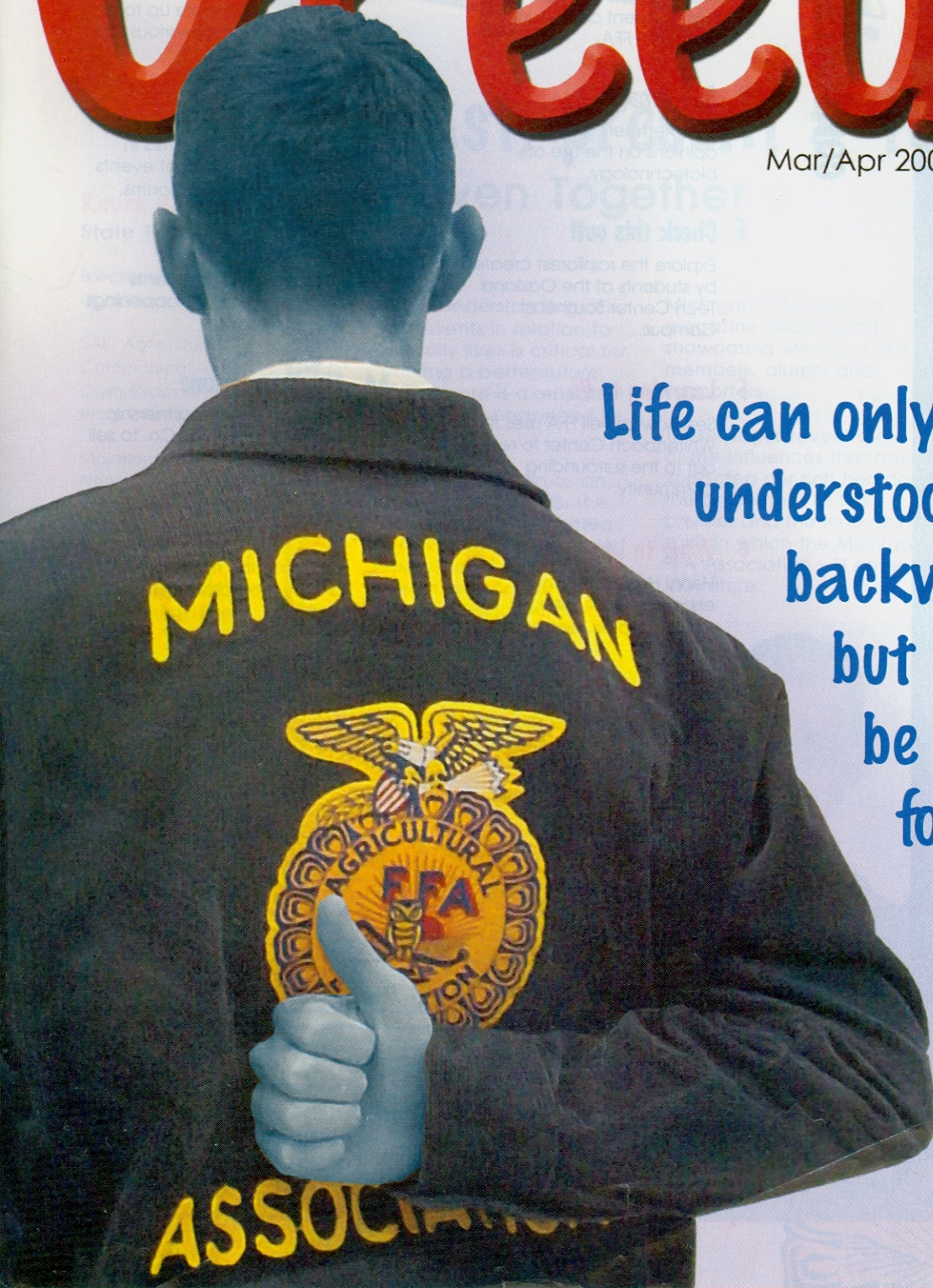


The Michigan FFA

# Creed

Mar/Apr 2003



Life can only be  
understood  
backwards,  
but must  
be lived  
forwards.



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## Important Dates

March	3-5	State FFA Convention
	24-25	Region IV Leadership Camp
April	15-16	Region I Leadership Camp
	17	Meats Contest
	25	Ag Skills Contest - MSU
		Horse Judging
	26-28	Region II Leadership Camp
	31	Marketing Plan Papers Due



# I believe in...



Royce



Luke



Alysa



Sam



Scott



Bill

## the past, present & future Woven Together

### Royce Humm State President

Breckenridge FFA  
Chapter

SAE: Agricultural  
Communications,  
Cash Crops & Poultry  
Production

Majoring in Computer  
Networking  
Technology at Baker  
College of Owosso

### Scott Smalley State Reporter

Uby FFA Chapter

SAE: Sheep, Beef &  
Poultry Production

Majoring in  
Agriscience Education  
& Animal Science at  
Michigan State  
University

officer profiler

**A**n understanding of past events in relation to our daily lives is critical for realizing a better future. Who we are is a reflection of what has happened in the past.

Since its inception as an organization in 1928, the FFA has been committed to advancing the premier leadership, personal growth and career success of future agriculturalists.

During this the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National FFA Organization, the Michigan FFA Association welcomes you to the inaugural issue of the

Michigan FFA Creed, a magazine dedicated to showcasing Michigan FFA members, alumni and supporters.

These pages reveal some of the influences that have impacted our rich heritage, the big themes of the present and the innovating spirit in which the Michigan FFA Association will enter the future.

We hope that the Michigan FFA Creed becomes yet another successful landmark as part of the tapestry of our organization.

### Did you know...

- Region VI is larger than Rhode Island.
- In 1969, Michigan president Robert Craig seconded the motion to allow female members.
- There are 102 chapters in the state.





# Say what?

Want to see someone you know or yourself on this page? See details below.

## Regional Responses to Current Issues

**The question:** What are your thoughts about biotechnology?

### Region 1



#### Brent Warner

Homer FFA

Further studies and tests should occur prior to the wide-spread use of biotechnology. For example, we need to make sure it is not linked to certain health risks. Once tested and proven safe, I think biotechnology should be used. ☺



### Region 2



#### Dean Houchen

Jonesville FFA

Biotechnology tends to be both good and bad. I do not agree with genetically modifying cows to produce more milk. Yet, I believe biotechnology which make crops more insect resistant will improve yields. ☺

### Region 3



#### Kristen Dunham

Chesaning FFA

I think biotechnology is creating extensive problems for producers. We don't know what effect certain chemicals will have or how genetically modified crops will affect consumers. Ideally, we would stick to traditional production methods. ☺

### Region 4



#### Landen Church

Byron FFA

I feel biotechnology is good in many ways, such as helping crops gain resistance against insects. On the flip side, it might also cause harm to people who consume genetically modified crops. ☺

### Region 5



#### Jodi McDonald

Beal City FFA

Biotechnology does not strike me as a good idea. I don't think we should use it since we are tampering with the core of the genetic make-up. We just shouldn't do it! ☺

### Region 6



#### Janice Foor

Alpena FFA

I think it's wrong to use genetically modified plants. We should just produce crops the traditional way. I believe it would be a lot healthier. It's been tested and it works. ☺

## Share & Win!

We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on urban sprawl, please contact Michigan's FFA State Reporter, Scott Smalley, at [smalley\\_scott11@hotmail.com](mailto:smalley_scott11@hotmail.com). So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.





# Check this OUT!

## A Tropical Paradise in the City

By Nate Mathews

Michigan is not typically described as a warm place in the winter. Snow, rain, and fallen, brown leaves mark the season. Yet, in the Oakland Technical Campus - SE (OSIC-SE) blooms a lush, green tropical paradise.

Just a few miles north of 8-Mile highway the OSIC-SE houses a lush bubble of tropical climate, the agriscience rainforest. Its cement walls covered in Spanish moss, vines trailing from ceiling to ceiling, it is the centerpiece of the center's agriscience program and run solely by high-school FFA students.

Tracey Roberts, an agriscience instructor, teaches the at the Tech Center. "It's the students that run the rainforest, they prune, fertilize, water, plant, feed, and keep it nice," she said. "I'm here if they need me. This is truly a hands-on, learning-by-doing environment."

The OSIC-SE boasts one of the region's largest and most diverse agriscience programs. Nearly 50 students from 28 school districts in southeast Oakland County participate in a rotating, two-year curriculum that teaches everything from small animal care to floral design. The rainforest, composed of tropical houseplants, supplies students with cuttings for their designs and provides a hands-on classroom that Ms. Roberts uses to teach

landscaping, horticulture, hydroponics, pest control and other valuable skills.

High school senior and FFA member Nolan Dingwall has been working with the rainforest for the past two years. His interests in landscaping and natural resources helped transform the project from a simple houseplant garden into a complex ecosystem.

"The rainforest helps by teaching things quickly," said Dingwall. "In its humid climate, plants react very quickly to change. If you're doing something wrong plants die really quickly, but if you do it right they grow really quickly."



Adam Kniel (left) and Nolan Dingwall (right) adjusting walkway.

Dingwall led us through the greenhouse, past racks of poinsettias and some potted cacti and through a steaming doorway dripping with condensation. A rushing stream with waterfalls and a pond full of koi, talapia and feeder goldfish wound through an undergrowth of ferns, while Chinese fan palms and giant banana leaves arched overhead.

"There's a lot of cool plants in here," Dingwall said. "We've got insects, anoles, frogs, toads and fish living in here too, and we've talked about introducing birds."

They've had some less welcome additions to the rainforest. Mealworms, whiteflies and aphids invaded and attacked the plants. For health of the ecosystem students couldn't apply chemical pesticides to kill the invaders. By introducing ladybugs and praying mantis, (and learning about integrated pest management in the process), they were able to bring these populations under control.

"It's fun to be able to do stuff like this and get credit for it," Dingwall added. "I love showing this program off, it's so cool!"



Amanda Sloan feeding fish in tropical garden.



# Our Motto in Motion

Michigan students and alumni demonstrate the FFA

## Learning to Do

By Eric McGregor

Outstanding FFA Affiliate, state and national horse evaluation winners, National Chapter recipient, numerous speaking honors, and now the Outstanding Middle/Secondary Program award by the National Association of Agriculture Educator all testify to the success of the Lowell FFA chapter.

Boasting 125 high school and 35 middle school members, the chapter is

active in its community and serves as an advocate for agricultural literacy. John Schut, agriscience instructor and FFA advisor, stated the core of the Lowell FFA chapter is, "the commitment from administration, support from staff, generous community backing, dedicated alumni, and passionate members."

Situated across the road from Lowell High School, Wittenbach Agriscience Center is an innovative learning center, which has quickly become a valuable educational

resource for Lowell and the surrounding area since it opened in September of 2000.

Tammy DeBaar, director of the center, and two staff members develop special curriculum and activities that provide students with a hands-on learning experience, as well as programs for over 10,000 guests who visit the center each year.

Tammy DeBaar contends, "Featuring environmental education provides a break from the typical classroom setting, benefits all learning styles and provides a different prospective on how the student's education can be applied in everyday life."


Soil and water quality, forestry, ecology, biology and native plants are just a few of the topics covered at the center. The staff also builds programs to fit specific needs. The center provides a "positive

influence on the learning experience for science, and hands-on experience for all classes," says

student and FFA member Jordan Whitman.

Natural and modified Michigan landscapes are only a few of the

teaching tools the center has at its disposal. The center also includes a 20 acre field, 100 acres of coniferous and deciduous forest, a community garden and a labyrinth. A variety of animals are kept on the grounds, including poultry, sheep and a 600 gallon aquaculture tank. These unique features, according to FFA member Heather Kozlik, "give students the ability to learn more than just what is in the books."

"Learning by doing," the Lowell FFA has truly harnessed the power of innovative teaching, incorporated environmental education and provided leadership opportunities. 

**"The center gives students the ability to learn more than just what is in the books."**

*-Heather Kozlik*



Lowell FFA members learn about various aspects of fishing and outdoor activities from local community experts.



## FFA 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY Continuing the Legacy

By Amy Odigie

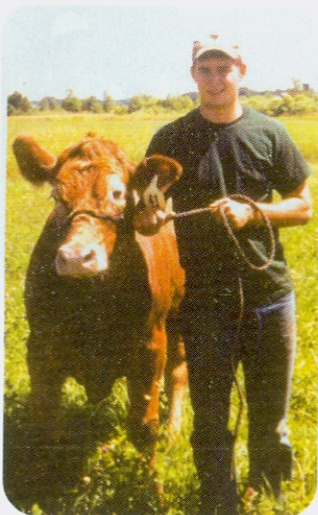
Future Farmers of America was established in 1928 in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1930, Michigan was the 29th state to form its own FFA. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National organization, and highlight FFA history from its roots, through the 1950s.



### 1932

Students learn the art of sheep shearing as they look on during a presentation.





Henry has been working on his family farm since he could reach the pedals on the tractor. He is the third oldest of four Huisjen children.

The Huisjen farm, Brooks Creek Jersey Farm Inc., is a family run farm. Every member of the family pitches in to make the operation run smoothly, which can from time to time lead to long hours in the barn.

Waking up every morning before school to milk cows is not one of Henry's favorite chores! Henry is the junior herdsman of his farm, and takes part in every aspect of the operation, from administering shots to milking and feeding to delivering calves.

Henry has worked for other local farms, including a 200 head dairy that is just down the road. He plans to use the experience he has gained to someday be a herd manager for a large dairy or run his own dairy farm.


Henry is already working on raising a herd of his own. He currently owns 16 registered animals, which he cares for and shows every year at the Newaygo County Fair and

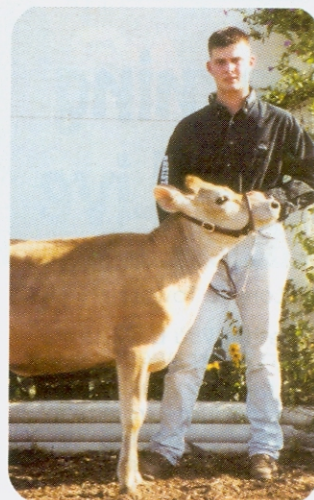
Michigan Dairy Days. Henry recently began a partnership with his younger brother, Bill. This partnership involves buying bred heifers, having them

freshen and selling them to other farmers. They have already bought and sold 6 heifers.

**Henry has been working on his family farm since he could reach the pedals on the tractor.**

This past year Henry competed in the FFA dairy showmanship contest and placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Since joining the FFA Henry has also tried some new projects such as beef and poultry production, and has had a lot of fun learning new things. Henry, a junior at Fremont High School, is the president of the school's FFA Chapter.

After graduating from high school, Henry plans to attend Michigan State University and enroll in the dairy tech program. 



## Doing to Learn

By Ryan McBride  
Miranda Smith

**"Kaaabaazzz!"** Henry Huisjen speaks in his own language to his family herd of Jersey cattle.

Henry, the son of Carl and Mary Huisjen, shouts "Kabaz" to his family's herd of 25 milking Jerseys every morning and they respond quickly by walking up to the parlor from the pasture to be milked.



1  
9  
3  
5

FFA members expand their knowledge of forestry and entomology while examining seedlings and building insect display boxes on the campus of Michigan State University.







# Earning to Live

By Loretta Towne

Whether you believe it or not, your FFA experience will be with you long after you graduate from high school—probably your entire life. The skills you learn will remain with you and will help you upon entering the workforce.

Growing up in Quincy, Michigan, Debra (Laurell) Schmucker lived on a small livestock operation, raising sheep, swine and steers. During high school, Schmucker's Supervised Agriculture Experience consisted of a flock of 20 ewes that she bred for show lambs, six sows that were bred for show hogs and a few show cattle. Schmucker is the youngest of three children—all girls.

Currently, Schmucker is the manager of the Promotion and Education Department at Michigan Farm Bureau. Her job includes working with volunteer members to promote and educate the public, children and producers about agriculture. Schmucker resides in Osseo, Mich. with her husband, Brent and two stepdaughters, Brooke and Allison.

### How did you get involved in the FFA?

My involvement in the FFA started when I was very young. I would tag along to FFA activities with my sister, who is nine years older. As a result, there was no question that I would get involved my freshmen year in high school. Mr. Charles Snyder, the chapter advisor at the time, had become a close family friend and mentor to me.

### What activities were you involved in?

I was involved in land judging, livestock judging, public speaking, demonstration contest, the Washington Leadership Conference, and Made For Excellence.

With my SAE, I earned several proficiency awards, as well as the State and American FFA Degrees. I was also the State Runner-Up in the

Demonstration Contest. I had the honor of serving in several FFA offices. At the chapter level, I held the positions of reporter, vice-president and president. I was also regional secretary and had the great honor of serving as the Region I State Vice-President.

### How has the experience helped you get to where you are today?

The FFA gave me a tremendous opportunity to explore and gain experiences through travel and contests. Those experiences, coupled with the responsibility to animals and leadership opportunities, allowed me to grow to understand my own abilities and what it was I wanted to do in life.



### How has your career helped you put the FFA motto in motion?

Working in agriculture directly with producers on volunteer projects, allows one to see the FFA motto

in action on a daily basis. The FFA motto represents core values in life. We need to make

money to live. We serve our God, community, family, and job. We learn daily by experimenting.

**“Hard work, responsibility and professionalism - are all skills I have gained through the FFA.”**



## 1942

Don Allen served as State Secretary in 1943-45 and State President in 1944-45.

Due to war, the FFA had two National Presidents in 1944-45.



**1** Robert Nemcik, the 1951-52 State President from the Elise chapter, addresses the audience at the State Convention inside the MSU Auditorium.



# Living to Serve

By Katie McCune

Finding ideas for community service projects can be an obstacle for FFA chapters. As Springport Chapter Report David Noakes says, "It's not the lack of work that is the problem, but rather the lack of ideas."

After meetings of brainstorming and checking out the community needs, these two Michigan chapters are "living to serve."

Running turkeys through an obstacle course of straw, road cones and plywood doesn't sound like a typical FFA service project, but members of the Springport FFA hope to make it an annual event.

As an SAE, members Shonda Betz and Amber Bartlett raised 25 turkeys to be used for the chapter's first annual Turkey Trot. Community groups sponsored birds for \$25 to run in the turkey race on the football field.

The turkey sponsors attempted to guide their

turkeys through the obstacle course. Admission was a dollar or one canned food item. "We had turkeys flying all over the place," laughed Springport Adviser Pat Henne. "They went everywhere but where they were supposed to." After the trot, turkey sponsors could keep their turkey or donate it to less fortunate families. The chapter received 78 canned goods, \$705 and 22 turkeys to be donated to families.

Springport FFA members are also serving their community one piece of trash at a time. Twenty-seven members and several alumni armed with gloves, trash bags and a "living to serve" spirit pick up trash on a two-mile stretch of state highway three times a year. The project is sponsored by the state wide Adopt-a-Highway program.

News of Springport's community service spread quickly and an area farmer asked if the chapter would clean up his road. One full size truck, plus two smaller trucks, were filled in less than three hours.

"Adopt-a-Highway is a lot more fun than some

members think," FFA member Betsy Talbot said. "It is not only a time to clean up the community, it gives you time to talk with other members. We sing songs and have tons of fun."

Students in the Alpena FFA chapter teamed up with the Island Park/Wildlife Sanctuary preservation to cut and apply herbicide to overgrown vegetation. Formally known as

Sportsman Island, located in the Thunderbay River in the city of Alpena, the island was planted with

buckthorn, honeysuckle and autumn olive plants to provide habitat for the island wildlife. The recent growth of these plants and the small number of people working to clean up the area gave Alpena FFA a chance to help the community.

Agriculture teacher and FFA adviser Ron Worth's advanced production agriculture and forestry



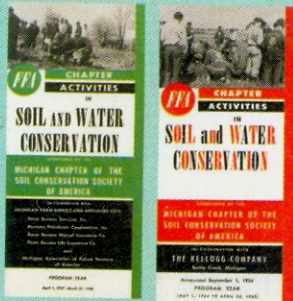
**"It makes me feel good knowing that I was helping my community."**

*-Ashley Skiera*

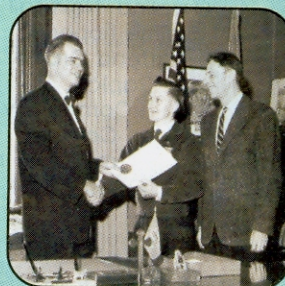
class helps to remove invasive plants twice a year.

"These plants seem to spread like crazy. Every year we cut hundreds of plants and by the next year there are hundreds more," commented FFA member Kraig Dubie.

The class has been participating in the effort for the last four years, each year focusing on another area of the island. "It makes me feel good knowing that I was helping my community," said member Ashley Skiera. "I was helping preserve the island for future generations."



**1** The FFA and Michigan Department of Soil and Water Conservation began a program that rewarded chapters for demonstrating conservation methods. **2** These brochures provided detailed criteria of the chapter activities.



## 1958

Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams hands the proclamations of Michigan FFA work to FFA President Gerald Neil. This year the National FFA Secretary was Norman Brown of Michigan.



# Member Highlights

By Miranda Smith  
Loretta Towne

## Region 1: Jenny Teusink & Jaime Gibbs

Jenny Teusink and Jaime Gibbs, both senior members of the Hopkins FFA, share the same SAE - working at an ice cream shop. Jenny works for the Dairy Dip and Jaime is employed at Fantasy Twirl. The twist to this ice cream tale - these two ice cream shops are city rivals. Jenny and Jaime may disagree on where to get the best ice cream, but they do agree that they learn similar skills through their SAE. Customer service, multi-tasking and patience are just a few of the skills the girls have learned. The daily routine of working at an ice cream shop may include: taking orders, making ice cream cones, sundaes, or flurries, filling machines and cleaning up. After graduation Jenny plans to attend college at Midland Tech in South Carolina. Next fall Jaime hopes to attend Grand Rapids Community College, majoring in business.



## Region 2: Emily Ries

Emily Ries is only a greenhand in the Sand Creek FFA, yet she has been a member since the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Currently serving as the chapter vice-president, Emily has great enthusiasm for the FFA. She is just beginning her SAE in crop entrepreneurship with soybeans. In the starting phases, Emily has been conducting soil testing and research on weed control. Emily knows that there will be ups and downs to farming and the crops will not always be perfect, but there will always be a need for agriculture. "Farmers are who feed America," Emily said. In addition to agriculture and the FFA there are other activities keeping Emily busy. She is a member of SADD, is a class officer, and plays basketball and volleyball.



## Region 3: Jami Baker

Raising sheep has been in Jami Baker's family for over 20 years and her SAE is allowing her to continue the family tradition. A sophomore at St. Louis High School and chapter treasurer, Jami helps in managing her family's Cheviots flock of 45 ewes and 5 rams. Jami's summers consist of raising Hampshire-Suffolk cross sheep for the Gratiot County Fair. Jami believes her SAE has helped her learn responsibility and how to take care of animals. Along with FFA, Jami is a member of the varsity basketball and softball teams. In the future, Jami hopes to attend Michigan State University, majoring in sports medicine while maintaining her connection to agriculture.





## Region 4: Gary Blair & Joshua Komindo

Cows, plows, and guinea pigs, oh my! Byron FFA greenhands, Gary Blair and Joshua Komindo have started an unusual project that brings a new perspective to an SAE. It involves raising and selling guinea pigs, also known as cavy. Gary and Joshua's project has already proven to be fun, as well as a learning experience. The boys are expecting their first litter in December. Joining forces this past year, Gary and Joshua purchased their first pair of breeding stock. The expecting mother, Pamela, is a longhaired cavy, and the proud father, Rodney, is a shorthair. According to Gary, this project has already taught him a great deal about responsibility and time management. Confirming Gary's beliefs, Joshua contends the guinea pig project has given him knowledge of gestation and animal husbandry. Gary and Joshua challenge everyone to break the mold and create a new and unique SAE. ☺



## Region 5: John Grabill

As a senior member of the Grant FFA Chapter John Grabill has a broad animal science SAE project. Ever since John can remember, he has been showing his family's Holstein dairy cows at the Newaygo County Fair. Just recently, John began raising beef and sheep for the county fair as well, but John's SAE project does not stop there.

John also is responsible for 150-200 laying hens. On average, he sells 6-10 dozen eggs a day to local residents. Chapter vice-president, John said the FFA has taught him responsibility, animal management and marketing strategies. This summer John plans to add an additional unique feature to his project by

pasture-raising boilers to meet the intensive daily demands of a Grand Rapids restaurant featuring organic chicken.

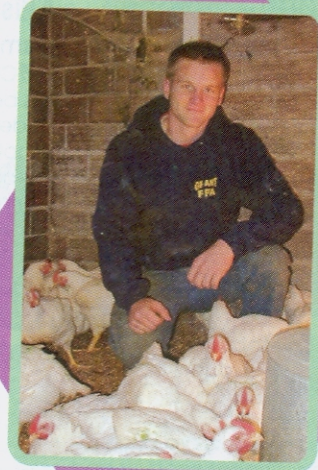
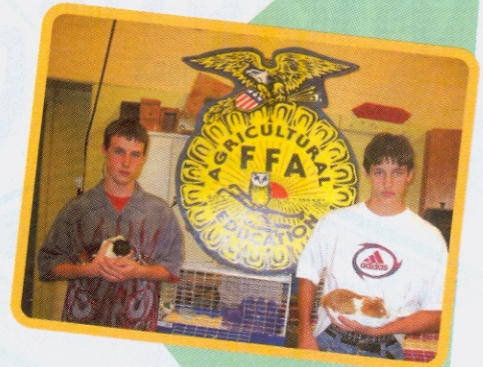
After graduation John plans to attend either Grand Valley State University or Ferris State University. ☺



## Region 6: Matt Jakubic

A senior at Whittemore-Prescott, Matt Jakubic keeps himself busy while serving as the president of both his chapter and Region VI. With a diverse SAE, Matt is never bored. He owns and maintains records on six dairy cows along with raising two hogs a year for the county fair. Matt does this all while helping on his family's 120 head dairy farm and 350 acres of cash crops (corn and alfalfa). Matt contends FFA advanced his leadership skills, along with

enhancing his ability to communicate in the agriculture industry. Along with FFA, Matt is a member of the National Honors Society, plays football and basketball and serves as senior class president. Matt plans to major in agriscience education at Michigan State University, with career plans of becoming an agriscience instructor. ☺



**Submit your SAE or one of your student's SAEs!**

Email Scott Smalley at [smalley\\_scott1@hotmail.com](mailto:smalley_scott1@hotmail.com)



# Chapter Chatter



Highlighting Michigan FFA chapters in action.

## Luke Stuever Capac

In addition to hosting district leadership contests, the Capac FFA plans to attend a minor league hockey game, host an 8th grade orientation workshop, and give an activities presentation to the school board. The chapter will also showcase their work for family and community members at an open house. ☺



## Allison Daglow Camden-Frontier

The Camden-Frontier FFA has been busy preparing for leadership contests. Our chapter is looking forward to having another fun, but competitive year. We are also looking ahead to our annual FFA banquet that we have each year. ☺



## John McDaniel Traverse Bay Area Tech Center

The Traverse Bay Area FFA Chapter will focus on creating a student lead chapter, which will benefit students, school and community. Members also will prepare for leadership contests, participate in fundraisers, and plan for spring community projects. ☺



## Ben Cook Olivet

The members are busily preparing for contests and looking forward to another successful year. We also are organizing our first annual craft show, which will feature a toy tractor show and pancake breakfast. Planning this March event will keep us occupied during the cold months! ☺



## Mark Wyrick Byron

The beginning of 2003 will be extremely busy for the Byron chapter. We plan to hold a chapter exchange with the Roosevelt chapter. In addition, the agriscience classes will farrow two sows and teach kindergarten through 8th grade students about piglets. ☺



## Ariel Phelps Montague

Our chapter recently founded the Montague Agriscience Community Center (MACC). This program seeks to inform the public about ag and natural resources through community service. MACC events include: field days for kindergarten students, a food drive, and a towel and blanket drive. ☺



## Send us your chapter updates!

We know your chapter is up to something, so why not share it? The Michigan FFA Creed would like to feature your chapter's upcoming events and programs. Please send your chapter happenings to Scott Smalley at [smalley\\_scott11@hotmail.com](mailto:smalley_scott11@hotmail.com)



# What's up?

## Regional Happenings



**Matt**

### Region I

Howdy members, Region I (Number one for a reason) is about to show its muscle at State Convention. We are all proud of our regional winners wish them the best of luck at states. After the convention on April 15th and 16th we are planning some fun at Camp Amigo for leadership camp. I would like to thank our regional officers, Ryan, Alyssa, Abby, Lucas, Adam and Troy, for all the hard work they have put into camp. See you all at the convention. ☺

we'll head back to the drawing board to strategize for spring Skills Contests. In years past we've had a large turnout and competitive teams for Skills Contests, and this year will not be an exception. The biggest event in April however is the Region II Camp which will be held the weekend of the 27th. The camp is three days of heart-pumping, mind-blowing excitement! This year Region II Officers Josh, Dana, Stephanie, Anna, Travis, and Alan will be hosting the event,

and providing members with lots of good "need to know" leadership ideas. Like tradition, KGB will be the main event! Region II members love the Camp and the fun times together! If you have a free weekend come on down and join in the fun, just beware, I'm an animal when it comes to KGB! ☺



**Chris**

### Region III

March and April are extremely busy months for region III. I would like to wish everyone the best of luck at state convention. I look forward to the recognition of the numerous students and advisors for their accomplishments from across the state. Good Luck and I'll see you at convention. ☺



**Laura**

### Region IV

As always, Region IV is anxiously preparing for the next two months. March will be busy as members prepare for contests, a new state officer team, and new friends at the State Convention. Following the 75th Convention, Regional IV Officer interviews will be held Thursday, March 20th at 5:00 p.m. in Flint. The Region IV Officer team is also looking forward to hosting the state's first regional camp, which will be held March 24-25 in Flint. Good luck, Region IV members, and have fun at State Convention! ☺



**Miranda**

### Region V

Great job to everyone for a wonderful performance in leadership contests! The next two months will be busy with Regional Officer interviews on April 21st and Skills contests on April 25th. The Regional officers are busy putting the finishing touches on camp and look forward to seeing everyone in June. Keep up the good work! ☺



**Sofia**

### Region VI

Region VI has been buzzing with action the past few months. Good job to everyone who participated in district and regional contests. Good luck Region VI teams that advanced to State. Way to go! The regional officers are busy with chapter visits, contact them to make arrangements. They want to come to your school. Have a great time at State Convention! ☺

### Region II

March and April are busy times down in Region II. After competing in Leadership contests at State Convention and collecting all those pretty trophies,



**Brandon**

**Matt Lindsey**  
Region I V.P.

Branch Area Career Center FFA Chapter

SAE: Cash Crops, Tractor Restoration, Market Steers and Hogs & Farm Machinery Assembly

Majoring in Agricultural Engineering at Michigan State University

**V.P. Profiler**



**Sofia Ielek**  
Region VI V.P.

Gladwin FFA Chapter

SAE: Swine Production & Dairy Production

Majoring in Elementary Education at Michigan State University



# The Cornerstone

## Michigan FFA Foundation News



President, Board of Directors

Jim Schiller

**FFA** stands today as Michigan's premier youth leadership development organization. Its foundation, built on "learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve" has guided the organization well for more than 75 years.

Each year, about 5,000 young people in more than 110 communities across Michigan use their FFA membership to help develop personally and prepare practically for career opportunities that await them in the future. These young people deserve our continued support. The Michigan FFA Foundation is one way to show that support.

Each year, the Foundation together with the kind backing from numerous companies and individuals support FFA's growing array of leadership development programs. Those people who have invested their time and money realize the importance of enhancing programs and investing in the future of Michigan.

## Are you a Toy Enthusiast?

By Jennifer Schmidt

More than 150 years ago, John Deere began cultivating the company which made an enormous mark in agricultural history and stamped the Deere name into every American's mind as a country treasure. Today, Michigan FFA members and supporters have the opportunity to bring home part of the John Deere heritage thanks to a newly formed partnership between the Tennessee-based Tractor Supply Company and the Michigan FFA Foundation.

This newly formed partnership was established to sell the 2002 Michigan FFA collectible tractor featuring the John Deere 4010.

Approximately fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale of the collectible tractor will go to agricultural education in Michigan.

"We're excited about the opportunity to work with TSC. We expect it to be a great partnership," said Molly Schilling, Michigan



FFA Foundation Executive Director. "TSC is an extremely generous national sponsor, and we're proud to have the company's local stores sponsoring and supporting our local youth."

The 2002 collectible features the John Deere 4010, the final in a series of five tractors produced by toy manufacturer Ertl replicating actual John Deere models. The 4010 tractor features a durable die-cast construction, steer-able narrow front axle, FFA logo, special Michigan graphics, and free-rolling wheels. The tractor costs \$39.99 plus tax and hit store shelves statewide in November. Stock is limited to 3,000 tractors.

Since beginning the collectible tractor program in the early 90s, the Michigan FFA Foundation has raised nearly \$200,000 to further FFA programs and leadership development across the state.

**H**ow much does that tractor cost? This year's model, the John Deere 4010, can be purchased from any Tractor Supply Company in Michigan for a cost of \$39.99. Each tractor comes in a special collector's box with a certificate of authenticity.

## QUESTIONS? contact...

Michigan FFA Foundation  
P.O. Box 26111  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: (517) 323-6569  
Fax: (517) 323-6541  
E-Mail: [foundation@michiganffa.com](mailto:foundation@michiganffa.com)





# ALUMNI in Action

By Cortney Peissig

## Alumni Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Michigan FFA Alumni Association took place on Saturday, February 1 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason. The evening was filled with fun and excitement as alumni members conducted business. The alumni conducted silent and live auctions at the meeting. Proceeds will support FFA members to attend events, such as MFE and WLC. The alumni also recognized its outstanding affiliate chapters. Lowell received honors for the 1-25 members category and Marshall received honors in the 50+ member category. Both affiliates will represent Michigan at the National FFA Alumni Convention in the Fall.



Each year 50 Michigan FFA members head east to participate in the Washington Leadership Conference.

## WLC Scholarships

Would you want to explore the nation's capital and develop your leadership skills?

The FFA Alumni Association are proud to be sponsoring FFA members attending the Washington Leadership Conference. A full scholarship has been awarded to Sarah Nearpass from the Bronson FFA chapter. Students receiving half scholarships from the FFA Alumni include Henry Metzger from Lakers, Aaron Preston from BACC, Katie Beechner from Stephenson, Casey Wheat from Lowell, and Stephanie Gewirtz from Perry-Morrice.

pizza party and dance after the first convention session. Be sure to ask your advisors for more information, which is available in their convention registration packet. Don't miss this party!

## Administrative Trip

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association has found the National FFA Convention to be the perfect setting to educate school administrators about the importance of agricultural education and the FFA.

Each year the alumni, in conjunction with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, the Michigan Farm Bureau and the Michigan FFA Foundation, organize and host a trip for 20 administrators to attend the National FFA Convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky each October.

Carl Schoessel, positive perceptions of the FFA were reinforced as a result of attending the convention. "I saw first-hand the tremendous enthusiasm and dedication of FFA members and was very impressed with the FFA members' abilities."

The trip to the National FFA Convention allows administrators to attend skills contests, see members receive awards, and gives them the opportunity to speak with teachers and FFA members from across the country. Administrators see first-hand how valuable agricultural education and FFA experiences are in the lives of their students, which leads to increased support at the local level.

## Michigan FFA Alumni Officers

President - Darron Birchmeier  
 Vice President - Keith Smith  
 Secretary - Brian Preston  
 Region I VP - Larry Martz  
 Region II VP - Brent Leininger  
 Region III VP - Dave Arnbruster  
 Region IV VP - Bryan Droscha  
 Region V VP - Lee Ranthum  
 Region VI VP - Charles Snyder  
 At-Large Director - Floyd Beneker  
 Administrative Director - Matthew Sniego

## Pizza Party & Dance

Michigan's 75<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention will be packed full of fun activities for FFA members, compliments of the Michigan FFA Alumni Association.

On Monday, March 3, the alumni is sponsoring a

For Hastings Area School Systems Superintendent

## Contact Information

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association  
 PO Box 30960  
 Lansing, MI 48909  
 Phone: (517) 323-7000 x3234  
 Fax: (517) 323-6604  
[www.michiganffaalumni.com](http://www.michiganffaalumni.com)



# Ever Wear One of These?



Megan Schwedler, former North Huron FFA member and 2000-2001 State Reporter said, "Each and every one of us has a special place in our hearts for FFA. I can remember the first time I walked into my FFA classroom, the last time I walked out of it, and all of the fabulous times in between. I think the thing that is most special about our Blue Corduroy jackets is the bond it gives us between thousands of other members across the country. I am ever amazed by how many friends the organization has lead me to make, how many laughs I have shared and how many smiles FFA has brought to my face. I am so proud to see how many people still hold a special passion for the FFA. Keep on giving, we have millions of young people yet to reach!"

The Michigan FFA Foundation wants to know:

## WHERE'S YOUR JACKET?

Have you proudly worn an FFA jacket or cared about someone who did? If so, let us know!

Michigan FFA Foundation • P.O. Box 26111 • Lansing, MI 48909 • (517) 323-6569

[www.michiganffa.com/reconnect](http://www.michiganffa.com/reconnect)