

The Michigan FFA Creed

March/April 2011



The Michigan FFA Creed



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I believe in...

I believe in the future; my future, your future, our future.

Since the beginning of civilization people have fantasized of what the future will hold. From flying cars, to living on the moon and even co-existing with alien life forms in galaxies far, far away, where Jedi have to fight the evil Darth Vader. The future always brings out the best in our thoughts by letting our imagination run wild. When we dream of the future we are not restricted by technology, science or physics. Personally I cannot wait until the day when there is an autopilot system in my car. I can just say, "Home please", then fall asleep and arrive at my destination well rested.

Lets think a little bit smaller and focus on our own future. We dream for many things in our lives: dream of success, dream of a healthy life, and dream of healthy relationships. Too often we look to the future for change to come, in hopes for the better and expect them to happen. For instance, if we dream of having better relationships with our peers in the future and then are troubled when the next day is just like the one before it.

The one thing I never fail to do is lose my keys. I come home walk in the door and toss my keys on either the table or the counter. With six people in my family it is easy to imagine how much stuff can be set on and then cleared off of our table in one day. So, the next day I go to drive my car, only to realize I don't have my keys. I spend the next few minutes frantically searching the table for them. My efforts may be fruitless, but I still walk into the dining room expecting the keys to magically appear.

Of course we all know that no matter how many times I walk in and out of the room and search the table, the keys were not going to

appear. It takes a little more effort on my part to find them. On one particular day it was not until I went out to my car that I found my keys in the ignition. Funny how they are always in the last place you look.

The situation of me and my keys and dreaming for the future are very similar in that we can't accomplish our goal until a little work is put into it. I joined FFA in 7th grade and I wanted nothing more than to be an officer. So, freshman year, I ran for chapter office. Eight members ran including me and since at Cassopolis we normally elect a parliamentarian seven would receive office. I worked hard on my application, did practice interviews and when the time came I felt confident. In the end we stood in the ag room and listened to the slate, my name was left out. Although I was extremely disappointed I was determined to run again next year and become an officer. That next year I became as active as I could in the chapter, worked hard and finally became a chapter officer.

We have been told to dream big! If you can dream it you can achieve it. This is 100% true with a little elbow grease. Thomas Edison once said, "Opportunities in life are often missed because they are dressed in overalls and looks like work". The great news is that as FFA members I know that you are not afraid of rolling up your sleeves and wading through a pile of waist deep manure, if that is what it takes to get the job done. It is this mentality that allows us to follow through with our ambitions.

So no matter if you dream of a future full of space ships or a new trait in corn, it is safe to say if an FFA member dreams it, they can and will achieve it.

Dates to Remember...

March

- 9-11 Michigan FFA State Convention (Wednesday-Friday)
- 24 FFA Board of Directors Meeting-MSU-5-8p.m.

April

- 1 The following items are due to the State FFA Office:
Marketing Plan Papers, Ag Skills Registration
- 1 FFA Alumni Scholarship Applications Due to Alumni Office
- 15 Meats Contests
- 15 State FFA Career Development Events (Ag. Skills Contest)-MSU
- 16 Horse Judging

CHAPTER C

Region 1

CENTREVILLE FFA

Advisor: Mrs. Melinda Klockziem

“The Centreville FFA Chapter along with new advisor, Mrs. Melinda Klockziem, made a difference in their community by selling poinsettias this year. The chapter sold over 600 poinsettias throughout the community and county, with most of the buyers being area churches and businesses. The poinsettias were grown in the chapter’s greenhouse, in colors such as red, jingle bells, pink, as well as ice punch and white glitter. The students wrapped the poinsettias in foil and sleeved them for their customers. The student’s learned how to grow and market the plants as part of their CTE class. The money that was raised is used to fund chapter trips and events. The chapter also donated 100 poinsettias to Meals on Wheels for local senior citizens.”



Region 2

SAND CREEK FFA

Advisor: Mrs. Jennifer Wheeler

“The Sand Creek FFA chapter had their annual toy show once again this year. They filled their school’s gym and cafeteria full of toy tractors that were available for purchase. In addition there was a silent auction, Milking Challenge sponsored by Greenstone Farm Credit Services and a coloring section for the little ones. Proceeds from the events helped the Sand Creek FFA Chapter build their new animal barn behind the school. This barn was built mainly by help from the community to help provide shelter for the animals raised in their FFA/Agricultural classes. The chapter would like to thank the community for all of their support; it would not have been a success without them!”

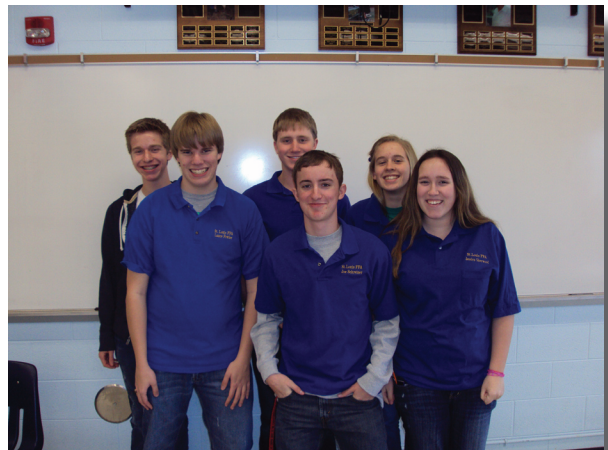


Region 3

ST. LOUIS FFA

Advisor: Mr. Steve Beattie

“Located in the middle of the mitten, is the town of St. Louis, whose FFA chapter is making its mark on the community. St. Louis FFA takes members to the State and National Convention every year. They participate in many different contests and have taken the agricultural skills that they have learned to help improve their chapter. Every year they host a Harvest Festival for the elementary students, where elementary students have a chance to learn about healthy lifestyle choices and are able to have a chance to see farm animals. The Alumni plays a part to raise money for the chapter by putting on a community hog roast during a home basketball game. Mr. Steve Beattie who serves as the advisor, has received the Honorary, State and American Degrees and the Agriscience Educator award. The St. Louis FFA Chapter works hard to build there thriving chapter.”



CHATTER



Region 4

LAPEER COUNTY FFA

Advisor: Mrs. Tammy Hyatt

“On August 28, 2010 the Lapeer County FFA Chapter had an exciting day of activities at the Davis Brothers Farm called Farmfest. During this chapter fundraiser, the chapter educated the public about life on the farm as well as recruits new members. The event included a petting zoo for the public to enjoy and the advisor, Tammy Hyatt, took the time to demonstrate how to shear sheep. In addition to the petting zoo, there was a friendly game of tug-a-war. Everyone had a great time and memories of a lifetime were made!”

Region 5

BEAL CITY FFA

Advisor: Ms. Jessi Spry

Beal City Project PALS Halloween Party



“The Beal City FFA Chapter, located in Mount Pleasant, is always participating in numerous activities and trying to better their chapter throughout the year. In order to attend conventions and contests, the chapter holds several fundraisers such as a fruit and nut sale, as well as works at the concession stand during sporting events. Every summer members participate in exhibiting rabbits and dairy feeders at the Isabella County Fair as an opportunity to teach themselves time management, money management, responsibility as well as many other life lessons. Year round, Beal City members take advantage of numerous activities and events such as Career Development Events, State Convention, National Convention, along with other events. When students aren’t busy preparing for contests or attending conventions or conferences, they like to give back to their community. Some of the community service projects they do include donating fruit to a nearby homeless shelter, and Adopt-A-Road. In addition, every year they put on a turkey dinner, as well as put together project PALS. These students are always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.”

Region 6

ALPENA FFA

Advisor: Mr. Ron Worth



“Hard work is something the Alpena FFA chapter is familiar with. Whether it is filling out applications, practicing their leadership contests, helping out in their community and recently they have added yet another item to their list. Working in conjunction with The Jesse Besser Museum in Alpena and the Alpena Draft Horse Association the chapter is helping to restore antique farm equipment to a nearly original condition. To begin the chapter has started work on a horse drawn sickle bar mower and a dump rake. The chapter hopes to complete these two pieces by April, but the whole project is going to take at least two years. The museum is planning on having a complete vintage farm equipment display for the community. The students are really excited in learning more about the history of the equipment.”

Our Motto in Motion



Learning to Do

By: Kyle Miller
MSU Crop and Soil Science Major
&
Karice Hard
MSU Elementary Education Major

The Webberville FFA Chapter definitely knows what it means to build their chapter from the ground up and is a prime example of “Learning to Do”. In 1997, after 31 years as serving as the Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, Mr. Bill Wheeler decided to retire and start the next chapter of his life. Upon his retirement, the chapter had numerous teachers and advisors guide the chapter and then in 2009, Mrs. Colleen Scott-Keiser decided it was her time to make a difference in the school and community. Being a first time Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor, but a veteran teacher, admittedly Scott-Keiser had a lot to learn, but was able and willing to do so. With the help of the senior members and the officer team, Scott-Keiser, as well as the rest of the Webberville chapter is continuing to learn and make a difference in the school and community.

In an attempt to build their chapter roster and increase the number of active members in their chapter, the Webberville FFA hosted “AGstravaganza” which was a Food for America program for kindergarteners through 12th grade to learn about agriculture. At this event, FFA and community members put together booths with live animals such as calves, lambs, pigs, chickens and horses, where participants could touch and hold the animals. In addition to live animal booths there were numerous informational booths including “From the Cow to the Cone”, where students learned how America’s favorite frozen treat, ice cream, is made and in the end were served ice cream. Other activities at the event included face painting and hay rides for elementary students. All of these informational booths were put together in hopes of making the students of Webberville Community Schools and parents of the community more knowledgeable about agriculture and what it takes for a farmer to make food for people.

Besides informing the public on agriculture, the chapter talked to high school students about what FFA is and the many opportunities it has for them, in hopes that they would become a member. One of those students that joined was Melissa Maher, who now serves as the Co-Vice President. “I joined because of the encouragement from my friends. I had never even heard of FFA before. It was love at first sight. I would really like to go as far as I can with FFA and I

definitely plan on being an Alumni member,” Maher stated. Melissa was not the only one to get involved however. Co-Vice President, Caitlin Weathers, commented saying that she had an opportunity to get involved within another school and came back to Webberville for the FFA program. “I switched to Fowlerville, (which is a school without an FFA chapter) and tried to stay involved in FFA at Webberville. I ended up just coming back to Webberville.”

Over the past few years, the chapter has continued to do more community service and awareness projects, such as making care packages for soldiers and Valentines for Vets. In addition, they are very active in their community hosting petting zoos with the Downtown Development Authority and partnering with the Webberville Food Bank. “To new members, my advice is just to be more involved in contests and not just in the chapter. I would like them to be more of leaders,” stated President Samantha Perez. The chapter is continually impacting the community through these service projects and its members are becoming stronger leaders every day. Members are motivated to participate in all opportunities that come their way, including Leadership and Agricultural skills contests, as well as attending the State FFA Convention, which is held at Michigan State University.

The chapter has seen tremendous growth within the last year just by getting the word out in their community that they are there and that the FFA chapter is running strong. “Our chapter wasn’t just a poster on the wall. We became face-to-face,” stated Melissa. While face-to-face is a quickest and most efficient method to spread activities the chapter is doing, the Webberville FFA also has a Facebook page and puts articles in both the school and local newspapers. With such connections the chapter has nearly doubled their numbers for two consecutive years.

Scott-Keiser’s word of advice to new teachers or teachers trying to rebuild a chapter; “Highlight the importance of all accomplishments, no matter how small, individually or within the chapter. Involve and invite students in the community to be involved even before they are members.” Her biggest piece of advice to new teachers would be to “embrace your alumni”. This year, the chapter even plans on starting junior high officers, to build young leaders.



Doing to Learn

By: Jordan Punches
Grand Valley State University Pre-Medicine Major
&
Kelsey Steketee
MSU Animal Science Major

Hudsonville High School senior, Nick Bartley is actively involved in the Careerline FFA Chapter, and also has built a strong Supervised Agricultural Experience program. In Spring 2010,



Nick began his placement SAE by working at Byron Center Meats, located in Byron Center, Michigan. Being an outgoing individual, he was always willing to try new things and he did so by taking advantage of the opportunity to join this organization the first year the Careerline FFA Chapter was chartered in the Fall of 2008. Nick's open-minded approach to the openings that FFA had to offer, has helped him to learn much needed information to reach his future career goal. For this reason, he is an excellent example that fits the "Doing to Learn" portion of the FFA motto.

Nick is not your typical FFA member. With only being able to be involved for two years, his commitment to this organization truly stands out when looking at how much he has accomplished. Currently, he has taken on the responsibility as the Careerline FFA Chapter president. From this leadership role, he decided to set higher goals, which led to him running and being elected as the 2010-2011 Region V Treasurer. Not only has Nick become an officer, he is involved in numerous activities and contests throughout the year including the Broiler contest in November, Leadership contest beginning in January, Career Development Events in April, along with many other events. The placement Supervised Agricultural Experience Nick participates in has grown immensely in the short period of time since his start in the FFA. Like any job, he had started out doing simple tasks, but has worked vigorously to achieve higher responsibilities in the work place. When Nick was first hired at

Byron Center Meats, his boss had him doing just the basics to see his work ethic. Now he is partaking in high level tasks such as participating in beef inspections to make sure they are acceptable to continue through the stages of processing for consumable product for customers.

Another important task he does is packaging the finished product for consumers to purchase. Nick explains his journey by stating, "Since the beginning of my SAE, I have moved up and learned a lot and continue to every day."

When asked what he has

taken most from his FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience experiences, Nick explained that responsibility is the most important life lesson he has learned thus far. While having his SAE project, he has had to learn how to manage his time wisely between school, work and the FFA organization. Another characteristic learned are his money management skills that will serve as an asset to his future life goals. Last but not least, Nick has learned to utilize the resources provided and completes every task to the best of his knowledge and ability. These attributes have shaped him into a well rounded individual that knows what he wants for his future.

"My SAE has taught me how to be a hard worker and that it is important to always do your best even when times get tough," said Bartley. Nick always tries to be the best person he can possibly be and make the most out of every situation that comes his way. He is also thankful for all the opportunities given to him from the FFA organization and realizes he would not be where he is today as an individual. Nick always has a positive attitude to not only better himself, but to try to make a positive influence of other people he encounters.

After he graduates from high school, Nick plans on continuing his education to pursue his career as a veterinarian. By having the opportunity to work alongside with animals, it has led to his decision to continue working with animals for the rest of his life.

Through his hard work and dedication with this organization, Nick has attained numerous awards including placing fourth at state, receiving a gold award in the Agricultural issues leadership contest and also earning fifth place this year in the Broiler contest. The accomplishments he has attained through this organization don't measure up to the multiple life skills he has learned. Nick definitely does not regret his decision about joining the FFA. He continues to learn something new every day, which shows he has and continues to follow, this part of the motto.



Earning to Live

By: Andrew Kellenberger
MSU Mechanical Engineering Major
&
Jordan Henry
Lansing Community College Physical Therapy Major

Throughout the last couple of decades, scientists and farmers have been working toward a productive and cost efficient way to be sustainable and successful. There have been many improvements in the way we manage our water and reuse our natural resources. Even though we have been diligent in creating new and more productive ways of doing our jobs, they are rarely cost effective at first. These resources, however, have not been used to their full potential and as FFA members we are all about finding our true potential.

The most common means of sustainability have been used throughout time without thinking about improvement, especially when it comes to the resources we use on our farms. The most commonly used resource on a farm is water. Depending on the type of farm it is, the farm could be using water on anything from hydrating cows and calves to making sure that their crops are getting the correct amount of moisture. Water can contribute to a successful or failing year, when considering crop yield or its milk production from its cows. This problem is fixed by using irrigation systems that can provide water across acres of fields, even on the driest of days. This system has been used to increase yields and try to keep food prices down on grocery store shelves. However, one of the major problems is the fact that these irrigation systems have to draw the water from the water table that is shared with others in the same vicinity. This can dry up the water table that the farmer and the people around that farmer use. Then, the farmer and the local community have to drill their wells deeper to have access to water. This costs the farmer and the people money and also causes a lot of stress within the community. To keep this problem from happening some farmers have created a type of reservoir to help supply water in irrigation systems called a retaining pond. This reservoir stores run-off and rain water to try and solve this upcoming problem.

In addition to the retaining pond, one of the oldest and most used practices of sustainability in today's farms is the spreading of animal manure. This might seem disgusting and dirty, but it's also the most cost effective ways to get rid of animal waste while putting nutrients back onto their fields. Crops soak up a lot of the nutrients in the ground depending on the type of crop that is planted. The largest problem with this is that phosphorus and potassium are nutrients that are not used up every year by the crops. Nitrogen, however, is almost completely depleted by the time of harvest. To restore this missing nitrogen, manure can be placed onto the fields to try and replenish the missing nitrogen. The common issue that farmers face is that when doing this they get a build-up of phosphorus and potassium in their fields which can burn crops, stunt growth, and even run-off into groundwater and contaminate the local water source. This has to be monitored often with soil and PH tests. These tests can help common problems from arising, such as contamination and the destruction of very valuable seed.

There was a recent development at Michigan State University, which might be able to fix and help many farms around the world. MSU had just recently finished their cellulosic ethanol plant. The goal of this plant is to take sustainability to a level that was unheard of. The plant is meant to take animal waste from the MSU Dairy Farm and create the most advanced form of sustainability. This plant has the technology to separate parts of waste and create three main resources. These resources include fresh water, ethanol, and a "clean" fiber waste. The ethanol is created using algae as a sort of extractor from the parts needed to create the ethanol. This ethanol can be used as fuel later on in production for equipment that is capable of using this fuel. Also, when it comes to the fiber waste that is left over, it still has many of the nutrients that are needed to replenish what crops use in the fields. However, the main difference is when it is described as being "clean" it means it does not have any of the smell and it has less of a capacity to contaminate groundwater.



Living to Serve

By: Becky Whaley
MSU Accounting Major
&
Ashley Sumerix
MSU Agriculture Industries Major

Vince Lombardi said it best when he said, “The dictionary is the only place that success comes before work. Hard work is the price we must pay for success. I think you can accomplish anything if you’re willing to pay the price.” For 16 year old Samantha Sikkenga, more true words could not have been spoken.

Samantha Sikkenga is a sophomore at Montague High School, with an SAE in Poultry Production. It all started about five years ago, when Samantha was given six laying hens by the FFA. She loved the hens and eggs so much that she purchased and raised more. Soon, all of her relatives and neighbors were asking to buy eggs from her, because they tasted so good. She then expanded her tiny business, built a coop and painted a sign for roadside sales. Then, once again she expanded again by selling at her local farmer’s market and health food store Sam



had to purchase a license to sell and come up with a business name. Today, at times, Sikkenga can barely keep with demand and many people know and love Sammi’s Farm Fresh Eggs. Sam now owns over 100 laying hens and is selling as many as 30 dozen eggs per week at her local health food store, roadside stand and farmer’s market.

When asked why she chose this SAE Sam replied, “I chose this SAE because I had started my own business at a very young age and now I produce a product that has high demand and great quality.” Sam also mentioned that that was not her only reason for choosing Poultry Production. Apparently raising chickens runs in her blood, because her grandparents used to run a chicken business and owned

over 1000 laying hens!

In the future, Sam plans on expanding her business even more and plans to sell to larger stores as well. She is also experimenting more with high Omega-3 eggs to see how well they will sell and how much of a profit they could make.

Sam’s other SAE’s include Dairy Production and Equine Science. She rides and trains three horses at a barn called Emerald Acres. In addition, she works along side of her Dad on their dairy farm on a daily basis. She is the fifth generation on the farm, and they own around 400 dairy cows which she helps take care of and take to local shows.

However, none of this would have been possible without a little help from some pretty great people. “I will definitely have to say that my parents have helped me in accomplishing my goals. They have been there to guide me along and have helped me expand my business more and understand how much responsibility it takes to run a business.” She goes on to say that Mr. Fiebig, her Agriscience instructor and FFA advisor plays a huge role in her SAE. He has encouraged her to do more with her business and has been willing to sit down and talk to her about what she wants to accomplish and make a plan of action and then execute it.

The sharing is caring theme has definitely rubbed off on Sam because she also helps other FFA members and non-FFA members, to learn about poultry production. Sam started a chicken project with her chapter at the school. They have a dozen laying hens there and she partners with them and buys the eggs for her business. She has also given some non-farm students an opportunity to learn about her SAE area and the care of animals and a small business. In addition, she also built a chicken tractor, a small movable coop to house hens outside and fertilize the soil for a future FFA garden.

Her favorite part about her SAE is raising the hens and being able to take care of them as youngsters. Sam enjoys being able to get to know more people through her business and learning management and advertising skills. The people that buy her eggs love them and love the fact that she started this business at a very young age!



THE NEXT GENERATION: A LINK BETWEEN PAST AND PRESENT GENERATIONS

By: Becky Whaley
MSU Accounting Major

The membership of the National FFA Organization itself is over half a million; twenty-seven percent of FFA members live in rural farm areas, thirty-nine percent live in rural non-farm areas with the remaining thirty-four percent of members living in urban or suburban areas. This represents the broadening spectrum of the agriculture industry. In the past, most agriculturists consisted of those people that passed down the farming lifestyle through their children. Today more and more people from urban and rural, non-farming, areas are stepping into the food, fiber and natural resources sector of the United States economy, including occupations directly on the farm and others that are in another part of the complex agri-food system. While some still develop a love for agriculture and receive a wealth of resources through their parents and grandparents, many others have a more difficult time getting established because they have never farmed before. The base of this problem is that in order for the agriculture industry to be effective and efficient there needs to be a link between the graying farm population and the energetic, inexperienced followers. Innovative programs such as International Farm Transition Network and the Farm Link Program in Michigan are on the leading edge to develop and foster the next generation of agriculturalists in the aspect of farm production.

It is expected that half of all current farmers are likely to retire in the next decade, leaving the future of agriculture to the next generation of spirited farmers. The International Farm Transition Network identified the following challenges to farm entry: insufficient farm entry strategies, insufficient farm succession and retirement strategies, inability to acquire the initial

capital investment, difficulty in identifying viable farm entry opportunities, difficulty in obtaining appropriate financial, managerial, production assistance for the entering and exiting parties and lack of appropriate community support. In an effort to ease this transition the International Farm Transition Network and the Farm Link Program are making matches between aspiring farmers and retiring farmers to facilitate mentorship and help build sustainable farm operations through programs and network links in the young farmers current state or in different states. To date, there are twenty-three states that are involved, including the state of Michigan through Farm Bureaus' Farm Link Program.

The International Farm Transition Network has publications, seminars and a coordinating office that gives retiring and future ranchers resources and advice for statically advancing their farm operation into the next generations. Publications offer a variety of documents and



PowerPoints for individuals to look at. There is a great variety of information including advice on children returning to the family farm to ease the transition and make sure it will be profitable for both parties. In addition, there are suggestions for ways to encourage the Buy Fresh, Buy Local Campaign in your community through presentations. Seminars allow individuals or groups to attend an interactive session on a variety of topics relevant to sustainable farming practices. The coordinating office is a Beginning Farmer Center that includes the same type of information as the International Farm Transition Network, but an important addition is the Farm On Program that contains opportunities for new farmers. This specifically includes a list of farm operations where the primary owner is going to retire in five to ten years and does not have someone to continue the farm business, but would like to preserve the farm and pass the lifestyle on to a beginning farmer. This listing includes operations that are as big as a 72,200 acre corn/small grain farm in North Dakota to a two hundred acre pasture and cow/calf operation in Illinois.

The Farm Link Program in Michigan is very similar to that of the Farm On Program. Their goal is to act “as a matching and consulting center for both sides of the equation—retiring farmers and potential farmers. Through Farm Link matches, farming opportunities can continue to operate while the potential farmer works to build equity in the operation and form a joint venture with the retiring farmer.”

An interested individual can submit an application to be matched with a retiring farmer. This application asks for information including name, current location, education completed, present occupation, type of farm desired (dairy, chickens/turkey, cash grain, fruit, etc.), whether or not you are willing to relocate and type of farming opportunity desired (part time, full time or land for lease). The retiring farmer information requires most of the same information plus the potential date that it is wished to sell or transfer the farming operation by and if they are looking to hire. The submissions are then reviewed and matched with the best possible situation in mind.

For many younger farmers the benefits of programs such as the International Farm Transition Network and the Farm Link lay in the ability to earn ‘sweat equity’ and gaining tried and tested knowledge in a specific area of agriculture. This has become vastly important as consumer preferences change and farming operations become less diversified. In one case, a partnership in California was breeding tomatoes and had a nursery business, but being inexperienced agriculturalists they found that niche marketing was difficult to become established in, even with a doctorate degree in plant biology. After filling out a form offered by the

California FarmLink, a match was made with Sunol AgPark, managed by Sustainable Agriculture Education. From there the partnership received valuable assistance with leasing land, writing a business plan and everything from weeding to watering produce. The partnership, called Baia Nicchia, now is catering to the demands of top chefs and farmers markets with everything from tomatoes to salad greens. Benefits do not only help the inexperienced farmers, but also the retiring. Retiring farmers who have Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts can help someone get started farming through the CRP Transition Incentives Program. Through the program, the government allows retiring farmers and landowners to get extended CRP payments for two years after the contract expires if land is sold or leased to a beginning farmer who pledges to use sustainable or organic grazing, crop production practices or a combination of the two to bring land back into production.

Dreaming of becoming a successful farmer is becoming more and more obtainable as challenges to farm entry become discreet through innovative agricultural programs. Sunol AgPark’s manager Cynthia King proclaims that sustainability is key to prosperous farming operations and in order facilitate that growth “we provide infrastructure and management systems that help our farmer-tenants develop profitable businesses,” that will strengthen communities. The learning process is filled with interesting experiences with the help of a mentor leading the way, but after learning the basics and beginning to independently grow the learning never stops.

For more information check out the International Farm Transition Network website <http://www.farmtransition.org> and the Michigan Farm Link <http://www.michfb.com/benefits/farmlink>.



What's the word?

By: Emily Swartzendruber
MSU Communications Sophomore

N Y E A I T J T N B D Y H R J B K G F N
U H W I Z L J P R L Y K F F B N A U Z O
X I N N O Y F B O U S O F B O R O N I A
D O Y N U W Q P H E L J H T D A E F T B
R A S I R N X M T B E T C E L G Y S L R
M F F Z Z T J F K E I A N L A H O L E D
S L K F X P A N C L L I I O O H U W C H
P I F P O U G E A L A U G Q V Q O S Q D
H L K C V D G N L Y M A Y D H L P A N O
M Y Z J U F I U B J U S Y I F D D E P R
W E F B M P Q L X U H N H N N M F L Y C
B X E T U L L H S L D A R B Q X R A K H
R U P S K R A L B L O O D R O O T Z Z I
F Z D A F L M I D R C P O P P Y V A A D
K L Z M S R D G L U T N Q B T A X I I S
G E Y A J E E B T O O T Z V C Z N M F H
A I L H A D S E M C N H U Q D O L Q N V
R O N W O B V I S W E G L L G U R S A X
Y F Y Z K D O J R I Y S A E I S T N S N
B R O K K X M E R I A O B M D P M D B G

ALLIUM	AZALEAS
BEGONIA	BLACKTHORN
BLOODROOT	BLUEBELL
BORONIA	CORNFLOWER
DAFFODILS	DAHLIA
FREESIA	GARDENIA
HOSTA	IRISES
LARKSPUR	LILY
MAGNOLIA	ORCHIDS
POPPY	TULIP
ZINNIA	

Fun Flower Facts

- ☀️ Rose blooms are edible and have the flavors of green apples and strawberries.
- ☀️ Barbara Streisand, Whoopi Goldberg, and Rosie O'Donnell each have a rose named for them.
- ☀️ In a pinch, tulip bulbs make a passable good substitute for onions in recipes.
- ☀️ During the 1600s, Tulips were so valuable that thier bulbs were worth more than gold.
- ☀️ Babe Ruth wore a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep cool. He changed it every two innings

Jokes

- Q. What season is it when you are on a trampoline? A. Spring-time!
- Q. When do monkeys fall from the sky? A. During Ape-ril showers!
- Q. Can February March? A. No, but April May!
- Q. What flowers grow on faces? A. Tulips (Two-lips)!
- Q. Why is the letter A like a flower? A. A bee (B) comes after it!



A Burning Passion, an Unbridled Desire: 2009-2010 Michigan FFA President Elected to National Office!



Every year the National FFA Organization elects six national officers to lead the organization and represent the 523,309 FFA members! During the week of national convention, candidates from around the country gather in Indianapolis to showcase their potential. Each state has the opportunity to send one candidate. During this week, the potential national officers undergo intense interviewing, and are tested on their knowledge of the National FFA Organization and agricultural education.

Finally, it was the final session at the 83rd annual National FFA Convention. After waiting for days, hours, minutes and seconds it was time to hear the final committee report—the national officers. As the committee chair began his report he thanked the nominating committee and national staff. The eardrum-piercing music started and the candidates began to sway back and forth. It was time. “Your Eastern Region National Vice-President, from the state of Michigan, Tiffany Rogers.” Screams, claps, and tears of joy filled Consecro Fieldhouse as Tiffany ran on the stage.

Rogers said that joining and participating in the FFA was a family tradition. Her mother, uncle, and grandfather were all members. “Growing up, my mom was the Junior High Conduct of Meetings coach for our FFA chapter. I can remember going to practices with her and being in awe when opening ceremonies was recited,” reports Tiffany. After returning home from watching practice, Tiffany would play “meeting.” “We would set up the card table in the living room and assign officer roles to family members. ‘Mom, you have pretty handwriting so you be the Secretary. Dad, you like money, so you can be the Treasurer,’” said Rogers. With a passion for agriculture and

parliamentarian procedure Tiffany did not hesitate to join the FFA.

Perhaps, due to her love of Robert’s Rules of Order, Tiffany’s parliamentarian procedure team took second place at the national level. Here, Tiffany received a perfect score on the national parliamentary procedure written exam. Also, during her FFA career, Tiffany has served as the Michigan FFA State President, competed at the national level in prepared public speaking, and has been a national finalist for the agricultural education proficiency award area.

Tiffany is a sophomore at Michigan State University majoring in Agri-Business Management, but will take the next year off to serve as a national officer. In her spare time, Tiffany finds herself showing draft horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs. She also loves spending time with family and friends. Creativity places a large part in her life, Tiffany loves to draw, paint, scrapbook and play the piano.

Over the next year, Tiffany will travel for nearly 300 days, travel over 100,000 miles, deliver hundreds of speeches and present countless workshops. Tiffany will meet with top business executives and visit over forty states along with Japan. When asked what she was looking forward to the most, Tiffany replied with “MEMBERS!!! I’m so excited to meet new people and hear their stories!”

Tiffany’s professionalism, caring heart, positive attitude and bright smile will have a profound impact on members around the nation. Congratulations, Tiffany Rogers, the 2010-2011 Eastern Region National Vice-President.



The Rest of the Story...



KYLE MILLER
STATE TREASURER

Chapter: Cassopolis FFA

SAE: Diversified Livestock Production and Diversified Crop Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Crop and Soil Sciences

Favorite Sport: Football

Favorite Homemade Meal: Meat, tatters and Mac and Cheese

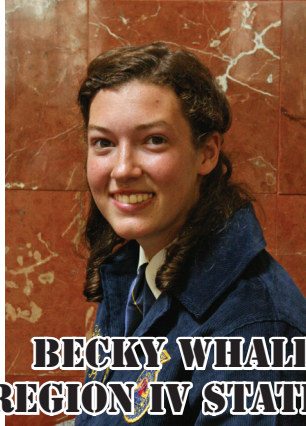
High school activities: FFA, Football, 4-H, Key Club, N-Club

Theme Song : Amarillo Sky by Jason Aldean

Favorite thing to do with friends: Game Nights

Personal Hobby: Working on the Farm

Person looked to for strength and guidance: Father, Herbert Miller



BECKY WHALEY
REGION IV STATE VP

Chapter: Byron FFA

SAE: Diversified Livestock Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Accounting

Inspirational Message: Take the time to get to know others, not forgetting to have fun along the way!

Word used to describe self: Driven

Favorite Movie: The Blind Side

Personal Hobby: Riding my unicycle

Favorite FFA Activity: Leadership Contests

Favorite Quote: "What do we live for; if is not to make life less difficult for others?" George Eliot

Favorite Sport: Softball



ANDREW KELLENBERGER
REGION II STATE VP

Chapter: Jonesville FFA

SAE: Diversified Agricultural Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Agricultural Engineering

Favorite thing to do with friends: Going to the movies

Word used to describe self: Determined

Message to members: It's all good, motto to live by when things are getting stressful

Personal Hobby: Work on cars

Favorite Musican: Skillet

People looked to for strength and guidance: Miss Bosch, Advisor

Favorite Athletic Team: Michigan State University

Theme Song: Simple Man-Lynyrd Skynyrd



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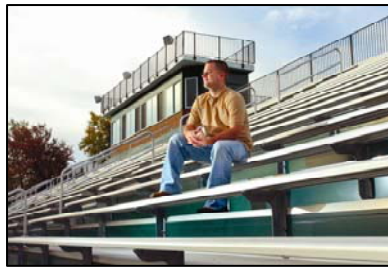
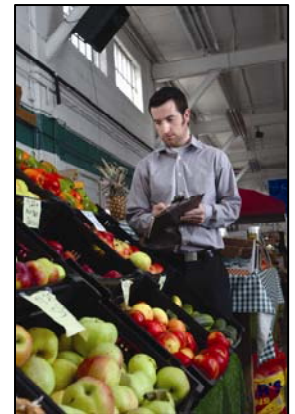
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