



THE MICHIGAN FFA

Creed

FALL 2019

FEATURED

inside

MEET OUR #STUDENTSATURDAY WINNERS, LOGAN AND BEN!

MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE STATE IDENTIFY ISSUES FACING AGRICULTURE TODAY AND DISCUSS HOW WE CAN TAKE ACTION.

CONGRATULATE OUR NATIONAL CHAPTER FINALISTS AND PROFICIENCY WINNERS.

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THE 2019 NATIONAL CHAPTER WINNER, SPRINGPORT FFA, UTILIZES THEIR BROILER CHICKENS TO CREATE 2,100 NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR THE SPRINGPORT FOOD PANTRY.





2019 MICHIGAN FFA

Summer Skills Contest Winners

CONTENTS

- C** PROFICIENCY WINNERS
- E** MEMBER TO MEMBER
- G** #STUDENTSATURDAY
- J** LIVING TO SERVE
- L** STATE OFFICER FEATURE
- M** NATIONAL CHAPTER FINALISTS

Dairy Judging

IONIA/HEARTLAND TECH CENTER FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

Dairy Cattle Handlers

AMBER SZAKAL, CORUNNA FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

Livestock Judging

HOPKINS FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

BRANCH AREA CAREERS CENTER FFA CHAPTER, JUNIOR

Meats Judging

SANILAC FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

CORUNNA FFA CHAPTER, JUNIOR

Meat Rabbit Contest—Purchased

SUNNY BUNNIES, CAREERLINE FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

MAROON AND WHITE, CASS CITY FFA CHAPTER, JUNIOR

Meat Rabbit Contest—Homegrown

LUKE WHEELER, SAND CREEK FFA CHAPTER, SENIOR

LOGAN VOLMERING, UBLY FFA CHAPTER, JUNIOR

UPCOMING *events*

SEPTEMBER 25. Fall Leadership Conference and Fall PDI Registrations Due

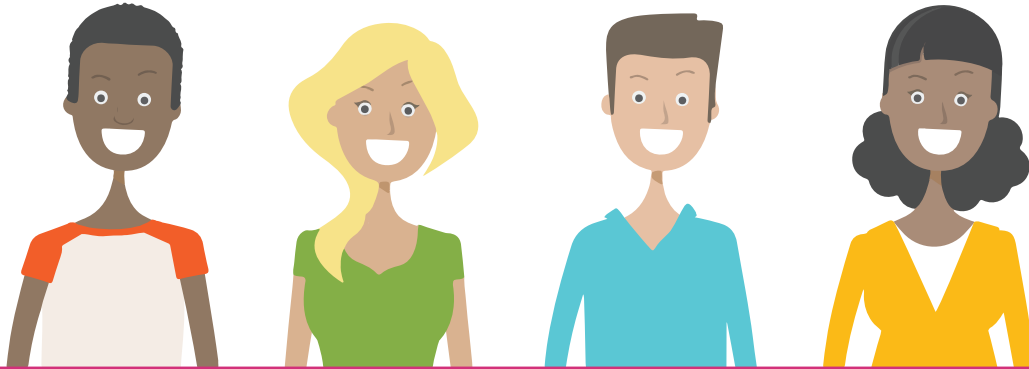
SEPTEMBER 27. AFNRE CDE Applications Due

OCTOBER 21-22. Fall Leadership Conference and Fall PDI

OCTOBER 22. Michigan Farm Bureau Career Focus Conference

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 2. National FFA Convention & Expo

NOVEMBER 6-8. Broiler Contest at Munsell's Poultry Processing



TIME TO GET READY FOR YOUR
Discussion Meet

First, kick off your discussion meet prep by viewing the questions at www.michfb.com/MI/YFDiscussionMeet/

Pick a topic and share why the issue is important to you.

Explain the background of the issue.

Why is this an issue? Think about why it's important to you, your family, your school, your county, our world etc.

Share two to three solutions for the issue and how to apply the solutions.

How can you partner with organizations like Farm Bureau, MSU Extension, FFA Alumni groups, etc. to address the issue?

Ready to really prep yourself?? Go back and REPEAT the process for each question!!

For your region's Discussion Meet date, check out the MFB website.

Advisors' Note: Feel free to make copies and use within your sub plans.
Consider using this tool for Leadership Contest ideas.

2019

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**

ADDY BATTEL

CASS CITY



**AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION**

BEN ZALESKI

NORTH HURON



**AGRICULTURAL
PROCESSING**

SARAH COPELAND

JACKSON ACC



**AGRICULTURAL
SERVICES**

KEEGAN GRIFKA

SANILAC



**AGRISCIENCE
RESEARCH -
INTEGRATED SYSTEMS**

EMILY UNGER

MONTAGUE



**AGRISCIENCE
RESEARCH - PLANT
SYSTEMS**

SYDNEY MASTERS

SALINE



**BEEF PRODUCTION -
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

GRANT GEIGER

UBLY



**DAIRY PRODUCTION -
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

DEVIN HAYWOOD

HASTINGS



**DAIRY PRODUCTION -
PLACEMENT**

JORDAN SIEMEN

HARBOR BEACH



**DIVERSIFIED CROP
PRODUCTION -
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

JARRET KIENZLE

VAN BUREN TC

MICHIGAN



**DIVERSIFIED CROP
PRODUCTION -
PLACEMENT**

EVAN RICE

NORTH HURON



**DIVERSIFIED
LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION**

SHELBY SOUVA

BRANCH AREA CC



**ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE &
NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT**

HANNAH GILL

GENESEE CI



**EQUINE SCIENCE -
PLACEMENT**

CASSIDY MCNEIL

JACKSON ACC



FORAGE PRODUCTION

CALEB HEBERLING

SANILAC



GOAT PRODUCTION

ALYSON WALSH

NORTH HURON



**GRAIN PRODUCTION -
PLACEMENT**

ADAM WEBER

UBLY



**HOME AND/
OR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

SKYLAR BYRNE

WEBBERVILLE



**LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT**

BRAYDEN SCHIPINSKI

NORTH HURON



POULTRY PRODUCTION

AUTUMN TAIT

NORTH HURON



SHEEP PRODUCTION

CODY ROEHM

SALINE



**SMALL ANIMAL
PRODUCTION AND CARE**

JACELYN ROYER

BYRON



**TURFGRASS
MANAGEMENT**

DANIEL TONER

NORTH HURON

Member TO Member

“WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING AGRICULTURE TODAY AND HOW DO YOU THINK FFA MEMBERS CAN WORK TO FIND A SOLUTION?”

“I believe that the biggest challenge facing agriculture is people not being fully and accurately informed about what farmers go through to produce their food. People go to the grocery store, get their food, pay and then leave. Most of the time, they do not think about where their milk or bread came from and what the farmer did to help produce that product. This [knowledge gap] is what we as FFA members have to change. We can do this by going to the local grocery store with our FFA chapters and educating shoppers with an information booth.”

Addison Ramey, Maple Valley FFA



“A big challenge the agriculture industry faces is the misconceptions people not involved in agriculture have about the agriculture industry. Animal activists tend to believe that farms are terrible operations and farmers are people that “abuse animals” or “take baby animals away from their mothers.” However, the majority of these animal activists are not fully educated on farming, and more specifically, on raising livestock. Sometimes it is hard to understand everything that really happens on farms, especially if you didn’t grow up around them. FFA members can work to find a solution to educate the larger public about small and large farming operations. Education is key, and a lot of urban schools don’t offer agriculture classes to those who need it most, so students are only learning from biased animal activists who have little education when it comes to agriculture.”

Shannon Rossman, Jonesville FFA

“You have heard it a thousand times: we will need to feed more than 10 billion [people] within the next 30 years. Meanwhile, farmers who have spent generations mastering production in their home climate will have to adapt as quickly as it shifts. This creates a need for rapid innovation in agriculture. I believe the biggest challenge facing agriculture today is attracting and retaining fresh, young talent to meet these challenges. Agriculture and FFA must remain open and inclusive if we are to develop the innovators of agriculture’s future.”

Addy Battel, Cass City FFA



“Misportrayal in the media is really the biggest issue facing agriculture today. With a growing media presence, the world of agriculture has been under scrutiny by many organizations who, when informing the public about the agricultural industry, really misrepresent it as a whole. For example, an animal rights group said this when talking about poultry harvest, “Many [chickens] remain conscious when they’re plunged into the scalding-hot water of the defeathering or hair-removal tanks or while their bodies are being skinned or hacked apart.” This is a HUGE misrepresentation of the harvesting aspect of the poultry industry. Poultry harvest is closely monitored by USDA inspectors. Because of this close monitoring, humane standards are implemented. The credibility of this organization and others like it can make it difficult to dissuade negative opinions on the agricultural industry. By staying current with today’s technology and spreading our own positive information, FFA members and agriculturalists as a whole can combat this major issue in agriculture.”

Rebecca Fraley, Webberville FFA



“I believe the biggest problem is on-farm profitability. Without profitability, it’s hard for farms to expand their operation, hire good help and keep their bills paid and families fed. FFA members can help boost profitability of farms largely by spreading the importance of buying agricultural products. This could include aspects like buying local. For example, we should convince our friends that when they go into gas stations, they should consider buying a cheese stick instead of a candy bar, or a milk instead of a pop. FFA members can also help by staying in contact with our local, state and federal representatives and keeping them informed about issues in agriculture.”

Samantha Bennett, Fremont FFA

“I think the biggest problem facing the agricultural industry today is Mother Nature, especially looking at the western states. The volatile weather we have been seeing lately has left many farmers either out of commission for this season or scrambling to find solutions. I think FFA members could help soften the blow by fundraising to send materials and inputs to the farmers hit the hardest or by continuing the “mission trips,” where members travel to western states and help the farmers get back on track after experiencing a natural disaster.”

Emily Ratajczak, Standish Sterling FFA



#STUDENTSATURDAY

Logan Hagerty

After joining FFA in seventh grade to fill an opening on a Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team, Logan Hagerty from the Laingsburg FFA Chapter has had some time to really navigate the FFA Organization and take advantage of all the amazing things it has to offer.

The team's hard work preparing for the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings contest helped them move through districts and regionals to compete in the state semifinals. Following this experience, he knew that FFA was something that he wanted to stay involved in. Logan has made it a priority to compete in a leadership development event each year, in addition to testing his technical skills in the Vet Science and Nursery Landscape contests. Out of all the contests, however, Logan's favorites are those that work to build leadership skills such as the Parliamentary Procedure contest. Logan fell in love with this contest because it gave him the chance to work with his friends and teammates as they prepared to compete.

"Some of my favorite high school memories are those that include the long practices held within the Laingsburg ag room and all the dinners shared with teammates while practicing for a contest," Logan says. However, after experiencing all these things, Logan decided he wanted to begin giving back so that other members in his chapter can experience the same. This upcoming school year, Logan will serve his second term as the Laingsburg FFA chapter president in addition to his role serving as the Region IV Treasurer. Logan's advisor, Mrs. Eggleston, commented on Logan's drive and passion to serve, saying, "Logan is loyal and dedicated to the growth of the Laingsburg FFA Chapter."



Outside of the classroom, Logan's SAEs include diversified livestock production, where his primary focus is growing his herd of Simmental breeding cattle, as well as an arrangement of other livestock projects that he shows at the fair and at jackpots throughout the year. When away from his own stock, you can find Logan working on another local farm. He is responsible for feeding and

caring for young heifers before they are bred and sent to another farm for milking. Logan's efforts were recognized this year when he was awarded his chapter's Star Placement award.



After graduation, Logan aspires to attend Michigan State University and study Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education in hopes that one day he will be able to become an FFA advisor himself. Logan says that if he could do anything, he would road-trip across the entire country because he loves meeting new and different people. "The differences we all have is what makes the United States great, and I would love to experience that firsthand." Thank you for the dedication you have to the success of your chapter, Logan. We are excited for the year to come!

By: Kyle Stack
State Reporter



#STUDENTSATURDAY

Ben Brown

Recent Olivet High School graduate Ben Brown became interested in FFA through his best friend, Marcus, who told him he should join shortly after Ben moved to Olivet five years ago. Before Marcus's suggestion, Ben had no idea what FFA was, but he figured he would give it a try and get involved. Fast-forward a few years and many leadership positions and contests and you'll find that Ben has played an influential role within the Olivet FFA Chapter.

Through FFA, Ben has had the chance to load his resume with experiences from time spent building premier leadership, personal growth and career success. These experiences and accomplishments include holding the position of Olivet FFA Treasurer and Vice President, as well as serving as the Region I Reporter during the 2018-19 school year. Aside from holding offices on the chapter and regional levels, career development events have played a large role in Ben's journey through the FFA Organization. In 2015, Ben was part of the state winning Junior High Conduct of Meetings team. In both 2016

and 2017, he also competed in the state-level Greenhand Conduct of Meetings and Extemporaneous Public Speaking contests, respectively. Ben's achievements don't stop there! He was selected as his chapter's Star Greenhand, Outstanding Sophomore, and Outstanding Junior in addition to being named the Olivet FFA Star in Agricultural Placement.

Outside of FFA, Ben could always be found at the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center, where he was dual-enrolled. Ben's program was a rigorous, four-year STEM program where he had the opportunity to visit the Kennedy Space Center and MIT. This program gave Ben the opportunity to give presentations and meet people from all over the world. In addition, Ben was involved in his high school's theater program and Boy Scouts. Today, Ben plans to enlist with the United States Coast Guard. After deployment, he then plans to pursue further schooling to become an educator.



For Ben, the National FFA Organization provided him with the personal management skills that he feels are necessary to be successful in life, as well as building upon his ability to become a leader. Both of these skills will aid him in his military career. Ben's advice for other FFA members is: "Go all out in every moment." During his last state convention, Ben had a crazy opportunity to be on stage with the 2018-19 National Eastern Region Vice President, Adrian Schunk, wearing a wig and pretending to be her mom (*pictured above*). This unique experience left Ben with this: "I don't exactly know how, but I had a blast. You never know what's going to be around the next corner, so just live life to its fullest and enjoy it."

No matter what comes around the next corner, we know Ben will continue to do awesome things. Congratulations!

By: Kyle Stack
State Reporter

Developing Today's Agricultural Workforce



Gain career-ready skills through hands-on training and professional work experience in the **Institute of Agricultural Technology**. Certificate programs are offered on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing and in partnership with several Michigan community colleges.

Certificate Programs

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

Community College Partner Locations

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 Delta College – University Center
 Glen Oaks Community College – Centreville
 Kellogg Community College – Battle Creek
 Lansing Community College – Lansing
 Monroe County Community College – Monroe
 Montcalm Community College – Sidney
 Muskegon Community College – Muskegon
 Northwestern Michigan College – Traverse City
 Southwestern Michigan College – Dowagiac
 Wayne County Community College District – Downriver Campus
 West Shore Community College – Scottville



iat.msu.edu/learn-more



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Institute of Agricultural Technology

Living to Serve: THE LIFE OF A STATE OFFICER



After being elected, one of the first decisions our team had to make was selecting the theme for the year. Each member of the 2019-20 Michigan FFA State Officer team dreamed of becoming part of what we are now. And on the stage of the Michigan FFA State Convention, and again on July 1st, our dream had come true. Reflecting on this, we finally chose our theme.

At the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers (SLCCO), it was revealed that for this upcoming school year, the theme is “Dare to Dream.” We realized the need for members of the Michigan FFA Association, and ourselves, to get out of our comfort zones. Too many times we get stuck in routines. Maybe we have forgotten a project or idea we wanted to tackle a while ago. This project or idea could be showing an animal at the fair or running for a chapter office. Potentially, this opportunity is still ahead. What is stopping you from chasing your dream? Push away the fears and anxieties that are limiting you. Create goals and put time into accomplishing your aspirations. Step out of your comfort zone and reach higher. Do everything in your power to make your dream a reality.

Using this theme as a guide, we jumped straight into our year of service. Our first training as a team was State Officer Base Camp in April. Here, we evaluated our individual strengths and weaknesses and learned how to employ time management and inclusivity



throughout the year. The diverse combinations of strengths that each member of our team brought to the table were incredible, and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know my teammates better. The next step on our journey was State Officer Checkpoint in June. This training focused more on evaluating our team dynamic and improving our speaking skills for presenting.



In July, we embarked on a tour throughout western Michigan, visiting agricultural input suppliers, farms and other agricultural businesses to be able to knowledgably represent Michigan agriculture. In July we also got to facilitate our first official event at the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers. Despite the amazing summer we had, the activity that we are most looking forward to is chapter visits this fall. We are beyond excited to meet all of you and see what you are doing every day in your chapters.

Looking back at our theme “Dare to Dream,” the team absolutely cannot wait to hear about all of the dreams you have within this organization. Our dream of being elected to state office has happened. Now our dream is to interact and serve you to the best of our ability this year. We look forward to helping connect you to all of the opportunities that FFA has to offer. Michigan FFA, keep daring to dream.

By: Haili Gusa
State President



Elevating Agricultural Education

The Michigan FFA Foundation Gifts of Grain is a program in which grain or other commodity crops are gifted to benefit FFA chapters around the state of Michigan. Support Michigan FFA and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education with a donation of your grain at participating elevators.

Participating Elevators include: ADM, Carbon Green BioEnergy, Cooperative Elevator, John Marion, Inc., Michigan Agricultural Commodities/MAC, The Andersons, and Zeeland Farm Services.

For more information on how to donate please visit www.michiganffa.org



Help empower tomorrow's farmers, scientists, communicators, and food processors. Purchase a Michigan Agricultural Heritage license plate! For just \$35, you can help prepare the next generation of agriculture leaders by supporting FFA and K-12 agricultural education programs!

New as of 2019, the Agricultural Heritage license plate is now offered for Commercial Vehicles!



Platinum Star Partners



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Four Star Partners



State Officer FEATURE

SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS
HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!



ANDREW SMITH
STATE TREASURER

Home Chapter: Laker

Favorite Movie: "The Incredibles"

Favorite Sport: Cross Country

What is one word that best describes you?
"One word that would describe me is spirited. I try to approach every moment in life with a smile on my face and a song in my head."



ABIGAIL STUBBINS
REGION II STATE VICE
PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Jonesville

Favorite Hobby: Eating Food and Riding Horses

Favorite Television Show: "Riverdale"

What is your SAE?
Small Animal Production and Care
"I raise and process over 200 rabbits each year for meat, showing and/or pets. I also raise larger animals: sheep, horses, chickens, llamas, pigs, and cattle."



LINDSEY HOPPE
REGION VI STATE VICE
PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Alpena

Favorite FFA Activity: Parliamentary Procedure Contest

Favorite Athletic Team: Green Bay Packers

What do you think is the main role of a state officer?
"To help members in everything they do so that they can continue to grow while also always remembering to keep the members' best interests at heart."

2019 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 were 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:
North Huron

3RD PLACE:
Lapeer



2019 NATIONAL CHAPTER *Gold, Silver & Bronze Awards*

Gold:

ALMA*

ALPENA*

BYRON*

CORUNNA*

HOPKINS*

JACKSON ACC

LAPEER COUNTY AM*

MASON

MONTAGUE*

NORTH HURON*

OLIVET

SANILAC CC*

SPRINGPORT*

UBLY

WEBBERVILLE*

Silver:

ALCONA

FREMONT

HASTINGS

NEW LOTHROP

PERRY

RAVENNA

Bronze:

LAINGSBURG

WALDRON

*NATIONAL RECOGNITION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY AFNRE CLUB



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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!



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