

# The Michigan FFA Creed

March/April 2006

Residents of the destroyed portions of Mississippi line up for aid.

Mission:  
**POSSIBLE**  
More on the Michigan effort  
to aid areas devastated by  
Hurricane Katrina on page I.

# The Michigan FFA Creed



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Issue 4, Volume 4

## **C** | believe in...

State Officers continue their discussion on the meaning behind the FFA Creed.

## **D** Global Warming Truths

Guest writer Jenna Heitchue identifies the facts concerning global warming.

## **F** Learning to Do

The North Adams-Jerome FFA Chapter displays their Big Buck Night.

## **G** Doing to Learn

Jenna Kramer shares her interesting SAE with the membership.

## **H** Earning to Live

Read about one of two pairs of brothers that teach Agriscience in Michigan - Mark and Tate Forbush.

## **I** Living to Serve

The State Officer team tells of their work to aid the Mississippi landscape devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

## **I** Members Highlights

FFA members from across the state highlight their SAE projects and experiences.

## **L** Saying Goodbye

The Michigan FFA bids a sorrowful farewell to an old friend - Mrs. Pauline Glassbrook.

## **M** The Rest of the Story...

Learn more about those who are serving as your 2005-2006 Michigan FFA State Officer Team.

## **N** Alumni in Action

The Michigan FFA Alumni shares some highlights from the past year and updates members on scholarship information.

## **N** The Cornerstone

The Ag Heritage license plate program continues in the state of Michigan!

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# I believe in...

The fourth stanza of the FFA creed speaks to us now in a way that is unique in American history: *“I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so – for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.”*

That line – “less need for charity and more of it when needed” – speaks volumes about what has happened and continues to happen in the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast. America watched as the storm came in and the levees broke. We were watching as the water rose, as the winds destroyed houses and lives and as residents fled into the Superdome. Our hearts bled and millions clamored to help.

There were telethons and pledge drives. Americans left their own homes and jobs in Maine

and Oregon and Nebraska and Michigan to drive thousands of miles to help. They filled their cars and minivans with food and water, blankets and spare clothes. People lined up to give blood in hopes of saving lives. The country hadn’t seen these acts of kindness since the attacks of 2001.

Today, over six months later, the work continues. Homes that once stood proud are still piles of timber. Lives that once seemed whole are still shattered. Michigan FFA, the work continues.

In this issue, you will read of what the state officers are doing to help. If you have a similar desire to help, we urge you to do so. Contact your local Salvation Army (<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/>), Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org/>) or your local church. The people of the Gulf Coast still need help and race, creed and religion are not barriers. The people of America are crying out...

## Dates to Remember...

### March

- 8-10 State FFA Convention
- 31 Marketing Plan Papers Due

### April

- 7 Ag Skills Contests Registration Due
- 21 Meats Contest
- 21 Ag Skills Contests
- TBA Horse Judging Contest

# The Truth - on - Global Warming

By: **Jenna Heitchue**  
**ANR Communications**

Global warming is a controversial issue that has been contested by scientists, students and politicians alike. But what is the real deal? How much warmer is Earth than it would be without industry, cars and other components thought to be causing the rise in temperature? What are the implications of a warmer climate? Is global warming significant enough that we should really worry?

Of course, the answer you'll get to those questions depends upon whom you ask. Some people in the scientific community think that humans have had a catastrophic negative impact on the environment that is irreversible. Others argue that the "global warming scare" is just a ruckus being kicked up by tree-huggers looking to save a few more forests by convincing the nation to convert to cleaner emissions vehicles and implement more strict pollution laws for corporations. However, there are facts to be delved through before taking a stance, and everyone is free to decide on which side of the line they wish to fall.

An online atlas published in June 2005 by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with NASA, the

University of Maryland and the United States Geological Survey defines global warming as "the gradual rise of the Earth's temperature caused by an enhancing of the planet's natural greenhouse effect." Satellite data of Arctic regions show an increase of .5 degrees Celsius (about 1 degree Fahrenheit) over the last century. The atlas states that the warmest nine years of the 20th century were all post-1980, citing the 1990s as the warmest decade of the second millenium.

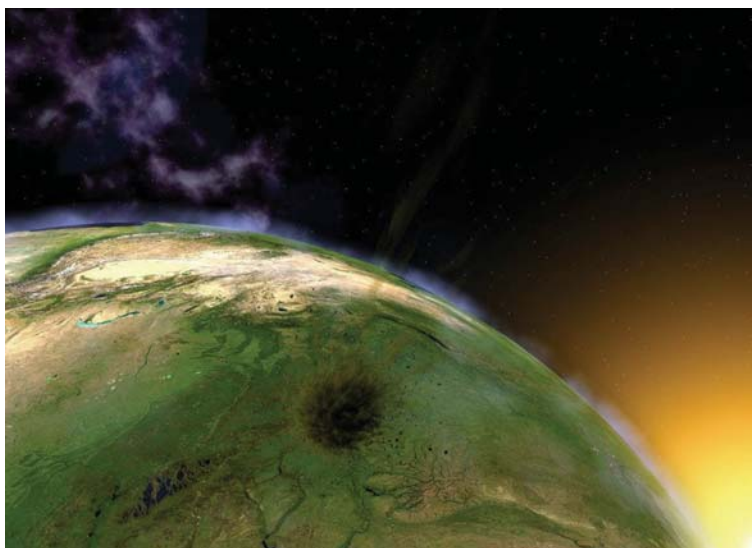
A popular argument for the opposition is this: how much does one degree matter? A human being's temperature can fluctuate that much over the span of a day with no impact on the health of that individual. A cake will bake the same whether the oven is set for 350 degrees or 351 degrees. How can one degree have no impact on these relatively small items, a human and a pan of cake batter, yet cause so much worry for scientists?

Experts who fear global warming say that it is not just the one degree change that the atmosphere has suffered this century, but the ten degree jump in temperature they project for the next 100 years. The melting of the polar ice caps, the loss of natural

habitat for arctic creatures and flooded coastlands that would result from a ten degree heat up weigh heavily on the minds of those predicting such a future.

Richard Alley, a geologist for Penn State University, was working in Greenland 10 years ago when a team studying the climate pulled a two-mile long core of ice out of the land. Bubbles of air in the ice core revealed times when there were dramatic shifts in the climate of Earth in the past. Alley's findings have changed the minds of many skeptics, proving to some that the change in the Earth's temperature may be the result of a natural global fluctuation, a pattern that the planet has been following for years.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency states on its web site: "Scientists know for certain



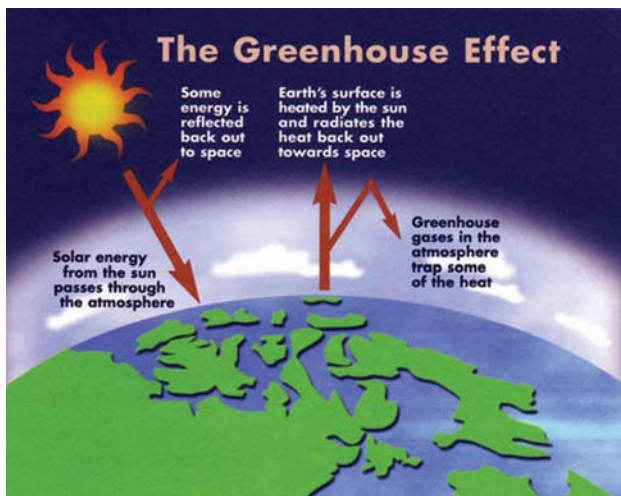
FFA NEW HORIZONS

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that human activities are changing the composition of Earth's atmosphere. Increasing levels of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), in the atmosphere since pre-industrial times have been well documented. There is no doubt this atmospheric buildup of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is largely the result of human activities."

These greenhouse gases are believed to trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, and those gases linger anywhere from decades to centuries. It is impossible to know exactly how much of the change in the atmospheric temperature lies entirely in the fault of humans because the scientific understanding of other factors such as natural variations in climate and changes in the energy of the sun is currently incomplete. Despite this, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Third Assessment Report in 2001 stated that there was a "discernable" impact on global temperature by humans. The report also reads, "There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities."



So what can humans do to keep our negative impact on the environment to a minimum? Even if global warming is the result of natural climatic changes, following a pattern of warming and cooling that has been cycling for hundreds of millions of years, emissions released by human action are still less than great for the air and water. And, as with every other component of the issue of climate change, there are many opinions on how and why to stimulate change floating around to choose from.

At a governmental level, the U.S. Global Change Research Program team is home to the world's most extensive climatic alteration research. Such studies can impact legislation in the nation and in individual states and cities. Rules and laws passed regarding climate change

alter the amount of pollutant factories and corporations can produce. The United Nations is also working internationally to encourage other countries to tighten their control on industrial emissions.

Some scientists, such as Columbia University oceanographer Wallace Broecker, would like to implement more radical changes. Broecker suggests the use of giant, carbon dioxide absorbing machines that would take the gas from the atmosphere and either pump it deep underground or turn it into rocks. Though many feel that this approach would be too expensive and impractical, there are some in the scientific and general populous that feel that this technique is necessary.

Individually, everyone can make a small difference by changing their everyday habits. People who live close enough to work or school are encouraged to walk or bike rather than drive. Fuel-efficient vehicles are also available in many varieties on the common market today. For more practical solutions for individuals who wish to help stop the human impact of global warming, visit the Natural Resource Defense Council's Web site at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).

### For More Information...

*Three Different Views on Global Warming:* <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1893089&sourceCode=gaw>

*How to Fight Global Warming:* <http://www.nrdc.org/globalWarming/gsteps.asp>

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:* <http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/actions.html>

March/April 2006

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# Our Motto in Motion

Supported by the State of Michigan  
Office of Career and Technical Preparation

## Learning to Do

By:  
**Julie Thelen**  
State Vice President

Another deer season has come and gone and the pack has been thinned thanks to the North Adams-Jerome FFA Big Buck Contest, put on in cooperation with the Hillsdale Conservation Club and the hunters of Hillsdale County.

The 8th Annual Big Buck Contest was kicked off with a bang. A total of 95 community members paid their ten dollar fee to enter before deer season began. With four separate divisions for bow, gun, student and overall, a total of twenty hunters exhibited their bucks at the annual banquet on January 14. Bernie Fansler, a freshman and active FFA member at North Adams-Jerome won first in the student gun division this year.

The Big Buck Contest Banquet features door prizes, raffles and most importantly, the contest winners. Starting with a spaghetti dinner and an opportunity to look at the door prizes, sponsors, hunters and community members alike enjoy talking with FFA members and visiting with local companies and corporations. The evening continued with stories and pictures from the hunt and contest awards with advisor, Mr. Everett, as the master of ceremonies for the evening. Sponsors helped to make the program a success with over 25 sponsors donating to the evening's festivities.

Chapter members have the opportunity to meet with hunters that entered the contest in addition to help with the overall success of the evenings activities. Members sell raffle tickets, door prizes and dinner tickets in addition to announcing the winners of the prizes and passing out awards. Jennifer Yoder, a sophomore FFA member at North Adams-Jerome said, "The Big Buck Contest is a way for the hunters of Hillsdale County to do what they love and get rewarded while doing it."

The competition begins once the antlers are brought in for scoring. This year, Mr. Everett and the Hillsdale Conservation Club teamed up to do the scoring. The antlers are judged on the number of points, total inches of antler and the outside spread. Maintaining his spot

on the top of the All-Time Top Ten Big Buck Winners is Alex Warren of Jerome who shot a 13 point buck scoring 111.13 points (145 B & C) in 2002.

The Big Buck Contest tops their fundraiser projects for the year bringing in a few thousand dollars of income from the contest, the dinner, the raffled guns and the door prize tickets. Additional fundraising activities include a fruit sale, root beer float sale, and cow pie bingo. This spring the North Adams-Jerome FFA will be implementing a seed sale as their latest fundraising venture. The North Adams-Jerome Chapter relies strongly on the supportive members of their community and funds brought in through the Big Buck Contest.



# Doing to Learn

By:  
**Kayla Stomack**  
**Animal Science Major**

## Did You Know...

- ...Arabian horses have one less rib than other breeds.
- ...horses cannot vomit.
- ...the Quarter horse is the most common breed in America.
- ...horses drink an average of 1,000 gallons of water and consume 10 pounds of hay in a day.
- ...horses have a gestation period of about one year.

At the young age of sixteen, Jenna Kramer of the Uby FFA chapter knows the importance of dedication and hard work. Growing up on a farm, Jenna has learned the love of the land and especially in her case, the cows. She has worked diligently to accomplish many things in her few years as an FFA member.

Jenna began her membership in the 7th grade, which she thanks her mother for. "My mom was always the coach for parli pro teams, so I always got to see what FFA was like and it made me want to be part of it."

She has very strong equine and diverse livestock SAEs. However, her major achievements come from her Dairy Production SAE. Her love of cows made it quite simple for her to decide on this SAE. In fact, her love of dairy made her begin to establish her own herd which she is proud to say she has ten of her own cows, and has a partnership of approximately ten other cows with her sister and two brothers.

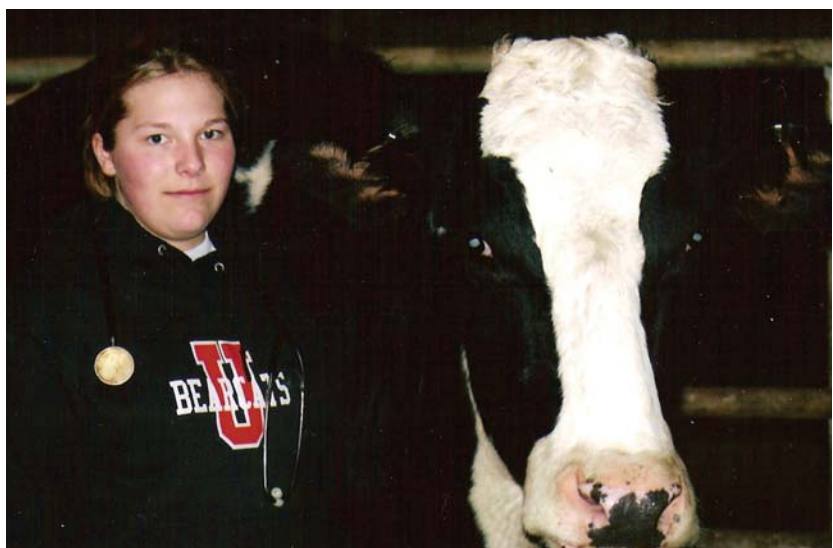
Along with her fondness for dairy, Jenna also owns five horses and recently obtained three feeder steers. She has personally acquired her own show tack ranging from saddles to show halters through extra work on the family farm.

Jenna has already begun making quite a name for herself in the dairy world. She has earned the privilege of competing at state dairy and horse shows. At the Huron Community Fair where Jenna does a lot of showing, she has earned Grand Champion Dairy Show awards twice as well as winning Sweepstakes. During her time showing at state competitions, Jenna has won the titles of Grand and Reserve Champion with her cows, as well as, Junior and Reserve Junior Champion with her heifers. She declared happily,

"When I show most of the time I am in the top three in our dairy classes."

At the state fair Jenna has also earned the title of Reserve Champion Showman in the gold showmanship program. This program takes the top dairy show competitor from each county and brings them together to compete against each other at state fair. Jenna has not only worked directly with animals in her SAE, but she has also used her knowledge of the industry and animal to compete at the National Quiz Bowl and Dairy Management contests as well.

Jenna's hope is to one day increase her own livestock and possibly be able to work in partnership with her family on their family farm. Jenna holds a special appreciation for the FFA, she said that it has made her love the farm even more. When asked what makes her SAE successful, Jenna replied, "It's a long term commitment, and you have to be willing to work and make it better all of the time".



March/April 2006

# Earning to Live

By:  
**Kylee Zdunic**  
State Secretary

Most people have siblings. With that being said, not everyone has the opportunity to work with their siblings as Mark and Tate Forbush do. While both are advisors of FFA chapters that are often found competing against one another.....both still are brothers.

Growing up on their family farm, the two often worked together as a team milking cows. Mark, being five years older than Tate, can be credited with giving Tate a broken leg at the age of three. Tate remembered, "My brothers and I used to wrestle and goof around like all brothers do. When I was three, I broke my leg while running around the house. As a result, I spent almost a month in traction in the hospital. Fortunately, because I was three, I really don't remember any of it except through stories and pictures, and I would say that the support he has provided me both professionally and personally has more than made up for it."

Mark and Tate seem to have similar interests. They have both competed at the state level in demonstration, held the chapter presidency in Byron, are Superintendents of the Swine Barn at the Shiawassee County Fair and have been in the National Chapter Models of Innovation contest.

They are also incredibly different in areas. Mark had his heart set on becoming an FFA advisor, attending Michigan State University and majoring in Agricultural Education. He began his teaching career in Reading City, moving to Perry and finally landed at Corunna.

Tate, however, started his career at Western Michigan University majoring in Aviation. Looking to his brother and former advisor Dave Wyrick as role models, he realized how many opportunities he had benefited from as an FFA member and decided to go into teaching. He then also graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Agricultural Education. After teaching for a short time at Maple Valley, he decided he didn't want to teach and spent the next five years farming in his families dairy and hog operation. While supporting the Byron FFA program as the Alumni President, he was a crop consultant for Crop Production Services. He then began teaching again full time in Byron in the fall of 1998.

While their opportunity to work together is credited with the fact that they teach in neighboring schools, one part of Mark and Tate's situation that has never altered is their tie as brothers. Their influence and consideration for one another is apparent to all those that know them. Mark commented "We share everything we can to make each other better." A true example of this is when both Mark and Tate's chapters were in the National Chapter Models of Innovation contest in the same year. This alone is an honor and when Tate's chapter was named the number one chapter in the nation, the first person to congratulate him and his students was no one else but his brother. There have been times when Tate has done the same.

No matter where these brothers are, whether it's at district leadership contests or at state convention, you will find a bond that goes back beyond the time that Mark broke Tate's leg and will continue beyond competing chapters.



When they returned to their homes, what did they see? Where once their house stood proudly, there was nothing left but the foundation to secure the site. The remains of the little white picket fence that bordered their lawn was one lone post; the rest was nowhere in sight. What remained of their beloved home and garage was strewn like garbage across their lawn, the neighbors, and the street. Nothing was left of the hopes and dreams that first built their home.

This past summer and fall, thousands of FFA chapters across the nation were conducting fundraisers to help southern states that were devastated during Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Not only were Michigan FFA chapters actively involved in raising funds for their fallen comrades, but so were the Michigan FFA State Officers as well.

As the Michigan leaves began to change, your state officers participated in picking apples to help the victims that were caught in the paths of the hurricanes. With the help of Michigan FFA Projects Consultant, Mr. Dave Wyrick, the money raised went directly to the National FFA Campaign, Seeds of Hope.

“It feels good to be selfless and not do something entirely for yourself,” said Michigan FFA State Reporter Andrea Kerbuski. “It was harder than I thought it would be but it was definitely worth the day to bond and make money for a good cause.”

The Seeds of Hope Program is a nationwide mission that was installed by the National FFA to help raise money. All monetary donations are given to states that were devastated early last year by the hurricanes. These contributions are used to help rebuild schools and communities.

However, picking apples is not the only thing the state officers have participated in for Seeds of Hope. A new project has been started, entitled “Mission Possible.” Their mission is to collect

# Living to Serve

By:  
**Caitlin Lorenc**  
**Region VI**  
**State Vice President**

new or gently used sweatshirts and blankets for those people who have lost their homes due to the hurricanes. At State Convention, a booth will be in place for chapters to drop off their collections. A week after convention, the state officers are personally going to drive down the compilation of clothing in a semi-truck. Their goal: to collect one item from every Michigan FFA member.

In mid-January, State FFA Advisor, Dr. Randy Showerman, visited Mississippi. While he was there, he was able to help serve in the makeshift camps. “These cities and towns are demolished,” said Dr. Showerman. “The facilities that are provided for these people are insufficient. One such site had eight showers for 600-700 people. Troubles for the southern states are far from being over. Any help that can be provided for these people, no matter how small it may seem, is of great significance.”

So while at State Convention, be sure to drop off a gently used sweatshirt or blanket for each member in your chapter. There will also be collection jars for spare change and other monetary donations. Our overall goal of 5,315 clothing articles may seem like an unattainable goal which is why we coined this fundraiser “Mission Possible.” After collecting these items, the state officer team will drive down to Louisiana and work at a hurricane victim shelter.

Even though these places are not in the media as much as they were, they still need our help. Hopefully, this summer, we will see the reconstruction in our newspapers, news and hear it on the radio. With help, these people can once again rebuild their hopes, dreams and lives.

“It’s really the least we can do. There are people that need help and we have the ability to do that for them,” said Jason Smith Michigan FFA State President. “To me, doing this is just common sense.”



← State Reporter Andrea Kerbuski along with State President Jason Smith and Jasmine Wier pick apples to raise money for Seeds of Hope.

March/April 2006

Do you or someone you know have an impressive SAE? If so, please email [pettyd@carrs.msu.edu](mailto:pettyd@carrs.msu.edu) and let us highlight the student!!!

# Member



## Region I Kelly Foote, BACC

A freshman at Michigan State University, Kelly Foote of the BACC FFA Chapter is majoring in Agricultural Industries. With an SAE of horse management, she boarded her horses but was still responsible for helping out with chores. She shows her horses in county fairs and open shows and in the buckskin circuit. Last year, Kelly competed in Ag Issues - all this in addition to being active in two 4-H clubs, 4-H boosters, the BACC saddle club and equestrian team. She joined the FFA her senior year of high school, saying "My friends were all in it so I decided to join up. It helped me get to where I want to be with my career."



## Region II Emily Gruman, Waldron

Currently a freshman at the University of Michigan, Emily Gruman of the Waldron FFA Chapter, is majoring in Graphic Design. Before living in Waldron, she lived her first sixteen years in Raymond, Iowa, where she was an active 4-H member, developing an interest in photography. As a member of the Waldron FFA, Emily competed in Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, the forestry contest and the state poultry contest numerous times. She also played volleyball and was a member of her school's National Honor Society - becoming president her senior year.



## Region III Gabe Holdwick, Harbor Beach

The Huron County 4-H King, Gabe Holdwick is serving as both his chapter president and the Region III President. Gabe's SAE consists of two components: working at his parents' metal fabrication and machine shop and poultry production. During the summer is when he is busiest with these SAEs - especially with poultry operations which requires him to handle all aspects of the business, including the care of the poultry, the business portion and much more. Gabe is a model member of the FFA and his involvement has lead him to multiple achievements such as playing in the National FFA band, winning countless state awards and being named as the State Winner in the Michigan Farm Bureau Discussion Meet. After graduation from high school, he plans to attend college to major in biology. Eventually, Gabe would like to pursue a career as a dentist.

J

# Highlights



## Region IV Justine Hart, Perry-Morrice

A senior member of the Perry-Morrice FFA Chapter, Justine Hart, says “In the years before I joined the FFA, my cousin would come over to my house and sell fruits and nuts...but then in 8th grade...I was introduced to the general idea.” She would go on to become chapter secretary. Justine’s SAE involves her producing vegetables in her summer garden, something she began her sophomore year in high school. She said, “While growing up, my grandma and grandpa always would have a large garden. I always loved to go over there and help out by weeding or picking the produce. I had a blast seeing everything grow and being able to eat fresh vegetables right out of the garden.” Justine hopes to attend Michigan State University to major in Animal Science, hoping to become a veterinarian.



## Region V Jessie Haarsma, Ravenna

Jessie Haarsma, a senior member of the Ravenna FFA Chapter, can rope any goal she sets her target at. Whether it is receiving third place at state for equine science, mentoring other horse riding friends or participating at conventions, she works dutifully to help others and improve her own skills. With an SAE of equine science entrepreneurship, Jessie said, “I’ve been riding horses long before I could even walk!” Each morning, before attending school, she feeds her horses and lets them into the pasture. She also feeds and waters her goat. After school she returns home after an exhausting day of school to clean out the stalls, check water and feed her animals once again. In the future, Jessie would like to become an equine massage therapist. She plans on attending Muskegon Community College after graduation.



## Region VI Hannah Mann, Alcona

A very active sophomore member of the Alcona FFA Chapter, Hannah Mann competed last year at State Convention in Creed Speaking and this year, is serving as her chapter’s treasurer. Showing Clydesdale horses is a major part of her SAE. She has shown at various county fairs throughout Michigan and other surrounding states, including the Wisconsin State Fair which happens to also be the National Clydesdale Show. Each day after returning from school and either basketball or volleyball practice, Hannah works with her Clydesdale stallion, Jeremiah. She keeps a record of how she feeds hay, grain and minerals. Once a month she weighs Jeremiah to determine how much feed he gets.



# Saying Goodbye

Pauline Glassbrook

1913-2006

*"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the sun. A time to be born and a time to die..."*

**By: Dustin Petty**  
Managing Editor

At a time when the FFA meant "no girls allowed," she offered a motherly compassion and love that meant so much to those that found themselves in her extended family. We were her extended family, and when she was called home on February 6, 2006, we grieved as such.

At the young age of sixteen, Pauline Glassbrook came to work at the Michigan Department of Education. The year was 1928. Within a decade or so, she would be hired by Harry Nesman, the longtime State Advisor (1938-1966) to be the personal secretary to himself and the Michigan Future Farmers. She would outlast Nesman and three other State Advisors.

But as we all know, she was much more than a secretary. She helped keep the Michigan FFA running smoothly for nearly forty years.

She was married to a kind and gentle man, Stanley Glassbrook, in 1938. He was a used cars salesman. The couple never had any children of their own which left a great capacity for love and nurturing. Many years later, after Stanley had passed on in 1991, she would tell people of how the state officers, the teams that changed year-to-year came to be her kids.

Charles Snyder, the State FFA Projects Consultant from 1988 to 1999, remembered Pauline as a loving and caring woman. He remembered one such instance that had occurred long after her retirement of 1978.

"She used to pay Brian Devine [1995-1996 Region VI State Vice President] to come over and mow her lawn. I think he spent more time talking to Pauline than he did mowing her lawn. Even in her later years, FFA members found her easy and fun to talk to."

Shortly before Stanley's death, the couple decided that they wanted to make a lasting contribution to the members they had come to love for the past six decades. The Michigan FFA Foundation had been founded shortly before and the Glassbrooks, having never had children, knew what to do. With the help of then Foundation Director Dave Krueger, they established the Pauline R. Glassbrook Endowment. The original contribution was \$100,000 and today, stands at nearly \$1.3 million.

The interest from this endowment grows substantially each year, half going back into the endowment and the other half being awarded in grants to recipients, ranging from rural and urban schools to county Farm Bureaus and local FFA chapters. Last year over \$45,000 was awarded. A portion also goes to scholarships for students majoring in Agricultural Education at MSU. Pauline saw the importance of Ag Ed and wanted to insure that that profession would see a bright future in the state of Michigan.

We have lost one of our greatest supporters and we mourn. Lest we never forget the generosity and compassion of an FFA mom.

# The Rest of the Story...



**Kylee Zdunic**  
State Secretary

If you've been to any of the most recent Michigan FFA State Conventions and wondered who that Irish dancing girl in the talent competition was...the answer is State Secretary Kylee Zdunic.

A freshman at Michigan State University and majoring in Agriscience Education, Kylee comes from the Corunna FFA. Outside of the FFA (and office as her chapter junior sentinel, secretary and regional president), she kept herself busy with cheerleading, Poms, soccer, National Honor Society, Student Council, Science Club and the Shiawassee County Fair Board.

Before beginning her year of service to the Michigan FFA, Kylee set goals for herself and her team. Personally, she wants to gain knowledge of the members in the state and help them to grow as people and ensure that her team helps the association achieve the missions of the FFA. She had pledged to completely devote herself to the development of the members.

To those members, Kylee has this message: "No matter what you have done in your life, it has made you who you are today. Never underestimate the power of personal growth through past experiences."

## Kylee's Kraziness...

Kylee would like to spend most days sleeping or laying in the sun, but she also likes to curl up with a good book, namely the *Da Vinci Code* or watch the *Wizard of Oz*. But a girl does get hungry and when this one does, she'd take homemade Chicken Dumplings or Starburst (despite the pesky wrappers). Oh, and she loves Michael Jackson – musically, NOT personally.



**Alan Gust**  
Region II State  
Vice President

A true cowboy at heart, Alan Gust, Region II State Vice President has worked as a rodeo clown for the past five years. Always doing his best to protect the rider from the bull, he has sustained numerous injuries from this pastime – including concussions and being flipped, only to land on his neck.

Alan hails from the Lenawee Vo-Tech FFA Chapter which he was inspired to join by his older brothers (he has nine brothers and sisters in all). In his home chapter, Alan served as president, going on to become the Region II Sentinel in 2002. He also developed his love of agriculture in the 4-H, where he served as local president and vice president.

Currently attending Jackson Community College with hopes of transferring to MSU to major in Agriscience. Alan would like to become an agriscience teacher.

Alan would like to see more involvement on the regional level from all chapters and has worked to make this happen. His motto is simple: "Do all that you can in the FFA and you will go further in life."

## Alan's Amazements...

When not getting thrashed around in the bullring, Alan likes to watch *24* on TV or catch the movie *Bad Company*. He loves lasagna and 3 Musketeer candy bars. Alan likes to watch a good Red Wings game and says that his favorite song is *Live Like You Were Dying* by Tim McGraw.



# Alumni in Action

**Contributors:** Floyd Beneker  
Kara Butters  
Randy Butters

## A Year of Service

The Michigan FFA Alumni experienced a year of strong leadership under the direction of Michigan FFA Alumni President, Floyd Beneker, who is best described by the fourth line of the FFA motto "Living to Serve." Floyd was an active FFA member, serving as chapter president in Prairie Duchien, Wisconsin where he grew up. After high school, he attended the University of Wisconsin where he obtained a bachelors degree in agriscience and agricultural education.

After a two-year service in the United States Military, he obtained a job as an agriscience teacher and FFA advisor in Marshall, Michigan where he remained for 37 years until retirement. Floyd was honored with the Honorary FFA American Degree in 1973 for his dedication to the FFA organization. Marshall currently has the largest Alumni affiliate in Michigan with over 90 members. The FFA Alumni and association are fortunate to have Floyd as the current president because of the servant attitude that he shares with the FFA.

## A Year of Growth

Under Floyd's leadership, state alumni membership has increased by over 10 percent. This qualifies Michigan FFA members to receive two full scholarship awards from the National FFA Alumni to attend the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). The state alumni provides six regional scholarships, a

Past State Officer (PSO) scholarship and Schut Family Memorial scholarship as partial WLC awards. All WLC scholarship awards are presented at the State FFA Convention in March.

Beneker states, "The Alumni and the agricultural community are a partnership in providing this educational scholarship opportunity to FFA members. Because education is expensive, anything we can do to help our members achieve their dreams is our goal."

## Scholarship Award Program

The year 2005 was highlighted by the creation and implementation of a Michigan FFA Alumni scholarship program in partnership with the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) and College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Scholarships awarded by the alumni to freshmen FFA members attending either the CANR or CVM are matched by MSU. Rules and applications are posted on the Michigan FFA Association web site at [http://www.michiganffa.com/alumni/contests/msu\\_ffa\\_alumni\\_scholarship.shtml](http://www.michiganffa.com/alumni/contests/msu_ffa_alumni_scholarship.shtml). Applications are due by April 1, 2006. Ten Michigan FFA members received awards for the 2005-2006 school year.

As with any program that presents financial awards, finances must be raised, and the Alumni is seeking sponsors for this program. Contributions may be sent to the Michigan FFA Alumni at, Michigan Farm Bureau, Attn. Lori Chamberlain, P.O. Box 30960, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

## Marshall Alumni Members Visit Alaska

Forty-three 8th graders along with twenty Junior Leaders (high school age) spent three weeks in Alaska this past summer studying the environment and the culture of our 49th state. Project leader, Dale Rosene, (lifetime FFA Alumni member) and three other Marshall FFA Alumni members were among the twelve adults that accompanied the students on this trip. In this picture below, the four Marshall FFA Alumni are in the center back row: (left to right) Dale Rosene, Steve Washburn, Floyd Beneker and Judy Beneker. This project is in its 16th year. It was started by Rosene, an 8th grade science teacher, the year after the Valdez oil spill. Students take water samples and do several indepth oceanographic studies.



FFA NEW HORIZONS

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# The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation

In late 2005, a sunset threatened to put the brakes on Michigan's special cause fundraising license plates, including the Agricultural Heritage plate, but elected officials have given the program the green light to continue.

A portion of every sale of an Agricultural Heritage license plate supports the Glassbrook Endowment. Administered by the Michigan FFA Foundation, the endowment funds agriculture and natural resources education and leadership initiatives for K-12 students across the state.

The specialty plate, which features a red barn, silo and rolling green fields crowned with the sun, is one of the biggest revenue generators for the endowment, raising nearly \$200,000 since its introduction in April 2001.

"The Michigan FFA Foundation is proud to see our legislative leaders stand behind this valuable program, and we are grateful to the people of Michigan for supporting it," said Jim Schiller, chief executive officer of GreenStone Farm Credit Services and former chairman of the Michigan FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

"Revenue generated by the Agricultural Heritage plate helps the FFA continue to provide leadership programs for youth and assists in the continuation of agriscience education in Michigan schools," said Schiller.

The Agricultural Heritage plate costs \$35, and each sale contributes \$25 to the Glassbrook Endowment. The Glassbrook Endowment also collects \$10 each time the specialty plate is renewed.

"FFA members and parents can help support agriscience programs in Michigan and show their agricultural pride with this plate," said Michigan FFA Foundation Annual Fund Director, Megan Hirschman. "FFA members can encourage their family members and friends to help support this great program, through the purchase of an Agricultural Heritage license plate."

Current state law does not allow specialty fund-raising plates to be used as official license plates on vehicles that use farm and log license plates.

Farm vehicles such as pickup trucks used strictly for business are covered by a separate license plate system that charges farmers a reduced fee and helps law enforcement officers more easily differentiate farm vehicles from passenger vehicles. For these vehicles, owners can purchase an Agricultural Heritage collector's plate that can be affixed to either a window or the front end of the farm vehicle. The collector plate also costs \$35, with \$25 benefiting the Glassbrook Endowment. The Agricultural Heritage license plate can be ordered by mail, fax or in person at a Secretary of State branch office. Order forms are included with registration renewal notices and also can be obtained online at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

More information about the Glassbrook Endowment is available from the Michigan FFA Foundation Web site at [www.michiganffa.com/foundation](http://www.michiganffa.com/foundation).

## Rumor Has It... By Erin Koglin

...National Officer Ryan Peterson is really from Ohio!

...the Upper Peninsula is being annexed by Wisconsin.

...State Treasurer Tony McCaul has a gambling problem.

...gullible is *not* in the dictionary.

...State Projects Consultant Dave Wyrick is trying out to be on the next *Survivor*

...I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance by switching to Geico.

...State Reporter Andrea Kerbuski has taken a shower - I repeat, she has taken a shower!

...Michigan FFA headquarters are being moved from MSU to U of M.

...all of these rumors are completely fake!

March/April 2006