



# THE MICHIGAN FFA Creed

FALL 2018

## FEATURED *inside*

DISCOVER OUR #STUDENTSATURDAY!

MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY  
WOULD TELL THEIR YOUNGER  
SELVES!

CONGRATULATE OUR NATIONAL  
CHAPTER FINALISTS AND  
PROFICIENCY WINNERS.

MEET FFA ALUMNI WITH DIVERSE  
COLLEGE MAJORS AND LEARN HOW  
THEY STAY INVOLVED IN AG!

THE SPRINGPORT FFA'S CHICKEN DINNER  
SERVICE PROJECT IS ONLY ONE OF THE  
EVENTS THAT HELPED THEM TO BECOME  
THE 2018 MICHIGAN FFA NATIONAL  
CHAPTER AWARD WINNER.



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# Be the Reason: INSPIRING OTHERS THROUGH OUR UNIQUENESS

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## UPCOMING events

**OCTOBER 5.** Fall Leadership Conference and Fall PDI Registrations Due

**OCTOBER 24-27.** National FFA Convention & Expo

**OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2.** Broiler Contest at Munsell's Poultry Processing

**NOVEMBER 8-9.** Fall Leadership Conference and Fall PDI

**NOVEMBER 9.** Michigan Farm Bureau Career Focus Conference

**DECEMBER 3.** #SpeakAgMichigan Applications, Regional Grant Applications, and Star Candidate Applications (including star battery and state degree application) are due to the State FFA Office by 5:00 PM

## what this year's theme means TO OUR STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Oftentimes we look for inspiration so that we may find a potential direction for ourselves. We look to parents, advisors, and peers, hoping that they can lead the way to our next adventure. However, we ourselves can inspire many other people to do things that they might think are impossible. This year, the State FFA Officer Team chose the theme "Be the Reason" because you can, in fact, be the reason that someone becomes inspired and you can truly make your inspiration unique to you.

We all have our own strengths, talents, and dreams that make us original. If we use these attributes effectively, we can have a greater reach and make an even deeper impact. Maybe you're a great communicator, maybe you excel at your SAE, maybe you have new and creative ideas. Whatever your gifts, you have the ability to be the reason that someone in your chapter rises to new challenges.

Leading by example is another aspect that seems to be overlooked. If we ourselves have bravery and

confidence to conquer new tasks, we can show others that anything is possible. Sometimes all it takes to inspire others is to make a path for them to follow. It's like having an older sibling—you look up to everything that they do and you want to be just like them. Your mentorship could mean the world to someone else.

The options are endless, your potential is limitless, and the determining factor is you. Will you take hold of the opportunity to help members in your chapter, your region, or even your state become a better version of themselves? Michigan FFA, "Be the Reason."

By: Jessie Nash  
State Vice President





**BEN BUTCHER**  
STATE TREASURER

One word to describe me:  
"Passionate"

Favorite TV Show:  
"NCIS"

Favorite Sport:  
Baseball

Our 2018-19 State Treasurer, Ben Butcher, is currently attending Michigan State University as a freshman. Ben was a member of the Corunna FFA Chapter since 8th grade, inspired to join by his mother, father, and grandparents as they shared with him all of the amazing experiences they had as FFA members. Ben has five total SAEs including everything from turf grass management to poultry production. "The future starts today not tomorrow." This is not only Ben's favorite quote but how he has chosen to live his state officer year, always giving his best to today.

# State Officer FEATURE

SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS  
HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!



**CARSON EVANS**  
REGION II STATE  
VICE PRESIDENT

One word to describe me:  
"Dedicated"

Favorite Movie:  
"The Longest Yard"

Personal Hobby:  
Showing Cattle

In 2014, Carson Evans, our 2018-19 Region II State Vice President, joined FFA, following in his dad's and grandfather's footsteps. In addition to being incredibly active in FFA, Carson has also been involved in his high school football and baseball teams, National Honor Society, and the Michigan Junior Shorthorn Association. Since being elected to state office in March, Carson has lived out the word he uses to describe himself—dedicated. "Once I set my mind on something and make a commitment, I put in 100 percent no matter what."



**KYLIE SPEROW**  
REGION VI STATE  
VICE PRESIDENT

One word to describe me:  
"Passionate"

Favorite FFA Activity:  
National FFA Convention & Expo

Favorite Candy:  
Sour Patch Kids

Kylie Sperow is both a freshman at Michigan State University and our 2018-19 Region VI State Vice President. Currently, Kylie is studying Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Education and someday in the future hopes to possibly return to teach agriscience at her home FFA Chapter—Ogemaw Heights. When asked what she believes to be her biggest role as a state officer, Kylie answered, "To serve the members and to listen to their wants and needs." So far, she has succeeded at that by always listening and advocating for FFA and members everywhere she goes.

# 2018 STATE WINNING Proficiency Awards

The FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. The individuals featured in this article are the state winners in each of their categories, and their Proficiency Award applications have been sent to the National FFA to compete for National FFA Agricultural Proficiency Awards, where they can receive a rating of National Finalist, Gold, Silver, Bronze or Participant.



**AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**RAEGAN GEMBARSKI**

**NORTH HURON**



**AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION**

**FAITH YAGEMAN**

**NORTH HURON**

**AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING**

**NATHAN LAURENZ**

**BRECKENRIDGE**



**AGRICULTURAL SALES**

**HALEY TALASKI**

**HARBOR BEACH**

**AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH - ANIMAL SYSTEMS**

**JESSICA MURAWSKI**

**NORTH HURON**



**AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH - PLANT SYSTEMS**

**BEN ZALESKI**

**NORTH HURON**



**BEEF PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**KAYTLIN NEWTON**

**LAPEER COUNTY EDUCATION TECH CENTER**

**BEEF PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT**

**THOMAS TONER**

**NORTH HURON**



**DAIRY PRODUCTION - ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**SHANNON GOOD**

**CALEDONIA**

**DAIRY PRODUCTION - PLACEMENT**

**AMBER WOLSCHLEGER**

**UBLY**



**DIVERSIFIED AG PRODUCTION**

**GRANT GEIGER**

**UBLY**

**MICHIGAN FFA**



**DIVERSIFIED CROP  
PRODUCTION**

**MEGHAN GORETSKI**

**NORTH HURON**

**DIVERSIFIED  
LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCTION**

**DEVIN HAYWOOD**

**HASTINGS**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SCIENCE &  
NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT**

**LEXIE WILSON**

**HOPKINS**

**EQUINE SCIENCE -  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**ABIGALE  
KUNTZLEMAN**

**SPRINGPORT**



**EQUINE SCIENCE -  
PLACEMENT**

**MCKENNA NYE**

**TUSCOLA TECH  
CENTER**



**FRUIT PRODUCTION**

**ZACKERY LEMMEN**

**MONTAGUE**

**GRAIN PRODUCTION**

**TY FINEGAN**

**JACKSON AREA  
CAREER CENTER**



**HOME AND/  
OR COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT**

**SAVANNAH  
TENNANT**

**WEBBERVILLE**

**OUTDOOR  
RECREATION**

**JARROD SEABERG**

**RAVENNA**



**POULTRY  
PRODUCTION**

**LELA MILLIGAN**

**SANILAC CAREER  
CENTER**



**SHEEP PRODUCTION**

**CAITLIN HENNE**

**SPRINGPORT**

**SWINE  
PRODUCTION -  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**PAYTON HINES**

**BRANCH AREA CC**



**SWINE  
PRODUCTION -  
PLACEMENT**

**HANNAH ROSE**

**CALHOUN AREA  
CAREER CENTER**

**VEGETABLE  
PRODUCTION**

**JORDYN SKINNER**

**CALEDONIA**



**WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

**CONNOR DAVENPORT**

**JACKSON AREA  
CAREER CENTER**

# In the Industry Today: GRAIN

**ERIN ALLEN, CUSTOMER RELATIONS AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, INC., TALKS ABOUT HER BACKGROUND IN AGRICULTURE, FFA, AND OTHER PAST EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE HELPED HER GET TO WHERE SHE IS NOW.**



The Michigan Agricultural Commodities, Inc. (MAC) mission statement centers on honesty, reliability, and growth, which drive the work we do every day. Founded as a small trading office in 1976, today MAC is Michigan's largest grain handler with 42.455 million bushels of storage capacity and around 100 employees. MAC offers agronomy services, efficient elevator facilities, grain marketing expertise and unique partnerships throughout the value chain in order to develop individualized plans tailored to each grower.

At MAC, I serve as the Customer Relations and Employee Development Manager. I focus much of my time on recruiting new employees to our



organization and advancing the skills of our current employees. I also oversee customer outreach, including our company newsletters, website, and social media. My goal is to help bring

value to both our customers and our own employees.

Growing up in a small town in Michigan's Thumb, agriculture was in my blood and I knew my career would land in this industry, although I was unsure exactly where that would be. Taking advantage of almost every opportunity FFA provided me during high school made my love of agriculture grow. I held various officer positions, participated in leadership contests, showed animals, and attended conferences. I also served as the Michigan FFA State Sentinel my freshman year at Michigan State.

While trying to figure out my career path, I continued to take advantage of ways to learn more about agriculture and different careers. I joined the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA), participated in the Agriculture Future of America conference, and continued to build relationships wherever I could. I was also able to study abroad to learn more about the international market. My internship and jobs throughout college helped me determine areas in the industry that were very interesting to me, and others that I knew wouldn't be a good fit.

The great thing about this industry is that whatever your interest, background, and skills are, there is a wide variety of opportunities available. I earned my degree in Agri-Business Management from MSU and spent over eight years working for Syngenta, a global agribusiness company, before joining the MAC team. My different roles and experiences, including

my involvement with FFA, helped me develop my work ethic, taught me to manage my time, built my communication skills, and shaped my interpersonal skills to focus on teamwork when interacting with others. All of these skills are needed for me to complete my job successfully, and they are also the types of things we look for in employees at MAC.



Our work isn't always easy, but we do like to have fun while we do it! With tasks ranging from unloading trucks to loading trains to spraying fields to marketing grain to accounting and so much more, MAC offers a variety of positions to fit many interests. With so many responsibilities, we don't expect new employees to know everything but rather to be willing to learn, and we'll teach you. Wherever you are in your career path, work hard, get involved, and build relationships with people throughout the industry. Agriculture is constantly changing, and MAC is always looking for the next generation of great employees to help move our industry forward!

By: Erin Allen  
Past State Officer & Industry Professional

# Member TO Member

SOMETIMES THE BEST ADVICE IN LIFE COMES FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN OUR SHOES, SO WE ASKED SIX MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE OF MICHIGAN WHO ARE NEARING THE END OF THEIR FFA JOURNEY,

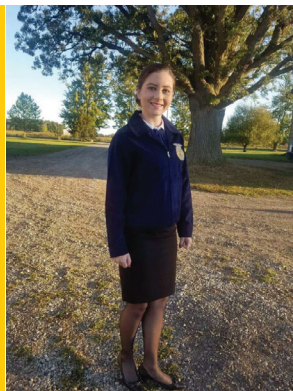
**“WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO YOURSELF WHEN YOU WERE A YOUNGER FFA MEMBER?”**

CHECK OUT THEIR ANSWERS!

“Make sure you socialize, give your all in everything that you do, and just be kind. The competitions that you compete in will help you grow to be a better, stronger person. Your time in the FFA will stick with you forever; make sure you leave an impression with those you meet along your journey.”  
–Alexis Stump, Niles FFA



“Be open to all avenues of agriculture and not just stick to livestock, crops, or whatever you are comfortable with.”  
– Mary Hartmann, Genesee Career Institute



“Be open to anything. You never know what you’re good at and what you could succeed at. There are so many opportunities this organization has to offer; never pass something up because you could fail at it.”  
–Mattie Howell, Jonesville FFA



“To my younger self, I would say stop letting opportunities pass by. Most opportunities in FFA are only presented a handful of times in your career. Every opportunity that comes around in FFA is an opportunity for personal growth, and every time one passes by untaken, you are just shortchanging yourself.”  
–Kyle Stack, Fremont FFA



“I want every FFA member to know that FFA has something perfect for them. Explore all the possibilities FFA has to offer and pick that one thing you just want to keep doing over and over again. That thing is your passion, and your passion will guide you through every step of your life.”  
– Addy Battel, Cass City



“Every opportunity is a chance to better yourself, and you should take these opportunities while you can because before you know it, it’s your last banquet, and you deserve a banquet filled with celebration rather than regret.”  
– Lindsey Hoppe, Alpena FFA



#STUDENTSATURDAY

# Aviana Jackson



This edition's #StudentSaturday is a graduate of Corunna High School, where she has been a member of the Corunna FFA Chapter ever since she was able to join in 8th grade. "My FFA journey began in 8th grade when a fellow FFA member told me I should come to a meeting for free ice cream and awesome door prizes. From the beginning of class I was eventually drawn into FFA," Aviana Jackson states, recapping her FFA journey. Today, Aviana has been an active FFA member for five years and is now attending Lansing Community College.



Earlier this year, Aviana finished her FFA journey with a bang. Along with her teammate, she finished first in the State FFA Demonstration Contest, with a demonstration on the topic of pruning apple trees. Additionally, she has competed in many other contests such as Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Agricultural Issues, Horse Judging, Floriculture, and Farm Business Management. Despite her success and experience in these other contests, Aviana exclaims,

"My favorite contest would have to be Demonstration. My teammate and I ... are both dedicated and competitive so it made preparing for the contest enjoyable. We visited apple orchards to receive hands-on experience and knowledge bringing the task to real life. Winning at the Michigan FFA State Convention made all the hours of hard work rewarding. I will always remember performing on the stage of the Wharton Center. For that I am thankful for the memories,

friends, and the unforgettable experiences the leadership and skills contests have brought me. The dedication and time directed to each contest is exhilarating but rewarding." In addition to contests, Aviana has served as the Corunna FFA Chapter's junior vice president, vice president, and the Region IV Vice President.

The area of equine science is where Aviana finds her passion and her SAE. Two years ago, Aviana and her brother put up a fence that would house her horses and, ultimately, fulfill a longtime dream of being a horse owner. Within her SAE in equine science, Aviana owns two horses—caring for their everyday needs, creating a diet program specially formulated for the individual horse, and designing an exercise routine to maximize each horse's potential. Altogether, she has been riding for over ten years and always trains her own horses.



Outside of FFA, Aviana was active in a wide variety of extracurriculars including the Corunna Marching and Symphonic Band, Equestrian Team, Varsity Swim Team, Blazing Saddles 4-H Club, Byron Bronc Busters, National Honor Society, Shiawassee County Jr. Fair Board Member, a lifeguard, and was crowned the 2018 Shiawassee County Fair Queen. Aviana will be attending Lansing Community College for two years with plans to transfer to Michigan State University to major in Animal Science. After obtaining her bachelor's, she hopes to be admitted into the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine and become a large animal vet, one day possibly opening her own veterinary clinic in Shiawassee County.

By: Sam Wortz  
State Reporter





# HANDS-ON PROGRAMS



at MSU and in your community

The **Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT)** delivers innovative, two-year educational certificate programs designed to address industry needs in Michigan and beyond. Students learn best by doing, so IAT programs are built on the concept of hands-on learning. IAT programs develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in agricultural, environmental and applied technologies. Certificate programs are offered **on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing** and **in partnership with several Michigan community colleges.**

## TWO-YEAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Agricultural Industries
- Agricultural Operations
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- Electrical Technology
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- Fruit, Vegetable and Organic Horticulture Management
- Horse Management
- Landscape and Nursery Management
- Landscape Management
- Livestock Industries
- Sports and Commercial Turf Management
- Turfgrass Management – golf course emphasis
- Viticulture



For more information about the certificate programs and locations, visit [www.iat.msu.edu](http://www.iat.msu.edu) or call 517-355-0190.



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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Institute of  
Agricultural Technology  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

# Q & A with NONTRADITIONAL Agriculture Majors

VERY OFTEN WHEN WE THINK ABOUT OBTAINING A CAREER IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, WE THINK ABOUT GOING TO COLLEGE FOR SOMETHING LIKE ANIMAL SCIENCE OR CROP AND SOIL SCIENCES, HOWEVER, THERE ARE SO MANY MORE DEGREES THAT STILL ALLOW YOU TO GO INTO AGRICULTURE. THE THREE INDIVIDUALS YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET ARE STUDYING OR HAVE STUDIED NOT SO “TRADITIONALLY AGRICULTURAL” MAJORS AND ARE WORKING IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY TODAY!



**NAME:** Elena Boxey

**COLLEGE:** Michigan State University

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior

**MAJOR:** Nontraditional Agricultural Education

**MINOR:** Public Relations

**FFA CHAPTER:**  
Lapeer County Tech Center

**DREAM CAREER:**  
Working with farmers and agricultural businesses to advocate for new technology and correcting misinformation in ag.



**NAME:** Emily House

**COLLEGE:** Michigan State University

**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Senior

**MAJOR 1:** Accounting

**MAJOR 2:** Animal Science

**FFA CHAPTER:**  
Webberville

**DREAM CAREER:**  
Work for an agriculturally related business, preferably in the animal production sector, as an accountant.



**NAME:** Kayla Keyser

**COLLEGE:** Michigan State University

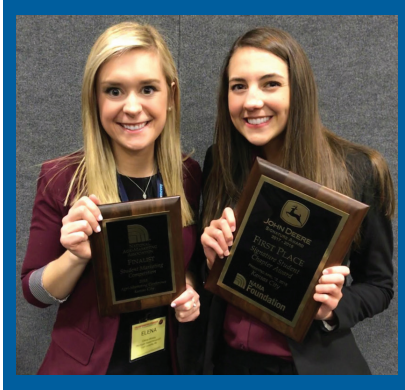
**YEAR IN SCHOOL:** Spring 2018 Graduate

**MAJOR 1:** Communications

**MAJOR 2:** Animal Science

**FFA CHAPTER:**  
Coleman

**DREAM CAREER:**  
What she's doing now! Currently, Kayla is crafting positive messages for her clients in agriculture, food, and rural markets.



Q: What made and/or influenced you to choose your major?

Elena: "My major is Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education with a minor in Public Relations. My involvement within professional organizations, attending conferences, and connecting with various professionals within that year opened my eyes to the lack of educational programming and misuse of communication technology in our industry. I found my passion was wanting to promote agricultural commodities to increase demand, benefiting producers while also helping consumers make more informed choices in the grocery store. MSU does not currently offer a major in Agricultural Communications. By choosing my combination of majors, I have been able to customize my coursework to gain the necessary experience and knowledge to pursue a career in the agricultural communication field with a skill set in agricultural education."

Q: What do you hope to do or are currently doing with your degrees?

Emily: "I am currently interning at Monsanto's phosphorus plant in Soda Springs, Id., as a finance intern. The main objective of the plant is to turn ore that is mined nearby into elemental phosphorus. In my specific role, I do a wide variety of financially related tasks from analyzing rising costs to auditing contractor compliance. No two days are ever the same, which keeps me on my toes and excited for what is coming next. However, the aspect I love the most about this position is that I get to do accounting work for an agricultural firm. I am discovering that it truly is possible to have an impact on the industry I love, without being on the farm."



Q: What is your favorite part of your majors?

Kayla: "My favorite aspect of my degrees is the strategic training I received in connecting people from varying backgrounds and perspectives. It is so important today in agriculture that we communicate effectively with widely diverse audiences. Food production affects everyone in a very personal way. As we work to close the gap between farm and table, it is important to keep in mind that each person receives and interprets messages in a different way."

Q: What clubs and/or organizations are you involved with through MSU?

Elena: "I am involved in MSU NAMA (National Agri-Marketing Association), Sigma Alpha, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Senate. I have attended the Agriculture Future of America and AgChat conferences, which were invaluable leadership development and industry connection opportunities. I have also been active in residence hall government and intramural athletics."



Q: Please share one piece of advice to members looking to attend MSU.

Emily: "Don't be intimidated by how large campus is or by how many people there are. Once you find your niche, such as Sigma Alpha or really any club, campus instantly goes from overwhelming to comfortable. I came from a small school with under 50 people in my graduating class, and believe me, it was an abrupt change. However, by finding my place in Sigma Alpha, campus started to feel like home."

Q: How have the things you have gained and/or learned in FFA, 4-H, sports, or other extracurriculars contributed to your education, career goals, and connections?

Kayla: "My involvement in clubs has taught me more than any class has. You learn how to work with others, plan events, organize meetings, delegate tasks, and so much more, all while having a blast and making lifelong memories!"



# HEADING OFF TO COLLEGE THIS FALL? JUMP IN BY JOINING COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU!

## What is Collegiate Farm Bureau?

Collegiate Farm Bureau is a low-pressure, high-value opportunity for college students interested in agriculture and natural resources to meet, try on and connect with Farm Bureau.

Collegiate members engage in educational activities, career development and personal growth opportunities to build their professional resume and personal skill set.

### Career Development

Collegiate Farm Bureau provides numerous career development opportunities including:

- Education on agricultural career paths and professions
- Professional networking and contacts in the agriculture industry
- Experience in local, state and national government through legislative activities
- Exposure to state and national farm organizations and other Collegiate Farm Bureaus

### Personal Growth

Collegiate Farm Bureau offers personal growth opportunities including:

- Opportunities to attend leadership conferences
- Experiences to hone professional skills and etiquette
- Avenues to provide community service
- Insider intel on current agricultural issues and policies



"I'm excited about the opportunities Collegiate Farm Bureau is providing students. **They will be able to participate in the Discussion Meet, attend district, county and state events and make connections within the agricultural industry.** For many, it will be their first experience with a premier membership organization, and we hope they continue their leadership journey as members after graduation."

**DR. RANDY SHOWERMAN**  
MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology Director

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**WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**  
Jacqueline Grow - growjacq@msu.edu

**WEST SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Mark Garrison - garris67@msu.edu



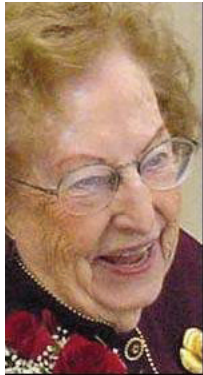
REACH OUT TO YOUR COLLEGE CONTACT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGIATE FARM BUREAU

Michigan FFA  
Foundation



# MICHIGAN FFA FOUNDATION

## Glassbrook Grants



Pauline Glassbrook was an active advocate for agriculture throughout her life. She retired from the Michigan Department of Education in 1978 after 50 years of service. During her time of employment, she worked closely with FFA and its programs. In 1993, Pauline and her husband Stanley established the Glassbrook Endowment through the Michigan FFA Foundation. The Glassbrook FFA Endowment helps fund agriculture and natural resources education and leadership initiatives for traditional and nontraditional K-12 programs. Since

2001, the Endowment has contributed over \$500,000 in grants to promote Agricultural Literacy in Michigan. The Michigan FFA Foundation honors Pauline Glassbrook and will forever be grateful of her support and ongoing dedication to agriculture and Michigan FFA.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-2018 GLASSBROOK GRANT RECIPIENTS

CENTREVILLE FFA

NORTH HURON FFA

MARSHALL FFA

OLIVET FFA

ALMA FFA

LAKER FFA

WHITEFORD FFA

WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT FFA

UBLY FFA

CASS CITY FFA

CHEASANING FFA

CARNEY-NADEAU FFA

Are you interested in helping your chapter receive a Glassbrook Grant? Visit our website at [www.michiganffa.com/foundation](http://www.michiganffa.com/foundation) and click on "Agriscience Education Grants" to find the downloadable application today! **Applications are due December 1, 2018.**

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2018 STAR PARTNERS



# 2018 NATIONAL *Chapter Awards*

For the National Chapter Award, chapters fill out an application consisting of short descriptions of their program of activities and document the goals, results, evaluations, and photos for each activity. To qualify, a chapter must complete at least 15 activities: one for each of the five quality standards in each of the three divisions. The applications are judged at the state level, and after the top three are chosen, the other chapters receive a gold, silver, or bronze rating. The top three are eligible to compete at state convention in the National Chapter Presentation Contest, and gold-rated chapters can move on to National FFA, where they can receive a three-star, two-star, or one-star rating.

## State Winner: Springport



## 2nd Place: Hopkins

## 3rd Place: Lapeer



## #TEACHERTUESDAY

*Mr. Brian Kiesling*

Calling Corunna home, this edition of the Michigan FFA Creed's #TeacherTuesday is Mr. Brian Kiesling. Kiesling is one of the two agriscience educators at Corunna schools, where he has been teaching for two years. Before Corunna, for 16 years, he was the Perry FFA advisor and agriscience educator. Mr. Kiesling's background in FFA

and agriscience goes even deeper than just his career, however, as he was an active FFA member of the Perry-Morrice FFA Chapter all throughout his high school years. In his time as an FFA member, he held chapter office for three years, regional office for one, and became the Michigan FFA Region IV State Vice President in 1997-98. Livestock judging, Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Demonstration, and Extemporaneous Public Speaking are a few of the many other FFA activities that Kiesling dedicated his time to. Outside of the agriscience and FFA world, Mr. Kiesling enjoys spending time with his wife and four children and being outdoors, whether hunting or camping.

A graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in agriscience education, Kiesling was inspired to become an ag teacher from his very own teacher and advisor, our now State FFA Advisor, Mr. Mark Forbush. Today, Mr. Kiesling and Miss Casie Forbush are the advisors of the Corunna FFA chapter, which is home to 140 FFA members, ranging from 8th to 12th grade. When asked how students would describe him, the three words that surfaced were "hardworking, funny, and caring."

"I have many memories while being an advisor. The one thing I have enjoyed



**"THE ONE THING I HAVE ENJOYED THE MOST IS WHEN STUDENTS ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T THINK THEY COULD AND GET TO SEE THEIR HARD WORK PAY OFF."**

**-MR. BRIAN KIESLING**

the most is when students accomplish something they didn't think they could and get to see their hard work pay off." During his time at Corunna, Kiesling, along with Forbush, have established the Food for America program, a two-part program combining classroom lessons and a petting zoo. This program brings students from the Corunna School



District, ranging in age from preschool to third grade, to learn more about agriculture with the help of Corunna FFA members. In the classroom portion, students get to engage by making pigs out of paper plates while FFA members teach facts about pigs. Next, the students go to the petting zoo and see the animals. This program is just one example of the opportunities Mr. Kiesling works to provide students that combines agricultural knowledge and leadership growth through educating others.

On behalf of the Michigan FFA Association, I would like to thank you for the knowledge, hard work, and time you spend to educate and grow the Corunna FFA Chapter and its members. Without you and every single other advisor giving your talents, Michigan's over 8,000 members would not continue to succeed. Thank you again and congratulations!

By: Sam Wortz  
State Reporter

# FFA NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that your everyday job involves skills that could benefit an unlimited number of youth today? Adult volunteers are an asset to local youth as supporters and mentors. Invest in the future of agriculture – join the Michigan FFA Alumni & Friends today!



To learn more about the Michigan FFA Alumni & Friends, visit [MichiganFFA.com/Alumni](https://MichiganFFA.com/Alumni)