

The Michigan FFA Creed

May/June 2004

Michigan FFA members
make an Xtreme Impact
on our country



by making their mark of
premier leadership,
personal growth, and
career success.

I believe in...



Making Your Mark

officer profiler

Nicole Campbell

Region IV State Vice President

SAE: Horse Management

Majoring in AgriScience Education

Byran Posthumus

Region V State Vice President

SAE: Sheep Swine Production

Majoring in Agribusiness Management

Julia Hilliker

Region IV State Vice President

SAE: Outdoor Recreation and Landscaping

Majoring in Secondary Education

On February 28, 1803, President Thomas Jefferson received approval from Congress for a visionary project, a venture that became one of America's greatest stories of adventure and leadership.

Jefferson called the group that undertook the project the "Corps of Discovery." It would be led by Jefferson's secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and Lewis' friend, William Clark.

Over a four year period, the Corps of Discovery embarked on an 8,000-mile journey through the wilderness of the West, experiencing lands, rivers and people that no Americans ever had before.

The story that unfolded over the expedition became a crucial historical event, helping to define a young

United States of America and its identity.


The Lewis and Clark journals speak of three leadership traits that made their journey more meaningful and enjoyable. They are insight, courage and action.

As we see it, insight into leadership can be broke down into two parts: Insight into one's own life and insight into life in general. Only a person who has this insight, self-knowledge can realize the dividing line between success and failure.

Only a person who has insight can have direction in life and apply energy towards that direction. Insight is not enough, it



also takes courage to do something and, put into action what one wants to do.

To sum up, we have come to realize over this past year, that Leadership is an opportunity... Take it! Leadership is a promise...Fulfill it! Leadership is a puzzle...Solve it! Leadership is a goal...Achieve it! Leadership is a journey... Complete it!

Thus, we challenge you to take a close look at yourself, find the courage to take the action that allows you to make your mark in the chronicles of our collective history. 



Did you know...

-  Off farm expenses associated with processing, wholesaling, distributing and retailing of food products account for 81 cents of every food dollar you spend.
-  Since 1982 erosion rate by water on United States croplands have been reduced by 32 percent.

the Creed Staff

Editor Amanda Lee
 Managing Editor Scott Smalley
 Staff Editors Kara Butters
 Kendra Butters
 Designers Rebecca Parker
 Writer Kara Butters
 Kendra Butters
 Nicole Campbell
 Ryan Kramer
 Debbie Munson
 Advising Editor Dr. Michael Woods

State FFA Officers

President Ryan Peterson
 Secretary Jason Jaekel
 Treasurer Michael Sheridan
 Reporter Amanda Lee
 Sentinel Seth Earl
 Region I VP Katy Reber
 Region II VP Katie Marchal
 Region III VP Ryan McBride
 Region IV VP Nicole Campbell
 Region V VP Bryan Posthumus
 Region VI VP Julia Hilliker

The State FFA Office

412 Agriculture Hall
 Michigan State University
 East Lansing, MI 48824
 www.michiganffa.com
 association@michiganffa.com
 517.353.9221
 517.432.5632 (fax)

Inside Scoop

contents

- C I believe in...**
State officers outline their belief in making your mark.
- D Check this Out!**
Highlights of the 2004 Michigan FFA State Convention.
- F Learning to Do**
Beal City FFA members share their experiences working with project pals.
- G Doing to Learn**
Zac Ruthenberg shares his unique SAE building mode toy tractors.
- H Earning to Live**
Long time support, Mrs. Pauline Glassbrook shares her FFA pride and commitment to the FFA.
- I Living to Serve**
Members of the Whittemore-Prescott FFA Chapter highlight their unique community service projects.
- J Member Highlights**
FFA members from across the state highlight their SAE projects and experiences.
- L Say What**
Members share their thoughts on the impact agriculture industry has on the race to Mars.
- M VP Impact Challenge**
Regional VPs celebrate the Agricultural Industry by sharing unque commodities.
- N Future of Agriculture**
Debbie Munson outlines exciting opportunities for the future of agriculture.
- O The Cornerstone and Alumni in Action**
Highlights Charles Snyder and upcoming Alumni events.
- P FFA Race Day**
Announcement of the Cabela's 250 "Busch Series" fundraising opportunity for Michigan FFA Foundation.

Important Dates

May	7	Lansing Lugnuts game
	15	Applications proceeding to national competition due to FFA office
July	13	Livestock judging contest
	15-16	SLCCO & SLCRO at MSU
	21	Dairy Judging & Showmanship

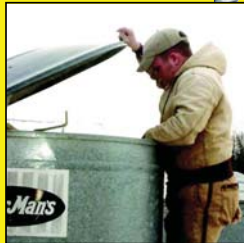


2004 State FFA Convention Highlights

Enthusiasm and anticipation filled the air at the 2004 state FFA convention March 9-11. FFA members from across Michigan filled the Michigan State University Wharton Center for the 2004 Michigan FFA Convention.



Stars Over Michigan



Star Farmer
Doug Albright

Branch Area Career Center FFA

As the highest recognition in the state for an aspiring young production agriculturalist, the Star Farmer award recognizes achievement in both career and leadership development.



Star Ag/Placement
Brion Hawkins

Caledonia FFA

The Star in Agricultural Placement award recognizes a student who has an outstanding SAE in placement within the agricultural industry and is active in FFA.



Star Agribusiness
Alicia First

Dowagiac FFA

The Star in Agribusiness award winner should possess a successful agribusiness career and exceptional leadership skills.



Star Agriscience
Amy Garrison

Lenawee Vo-Tech FFA

An excellent agriscience based SAE, relating to natural resources, research/experimentation or science based directed labs, is essential for the star in Agriscience award winner.



Our Motto in Motion

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

Learning to Do

By: Ms. Spry
Mrs. Reihl

Fifteen years ago, Beal City Schools was invited to pilot a new mentoring program that would be "attached" to FFA. The program was called Project PALS. Two states in the nation participated that year, Michigan and Arkansas.

The Beal City PALS program has evolved over the years since then. Initially, the 9-12 grade high school PALS were matched up with "at-risk" first, second

and third graders. Over the years, however, the program has been continually reevaluated to meet the needs for both groups of students and the changing schedules of both elementary and high school.

Beal City's PALS program owes much of its success to the district's physical layout. It is a small class D school with K-12 all in one building. This allows greater flexibility in the scheduling of school activities.

Currently, the PALS team is comprised of the agriscience teacher/FFA advisor, Ms. Jessi Spry, the elementary 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. MariAnne Reihl and parent coordinators, Jerry and Kris Watters. The program is fortunate to have an outstanding group of

mentors and mentees, namely the 9-12 grade FFA members and both sections of 2nd grade.

Members of the PALS program meet at school each Friday for a 50 minute period. The 2nd graders switch each week so that both groups of youngsters get to spend equal amount of time with their high school PALS.

This type of scheduling allows the high school PALS to be a mentor to two or more elementary children instead of just one. It has proven to be an invaluable tool for the high school mentors in building interpersonal relationships with others outside of their peer group. It also has given the younger PALS a chance to have a new "big brother or big sister."

The PALS also meet each month for an after school activity. These vary each year but usually include building and riding on a float for the Homecoming parade, a pumpkin painting activity where decorated pumpkins are delivered to local businesses and a

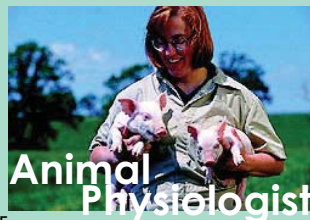
Thanksgiving dinner where all PALS and their families are invited to spend an evening together over a home-cooked turkey dinner. That particular event is always well attended.

Christmas ornaments are also made and delivered to the senior citizens at the banquet that is held in their honor each year. Other activities include a day at the circus, Ice Capades, theater presentations at the local university, roller skating, sledding, Easter egg hunt, building bird houses and growing Mother's Day plants from the cuttings in the greenhouse.

Beal City is fortunate enough to have great support from the community; however most of the funding comes from United Way donations.

Occasionally, the chapter hosts a can drive to increase funds. These modes of funding help pay for the activities in and after school to cover the costs of the annual Project PALS Scholarship Award given to the most outstanding senior.

This coveted award is also recognized with a PALS plaque that hangs in the hallway with the annual award winners' names. We are very proud of our Project PALS program and look forward to many more years of helping nurture future leaders. ☺



FFA NEW HORIZONS

Animal physiologists study how animals function. That includes how animals interact with things outside them, such as temperature or air, plus things inside them, such as disease, poisons or diet.

Feed and pharmaceutical companies, building engineers and research organizations all hire or consult animal physiologists. Feed suppliers ask physiologists how diet affects animals' systems. Pharma-

ceutical companies consult physiologists who study intended effects and side effects of growth promotants, wormers, insecticides and antibiotics.

To be an animal physiologist you should be interested in animals and their welfare and curious about how their bodies function. In high school, take courses in mathematics, biology and chemistry.

For more information, check out: www.canr.msu.edu/dept/ans

Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Jason Jaekel
State Secretary

Zac Ruthenberg, a senior member of the Laker FFA Chapter, has an interesting SAE to say the least. Zac custom builds model toy tractors for people all across the United States.

Growing up watching his father and uncle work on equipment in their home farm shop, Zac developed an interest in farm equipment at a young age.

Four years ago, he became involved in building model tractors and has been doing it ever since.

When describing his SAE, Zac stated, "Spending time being able to do what I love is what I enjoy most about my SAE."

Zac faces many challenges with this SAE, especially since he begins building everything he does from scratch.

He does not use previous model tractors and his customers want everything to be precise causing pressure for him to do well.

He bases his designs from photographs and conversations with customers on their desires for the tractors' designs. He completes all of his own painting and detailing of



"Spending time doing what I love is what I enjoy best about my SAE"

the toy tractors, which he says can be a tedious job.

There is a large demand for model tractors from collectors across the United States and Zac tries to fill the void left by conventional toy manufacturers.

Zac explained, "This is a good source of side income because on average I can make \$60 to \$70 a tractor."

Zac is active in the FFA chapter serving as one of the chapter's executive officers.

Zac has also won numerous awards, including being the state runner-up in the prepared public speaking leadership contest in 2003 and being the state winner of the Agricultural Communications and Environmental Skills contests.

At Laker High School, Zac is involved in National Honor Society, which he enjoys because he is able to become involved with the community by completing service projects.

In the future, Zac plans to continue building toy tractors; however, he would like to attend Michigan State University

and possibly major in Agribusiness Management or Agricultural Engineering.

Zac looks forward to his future and hopes that he can continue doing what he loves. [G](#)

Tips for the Toy Collector

Buying collectible toy tractors is unlike any other type of shopping. However, there are several ways for the collectible toy tractor collector to gain confidence and minimize costly mistakes.

Most importantly, be informed! Learn everything you can about collectible toy tractors from library books, trade magazines and museums.

Get to know the particular periods, materials and styles that pertain to collectible toy tractors.

Look for dealers who are established in your community and have some of the best examples of collectible toy tractors.

Ask questions about different pieces that will help you understand about price structures and values of collectible toy tractors. [G](#)

Botanist

A botanist studies microorganisms of all plant life. They may study the effects of pollution (such as acid rain) on plants and work toward environmental protection, or they may identify new plant species and evaluate their parts and uses.

Educational institutions hire botanists as teachers and researchers. Some botanists

work in botanical gardens, arboreta, herbariums, zoos and medical plant or germplasm resources laboratories.

In high school, take college preparatory courses in English, mathematics, biology, history, geography and foreign languages. Get involved in science clubs or fairs and in hobbies such as camping and photography.



May/June 2004

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

G

Earning to Live

By: Kara Butters & Kendra Butters
AgriScience Students

The Michigan FFA Association is fortunate to have many friends who have served as life-long supporters of its mission, purpose and programs. Such supporters have committed their time, energy and resources to ensure that the FFA organization continues to make an impact on thousands of members.

One strong supporter, Mrs. Pauline Glassbrook, earned to live by working for the Department of Education as the secretary for FFA and agricultural education for nearly 40 years.

Growing up in Lansing, Mrs. Glassbrook became familiar with the FFA

during high school when it first began in Michigan. She then attended Michigan State University for two years. In 1931, Mrs. Glassbrook was hired as the FFA and agricultural education secretary.

While working for FFA, Mrs. Glassbrook developed an archive that contains the Michigan FFA historical records, such as pictures, names of past officer teams and degree recipients. In

addition, Mrs. Glassbrook helped to establish the retired agricultural teachers' luncheon, which is still held annually.

Mrs. Glassbrook's favorite aspect of her position was her involvement in planning the state FFA conventions and working with the people, including agricultural teachers, state officers and FFA members.

"The most enjoyable part of my job was working with the boys. I liked getting to know each of them and building relationships with the state officer teams," said Mrs. Glassbrook. Just after females were allowed to join FFA, Mrs. Glassbrook started working with other vocational educational programs in 1970.

Upon retiring in 1977, Mrs. Glassbrook has proven to be a generous and loyal

"The FFA organization is the best youth organization there is because it helps students have an overall wonderful life by developing their leadership and communication skills"

supporter of the Michigan FFA Association.

In the early 1990's, Mrs. Glassbrook created an endowment to provide for the development and implementation of career, leadership and educational experiences for elementary through high school students in relation to agriculture and natural resources.



Each year, approximately \$50,000 is awarded to agricultural organizations planning to implement educational programs, such as building a school greenhouse or expanding upon the technologies and curriculum available for agriscience programs.

Besides the endowment, Mrs. Glassbrook has developed a scholarship fund to encourage students to become agriscience teachers and FFA advisors.

Each year, scholarships are awarded to high school seniors and current college students with the intent to pursue a degree of agriscience education at Michigan State University.

Approximately \$10,000 is provided annually to scholarship recipients. As part of her commitment to FFA and education, Mrs. Glassbrook annually sponsors the equine science entrepreneurship proficiency award area in cooperation with the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Another of Mrs. Glassbrook's recognizable contributions includes providing support for the construction of Wilbir the Peacock, a 14 foot tall, 35 foot long and 35 foot wide peacock created with more than 3,000 bedding plants each year in the MSU Horticultural Demonstration Gardens.

"The FFA organization is the best youth organization there is because it helps students have an overall wonderful life by developing their leadership and communication skills," said Mrs. Glassbrook.

"It has been such a big part of my life, which is why I will always support its programs. I still enjoy attending FFA conventions and activities and talking to FFA members."

In addition to supporting the FFA organization, Mrs. Glassbrook has volunteered at the Red Cross for the past ten years. At least two days a week, Mrs. Glassbrook assists with office needs and business work.

FFA NEW HORIZONS



Naturalists study the natural environment and enjoy sharing what they learn with other people. Naturalists teach, but rarely in formal classrooms.

They work as interpretive naturalists for the National Park Service and as tour guides at zoos. Some teach school groups in outdoor classrooms, while others develop television and video programs, write magazine and produce mass media programs.

For more information, check out <http://www.fw.msu.edu/> or <http://www.for.msu.edu/index.htm>

Living to Serve

Community Service at its Best

By Ryan Kramer
Agriscience

Each year, the Whittemore-Prescott FFA chapter participates in several different community service programs. One of the most unique community service projects that the chapter performs is planting trees along the Rifle River to help the continuing problem with erosion.

To begin this project, the Whittemore-Prescott FFA started working with Darcy

Czarnik, one of the coordinators for the Rifle River Watershed Restoration Project.

She assisted the FFA members by finding areas along the river that have been washed out and need to be restored. Ms. Czarnik also taught FFA members how to plant the trees so that they had the greatest chance of survival.

The trees are planted to hold the soil in place so that it cannot wash away in the event of high water around the river. This ultimately helps prevent water erosion and also provides wildlife habitat around the watershed.

FFA members have planted over 50 trees along the edge of the river in trouble spots that have been severely eroded.

The Whittemore-Prescott FFA chapter also practices community service at the



local Iosco County Fair. Chapter members help run the concession stands at the rodeo, demolition derby, horse pulls and harness racing.

The profits generated from the concession stand help to support the Iosco County 4-H programs.


"The concession stands are a great way for FFA members to become involved in the community and support the local 4-H youth at the same time," said Matt Jakubik, a member of the Whittemore-Prescott FFA Chapter.

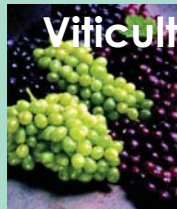
FFA members also assist the Michigan Milk Producers Association in running their "Little Red Barn." The barn sells dairy products such as, milk and ice cream.

Throughout the fair, agricultural information packets are handed out by

FFA members at the barn as customers get their favorite flavor of ice cream.

All proceeds generated by the Little Red Barn go to the Michigan Milk Producers Association in Iosco County.

The Whittemore-Prescott FFA Chapter is proud to be involved in its community in a variety of ways and plans to stay involved for many years to come. 



Viticulturalist It's a grape career!

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.hrl.msu.edu/

Member Highlights

By: Amanda Lee, State FFA Reporter



Matt Sherman
Charlotte FFA Chapter

Region 1: Matt Sherman

Charlotte FFA Chapter

Matt Sherman, a senior and member of the Charlotte FFA, has been active in the FFA for the past two years. His first year in the FFA he participated in the Environmental Issues Ag Skills competition, which he claims has helped him enhance his knowledge of the environment.

Matt enjoys being outdoors in the summer months when he is able to look for snakes, frogs, toads, salamanders and turtles. During the winter months, Matt's passion is boxing and he can typically be found in a local gym working out.

Being a fan of the outdoors and enjoying working with amphibians and reptiles, he became a member of the Michigan Society of Herpetologists. Through this organization he has dedicated numerous hours to volunteering at zoos, nature centers and schools giving educational presentations. This past summer, Matt spent a month interning at the Kentucky Reptile Zoo in Slade, Kentucky. While working as an intern, Matt had the opportunity to give tours, speak to the public about reptiles and manage zoo operations.

In the fall, Matt looks forward to attending Stetson University in Deland, Florida. He looks forward to studying biology and someday becoming a herpetologist, which is someone who studies reptiles and amphibians. 🐍



Janelle Lashaway
Waldron FFA Chapter

Region 2: Janelle Lashaway

Waldron FFA Chapter

Raising horses is something Janelle Lashaway of the Waldron FFA Chapter has been doing her entire life because of her family's involvement with equine production. Her family currently has 11 different breeds of horses and two bred mares.

Janelle said, "Raising horses is more work than what most people think."

Each season is different. During the winter months, the horses are only outside for a few hours, while during the summer months, they are outside most of the day.

For the past 12 years Janelle has been showing her horses at the Hillsdale County Fair where she competes in gymkhana (Speed & Action). She also exhibits Jersey Cows at the fair.

"The FFA has given me tons more confidence. It has also helped with my etiquette and posture."

Janelle has served as her chapter secretary, attended National Convention for two years, State Convention for four years and the Made For Excellence Conference. She won a national silver in the Dairy Foods proficiency award area and a national bronze in Food Science Technology proficiency. 🐾

Region 3: Alex Henry

Alma FFA Chapter

Alma's Junior President Alex Henry is a very active greenhand with a developing SAE in sheep production. Her involvement began showing lambs at the Grafton County fair nine years ago.

Alex is responsible for almost every aspect of taking care of the sheep. This includes helping to develop and implement feed rations, assist with lambing and keeping accurate records.

She has learned how to care for the animals and train them for show. Alex also enjoys being involved in turfgrass, hydroponics and poultry production.

Her dad, also her advisor, encouraged her to get involved in FFA and take part in activities such as Junior High Conduct of Meetings and Greenhand Conduct of Meetings. Alex values the leadership skills and the opportunity to meet lots of people and work on public speaking that the FFA offers.

Outside of FFA Alex is involved in many sports including cross-country, volleyball and track. She is also a member of the student council. In the future, Alex hopes to become a chapter officer and then a state officer. She would someday like to attend Michigan State University to study Agricultural Communications. 🐾

FFA NEW HORIZONS



Alex Henry
Alma FFA Chapter

Region 4: Lindsey Harmon

Lapeer FFA
Chapter

When Lindsey Harmon of the Lapeer FFA Chapter was 10 years old, she joined 4-H to show animals. However, after showing goats, she did not want to sell them, so she started a herd of registered pygmy goats.

Today, Lindsey shows across the United States, and in 2001, was awarded with the National Champion Herd. She also organized three national shows in her home town of Lapeer County. Lindsey is a member of the National Pygmy Goat Association.

Lindsey said, "Keeping accurate records on the computer, such as feed ratios, shots given and dates kidded are all important when raising a National Champion Herd."

Being active in the FFA, Lindsey wants to pursue her education in agriculture. After graduation, she plans to attend Michigan State University to study Agriculture Technology.

Lindsey is also active with DECA and has served as the Lapeer FFA Chapter reporter. She has attended State and National Convention and the Advanced Leadership Development Conference. ☺

Region 5: Baylee Down

Cedar Spring FFA
Chapter

Baylee Down a member of Cedar Springs FFA Chapter, and her SAE includes diversified livestock production. Her SAE has consisted of everything from raising cattle, sheep, horse, rabbits and chickens.

Before Baylee joined the FFA 4 years ago she had only raised cattle before, but after she joined the FFA it encouraged her to break boundaries and do things she had not thought were possible.

Currently, Baylee has 1 beef steer, 4 dairy heifers, 2 rabbits, 4 market lambs, 1 horse and 4 chickens.

From her SAE Baylee said, "I have learned responsibility, along with respect for animals." She has seen how difficult it is for farmers to survive with our current economic situation.

Baylee says, "the FFA has taught me how diverse the area of agriculture really is. I have learned how much is involved with getting crops from the field to the table."

Baylee knew she wanted to join the FFA when she was 10 years old. Her family attended National Convention, with her mother's company who sponsored a booth at the career show. "I was impressed with the number of kids who gathered all with one common interest.....agriculture." ☺

Region 6: Martha Iciek

Gladwin FFA
Chapter

Martha Iciek, a senior at Gladwin high school, enjoys working on her family's 120 cow dairy farm as part of her SAE. Growing up in a family of six finding work around there farm is never scarce.

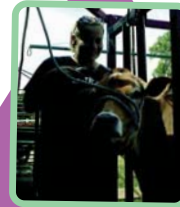
Martha's responsibilities on the farm consists of taking care of all the calves on the farm. Some of the tasks she has to do include bedding the calves, treating calves for any sicknesses, filling creep feeders and making sure they have clean fresh water.

Over the years, Martha has enjoyed all of the FFA activities she has participated in. Most of all she has enjoyed attending National Convention and regional leadership camps. What she claims to enjoy the most is the opportunity to meet people from her region, the state and country.

After graduation Martha plans to attend Northern University to pursue a degree in zoology. ☺



Lindsey Harmon
Lapeer FFA
Chapter



Baylee Down
Cedar Springs
FFA Chapter



Martha Iciek
Gladwin
FFA Chapter

May/June 2004

K

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

Email Scott Smalley at smalle16@msu.edu

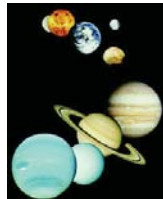
Say what?

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

Regional Responses to Current Issues

The question:

What role will the agricultural industry play in the Race to Mars?



Region 1



Patrick White
Branch Area Career Center

Many benefits will result in our race to Mars, such as increasing our technology and helping people to realize what is going on in outer space. I feel the race to Mars will be a positive experience for the country and its citizens. ☺

Region 2



Adam Cortwright
Springport

Agriculture will not play a big part in the race to Mars because the environment is too harsh to support traditional forms of agriculture. Greenhouses might be one option of agriculture on Mars. ☺

Region 3



Amanda Karlsen
Saginaw Career Center

The race to Mars will help our country in the long run because it will help people realize how important agriculture is to our everyday life. It will also help educate the public. ☺

Region 4



Courtney Howard
Durand

The race to Mars should cause the agricultural intelligence to advance here on Earth because of the new intelligence people will have about growing plants and food on another planet. ☺

Region 5



Laura Veldenrust
Fremont

Agriculture provides a way to make life possible. We need to develop agricultural programs on Mars because helping life to become sustainable on another planet will help advance agriculture here on Earth. ☺

Region 6



Bonnie Daniels
Whittemore-Prescott

The agricultural industry will flourish if life is sustainable on Mars because the inhabitants will need to learn how to grow food. Also, some form of oxygen producing plant are needed, such as trees to sustain life on Mars. ☺

Share & Win!

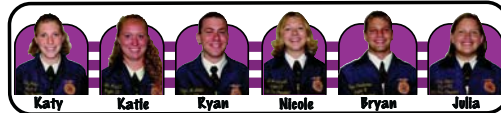
We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on agriculture, please contact Michigan's FFA State Reporter, Amanda Lee at MickeyAL531@hotmail.com. So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.



Impact Opportunities

VP's Impact Challenge

Xtreme Impact through Celebrating Michigan's Agricultural Industry



Celebrating Michigan's Rich Agricultural History

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

FFA continues to teach each of us that our possibilities are endless.

Here in Michigan, the possibilities in the agricultural industry are also endless. With agricultural commodities ranging from apples, cherries, asparagus, pickles to corn. Moreover, agricultural businesses reach from Detroit to the Upper Peninsula.

Michigan is well known for its diversity in agriculture and it is an asset to be proud of because you as FFA members are the future of our agricultural industry. Here are a few highlights of Michigan's agricultural industry by region. 1



Katy's Kaleidoscope

Our sandy soil and varying climate in Region I have the ability to grow a number of diversified crops.

Region I has the distinct pleasure of producing agriculture products for a number of food companies, including grapes for Welch's Grape Juice, potatoes for Ruffles Potato Chips and pickles for Vlasic Pickles.

Our sandy soils make it necessary to irrigate our crops, allowing us to grow everything from popcorn to potatoes and pickles to gladiolas. St. Joseph County, home of the Centreville FFA chapter, is the most heavily irrigated county east of the Mississippi River. 1

Katie's Kindle

Region II is very diverse within the agricultural field. What seems to stand out the most is the large amount of cash crops grown, including corn, soybeans and wheat.

Michigan Agricultural Commodities Inc. has two locations within Region II; this provides farmers with a close, convenient option to take their crops, soybeans or red wheat.

Some of the land in Region II, especially around Lenawee County, is very flat. Other farmers around the state are not used to fields that are a mile by a mile large. This makes our land very unique to our region of the state. 1

Ryan's Report

Region III produces 90% of the sugar beets grown east of the Mississippi River. Growers and companies work closely together to ensure each crop of sugar beets uses the best management practices.

For more than 100 years, the sugar beet industry has been growing. Nearly all of the sugar processing plants are located within our region, and we are also home to the only American-owned sugar beet processor in Michigan, which is owned by growers. It is because of the fertile farmland that Region III possesses that we will continue to be the leader in sugar beet production. 1

Nicole's Notes

Opposites attract in Region IV. Urban meets rural, making the agricultural industry in this region thrive.

In the western portion of Region IV, you find numerous cash crops and livestock operations, along with apple orchards here and there.

Moving east in Region IV, you see landscape businesses, agricultural industry headquarters and greenhouse operations in a more urban setting.

This combination makes Region IV a diverse leader in Michigan's agricultural industry. 1

Bryan's Bounty

What better way is there to recognize a region than by identifying it by the abundance of fruit?

Region V can be depicted by the vast varieties of fruit it produces. Some of these fruits include cherries, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, peaches, plums, pears, apricots and apples.

Our region also known for other crops produced ranging from traditional corn and alfalfa, to the specialty crop of asparagus.

Until we meet again Region V, keep your fruits of labor plentiful. 1

Julia's Jewels

Being the largest region in the state, according to land area, Region VI is agriculturally diverse. The area has crops grown in other parts of the state, such as pumpkins and corn; however, as you venture north in the Upper Peninsula, you find the forestry industry. The U.P. is full of sawmills and logging companies. Michigan, as a whole, has 3.9 million acres of state forestland.

To ensure we protect the forestry industry, the State of Michigan has proposed to attain Forest Certification. This will guarantee that Michigan is managing its forests to preserve habitats and protect water quality. 1

WANTED CREATIVE THINKERS AND GREEN THUMBS

by **Pebbie Munson**

It's no secret that traditional agriculture jobs are suffering from some growing pains here in Michigan and around the country.

But with a little creativity and persistence, said Michigan Department of Agriculture employee Brad Deacon, plenty of opportunities will be available for future workers in agriculture related jobs.

"Students looking to work in the ag industry can't have the mindset that a degree in x equals a job in x," said Deacon, legislative liaison at the MDA.

Deacon recommended that students look into areas of study outside of traditional agriculture science, such as business, horticulture, entomology, environmental science, food safety and engineering.

"Strict environmental regulations that limit pesticide and fertilizer application as well as manure treatment," Deacon said, "mean a science or engineering background will become extremely valuable for farm managers in the future."

Deacon also pointed to the demand for workers who can manage pests like the emerald ash borer as an example of how much agriculture related jobs have changed.

"People tend to think of things like milk and corn when they talk about agriculture in Michigan," he said. "But we really are an important state for the green industry."


The "green industry" is a combination of greenhouses, turf grass and ornamental plant production. According to the 2002 Michigan Agriculture Statistics book, the state is the second largest provider of green industry products in the nation.

Which means, when an insect or other pest threatens valuable plants and trees, the state takes action to protect those assets, creating jobs in the process.

Although workers in scientific roles may be in demand, job growth on large-scale commodity farms continues to decrease as technological advances reduce the need for manpower. However, Deacon said, opportunities are increasing for production agriculture in smaller, niche categories.

According to the Michigan Agriculture Statistics Service, Michigan was the number one provider of blueberries and pickle cucumbers in 2002 and the amount of honey produced in the state increased by 21% during the year.

"If future producers in Michigan can be tuned in to changing marketplace and consumer trends, they can connect the dots and increase awareness about these niches locally, nationally and internationally," Deacon said.

"We have the right climate, water resources and geographic location for diversity in agriculture – you just need the initiative and creativity to use it to your advantage." 

Expand Your Horizons



Future agriculture workers should always be thinking outside of the box when planning their resume. But have you considered thinking outside of the planet?


According to Gus Koerner - program manager of biological research education for NASA - partnerships between agriculture workers and NASA scientists will continue to grow as long-range space travel and even living in space become a reality.

"We have 120 agriculture researchers at the Kennedy Space Center who are soil scientists, agronomists, veterinarians, chemists and biologists," Koerner said.

"They are working hand in hand with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and independent universities to develop new agriculture production and food safety technologies here on Earth that we can use to sustain life in space."

Koerner said he encourages talented, outgoing and persistent students to keep a career with NASA in mind.

Here are a few examples of the projects future NASA agriculture researchers will be working on, both here on Earth and at the International Space Station:

- Developing new ways to efficiently use and recycle water
- Planting special crops that grow and thrive in micro-gravity
- Preserving soil through high-tech conservation practices
- Testing new ideas in food packaging for consumers and space travelers
- Finding ways to use fertilizer more effectively 



Mars Exploration Rover Mission

The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation News

Charles Snyder, former Michigan FFA projects consultant and agriscience teacher, has designated a \$500,000 estate gift to the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Snyder, now living in Lincoln, Mich., believes that this gift honors the students with whom he worked during his 34 years of service to agriscience education and the FFA. Though the exact disposition of the gift has yet to be determined, Snyder has indicated that the funds would be used to support leadership and career development activities for FFA members.

"I thought about making this gift for a long time, and I

decided I wanted to pay tribute to all those wonderful students who did so much to enrich my life," Snyder said. "What better way to do that than to support future generations of young people enrolled in agriscience and FFA programs."

After graduation from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in agriscience education, Snyder taught high school agriscience for 22 years in the Laingsburg, Homer, Quincy and North Huron public schools. While teaching, he completed his master's degree in agricultural and extension education, also at MSU. Snyder returned to campus

in 1988 as FFA projects consultant, a post he held for 12 years.

Widely respected for his commitment to students, his straightforward manner and his superb organizational skills, Snyder spearheaded many key innovations during his tenure at MSU. He was instrumental in moving the annual FFA convention to the Wharton Center. He was also a founding member of the FFA Foundation, and he worked tirelessly to build stronger relationships between FFA programs and agricultural and natural resources industries.

"Through his careerlong commitment to the FFA,

Charles Snyder has played a major role in sustaining and strengthening agriscience and FFA programs for thousands of Michigan students," said James Schiller, chairperson of the FFA Foundation board and CEO of Greenstone Farm Credit Services, Inc. "This gift to the foundation will ensure that his legacy continues."



ALUMNI in Action

You didn't have to wear the Blue and Gold to be a part of it!

Are you a member of the FFA Alumni? If not, here's your chance. Any person who supports the FFA organization is eligible for membership, whether you were an FFA member or not.

Annual dues are \$18, and lifetime dues are a one-time fee of \$150. The dues money supports students by sponsoring FFA contests, providing scholarships and providing assistance to

local agriscience programs. So what are you waiting for?

It's never too late to be a part of the FFA. For further details, contact the FFA Alumni at (517) 323-7000, ext. 3234.

Fall Conference Scholarships Available

The Michigan FFA Alumni will be awarding scholarships to students attending the Fall FFA Leadership Conferences. Students must be from a chapter with an active FFA Alumni affiliate.

Further details can be obtained by downloading the application from the web at www.michiganffa.com/alumni. Applications are due September 1 to the FFA Alumni Office.

Reminder to Michigan FFA Alumni Affiliates

Michigan FFA Alumni Rosters are due July 15th. Rosters will be mailed to each chapter, and a copy can be sent back with dues. Dues are \$18 for an annual fee or \$150 for

lifetime membership. Rosters can be sent to the Michigan FFA Alumni Association; P.O. Box 30960 Lansing, MI 48909.



May/June 2004



FFA RACE DAY 2004



☐☐☐ Michigan International Speedway ☐☐☐

CABELA'S 250 "Busch Series"

*FFA has developed a fun filled hospitality day for everyone
Saturday, August 21, 2004 in Brooklyn, MI
Event & Pit Tours Begin at 8:00 a.m.
Race Begins at 1:30 p.m.*

HOSPITALITY PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Reserved Grandstand seats for the entire race
- FREE Pit Passes to everyone 18 and older
- Meet 2 of the 2003-04 National FFA Officers:
 - Casey Hogan, Western Region VP, Texas
 - Anne Knapke, Eastern Region VP, Ohio
- Access to FFA Hospitality Tent located on the inside of the track
 - Lunch served before the race in FFA Hospitality Tent
- Hear from and meet NASCAR drivers, owners and crew chiefs
- Educational tours and exhibitions by pit crews and NASCAR
 - Prizes and give-aways all day long such as:
 - Garage Passes
 - Raffle for passes to Victory Lane
 - NASCAR merchandise
 - Gifts from sponsors of the event

ALL FOR \$65.00

Estimated value of package: \$175.00

Tickets on sale January 5, 2004

Proceeds support the Michigan FFA Foundation
Members, Parents, Teachers, and Supporters Call

1-800-354-1010

Just say, "I'm with the Michigan FFA" and receive this amazing package
You do not have to be a member to attend!