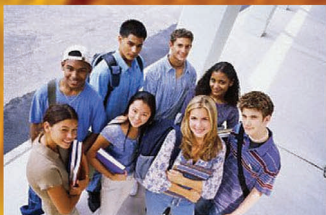


The Michigan FFA Creed

March/April 2004

We cannot
always gear-up
the future for
our youth.



But, we can gear-up
our youth for their future.

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Important Dates

March	9-11	State FFA Convention
	31	Marketing Plan Papers Due
April	23	State Career Development Events
	24	Horse Judging Contest



I believe in...



Leading the Future by Building on the Past

officer profiler

Katie Marchal Region II State Vice President

Blissfield FFA Chapter

SAE: Dairy and Turfgrass Placement

Majoring in AgriScience Education at Michigan State

Ryan McBride Region III State Vice President

Laker FFA Chapter

SAE: Sheep & Poultry Production and Agricultural Communications

Majoring in ANR Communications at Michigan State

Our past is the preamble to our future accomplishments. As FFA members, we can look back on a very jubilant span of years in the life of the Michigan FFA Association, thanks to the dedication of thousands of members, tenacity of our states agricultural educators, commitment of state staff, and enthusiasm of numerous sponsors and alumni who all work so very hard to support our programs.

Looking ahead to another 75 years, much of what we imagine today will be routine tomorrow... vacations on the moon, hovercraft that respond to voice commands to take you where you want to go.

What you don't need to imagine is the continued commitment of the Michigan FFA Association to anticipating tomorrow's needs—just as the association has done for the past quarter of a century. FFA a Builder of Leaders in any Century. Today, the Michigan FFA Association offers a greater variety of opportunities for its members to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

As each of us move forward into the 21st century, the FFA will continue providing its

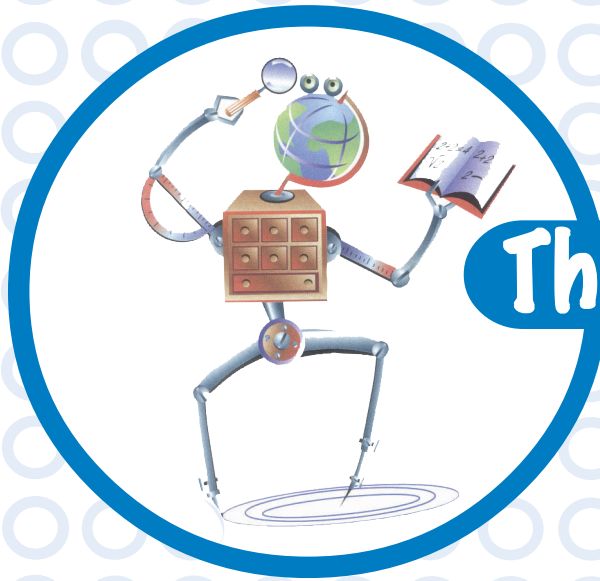
members opportunities to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization. This commitment has brought FFA members to the position that we enjoy today—as competent and assertive agricultural leaders prepared for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

We hope this issue of the Michigan FFA Creed showcases the strong partnerships and exciting activities that FFA members establish while celebrating our association's heritage. [2](#)

Did you know...

- [2](#) More than 24 million American workers (17 percent of the total U.S. workforce) produce, process, sell and trade the nation's food and fiber. But only 4.6 million of those people live on farms – slightly less than 2 percent of the total U.S. population.
- [2](#) In 2001, \$53 billion worth of American agricultural products were exported around the world.





The Future of

Agriculture

by Debbie Munson

Today, it seems like everybody has an opinion about the future of agriculture in Michigan. From optimistic to doomsday, futuristic to simplified, the opinions held are as diverse as Michigan's food system. Yet, there is one common thread running through all of the ideas and theories: there will be ample opportunities for all types of producers during the next century of American agriculture.

One of the hottest issues right now in food production is consumer awareness of where food is coming from and how it has been raised. According to some experts, consumer interest and concern will continue to grow in light of recent attention to mad cow disease and avian flu, which could spell success for small local farms and possible distress for large corporate operations.

"There has been noticeable growth in the demand for supermarkets to sell locally raised food," said Mike Hamm, C.S. Mott Chair of Sustainable Agriculture at Michigan State University. "Uncertainty in the food system drives fear. When

people know where their food comes from, that fear is alleviated."

Hamm said he believes the value of a consumer-producer relationship will continue to increase, and producers large and small across the board will begin to bend to what the consumer is willing to pay.

"The greatest potential for growth is the small production (under 100 acres) fruit and vegetable farms we have here in Michigan," Hamm said. "The opportunities for selling produce directly to supermarkets, at farmers' markets or farm-side stands and through community supported agriculture (CSA) are endless."

Community Supported Agriculture

Community supported agriculture is a system that allows individuals and families to buy shares in a loosely formed co-op of local farmers, guaranteeing receipt of fresh produce when it is in season. The shares are paid during the off-season so the farmers making up the CSA can purchase what they need for the next growing season.

During harvest times, the CSA members receive a box of fresh food on a regular basis, usually once a week.

"The success of CSA groups really emphasizes the importance of the farmer's connection with the consumer," said Patty Cantrell, director of the Michigan Land Use Institute's Seeds of Prosperity Project. Cantrell, like Mike Hamm, believes that the future of agriculture is in locally produced food and supports building strong, sustainable food systems that consumers can trust. However, she said the potential for success rests more on mid-sized farms (100-1000 acres) than on farms under 100 acres.

"There is a lot of opportunity for the middle-sized farmers to diversify their operations and provide niche products that sell for a premium price," Cantrell said. While small operations are viable in the farmers' market and CSA arena, Cantrell pointed out that mid-sized farms offer the volume that retailers and consumers rely on.

"By using age-old practices that are tried and

true --raising animals in the pasture instead of in confinement, growing a variety of crops that work with nature's own defense system instead of against it--mid-sized farmers can be competitive and provide what the consumers are asking for," said Cantrell.

Diversified Production

Because the cost of starting up new farms or taking on new projects is minimized when a farm is diversified, the risk for trying new techniques or following consumer trends is minimized also.

When a farmer invests in only one part of the food system like hog farming and builds all of the shelters needed for the animals, a financial crisis could occur if and when consumer demand for pork is down. But, if a farmer keeps costs down by raising their hogs in a pasture while also delving into other aspects of the food system, such as vegetables or specialty livestock, the ability to be flexible both with the markets and with consumer trends is greatly increased.

So where do the large-scale grain and livestock

operations fit into a consumer driven marketplace? Tom Guthrie, executive director of Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, said he sees a trickle-up relationship developing between small, sustainable agriculture practices and the large commodity farmers.

"Because the financial risks are not as great for small-scale ventures, small and medium-sized farmers can try out new niche items or experiment with techniques," said Guthrie. "This flexibility gives birth to new ideas that are then adopted by the large producers who are wary of putting all their eggs in one basket."

It is this process of experimenting and learning at the small-scale which will ensure that the economic and environmental consequences of large-scale farming are not as harmful in the future as some critics have warned.

"Realistically, we need the big farms to feed the masses both here in the United States and around the world," Guthrie said. "But we need the small, sustainable entrepreneurs to continue the evolution of practices, so in the future, we can all work together to build more sustainable food systems."

Consumer/Producer Link

One person interested in smoothing out the interaction between industrial large-scale farming and the smaller, independent counterparts in states like Michigan is Lowell Catlett, professor of agriculture economics and business at New Mexico State University.

"Whether producers are small or large, nurturing the link between the consumer and producer is

Whether producers are small or large, nurturing the link between the consumer and producer is going to lead to wonderful opportunities in production agriculture during this next century.

going to lead to wonderful opportunities in production agriculture during this next century," Catlett said.

Catlett pointed to new consumer driven technology like wireless communication – the connection most people now have between their cell phones and home computer – as an indication of how both big and small-scale farmers can connect with consumers, retailers and even each other.

"The wireless system accumulates data that is taken from what many different people in the food system have learned, making it accessible to everyone who is connected," Catlett said.

This new wireless technology, which Catlett said will be used by 25 percent of farmers within five years and by the majority of American farmers in ten years, could be the missing link in the scenario that Tom Guthrie laid out: small farmers try new things and evaluate the effectiveness, large farmers then adopt the positive changes and know what kind of products the public is willing to pay for.

According to Catlett, once you add in the connection of supermarket retailers and individual consumers or consumer groups, the entire food system will be more productive and result in happier consumers than ever before in history.

"Within the next year, all livestock will be marked with RFIDs, radio frequency

identification (an advanced version of the universal product code or UPC), which will allow us to know exactly where our meat came from. Was it fed potentially contaminated feed, or was it grass fed? That is what consumers want to know, so they can make the educated purchase," Catlett said.

"And this technology is not just something in theory," he added. "This is actually happening on farms in Arizona and with restaurants and retailers in California. The results ranchers and family farmers have seen are amazing."

The Technology Link

Catlett does emphasize that this technology is beneficial both for large and small production farms. In Arizona, he has worked with large-scale crop production where remote sensors set up in a field can send information to the farmer's computer, indicating whether the plants need more moisture, fertilizer or pesticides.

Being able to pinpoint the exact spots that are in need of water, nutrients or chemicals automatically can save the farmer money, while protecting the environment because fewer resources are used and the nutrient load on the crops and soil is reduced.

"We also know of over 300 family farms in California that have been saved because they are wireless-linked with a restaurant

owner who buys their produce. Those farmers have a direct, niche buyer, and although their operations are small, they have been able to compete at the small-scale," Catlett said. "That's the beauty of this technology. It can benefit any kind of farmer anywhere in the world."

That's exactly the kind of technology that experts in Michigan seem to be looking for as local farmers head into this next century of agriculture, and face a future that holds many opportunities but also many uncertainties.

In Michigan, there are more than 17,000 farms between 50-1000 acres. Both Michigan State University professor Mike Hamm and Michigan Land Use Institute specialist Patty Cantrell agree that these are the farms of Michigan's future; the farms that face the most opportunity to grow and find a niche market in a food system that favors both large commodity farming and small diversified farms.

Yet, Tom Guthrie, from the Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems, said he thinks the defining moment for every new and veteran farmer in Michigan will be their willingness to embrace all new kinds of technology and ideas that may advance the sustainable food system.

"If you are riding a horse and you get a burr in the saddle, the easy thing may be to just shift some weight until the burr goes away. Or you can get off the horse, find that burr and do something with it," Guthrie said. "My advice is that you get excited about the future of agriculture, work together with new ideas, and turn that burr into something positive." [2](#)

Our Motto in Motion

Supported by the Michigan Department of Career Development's Natural Resources and Agriscience Pathway

Learning to Do

By: Ashlee Nowland
FFA Member

Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center Agriscience and Natural Resources program/FFA chapter has new facilities that are state of the art. The specialized lab areas include: biotechnology, aquaculture, a greenhouse with a walk-in cooler for floral design, woodshop and land lab. Future plans also include creating a turf grass outdoor research lab. The entire building is nearly 7,000 square feet and also includes a 3,000 square foot machinery storage area.

"The new building is a nice place for our class to work and learn. My favorite part of the new building is our top of the line greenhouse," said agriscience student, Ashlee Nowland. "We have plenty of room to care for plants, the greenhouse faces the south, which helps the plants grow at a good rate."

The students first fall project involved the entire CTC staff. The agriscience students designed and built a Koi Pond out of a

garden bathtub. Each student had to design a plan of what they thought would be an ideal design for this garden tub. Then, the faculty judged the entries and the chosen design was built. The pond was built by the student from donated items from the community, including five Koi fish.


The FFA leadership development activities involve all students. Each class member has the opportunity to learn through community service activities. The agriscience class participates in project pals with a pre-school class at the neighboring special services building. It provides a life learning activity for each high school student to see if he/she would enjoy working with small children in a teaching situation. It is truly special to see high school students touch the hearts of these young children through agriculture.

Promoting tree growth and forestry is another great FFA community service project that CTC conducts. FFA members bag trees for the American Chestnut tree festival held annually in Cadillac. Members also prepare a seedbed for area elementary students to plant American Chestnut trees. Hands-on and minds-on is the best way to gain skills and experience. The center is very fortunate to have the support of the CTC administration.



Agriscience student, Derek Moffitt, shared his thoughts about the new facilities. Derek particularly enjoys the new facility and how the teachers can spend more one on one time with the students in different areas of the class.

Kyle Musselman agriscience student stated, "In the new agriscience facility, career opportunities can be

explored and students can participate in agricultural events that will enhance their career path in agriculture." 



Agricultural Engineer

Designing a better agriculture!



Agricultural engineers apply basic science and engineering principles as they design solutions to engineering problems in agricultural production. Agricultural engineers design agricultural machinery and facilities such as tractors, animal confinements, storage/handling facilities, irrigation and drainage systems and soil conservation measures.

To be an agricultural engineer, you should enjoy solving problems and have the ingenuity to envision new designs or solutions. You must understand physical and chemical principles well enough to apply them as you solve problems.

For more information, check out: www.egr.msu.edu/age/

Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Amanda Lee
State Reporter

Kayla Truax of the Saginaw
Career Complex FFA

Chapter is the first member of her family to join the FFA. After talking with her advisor, Mr. Edward Meisel, she decided to join the program. This is Kayla's second year in the FFA, and she has enjoyed every minute of it.

I have learned very important skills from my agriscience classes that have been a vital part of my SAE.

Kayla is working on a small animal project breeding two pigeons to produce a blue-ribbon



and feed to last two days. By this summer, Kayla hopes to have offspring from the birds.

In the future, Kayla hopes to attend Michigan State University to study zoology. When life becomes rough for Kayla, she reminds herself that she needs to obtain a good education by going to college so she can obtain a good job. 📖

Pigeon Facts...

- 📖 A young pigeon 1-30 days old is called a squab.
- 📖 Racing Pigeons helped greatly to win the two World Wars. They were used as secret message dispatchers who returned with messages sent by troops.
- 📖 Pigeons have many types of feathers including contour feathers, which give pigeon's their body shape.



bird. Kayla has a male Russian Tumbler and a half Russian Tumbler half Curroma female pigeon. When asked about how her agriscience class has helped her SAE, Kayla stated, "I have learned very important skills from my agriscience classes that have been a vital part of my SAE."

Kayla's family started raising rabbits; however, after giving the rabbits away, they had empty cages. Her father then suggested purchasing a bird. After talking with a family friend, Kayla and her family stopped by a Pigeon Farm in Bay City and looked around. Two days later, they went back to the farm and picked up Kayla's pigeons, Petey and Pearl.

Kayla said, "I have learned more about the breed of the birds I am raising. I am working on research to learn about the different breeding techniques. It is important I keep accurate records on feed, climate and any changes that may affect the birds."

Each day Kayla goes to school early to feed, water and check on the birds. Over the weekend, Kayla provides the birds with enough water

on the farm and in the most advanced controlled environment facilities), marketing and utilization of intensively cultivated, high-value crops. It provides floricultural services through technicians, consultants, designers, and educators at all levels. Through research it improves product development, growth regulation, biotechnology, breeding and genetics, and sustainable agriculture.

For more information, check out www.hrt.msu.edu/



March/April 2004

Florist It's a bloomin' business!

Floral design is a multi-billion dollar industry. Imagine learning how to create gorgeous flower arrangements for special occasions. Imagine crafting designs that please the eye and lighten the heart. And imagine pursuing exciting career opportunities!

The floriculture industry is high technology, encompassing the production, management (both

Earning to Live

By: Kara Butters & Kendra Butters
AgriScience Students

Service to our neighbors, communities and nation-is one of the most powerful skills gained from involvement in the FFA. Many individuals use the skill of service while earning to live.

Two former FFA members, Lauren Hager and Dale Sheltrown, practice service daily in their role as Michigan State Representatives. They develop policy, oversee state agencies, vote on legislation, serve constituents and promote their districts.

Representative Hager, of the 81st House District, was a member of the Marlette FFA Chapter. He currently chairs the House Family and Children Services Committee and is a member of the House Agriculture, Education and Local Government and Urban Policy Committees.

Representative Sheltrown, of the 103rd House District, participated in the West Branch FFA Chapter. He is the minority vice-chair of the House Agriculture Committee and serves on the Committees of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation, and Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security.

How did you become involved with the FFA?

Rep. Hager: Because of my father and older brothers' involvement in FFA and being raised on a farm, I respected agriculture as an occupation and wanted to become more involved. I knew the FFA advisor in Marlette at an early age and wanted to gain leadership skills offered in FFA.

Rep. Sheltrown: I grew up on a beef and dairy farm. As a freshman, I enrolled in vocational agriculture courses at West Branch High School. I liked the agricultural teacher, who was instrumental in my joining FFA.

What FFA activities were you involved in?

Rep. Hager: I participated in soil judging, parliamentary procedure, public speaking and the farm forum contest, now referred to as the agricultural issues leadership contest. I also served as a chapter officer during my junior and senior years of high school.

Rep. Sheltrown: During my senior year, I was elected as president of my chapter, and I competed in the parliamentary procedure contest.

What were your Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs?

Rep. Hager: I was interested in dairy herd development and

purchased a registered Holstein calf during my freshman year. I continued building my SAE until my senior year when I had five head of registered Holsteins. I sold them to my dad and used the proceeds to attend Michigan State University.

Rep. Sheltrown: On the family farm, I was involved with livestock production where I started a purebred Angus beef herd. My SAE helped me further my education at Michigan State University.

What skills did you gain from your FFA experience?


Rep. Hager: I learned how to work effectively with others and how to set and accomplish achievable goals. I became more comfortable speaking in front of people and gained an understanding of parliamentary procedure.

Rep. Sheltrown: Through my FFA involvement, I learned debate skills, basic parliamentary procedure from Robert's Rules of Order



and the art of negotiation and compromise. Also, I acquired the ability to make sound decisions as well as teamwork skills.

As Representatives Hager and Sheltrown demonstrated, it is important to serve our community, state and nation.

As an FFA member, one has the opportunity to serve people on multiple levels through various projects. 



Plant Physiologist

What makes plants work?

FFA NEW HORIZONS
H

Plant physiologists study the physical, chemical and biological functions of living plants. They study whole plants, as well as plant cells, molecules and genes. Plant physiologists often work as members of multidisciplinary teams composed of molecular and cell biologists.

To be a plant physiologist you need to understand botany, chemistry, biology, and mathematics. You must know how to write and communicate well. Because plant physiologists support scientists in other disciplines, they need to know about horticulture, economics and philosophy.

To learn more about career opportunities, check out www.css.msu.edu/home/



Living to Serve

Building A Home

By: Becky Stevens
Chapter President
Leslie Warner
Chapter Secretary

The current members of the Belding FFA were not even a twinkle in their parents' eyes when the chapter teamed with the Build-a-Home class to begin landscaping the annual home built in the community. This project involves many school programs working together to ensure success. The drafting class creates the blueprints

while the interior design classes decorate the home's interior.

The first home the chapter landscaped was built in 1970 when alumni member Denny Heffron was a freshman in high school. "I enjoyed the landscaping back then and thought it was a fun project." Heffron is glad to see the project is still going strong today.

This will be the chapter's 30th year landscaping the home. There was a four-year period when there was not an agriscience teacher at the school, so the project did not occur as usual. As soon as a teacher was hired however the FFA resumed landscaping again.

Each spring, the FFA visits the site and then plans the landscape. The FFA has to work hard to meet the



deadline for the annual open house held on Memorial Day weekend. The chapter selects trees, shrubs and flowers to plant in the yard and also prepares the lawn. The chapter then visits local nurseries to select what is needed. Laying the sod is always one of the most strenuous aspects of preparing the landscape, but is also one of the most fun parts claim most of the chapter members.

The FFA donates its time and landscape planning to the Build-a-Home class. For a week, members work at the Build-a-Home site instead of attending regular class. Many members learn to work together in order to complete a quality job each year. Numerous members enjoy this hands-on approach to learning and doing rather than sitting in a classroom all day.

"This is a great project because students see it through from beginning to end and are responsible for sticking to a budget and timeline," states advisor Kate Feuerstein.

Workin class with the Build-a-Home gives students a glimpse into the world of landscaping and is a project the Belding FFA hopes to continue for another 30 years. [2](#)

The Five Elements of a Successful FFA Service-Learning Project

Core Curriculum

Integrates community service with core program efforts of the FFA Chapter.

Service to the Community

Presents FFA members with the opportunity to serve their chapter, their schools, and their greater community.

Student Voice

Engages every FFA member as an active participant.

Civic Responsibility

Fosters civic responsibility and interaction among FFA and community members.

Reflection

Provides FFA members with time to reflect on service.



Wildlife Biologist

Walk on the Wildlife Side.



Wildlife biologists do research that helps us better manage our natural resources. They may specialize in fields such as physiology, genetics, ecology, behavior, disease, nutrition, population dynamics, land-use and pollution. A wildlife

biologist needs to have an assortment of skills and education. Schooling is important and an interest in biology and science is handy. A Master's Degree in Wildlife Ecology or some type of related natural resources field is recommended. Competition for available positions is tough. A lot of interest creates a lot of competition for entry level jobs.

For more education and career information, check out: www.fw.msu.edu/

Member Highlights

By: Amanda Lee, State FFA Reporter



Greta Koebel
River Valley
FFA Chapter

Region 1: Greta Koebel

Greta Koebel, a senior in the River Valley FFA Chapter has been working on her family's dairy farm all her life. When Greta was old enough her, parents would give her cows in exchange for her labor on the farm. Currently, Greta owns 35 head of dairy cattle.

Greta has many responsibilities on the family farm. Some of them include feeding, taking care of the show cattle and numerous other chores.

When asked about her FFA and SAE involvement, Greta said, "My SAE is a way for me to connect school activities with what I enjoy doing now and what I want to do in the future. I have met many knowledgeable people, learned new things and made new friends." Greta enjoys being a part of the FFA because it encompasses students from various agricultural areas; whereas, most other agricultural groups specialize in certain breed or issue.

After graduating from high school in 2005, Greta plans to attend Michigan State University to major in an agricultural field related to dairy. 📍



Ray Briner
North Adams Jerome
FFA Chapter

Region 2: Ray Briner

Ray Briner, a sophomore from the North Adams Jerome FFA, has established an SAE focused on raising broiler chickens.

Ray's SAE and FFA involvement began with the curiosity and willingness to try something new. Ray's sisters involvement in the FFA first got him interested in trying something new. Once in the FFA, the perfect opportunity was a waiting for him as his advisor, Mr. Everett encouraged him to get involved in the poultry improvement project his freshmen year.

Ray's daily duties include watering, feeding, cleaning and weighing his chickens. Ray said, "If it was not for my involvement in the poultry project, I may not have grown to like animals."

In the FFA Ray has enjoyed traveling to Louisville, Kentucky to the National FFA Convention and SLCCO (State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers). Ray has especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet several FFA member from Michigan and across the United States.

After high school, Ray plans to attend college and pursue a career in the area of business. 📍

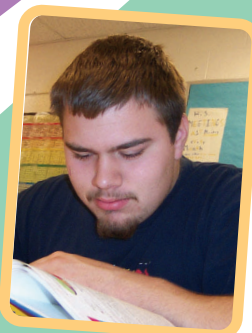
Region 3: Nate Guthrie

Nate Guthrie from Akron Fairgrove knows first hand the importance of keeping accurate records. Nate started his SAE when he was in the 10th grade and was 15 years old. He currently raises five heifers and 10 hogs as a part of his diversified livestock entrepreneurship SAE.

Nate said, "I have to keep good records on money transactions, so I will be able keep my animals."

Nate's motivation came from helping his uncles on their farms. After Nate and his family moved near his uncles, he was able to raise his own animals. When Nate learned how the FFA could help him learn more about agriculture and management, he joined the Akron Fairgrove FFA chapter.

This year, Nate is serving as the chapter Vice-President. After high school, Nate plans to attend a mechanic trade school for two years and start his own shop and farming operation. 📍



Nate Guthrie
Akron Fairgrove
FFA Chapter

Region 4: Jasmine Davis

It all started as an accident for Jasmine Davis of the Byron FFA Chapter. When Jasmine joined the FFA, she was worried because she did not have an SAE project. That was until her lizard started laying eggs.

Jasmine raises small lizards called Anoles. In the morning, Jasmine feeds the baby lizards 100% pure honey and pinhead crickets and feeds their mother (the offspring is separated so the mother does not eat them) two wax worms.

Jasmine said, "It's important to keep the tanks at 85 degrees F during the day and 60 degrees F during the night. I keep a UVB light over the tanks to help maintain the appropriate temperature."

Jasmine's SAE has taught her a great deal of responsibility. Besides learning more about her lizard, Jasmine has taken an invested interest in learning about various other reptiles. It's amazing to think it all started from one lizard bought at the local pet store!

After high school, Jasmine plans to attend college and study something related to plants and animals. 🐸

Region 5: Caroline Armbruster

Caroline Armbruster of the Lakewood FFA Chapter grew up on her family's dairy farm, where she is responsible for helping care for the cows by maintaining their health and feeding ratios. Caroline also enjoys helping out with equipment repairs and field work in the fall.

Caroline stated, "FFA has taught me not to be afraid, how to step out of my comfort zone and to never give up with anything that I do. I have also gained many FFA friends."

Caroline joined the FFA because her father and older cousins were FFA members and some of her friends had joined. "After being in the FFA, I've realized how it can enhance my leadership and teamwork skills," said Caroline.

Caroline has never had the opportunity to show at a county fair, but she has enjoyed helping her chapter put on a petting zoo. Her chapter has put on a petting zoo at both the Ionia and Lake Odessa County Fairs.

In the future, Caroline plans to seek employment in an agricultural career field. 🐸

Region 6: Hannah Carruthers

Hannah Carruthers, a sophomore at Standish-Sterling Central High School, has enjoyed raising and breeding commercial and show rabbits on her family's dairy farm.

Hannah became interested in raising and showing rabbits at an early age because her older brother and sister raised New Zealand rabbits. She started caring for the rabbits when she was four years old. Soon after, she started raising English loops along with the New Zealand rabbits. Today, she has 25 rabbits total.

During the summer, Hannah enjoys showing her rabbits at the Arenac County Fair. This past summer, she won Grand Champion Meat Pen and Showmanship.

Hannah said, "Raising rabbits not only helps me to learn more about the breed I am raising, but it has taught me that keeping yearly records is important."

Not only is Hannah involved with the FFA, she also is involved with her church youth group, 4-H, plays softball and power lifts. In 4-H, she is a teen leader in the Arenac County 4-H Club.

After graduating from high school, Hannah plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. 🐸



Jasmine
Byron FFA



Caroline Armbruster
Lakewood
FFA Chapter



Hannah Carruthers
Standish
Sterling
FFA Chapter

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

Email Scott Smalley at smalley.scott@hotmail.com

Say what?

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

Regional Responses to Current Issues

The question:

What impact will technology have on American Agriculture?



Region 1



Jason Jackson
Centreville FFA

Technology in agriculture will continue to help young farmers become successful in farming larger quantities of land. The technology in agriculture and the rising population will always make agriculture a successful industry in America. [↻](#)

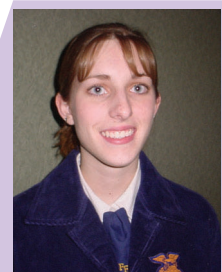
Region 2



John DelMotte
Dundee FFA

Technology greatly affects agriculture because it allows growers to produce goods more efficiently and cost effectively. Technology, such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS), helps growers to be efficient in their work. By using GPS, America will continue to be a leader in agriculture. [↻](#)

Region 3



Ashley Messing
Ubley FFA

With numerous advancements being made in technology, I believe American agriculture will become more productive. Some of the improvements being made include increasing yields, BT corn and round up ready crops, which allow our farmers to be more productive. [↻](#)

Region 4



Kacie Sodman
Ovid Elsie FFA

The advancements of technology will help agriculture develop new ways for water systems, planting crops and new machinery. These technologies will help farmers complete their daily tasks faster and more efficiently. [↻](#)

Region 5



Mandy Block
Beal City FFA

Technology will have a great impact in American agriculture because it will allow us to do more in a shorter amount of time. For example, the simple task of milking a cow has become much easier with efficient and effective equipment. [↻](#)

Region 6



Chris Pelton
Wexford-Missaukee FFA

Technology will impact American agriculture extensively in the next ten years. It will greatly affect the American farmer by increasing production and allowing crops to be planted and harvested more efficiently. [↻](#)

Share & Win!

We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on agriculture, please contact Michigan's FFA State Reporter, Amanda Lee at MickeyAL531@hotmail.com. So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.



Impact Opportunities

VP's Impact Challenge

Xtreme Impact through Celebrating Traditions/ Building the Future



Michigan FFA officers make an Xtreme Impact through celebrating FFA's traditions, while building the future!

75 years of making an Xtreme Impact. That is making history!

Over the years, many people have contributed to making our organization successful and prosperous. Take some time to share with others and personally reflect on the purpose and meaning of our motto, creed and mission statement.

Celebrate these traditions proudly, and remember that as we celebrate traditions, we are building the future of the Michigan FFA Association.

We challenge you to leave your mark on the next 75 years of the Michigan FFA. ☺

Michigan FFA Association



Katy's Kaleidoscope

Since 1928, heritage and tradition have become the foundation of FFA. The ceremonies and activities we participate in have taken place for years.

Although the Michigan FFA Association has undergone changes throughout the years, FFA continues to make an Xtreme Impact in the lives of members through premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Talk to your advisors, parents and alumni about FFA and the impact it had on their lives. ☺

Katie's Kindle

The FFA Motto, in four simple lines, (Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve) explains what we as FFA members do, day in and day out.

To celebrate our motto during the 75th year of the FFA, make a scrap book highlighting each of these four areas. Use pictures from this year as well as pictures from the past.

A scrap book will be something FFA members 25, 50 and 75 years from now will enjoy to see what was happening in the past with the FFA. ☺

Ryan's Report

"I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds." What powerful words!

These words, begin our FFA Creed. It is amazing to think how the Creed was adopted at the third National Convention and to this day is celebrated by FFA members everywhere.

FFA members, not only live by this Creed, but share the Creed with those around, so they may better understand the importance and purpose of the FFA and agriculture. ☺

Nicole's Notes

Change is good! This simple phrase rings true in the FFA.

Since 1928 when FFA was founded, change has occurred including the name change from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization in 1988 and allowing women to join the FFA in 1969.

To celebrate those changes, hold a FFA history Jeopardy competition, so you can learn more about the many changes our organization has had in the past and will have in the future. ☺

Bryan's Bounty

More than 460,000 members nationwide and 5,000 members statewide have been impacted by the FFA organization.

Our organization has led members to success and will continue to do so by developing leadership and career skills.

Celebrate our mission by sharing our success with other students, teachers, administrators, parents, local businesses, and community members.

We hope this issue of the Creed will challenge you to make your mark on FFA's next 75 years. ☺

Julia's Jewels

Has anyone ever asked you why the colors of the FFA are national blue and corn gold?

The colors of the National FFA were adopted in 1929. The color corn gold signifies the corn grown in every state of the United States of America. National blue stands for the field of blue on which the stars of our nation's flag lay.

Patriotism shines through our colors. Now you know what they mean, I challenge you to wear them with pride. ☺

The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation News



Kate Powers
Foundation Director

New Foundation Director Announced

The FFA Foundation Advisory Board named Kate Powers as the new Foundation Director. Powers brings a wealth of fundraising background to this position with previous foundation management experience.

Powers most recently served as Director of Development for the Connect Michigan Alliance, where she managed the successful completion of a \$20 million endowment campaign, which will help fund youth leadership development programs for a four member coalition, that included the Volunteer Center of Michigan, the Michigan Campus Compact, the Michigan Non-Profit Association and the Michigan Community Service Commission.

Powers is a 1999 Michigan State University graduate. She holds a B.A. in Social Relations from MSU's James Madison College. She has also completed coursework through Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy in "Principles and Techniques of Fundraising" and in "Developing Leadership for Major Gifts."

Rise to the Leadership Challenge

Since 1928, millions of students - no one knows exactly how many - have donned the official FFA jacket and championed the FFA creed.

FFA has opened its doors and its arms to students of all backgrounds, ensuring that all students could reap the benefits of agricultural education.

In the beginning there were 33. Seventy-five years later there are 457,000 member's nation-wide and over 5,000 reside in Michigan each year.

Today, the Michigan FFA Foundation remains committed to supporting individual students, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Now, the organization is expanding the state's view of "traditional" agriculture and finding new ways to infuse agriculture and natural resources into the classroom and Michigan communities.

We have seen the impact of 33. We continue to see the impact of 457,000. Now we challenge you to continue your support in raising up a new generation of premier leaders, equipped for personal growth and career success and ready to make an Xtreme Impact.

You have an exciting opportunity to help raise up a new generation of leaders for the agriculture and natural resources industry by supporting Michigan FFA members in their pursuit of premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Opportunities for participating in the challenge, include:

CELEBRATION is an easy fundraising opportunity for your FFA chapter that can benefit Michigan FFA overall.



The CELLAGAIN program can help your chapter reach its goal by recycling old, broken and unused cell phones.

The program is simple. All your chapter has to do is collect old, unused or broken cell phones and ship them to CELLAGAIN.

CELEBRATION pays all shipping costs and the Michigan FFA and your chapter will get a maximum payout for your fundraising efforts.

License Plate Program Help fuel agricultural and natural resources education across the state and commemorate Michigan's farm roots by ordering your Agricultural Heritage license plate today!

The Agricultural Heritage License Plate is still available. Every new license plate registered generates \$25 for the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Alumni Challenge

Encourage your alumni to become involved by establishing a chapter challenge. Set a goal to have alumni members match dollar for dollar money raised by chapter members.



Build-upon the TSC Connection

Tractor Supply Company stores are currently selling the 2003 Michigan FFA Collector's Tractor (1929 Edition John Deere Model D) for just \$30.75 plus tax.

Your chapter can make an event of promoting the tractor and earn additional money for your chapter and the foundation through organizing a car wash or hot dog sale on a weekend.



For more information

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ALUMNI in Action

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ANR Communications

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(517) 323-3234
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FFA Alumni Annual Meeting

The Michigan FFA Alumni hosted its 29th annual meeting on February 7, 2004 at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in Mason. The event highlighted awards, elections and auctions.

The Lowell and Marshall Affiliates were recognized with the Outstanding Affiliate award and both chapters will represent Michigan at the National FFA Alumni Convention.

The results of the election of officers for 2004-05 are as follows: Keith Smith - Alpena, President; Floyd Beneker - Marshall, Vice President; Leslie Donovan - St. Louis, Secretary; Ann Brooks - Lenawee, Region II VP; Brad Cesal - New Lothrop, Region IV VP; Charles Snyder - Alcona, Region VI VP; and Randy Butters - Homer, At-Large.

Other members of the council not up for election are: Larry Martz - Marshall, Region I VP; Dave Armbruster - Laker, Region III VP; and Jim May - PSO, Region V VP.

The Executive council will meet again in April to prepare its goals & objectives for the year.

Also during the annual meeting, the alumni conducted live and silent auctions and raised over \$2,200 to support FFA members to attend WLC and Fall Leadership Conferences.



WLC Scholarship Recipients

This year the FFA Alumni selected 9 students to receive scholarships to attend the Washington Leadership Conference.

Scholarships were awarded to the following students:

Michigan FFA Alumni Full Scholarship

Yvette Wissner, USA

Michigan FFA Alumni Partial Scholarships

Jason Smith, New Lothrop
Chrissy Cooper, New Lothrop
John Maust, Laker
Megan Ross, St. Louis
Kristen Vincke, New Lothrop
Sara Bemia, USA

Jack L. Schut Memorial Scholarship

Megan Bildner, BACC

Past State Officer Full Scholarship

Katie Licht, Laker



State FFA Convention

During the State FFA Convention in March the FFA Alumni will be hosting the FFA Dance for FFA members to participate.

The Dance will take place on Tuesday, March 9, in Akers Hall, directly following the close of the evening session.

Apples and cider will be sponsored for students during the dance.

Also, a PSO Reunion will take place to highlight "75 years of Leadership."

The reunion will be held on March 9 at the Hubbard Hall Cafeteria.


The reunion will start with a reception at 4:00 p.m. and dinner to follow.

All PSOs in attendance will be recognized on stage at the Wharton Center during the evening session at 7:15 p.m.

The event is open to all past state FFA officers. The cost to attend is \$20/person.

For more information or to register contact Charles Arensmeier at arensmei@msu.edu.

FFA Alumni Mission

To secure the promise of FFA and agricultural education by creating an environment where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. 

Advancing Knowledge. Transforming Lives.



Rachel Dennis, ANR Communications • Robert Kirkpatrick, Agriscience Education
Mallory Koglin, Agribusiness Management • Ryan Kramer, ANR Communications
Ryan Peterson, Agricultural Engineering • Amanda Sloan, Agriscience • Miranda Smith, Horticulture

Whole new fields of expertise in agriculture and natural resources are emerging. Today, new career opportunities are available in areas as diverse as plant genetics, forestry and food science.

The MSU College of Agriculture

A recent study forecasts that the number of job openings in the agriculture and natural resource industry will exceed the number of qualified graduates every year through 2005.

and Natural Resources

Thus, the ANR industry is looking for skilled graduates to generate the value-added products that contribute to our country's growth. It needs trained professionals to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

has its sights set on the future.

In return, the ANR industry offers an exceptional lineup of rewarding and challenging careers. In fact, dynamic new opportunities are emerging in all sectors of the industry.

Your future.

Discover the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, and acquire the tools you need to help make the best decisions for your future.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Interested in expanding your horizons, check out: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/dept.htm>