



The Michigan FFA Creed

June/July 2008

The Michigan FFA Creed



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The State FFA Office
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The Michigan FFA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation or disability. Any student requiring an accommodation as a result of a disability should contact the chapter advisor to arrange such accommodation.

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<i>Joseph Ankley</i>		



I believe in...

...perseverance.

How many times have you wanted to quit and give up on something? Probably more than you can count. Every one of us has countless occasions when we thought that this project, this paper, this presentation, was not worth our time or effort. Although many times we want to give up on something, rarely do we ever actually completely give up.

This is called perseverance.

It's the one thing that drives us to complete our goals day after day and never give up. Without it, there would be no ambition, no finished projects, and no desire to complete any necessary task. Everyday we are asked to do countless things:

go to school, complete homework, finish that paper, work on Career Development Events, feed the animals, mow the lawn and the list goes on and on. Although these may seem like everyday, simple tasks, without perseverance we would have no will to complete them.

The real test is when we have an opportunity to do something bigger than these everyday tasks. Will you be willing to give this your all or will you give into the temptation to not do it and take the easy way out.

Just think if you persevered and never gave up on anything. Do you realize how much you could accomplish? With perseverance, nothing can stop you from reaching your goals.

Dates to Remember...

June

16 SLCCO/SLCRO Registrations due
 24-27 NLCSO, Tennessee
 30-2 Summer PDI, Lansing

July

8 Livestock Judging
 10-11 SLCCO/SLCRO, Lansing
 15 Tractor Driving Contest
 23 Dairy Judging and Showmanship Contest

80TH MICHIGAN FFA STATE CONVENTION IN REVIEW

Since 1929, Michigan FFA members have been gathering together to compete, share and recognize each other's efforts. March 5-7, 2008 was no different.



STARS OVER MICHIGAN



From left to right, Star in Agribusiness David Maust of Laker; Star Farmer in Production Marco Verhaar of Laker; Star in Agriscience Kaitlyn Hard of BACC; Star in Placement Josh First of Ionia

2008-2009 MICHIGAN FFA STATE OFFICER TEAM



Back row (l-r) President Dustin Baker of St. Louis; Region II State VP Chris Sanford of Springport; Treasurer Ryan Green of Cassopolis; Sentinel Clint Steketee of Caledonia; Region I State VP Aaron Balowski of Bronson; Secretary Jillian Holdwick of Harbor Beach

Front row (l-r) VP Andrea Bommarito of Springport; Region IV State VP Elizabeth Krhovsky of Corunna; Reporter Kaitlyn Hard of BACC; Region V State VP Marie Hruby of Fremont; Region III State VP Julia Voelker of Laker; Region VI State VP Maria James of Alcona

Michigan's Summer Get-A-Ways!



By: **Andrew Walker**
MSU James Madison College

If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you. Michigan's official state motto says it all. The "Great Lakes State" offers some great times for those who choose to seek out the plethora of natural resources located within the state's borders. Michigan maintains a high quality of recreation that thousands of people enjoy every year. Whether it is a national or state park or forest, or the hundreds of camping facilities, Michigan has a place for everyone. The state welcomes thousands of anglers, hunters, and trappers, as well as families and tourists for recreation each year.

To many Americans, Michigan offers a place of summertime



FFA NEW HORIZONS

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enjoyment for a fun-filled family getaway. State and national parks offer a place for camping while enjoying some of the breathtaking wonders of Michigan. So where do I start? Some of the most exciting areas to visit this summer include:

Hartwick Pines State Park

Located off Interstate 75 in Grayling, this park offers 9,762 acres of forested area that holds natural beauty and historic content. Old growth pines cover a large part of the park, which is centered on a 1920s logging camp. Karen Michelson Hartwick donated the property to the state of Michigan during the Great Depression. In 1934 the state worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps to Build Hartwick Pines Logging Museum.

Today visitors can peruse through the educational buildings as well as the Old Growth Forest Trail, which is one and a quarter miles long, that contains trees 350-375 years old and up to 160 feet tall. These White Pines are some of the largest in the eastern United States. The park also includes a campground and trails for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Lake Michigan, Lake Huron, Lake Superior, and Lake Erie

The four Great Lakes that border the State of Michigan offer an unlimited access for entertainment. Lake Michigan and Huron are connected under the Mackinac Bridge, by the 295 foot deep Straits of Mackinac. Mackinac Island is located to the East of the bridge; a 3.8 square mile land mass that holds historic significance. Fort Mackinac was built on the Island during the Revolutionary War. Many of the buildings and houses on the island maintain the period setting. No motor vehicles are allowed, simply horse drawn carriages and bicycles. Visitors are able to peddle around the island via bike, seeing all of the wonders of Northern Michigan while sampling the fudge and other goodies.

Lake Superior, located above the Upper Peninsula, is the largest freshwater lake in the world, spanning 31,820 square miles and an average depth of 483 feet. Isle Royale National Park, located in Lake Superior, is a 133,781 acre island with over 132,000 acres

of natural wildlife and habitats. Hundreds of hikers visit each year. Teeming with all kinds of wildlife, Isle Royale is also home to a significant Moose and Wolf population. It is the job of park officials to try and increase the moose herd from its current population of 900, while allowing the wolves to remain on the island. This creates an increasing need in park rangers and wildlife scientists.

Lake Erie, located in the southeastern portion of Michigan, has a lakebed perfect for fish. Many sport and fishing operations are based off of Lake Erie. The Lake also provides a surrounding area of fertile land, creating an agricultural base around its perimeter.

All of the Great Lakes entertain thousands of boaters each year. Motor boating, fishing, and swimming are some of the greatest uses for the lakes. This abundant source of water has left Michigan as a destined spot for many tourists.

Keweenaw Peninsula

This small peninsula jutting off the top of the Upper Peninsula is a recreational location that many visitors each year. The area is rich in copper and some silver deposits. In addition to mining, lumber is also a large industry of the area. Numerous copper mines are open to the public to be toured. The mining industry has always been a big part of this area, as well as tourism.

Being located on Lake Superior, the Keweenaw fosters lots of recreation. Hills provide for downhill skiing in the winter and rock climbing and propelling in the summer. For those interested in geology, the area has a large array of rock and mineral selections, from Petoskey Stones to aggrats to copper deposits. Historic Fort Wilkins located in Copper Harbor, is a state park that has living reenactments. Campgrounds and hotels also help accommodate visitors to the area.

Pigeon River State Forest

This state forest is located in Gaylord, Michigan. On its over 105,000 acres a free ranging elk herd is maintained by the Department of Natural Resources. These elegant animals are rarely seen to the public, but represent Michigan's great history, as seen on the state seal, and natural wildlife. Elk inhabit the area all year long, but can best be seen in April and May or during September. When visiting Gaylord, travelers can view elk from their vehicles as the elk are accustomed to seeing cars. Elk can be very timid animals and dangerous.

However, the forest is designed for safety and the elk will stay a distance away from people. The magnificent site of the large wooded area, along with the great elk herd, makes the Pigeon River State Forest a common destination for families all year long.

Belle Isle Park

The park is located on Belle Isle just outside of Detroit, Michigan. The park is the largest city park in the country, claiming size over Central Park in New York City. The island, located in the Detroit River, is a great place to visit for swimming, cooking out, and relaxing. Nature trails allow visitors to wander through wooded areas and see the natural habitats of animals. The island is also home to the Whitcomb Conservatory, which is a greenhouse and botanical garden covering 13 acres. The conservatory contains numerous types of gardens ranging from roses to a section devoted to fruits. Built in 1904, it is the nation's oldest conservatory, and continues to have beautiful displays of plants and flowers each year.

Michigan offers hundreds of places for great recreation and fun. The venue ranges from state parks to state forests and wetlands. The diversity of agriculture and natural resources in the state is as rich as its history. The beauty and elegance of the natural landscape that the state offers is a valuable resource that only a place as unique as Michigan can have. Get out this summer and take a look at some of these unique advantages that your home state has to offer.

Some other great places that you may want to visit include: The Mackinac Bridge, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the Grand River, Grand Traverse Bay, Porcupine Mountains, Sleeping Bear Dunes, and Drummond Island. These as well as hundreds of other locations offer an array of opportunities centered around the natural resources of Michigan. To find out more on locations throughout the state, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website at www.michigan.gov/dnr and check out the Recreation, Camping, and Boating section.

Michigan also has an official travel and tourism website called Pure Michigan that can be found at www.michigan.org.



June/July 08

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Do you or someone you know have an impressive SAE? If so, please email pettyd@anr.msu.edu and let us highlight the student!!!

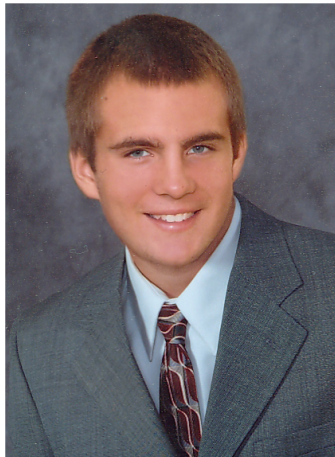
Member



Region I Ashleigh Penny, Maple Valley

Ashleigh Penny, a junior at Maple Valley High School was first motivated by her friends to join FFA. Penny has two SAE projects which are her own horses that she raises at home and working on a draft horse farm located a few miles away from her home. When working on the draft horse farm she performs basic chores such as cleaning stalls and feeding the horses. Penny also cares for lambs and cattle, which are housed on the farm. When it comes to hay season, things are done the old fashioned way. Draft horses are used to do most everything, from cutting to baling. The horses Penny owns are housed on her farm at her home, where she trains them.

Penny is currently serving as the reporter for the Maple Valley FFA and is very active within her chapter.



Region II Andrew Keinath, Lenawee Vo-Tech

Lenawee Vo-Tech senior Andrew Keinath is busy serving as the Region II President. Having first joined the FFA because he felt that it was a good organization comprised of students that he could relate to, Keinath has been busy since the day he first paid his dues.

Keinath wholeheartedly believes that the hay business requires a lot of time and effort, especially when it is time to bale. He says that cutting at the proper stage in the plants life is key to harvesting a good marketable crop. Each cutting, he is responsible for all steps in the harvesting process, from mowing and raking to baling and storing. From his SAE he has learned key skills, such as organization and the importance of having good communication skills. He plans to put the things he has learned to use this fall, as he will be attending Michigan State University to study agribusiness management.



Region III Russell Wegener, Saginaw

Russell Wegener is a proud member of the Saginaw FFA Chapter where he serves as treasurer. Through this involvement, he learned "never to give up even when you think you have been put down."

Wegener's SAE consists of his employment at Tractor Supply Company where he works in the feed department. He makes sure that all the feed is fully and properly stocked and organized.

Next year, Wegener hopes to attend Michigan State University where he will pursue a degree in Agribusiness Management.

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Highlights



Region IV AJ Hart, Durand

Durand FFA senior AJ Hart currently serves as both chapter vice president and Region IV Treasurer. He is also a member of his high school's national honor society and serves as a junior advisor on the Shiawassee County Fair Board.

Hart's SAEs includes beef and swine production. He shows and markets his animals at the Shiawassee County Fair, where he is in his third year of showing. He began his project sophomore at fifteen years of age. He was first motivated to begin his SAE by his desire to show a steer at the fair.

After graduating this spring, he plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall to study agribusiness management.



Region V Ashton Hoofman, Grant

Ashton Hoofman is a senior member of the Grant FFA Chapter.

Her supervised agricultural experience is comprised entirely of the work that she does with horses. Aside from school days, Hoofman can be found each day in the barn between seven and eight o'clock in the morning helping with chores. After feeding, she schools her 13-year-old breeding stock paint mare in jumping and patterns and upon completion of her work with her own mare, she works with any other horses that are in for training.

Upon graduating, Hoofman plans to attend Grand Valley State University to major in general business and minor in hospitality and tourism management. She aspires to eventually own and manage her own hotel or restaurant.



Region VI Cody Wehner, Stephenson

Cody Wehner is the treasurer of the Stephenson FFA Chapter and a sophomore in high school.

Since he was five years old, Wehner has been an active member of the 4-H and been raising and showing market lambs. In the last five years, he's started raising and showing market hogs. Wehner owns six ewes, two sows and three horses in addition to working at a large horse training facility and home farm.

Wehner is very involved in his equine interests. He travels to horse shows around the country, as far away as Wyoming and has raised two foals.

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The classics are back!

TSC **TRACTOR
SUPPLY CO.**

MICHIGAN STORES:

ADRIAN
ALBION
ALPENA
BAD AXE
BATTLE CREEK
BAY CITY
BIG RAPIDS
CADILLAC
CARO
CEDAR SPRINGS
CHARLOTTE
CLIO
COOPERSVILLE
DUNDEE
FENTON
FREMONT
GAYLORD
GREENVILLE
HASTINGS
HOLLAND
HOUGHTON LAKE
HOWELL
HUDSONVILLE
IMLAY CITY
IONIA
JACKSON (W)
JACKSON
JONESVILLE
LANSING (N)
LANSING (W)
LAPEER
LOWELL
LUDINGTON
MIDLAND
MONROE
MT. PLEASANT
MUSKOGON
NEW HAVEN
NILES
OWOSSO
PAW PAW
PLAINWELL
PORT HURON
PORTAGE
ROMEO
SAGINAW (N)
SAGINAW
SALINE
SANDUSKY
SAULT ST. MARIE
SOUTH HAVEN
ST. JOHNS
STURGIS
THREE RIVERS
TRAVERSE CITY
WEST BRANCH
WILLIAMSTON



The 2007 FFA Tractors are now on sale.

This year's FFA tractor is a 1/16 scale Farmall 806. The first Farmall in the series! It is available at Tractor Supply Company (TSC) stores statewide. All proceeds benefit the Michigan FFA Foundation.



Now only \$56.98!

For more information about how you can support the FFA, contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at (517) 432-2482 or online at www.michiganffa.com

The Rest of the Story...



Alex Henry State President

Michigan FFA, meet the one, the only Alexandria Nicole Henry, your 2007-2008 State President! Having been around the, “kids in blue corduroy,” since she was in diapers, it was no surprise that this Alma native would end up knee deep in the FFA.

The little quirky girl, who on first glance can come off as very intimidating, especially if you have ever had to face off against her in a leadership or spring skills contest, can actually be described using one word: compassion.

Alex is one of the most compassionate people in the world, whether she is working with members to make their chapters more successful or simply relaxing with friends, one thing can be said, she never, never puts herself before others.

Throughout the past year, she has had one goal in mind, which is to always uphold the ideals, ambitions and interests of our organization and Michigan agriculture, which is the task she feels that each of you have entrusted her with doing.

In the little spare time she has, Alex can be found doing a menagerie of things including watching Grey’s Anatomy while munching on cheese balls or Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups. Her favorite movie of all time is Dirty Dancing, because, “it makes her weak in the knees.”

Aside from being a hopeless romantic, she also has a knack for telling a good corny joke and reading, like most American teens, Harry Potter.

Each of Alex’s favorite FFA memories from this year all contain one thing, you, the members of the Michigan FFA. Being there, whether it be a chapter visit, a contest or just hanging out she has truly enjoyed being with all of you throughout the past year. You



are the reason that she is driven to lead this great state each and every day. She would like to leave the members with this,

I hope that each of you realize that your destiny is in your own hands. Everyone goes through hard time, but the real difference is how you deal with overcoming your obstacles. Who is to say that one day you can’t be an astronaut, a movie star, or even the President? Sometimes you can want something more than anything else in the world, do your absolute best, and your best is still not good enough. But losing makes being victorious that much sweeter. So live fearlessly, risk boldly, and dare to be happy.

COLLEGE

the time is now!

By: Tiffany Reeser
MSU Political Science Major

As you know, spring is coming, and it is that time of year again.

It is that time where seniors get anxious, tying up loose ends before graduation, and finishing their plans for the fall. It is that time of year where juniors in high school prepare for their ACT and SAT tests, and begin to choose which colleges and universities to apply to.

The main point of focus during this time should be narrowing down what characteristics you are looking for in a college or university. Are you interested in a large school, with hundreds of majors and thousands of students? Maybe a school that specializes in a certain area of expertise? Or maybe you're interested in a small school, with or without a religious affiliation.

Whatever the case, it is important to find the college or university that corresponds with the characteristics you are looking for.

Once you find the college or university you are interested in, you may request an application to be sent to your house via mail, or you may apply online.

For example, at Michigan State University, many potential students find it simpler and less stressful to apply online. In order to do this, you can go to www.msu.edu. Upon getting to the website, you can choose the "Admissions" icon. From there, you can follow the directions to the application.

When applying for college, there are a few helpful tips and tricks that can make the process a little less painful. To begin with, keep in mind that this application is the college or university's only impression of you.

This means that it is okay to "toot your own horn," or brag a little bit. It is important to make sure that all awards and honors you can showcase make it into your application, so take the time to dig through your records and remember the achievements and honors you have received.



Additionally, it is important to make your application the best that it can possibly be. This means that it could be useful to have another person, such as a parent or teacher, edit your application.

If you apply online, it is possible to save and print your application before sending it in, or, if you use a mail-in application, make copies of each page before beginning to complete it. This allows you to make sure that your application is the best it can possibly be.

Some college applications include a written portion, or essay. Though your college or university of interest may not require this, it is important to complete the portion of the application, even if it is listed as optional.

Most importantly, you must remember to enjoy the process of choosing and applying for colleges and universities. This experience is just the beginning of your adventure into who you're going to be for the rest of your life. Above all, enjoy it!

As the late Dr. Seuss said, "Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So...get on your way!"

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY!



Get where you're going with one of the two new majors from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources CARRS (Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies) Department!

In the Fall of 2008, two new majors will be revealed within the CARRS Department: Environmental Studies and Agriscience & Park Recreation and Tourism Resources.

In the Environmental Studies and Agriscience major, options will include: Communication, Community Engagement and Education, Science and Policy, as well as Agriscience and Natural Resources Teacher Education.

In the Park Recreation and Tourism Resources major, options will include: Community Engagement and Education, Commercial Recreation and Tourism, Community Recreation and Zoo and Aquarium Sciences.

For more information please contact: Dr. Randy Showerman (showerma@msu.edu), Dr. David Krueger (kruege20@msu.edu) or Dr. Jen0 Rivera (jeno@msu.edu).



ALUMNI in Action

Annual State Alumni Meeting



On February 9, the annual state alumni meeting was held at Byron High School in Region IV. Elections were held to fill the positions of retiring alumni council meetings and a silent auction raised monies for the WLC Scholarships. For more information, visit www.michiganffa.com/alumni

State FFA Alumni President Dave Armbruster of Laker presents WLC Scholarships at the 80th Michigan FFA Convention.



Find your fit in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!

You're already part of it!

From the food you eat to the home you live in; from the water you drink to the recreational activities you enjoy, professionals educated in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources make your life better every day.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degrees, certificate programs, and graduate programs leading to the master's degree and Ph.D.



We're more than you imagine....