agriscience Fair, Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) faculty at MSU with support from the Michigan FFA Association Board of Directors created the Arthur Berkey AFNR Science Fair with the first year of competition being in 2010. As shown in Table 1, participation in Michigan has been exceptional with 10 students participating in 2010, and growing to 67 students in 2014.

The 2013 Arthur Berkey Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Science Fair yielded 17 individual and team winners from across Michigan. State winners included: Erin Wolff, Jonesville FFA; Daniel Flynn, BACC FFA; Emmillie Ray and Ariel Anson, Jonesville FFA; Austin Roberts, Jonesville FFA; Angela Widener, Lenawee ISD FFA; Olivia Bracy and Payton Hines, BACC FFA; Dakota Speiser and Grant Pelham, Lenawee ISD FFA; Tyler Tyszko, Springport FFA; Makenzie Swisher and Matthew Kovacic, Jonesville FFA; Shayam Patel, Jonesville FFA; Cody Higbee, BACC; Kristin Klager and Emma Ford, Saline FFA; Jared King and Loren King BACC FFA; Nick Schuon and Brandon Puckett, Saline FFA; Marissa Markovich, Springport FFA; and Emily Waldschmidt and Dylan Armstorong, Cassopolis FFA. Being selected to participate in national competition is indeed an honor. For example, in 2012, all of the Michigan participants that sent in their applications and research papers were selected to compete at the National FFA Convention.

As part of the faculty here at MSU, we commend all of the students, teachers, parents and other supporters of agricultural education

programs and the FFA for being involved in the Arthur Berkey Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Science Fair over the last several years. Clearly, Michigan is advancing scientific inquiry for youth, sustaining and creating additional programs including the FFA of national prominence.

Interestingly enough, during the early years of agricultural development and growth in America, high school agricultural education students were some of the key pioneers in convincing their parents that they should embrace science and technology to increase agricultural production. Population increases around the globe, diseases, insects, climatic change, and other factors will require a cadre of new scientists to address unprecedented challenges and opportunities. We believe some of America's most gifted and talented future scientists are or will be enrolled in secondary agricultural education programs. The Arthur Berkey Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Science Fair is an opportunity that may peak a young person's interest in scientific inquiry leading to everlasting premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

If you are interested in participating in the 2014 Arthur Berkey Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Science Fair then check out the following website at the Michigan FFA to find out more about the application process and competition. [http://www.michiganffa.com/association/applications/m\\_agriscience.html](http://www.michiganffa.com/association/applications/m_agriscience.html)

Reference:

Berkey Advances Agricultural Education with IRA Rollover Gift. Fall 2009 Developments - A publication for donors and friends of Michigan State University. University Advancement and University Development. East Lansing, MI.



impact <sup>advocate</sup> service <sup>youth</sup>  
 le <sup>community</sup> mentore <sup>support</sup> education  
 e <sup>community</sup> Invest F F A  
 Q <sup>volunteer</sup> success <sup>support</sup> development  
 A L U M N I



**Michigan**  
**FFA**  
**Alumni**

In communities across the state, FFA alumni members are coaching, mentoring, fundraising and preparing the next generation of leaders and agriculturalists.

Join them. No jacket required.

For more information on creating your own alumni affiliate or to join one already established, contact [alumni@michiganffa.org](mailto:alumni@michiganffa.org).



# WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE?

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*dinner plates*  
**by buying**  
**license plates.**

Help empower tomorrow's farmers, scientists, communicators and food processors. Purchase a redesigned, Pure Michigan Agricultural Heritage license plate! You are making an investment in our future – Michigan's youth. For just \$35, you can help prepare the next generation of agriculture leaders by supporting FFA and K-12 agricultural education programs.

Get your plate today. Visit your local Secretary of State Office or go to [www.michigan.gov/SOS](http://www.michigan.gov/SOS) and click on the "Owning a Vehicle" link for order forms. Questions? Call 517-432-2482.



[www.michiganffa.org](http://www.michiganffa.org)



# State Officer Stats



## Alexandria Schut State President

Chapter: Caledonia  
College: Oklahoma State  
SAE: Diversified Livestock  
Production  
Theme song: "Every Storm"

### Favorites:

Sport: Bowling  
Musician: Shania Twain  
T.V. show: Ugly Betty  
Book: *Black Stallion Series*  
Candy: Reese's Pieces



## Kim Forbush State Sentinel

Chapter: Corunna  
College: Michigan State  
SAE: Sheep Production  
Theme song: "Freckles"

### Favorites:

T.V. show: MASH  
Hobby: Running  
Food: Mac & Cheese  
Movie: Sleeping Beauty  
Sport: Cross Country



## Emily House Region IV State VP

Chapter: Webberville  
College: Michigan State  
SAE: Diversified Livestock  
Production  
Theme song: "All Kinds of Kinds"

### Favorites:

Candy: M&M's  
Musician: Miranda Lambert  
Hobby: Raising Animals  
Sport: Softball & Volleyball  
Book: *The Outsiders*





She wants to be a seed salesperson or crop scout.

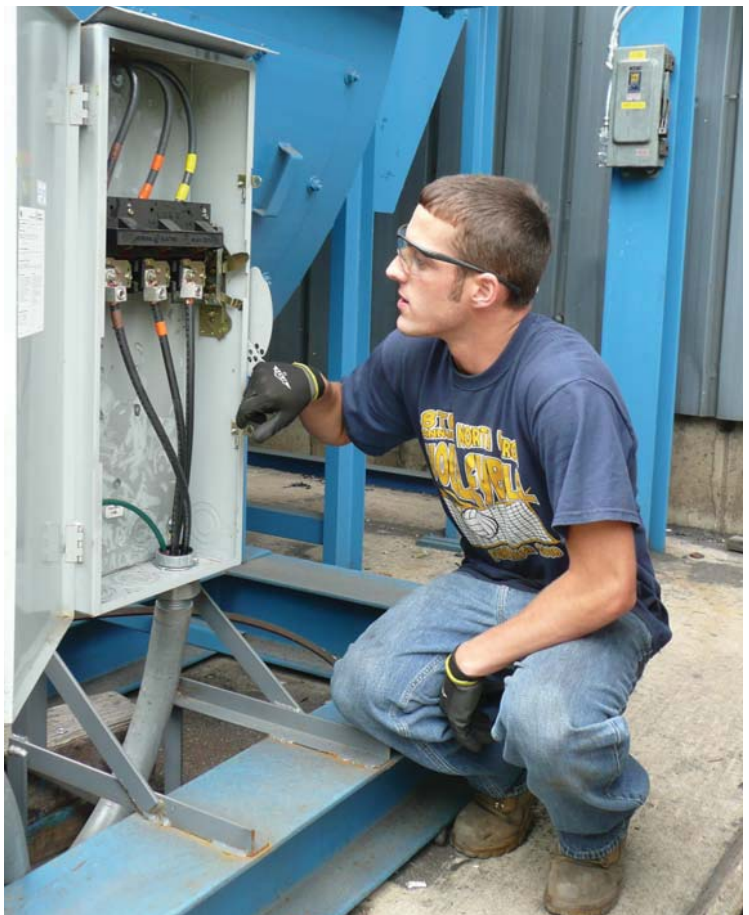
**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Institute of  
Agricultural Technology

He wants to be an electrical technician.

They'll both do it at Michigan State University's Institute of Agricultural Technology.

Find out how at  
[www.iat.msu.edu](http://www.iat.msu.edu)





**In the classroom**

**and on the field**



The MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) offers academic options that range from four-year bachelor degrees to two-year certificate programs.

Students apply their interests in the classroom and in the field to gain experience and education for rewarding careers.

Contact the CANR Office of Academic and Student Affairs at 517-355-0234 to schedule your visit to campus to learn what MSU has to offer.

Learn more by visiting [www.canr.msu.edu](http://www.canr.msu.edu).

MSU is an equal opportunity employer.