

The Michigan FFA Creed



Fall 2016



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D Check this Out!

Discover a unique way that Lapeer FFA serves their community.

J The Trip of a Lifetime

Find out how Puerto Rico celebrates their state convention.

F Say What

Members share their thoughts on the biggest issues facing Michigan agriculture.

K Agricultural Careers

The opportunities in agriculture after high school are endless!

H #Teacher Tuesday

Learn about the advisor who won our Facebook 'liking' challenge.

N Student Spotlight

Hear about a member who works to impact her school and community.

I Living to Serve

Catch up with our state officer team and hear about their summer adventures!

O State Officer Stats

Check out what the 2016-2017 officers have in common with you.



Shatter EXPECTATIONS

Expectation - the degree of probability that something will occur. Everyday, these routine expectations occur without much thought or effort. We often continue to practice these routines because they are easy and comfortable. We get so comfortable that we continue to live in the world that we know without stepping outside of our comfort zones and trying new things.

As we start our journey this year in the Michigan FFA, we are asking members to Shatter Expectations by going beyond what is expected. Break out of the typical and mundane, and crack open the world of possibility and achievement. Step out of the box

to become the best version of yourself that you can be. Stop getting caught up in day to day life and tasks. Don't let routine and what you're expected to do hold you back - Shatter Expectations.

I was able to Shatter Expectations by becoming the first state officer from my chapter in 16 years. To achieve this, I broke away from my same old routine, and worked extra hard to achieve my goals. This year we want the same for the members of our association. Michigan FFA, how will you Shatter Expectations?

*-Hailey Andres
Region IV State Vice President*

DID YOU KNOW

About 97% of U.S. farms are operated by families.



Michigan is number one in the country for blueberry production.



There are 10 million acres of farmland in Michigan.



Check This Out!

Lapeer County FFA - Raising HOPE for the Future

By: Channon Turrell - Chapter President

Every FFA Chapter in the United States develops events and activities focused to better three areas: Student, Chapter, and Community. Lapeer County's "Project Raising HOPE", Helping Other People Eat, encompasses all three categories with

many life-lessons to be held onto for future life experiences.

In 2013, the Stone Soup food bank reached out to Lapeer County's FFA Advisor, Tammy Hyatt,

and the current officer team, in an effort to begin a partnership that would benefit both organizations. After FFA members visited Stone Soup, they saw a need to provide meat to families in need within the community. The 2013 officer team dedicated their year of service to revolve around Project Raising HOPE with the theme of "Hay it's nice to meat you, now lettuce turnip the beet to FFA!". Project Raising HOPE's main purpose is for students to gain knowledge and experience by raising animals at the school's animal center, which then would be processed, and the meat would be donated to the food bank. Stone Soup food bank services hungry families, and the meat would be distributed across Lapeer County. While raising the animals, FFA members and center-based special needs students "paired up" as pals and learned together about animal care and community service at the Lapeer County

Education & Technology Center, which totaled one ton of donated meat. This inspired them to set even more challenging goals for the years to come.

Students enrolled in Lapeer County's Education and Technology Center's Animal Science program interact with the animals daily and express a considerable amount of love and affection toward each and every animal, and have great agricultural experiences....but there's more: lessons of teamwork, cooperation, and empathy. Here they experience hands-on learning about each livestock species, learning safety precautions, nutrition information, and health management of the animals.

In addition, students gain the opportunity to advance in their leadership skills. Each 12th-grade Animal Science student

participates in the mentorship of a student with a developmental disability by meeting with the Project Raising HOPE pal to feed and care for the animals in the animal center. The mentorship gives these students the opportunity to experience the process of caring for the animals, as well as building relationships and improving communication skills with peers.

Throughout the past three years, Lapeer County FFA has developed a deeper bond within their community. Reaching out to the community for continued support, the FFA and alumni members have made connections with local businesses and big supporters by requesting animal feed donations and funding to further improve the project.





The Lapeer County FFA Chapter was granted the FFA “Food for All” grant for the last three years to assist in funding Project Raising HOPE. This program also received a \$19,000 Stebbins Foundation grant to provide support with additional animal center staff and job coaches for the developmentally disabled.

The students have realized the impacts they are making on numerous individuals and have been inspired to continue their volunteerism even when they graduate from high school and the Agriscience program. Shelby Wampler, a Senior FFA mentor, proudly announced in front of all the Project Raising HOPE participants that her goal will be to begin an equine and animal therapy center for developmentally disabled students in the future, due to her experiences with the program. Another FFA mentor, Gabrielle Davis, stated her future goals were to work with developmentally disabled students as a paraprofessional or teacher because of her involvement with Project Raising HOPE. This program is influencing the lives of not only our FFA members but our community for the future.

As the students advance in their agricultural work ethic, they begin to operate as a team. This then transfers into their Chapter’s program of activities. Since 2013, Lapeer County has implemented two other events to collaborate with their Project Raising HOPE. Their first event was a golf scramble that allowed FFA families, alumni, and community members to enjoy a day out on the range in support of a good cause. In the last three years the Project Raising HOPE golf outing has raised over \$6,000 to raise animals and produce meat for community members in need. But Lapeer County FFA did not stop there; four members who attended the Washington Leadership

Conference this past year implemented their Living To Serve plans into Project Raising HOPE by putting on their first “Leadership Lock-In”, shortly before Christmas, focusing on character building and volunteerism. The members ended their overnight stay with a poverty breakfast to open their eyes to what the majority of the world receives for a meal, which is one bowl of rice. This inspired them to continue taking action, and they concluded the lock-in by packaging 110 chicken dinners totaling 3,850 pounds of food. FFA members then distributed these meals and experienced the smiles of grateful families whose Christmas became more joyful.

Teamwork, collaboration, friendships, volunteerism... Project Raising HOPE, includes numerous individuals who benefit from all experiences involved with this project. This year 79 FFA members were educated in animal care and assisted in raising the animals



for meat for the food pantry. Twenty-five 12th grade Animal Science students became mentors for 68 Project-Raising-HOPE-pals (students with disabilities from 5 classrooms in our center-based Special Education programs) as they fed animals each day. Since Project Raising HOPE’s conception, the Lapeer County FFA and the special-needs-students have produced 10,705 pounds, or over five ton, of meat for the community. In the “words of wisdom” from the advisor, Mrs. Tammy Hyatt, “this has truly been the best and most impacting community service project Lapeer County FFA has ever been involved in”. Overall, Lapeer County FFA has made a positive impact on the lives of both students and community members, and plans to continue this course of action for years to come. ‡

Say What?

By:
Tyra Jonas
Past State Officer

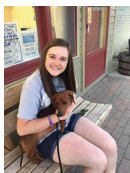
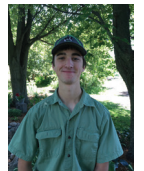


Andrew Wetzkie
Region I
Olivet

“One of the biggest issues MI agriculture is presented with today is the struggling number of ag educators. We need ag education to continue progress into future generations. It pushes students towards careers in the ag industry and prepares them for those careers. This education is vital to the future of Michigan’s 102 billion dollar industry (agriculture).”

“Regulations are the most important issue facing Michigan agriculture. Regulations increase costs. For example, the veterinary feed directives will require additional veterinary visits and will decrease the ability of farmers to go to a store like TSC and just buy medications over the counter.”

Darren Kullicamp
Region V
Coopersville



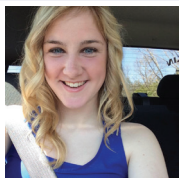
Haley Talaski
Region III
Harbor Beach

“I think the biggest issues facing MI agriculture is consumer education. We need to inform the public more about things like Genetically Modified Organisms because many think that they are bad for us. But if we don’t use GMOs then you don’t get your product fast enough. Explaining things like this to the people is something that I believe we can work on”

The question: What do you think is the biggest issue facing Michigan agriculture?

“I think that one of the biggest issue facing Michigan agriculture is the colony collapse disorder within the bee hives. It is a big concern because we depend on the bees to pollinate so many of our crops in Michigan, including fruits and vegetables. If we are unable to find a solution for the colony collapse disorder, it could be devastating to our crops.”

Trevor Guzman
Region V
Ravenna



Raegan Gembarski
Region III
North Huron

“The two biggest issues are not just MI problems, but national and global as well - food waste and consumer knowledge. In the USA, 30-40% of the food supply is wasted. The problem surrounding consumer knowledge, is that people are so removed from agriculture, that they listen to and believe anything that they see or hear, when almost always, it isn’t true.”

“Biosecurity is an important issue facing Michigan agriculture, because as agriculture gets more diverse, we will need to work even harder to protect the animals on the farm. We need to ensure the safety of our animals and the products they produce.”

Jordyn Skinner
Region V
Caledonia



14 years ago, FFA members answered this exact question with these responses:

Jenna Rose

Birch Run FFA

“Availability of land and quality of our commodities will continue to challenge Michigan agriculture in the future. Many producers and companies continuously focus on producing large quantities of GM commodities rather than providing products consumers desire.”

Aaron Fountain

Dansville FFA

“Michigan is losing farm land and wildlife areas rapidly. I believe the only way to lessen this problem is to educate the public and make the government aware of our concerns.”

Elizabeth Eadie

Ravenna FFA

“The biggest issue facing Michigan agriculture in the future is urban sprawl. With the addition of every house, precious farmland that can never be restored to its original use is sacrificed.”

Diana Niswander

Petosky FFA

“The lack of windbreaks for soil erosion will threaten Michigan agriculture. Soil is the foundation for planting, so it must be preserved. With the loss of topsoil and fertile land, a farmer cannot have a successful harvest.”

#Teacher Tuesday - Mr. Tony McCaul

By: Lauren Heberling
State Reporter

“Well, let me start out by saying before Mr. McCaul, I had never heard of FFA or understood how important agriculture is, as well as how it affects our everyday lives. So it’s because of his true love for teaching and pushing students like me, who may not have an agricultural background, to jump in and step out of your comfort zone and try something new. It’s because of him and how much of an impact he has had on my life that I found I want to become an Ag. advisor as well. He has opened my, and many other students, eyes to the infinite possibilities for a career in agriculture.”
–Adrian Garcia

“Mr. McCaul always says, ‘You can do it!’ It may seem cliché and simple, but he truly means it every time he says it! He often says, ‘Nothing is impossible. If you put your heart into it, you can achieve it.’”
–Paige Lowe

“I grew up on a farm and have always enjoyed farming, but I also enjoy sharing my passion with others.” This passion is what led Mr. McCaul to attend Michigan State University to major in Agricultural Education. He is a teacher at the Careerline Tech Center and has taught there for the entirety of his seven year career. He is a past FFA member from Lakewood, serving as the 2005-2006 Michigan FFA State Treasurer, also earning the highest award through the National FFA Association, his American Degree.

The unique programs and activities Careerline offers are a direct result of the dedication and time Mr. McCaul gives to the chapter. He has developed a program that offers labs from poultry phlebotomy to animal rotations and was also the first group of students in the nation to receive in-person OSHA agricultural training. Working with local county park systems is also something the CTC takes interest in, raising goats in the woods that eat invasive species. To further student’s career readiness, they are given the opportunity to both visit top agricultural companies in the state and gain internships. “I am willing to work hard for a student if they are willing to work hard for themselves.” This core value of pushing students to become better, along with his passion for agriculture is what has made the Careerline Tech Center agricultural program, FFA Chapter, and every student involved grow and instill knowledge and skills that will stay with them for many years to come. †



Q: What are some of the biggest things students can gain from being an FFA member?

A: Leadership skills and learning how to become a better role model in the community. FFA members can see the organization is bigger than themselves and can do amazing things if they work together.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being an advisor and an Ag. teacher?

A: I enjoy sharing my passion for agriculture with students and seeing them gain the same passion. I love seeing students succeed that never thought they would be good at something.

Q: Why would you recommend students to consider agriculture as a career path?

A: Agriculture has many different options and it can be a very rewarding career. There is an area for almost anyone; they just need to find what that right area is. We need people to feed this growing world!

Living to Serve

By:
Loren King
State President

John F. Kennedy once said, Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. In Michigan FFA, we have an opportunity to lead in almost everything that we do. Leadership is a focus of our organization and at the core of what we stand for. However, to be leaders we must



also take a chance to learn. Anyone who has ever served in a leadership position in their chapter, region, state or even outside of FFA, has had to develop new skills to ensure that they were ready to help others succeed. Leading means setting goals for yourself and the groups you are a part. Learning is gaining the skills needed to achieve those goals.

This philosophy of learning and leadership has directly impacted the Michigan FFA State Officer Team's first few months in office. We began our year by setting leadership goals for ourselves and the members we serve. Those goals come out of the simple statement Shatter Expectations. We found that everything we hoped to accomplish came back to the idea of shattering other people's expectations of what can be achieved. Each of us has the power to achieve more than the goals we might set for ourselves, and together we can create change. To achieve this change, we had to learn the skills needed to push ourselves and encourage others to step out of their comfort zones. We now believe anything is possible.

At the beginning of the year these abilities were not something that we all understood, but throughout many leadership training events, we learned to help others and ourselves break through our own expectations. We traveled to

Lansing for Blast-Off. We then visited Georgia for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO) where we met passionate members from other states and continued to refine our leadership and facilitation abilities.

Finally, State Vice President John Williams and I spent time in Washington DC for the State Presidents' Conference (SPC). This was an event where we learned about the proposed changes for the National FFA Organization in the upcoming year. We also met with our representatives in Congress to learn about current issues facing agriculture.



Once we learned the skills needed to serve the Michigan FFA Association, the state officer team had a chance to lead at the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO). It was there that we met many of you- the next generation of leaders and learners. You impacted our lives in more ways than we can ever explain and it has been an honor serving you thus far. Yet, there is still much more to be done. We, as an officer team, know that you are capable of more than you can ever imagine. Show us. Show yourself. Shatter expectations. Use the leadership skills you've learned to change the world. ‡

Use the leadership skills you've learned to change the world. ‡

Use the leadership skills you've learned to change the world. ‡



The Trip of a Lifetime

By: Maria Blough
Past State Officer



When we became state officers a year ago, we never imagined the blue and gold would lead us nearly 2,000 miles from home to the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico to attend their 80th FFA State Convention.

The Caribbean heat and humidity hit us immediately as we walked outside the San Juan airport. We then took a taxi to Dorado, Puerto Rico about an hour drive west of San Juan.

As we waited for the convention to begin Sunday evening, we met many amazing FFA members from across Puerto Rico. The main language of Puerto Rico is Spanish, but Puerto Ricans take an English class every year from kindergarten until high school graduation. Though they take thirteen years of English there was still a little bit of a language barrier as they do not use English often. This was a cool experience for us to use and learn a little Spanish, and the FFA members were able to practice all the English they had been taught.

We also became friends with another visiting state officer from Massachusetts named Harley and her friend from the Puerto Rico FFA named David. David was excellent at speaking in English, and we often used him to translate for us or teach us some words in Spanish that we wanted to know.

While talking to David we learned about Caribbean time. According to the schedule, the session and dinner were supposed to start at 6:00pm. 6:30 rolled



around, and it had not begun yet. David explained that Puerto Ricans run on Caribbean time, so the dinner would not actually begin until 7:00 or sometime after. At first we did not like this new measure of time, but we came to like it on those days convention was scheduled to start early. We knew we could sleep

in an hour and not be late.

In addition to Caribbean time, we had to adjust to convention sessions held completely in Spanish. Thankfully David served as our translator, so we could understand what was going on.

Each session after opening ceremonies, they sang the Puerto Rico anthem, the national anthem, and the FFA anthem. The Puerto Ricans wrote this FFA anthem themselves, and it is absolutely beautiful. They were actually surprised that we did not have one in Michigan.

While in Puerto Rico we were asked to judge the English division of their state leadership contests. For creed speaking, public speaking, and extemporaneous public speaking, members can choose to compete in the all English division or the all Spanish division. It was impressive to see these students not only tackle speaking in public but also speaking in their nonnative language.

Like Michigan, there is always a dance at state convention. Everyone dresses up for this event. They dance to popular English music and do line dances like we do, but they also salsa and play bachata music. It took some time, but the Puerto Ricans even taught us to salsa.

Our trip to Puerto Rico may have been short, but it is one we will never forget. The Puerto Ricans showed us incredible hospitality and friendship. We were so

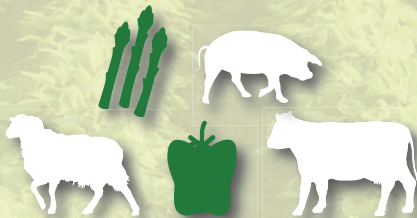


thankful for their acceptance and excitement to meet four girls from Michigan. Though there was a bit of a language barrier, one thing was certain: no matter where we are across this vast nation, agriculture and the FFA will always connect us. Gracias Puerto Rico por su hospitalidad y amistad! ‡

WHAT'S AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



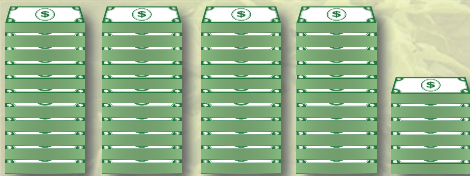
22%
of Michiganders
WORK IN AGRICULTURE,
FOOD & NATURAL
RESOURCES



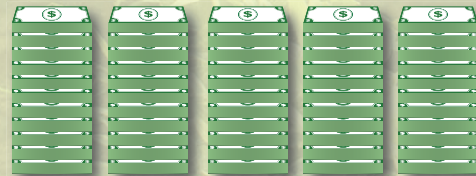
THERE ARE NEARLY
58,000
AGRICULTURE, FOOD &
NATURAL RESOURCES JOB
OPENINGS EACH YEAR



1 out of every **5**
U.S. JOBS
DOES NOT
REQUIRE A BACHELOR'S
DEGREE AND PAYS
≥\$35,000
ANNUALLY



\$45,500
AVERAGE STARTING SALARY
FOR EMPLOYEES WITH
BACHELOR'S DEGREE



\$50,000
AVERAGE STARTING SALARY
FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN
AGRICULTURE-RELATED FIELD

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AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES CAREERS CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 9 8:30 A.M.-3 P.M. LANSING

- LEARN** about careers in agriculture, food and natural resources
- MEET** professionals in these fields who want to hire passionate students like you
- HELP** match your interests and skills with the right agricultural career

Contact your FFA advisor or county Farm Bureau office by October 24 to register.
Visit www.michfb.com/Career_Conference.aspx for more information.

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IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE
STATE, **FFA ALUMNI** MEMBERS
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FUNDRAISING & PREPARING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

JOIN THEM. NO JACKET REQUIRED.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT MICHIGANFFA.COM/ALUMNI



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www.michiganffa.org

Student Spotlight

Quick Facts

Grade:
11th

FFA Chapter:
North Huron

SAE's:
-Equine Placement
-Agricultural
Communication
-Agricultural
Education

Current Office:
North Huron
President

Favorite Quote:
“A bad day for your
ego, is a good day
for your soul.”

Biggest
Accomplishments:
-National Semi-
Finalist Ag Issue
Team
-State Alternate
Extemp Public
Speaker
-Second Place
Individual
Agricultural
Communications



Raegan Gembarski North Huron FFA

By:
Lauren Heberling
State Reporter

Raegan Gembarski is currently a junior at North Huron High School, where she will be leading her chapter this coming year as President. She will also be serving on the Region III Officer Team. Raegan joined FFA in sixth grade, but really became active in eighth grade with a push from her advisor to compete in leadership contests. Fast forward a few years and



m u l t i p l e contests and leadership roles - FFA has helped Raegan not only develop a passion for agriculture, but also has led her to her desired career path in agricultural communications. After high school, Raegan plans to run for State Office and attend Michigan State University to major in agricultural communications and minor in animal science. She hopes to work for a local cooperative elevator.

“Looking at how far our chapter has come in the past few years made me think - I wonder what we can do for our community.” This led the way to Raegan’s ultimate goal as an FFA member and leader - to continue to help grow her chapter, school, and community. Through her SAE’s, Raegan does just that. Since the age of eleven, she has worked at Knoblock Riding Stables in Port Austin. Starting out, she helped take groups of a few people riding. Now she leads groups of more than ten people and trains horses herself. In addition to her job at Knoblocks’s, she also helps with the North Huron Elementary “Extended Day” program where kids go after school. There she teaches kids about the basics of agriculture and introduces them to

FFA. Continuing with her interest in ag education, Raegan heads the “Elementary Plant Project” where over a five to six week span, kids get the opportunity to grow their own plants



and learn where their food comes from. Her biggest accomplishment lies in her agricultural communication SAE as she is in charge of the chapter’s Twitter account.

Outside of FFA, Raegan had the opportunity to present solutions to world hunger through the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute at Michigan State. She then was selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa. She has played volleyball, basketball, and softball since freshman year and was voted MVP on her volleyball team while also serving as team captain



this year. Continuing to better her community and teach younger generations, Raegan has participated in multiple highway clean-ups and volunteered at Project RED. Through her many years in FFA, Raegan has learned that the value of the people she has met, the personal involvement, and the opportunities for growth are irreplaceable. The most valuable advice she wants to impart to FFA members is to “Always push yourself, even when it may seem difficult, give it your all, because in the end the things you learn and the pride you feel are like nothing else.” ‡

State Officer Stats



John Williams

State Vice President

Favorites

Chapter: Olivet

Sport: Basketball

College: Michigan State University

Movie: *Wish I was Here*

SAE: Beef & Forage Production

Hobby: Offroading

Theme Song: "I Lived"

Candy: Twix



Jenna Kingsley

State Sentinel

Favorites

Chapter: Webberville

Sport: Softball

College: Michigan State University

T.V. Show: *Criminal Minds*

SAE: Dairy Placement

Musician: Dierks Bentley

Theme Song: "Humble and Kind"

Book: *The Outsiders*



Claire Laurenz

Region III State Vice President

Favorites

Chapter: Breckenridge

Sport: Cross Country

College: Michigan State University

Candy: Take 5

SAE: Agriculture Education

T.V. Show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Theme Song: "American Kids"

Musician: Taylor Swift



HANDS ON PROGRAMS

The Institute of Agricultural Technology delivers innovative, educational programs that develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in animal sciences, plant sciences and electrical technologies.

Certificate programs vary from 10-24 months in length, are highly respected statewide and nationally, and several have international reputations. Programs are offered on Michigan State University's East Lansing campus and at locations throughout the state.

Learn more about the Institute of Agricultural Technology by visiting www.iat.msu.edu or call 517-355-0190.

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- Dairy Management
- Landscape and Nursery Management
- Horse Management
- Electrical Technology
- Fruit, Vegetable and Organic Horticulture Management
- Turfgrass Management (Golf emphasis)
- Sports and Commercial Turf Management

Off Campus Certificate Programs

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Dowagiac, Michigan

- Agricultural Operations
- Applied Horse Science
- Landscape Management
- Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management
- Viticulture

Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Landscape and Lawn Management

Montcalm Community College
Sidney and Greenville, Michigan

- Agricultural Operations
- Applied Horse Science
- Landscape Management
- Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management

Northwestern Michigan College
Traverse City, Michigan

- Agricultural Operations
- Landscape Management
- Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management
- Viticulture

Delta College
University Center, Michigan

- Agricultural Operations
- Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management



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