

The Michigan FFA Creed

May/June 2009



The Michigan FFA

Creed



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The Michigan FFA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation or disability. Any student requiring an accommodation as a result of a disability should contact the chapter advisor to arrange such accommodation.

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I believe in...

...the idea that “decisions are made by those that show up.”

Too often in life, we sit idly by, complaining about events that are happening all around us. We become distressed by the world and those in it, but do we really take the time to make an effort to change the things distressing us?

This concept about decisions can be expanded: the world is run by those that show up.

When you think about the great men and women of history, the leaders that have pulled our society forward and demanded we evolve into our fullest potential, do you think that they ever allowed themselves to do nothing if they saw wrongs or injustices in the world?

Harriet Tubman saw injustices and tried to fix them. Risking capture and being sold back into oppression, she ushered thousands north into freedom.

Winston Churchill inherited the leadership of a small country that risked air raids, invasion and obliteration. But instead of continuing on a course of appeasement, he vowed to fight: “We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”

Michigan FFA, the world is run by those who show up.

Show up.

Dates to Remember...

May

- 8 Lansing Lugnuts Game
- 15 American Degrees, etc. due to State FFA Office (for a complete list, see www.michiganffa.org)

June

- 15 SLCCO/SLCRO registrations due
- 26 Dairy Showmanship/Dairy Judging/Tractor Driving registrations due

81st Michigan FFA State Convention

From March 11-13, the campus of Michigan State University was full of blue corduroy-clad FFA members. They competed, met new people, experienced new heights of leadership potential and were awarded for their efforts. Take a look back at some of the highlights of the 81st Michigan FFA State Convention.



2009-2010 Michigan FFA State Officer team

President Tiffany Rogers, Cassopolis
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No Child Left Inside



By: Marie Hruby
MSU Agriscience Education Major

At the 81st Michigan FFA State Convention, Michigan Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Director Rebecca Humphries announced the creation of the program No Child Left Inside.

No Child Left Inside legislation was introduced by Rep. John Sarbanes of Maryland and Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island in efforts to encourage children to get outside and make use of our nation's natural resources. The No Child Left Inside legislation was introduced in Michigan on July 12, 2007 to Michigan law makers.

Creation of this program was sparked when parents, teachers and public health officials became alarmed after they saw the staggering statistics on childhood obesity. One in every three Americans suffers from being overweight and/or obese. While the causes of such conditions vary, it's clear that one factor is that young people are spending less time outdoors.

The main objective behind this legislation is to include environmental education in the reauthorizations of the No Child Left Behind Act. The proposals would provide new funding for environmental education, particularly to develop rigorous standards, train teachers and to develop statewide environmental literacy plans. They also propose giving states that develop such environmental literacy plans access to additional funds.

During her convention address, Humphries explained that many schools are sacrificing subjects such as environmental education, so that more time could be spent on "high stake" subjects like math and reading due to the fact that those subjects are found on almost all standardized tests. She also explained that a 2008 study conducted by The Center of Education Policy, found that teachers and parents in school districts across the state are reporting that field trips and the amount of time spent on outdoor learning activities is being cut, enabling teachers to spend more of their class time teaching subjects that the students are tested on.

Additionally, Humphries explained that there are eleven key points in the proposal that focus numerous aspects of the legislation that range from the complex environmental changes that our nation is being confronted with, in regards to global warming and climate changes to funding incentives for schools districts.

One may ask how the key issues with the No Child Left Inside legislation will be addressed and how this legislation will benefit the student? According to the No Child Left Inside Coalition website the No Child Left Inside legislation addresses the issues by "giving new incentives and support to school systems to provide environmental education." The website also stated that the act also recognizes "that high-quality environmental education often requires students to use math, reading, science and writing skills as they pursue engaging activities."

Debra Wightman, Assistant Principal of Fremont High School said that "Anything we can do to encourage children to be outside, enjoying fresh air and burning off calories is needed."

"Living in an agricultural community has really taught me the importance if the environment and the impact that it has on the people in the community. I feel that a program like this would be beneficial to all students, as well as parents and teachers because it will allow students to learn how their everyday life is impacted by the environment, while at the same time allowing teachers to get their students out of the everyday classroom environment."

Removing students from the typical classroom setting benefits the student in numerous ways including preventing and relieving students from what is known as "nature-deficit disorder," a condition that Richard Louv highlights in his book *Last Child in the Woods*.

Louv explains that this phenomenon occurs when young people become disconnected from their natural world. Louv links this

lack of nature to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders and depression. Coalition officials say that the No Child Left Inside legislation will also allow for parents to become more aware of how their children are being impacted by the changing environment. This is due to the fact that the increase in funds that help support outdoor learning activities and field trips, which will enable students and parents to travel outside of their school community, educating students and parents.

In addition to gaining knowledge, legislation supporters feel that by opening parents eyes to the what environment does for their child, that they will in turn encourage their children to get off the couch and go outside and play, which in the long run will help reduce the number of children that suffer from childhood obesity, a major goal when this legislation was first created.

Rachel Mellema, mother of two boys, Jonathan age 6 and Vincent age 5 also had the opportunity to comment on this and she said that “as a parent with children in the public school system I see the affect of lazy children everyday. I never realized how big of an issue childhood obesity was until Jonathan started school. I feel that legislation like this will help reduce the number of cases of childhood obesity.” The mother of two went on to say that “all parents should make their children go outside and enjoy the fresh air,” and that “school districts should have physical education classes five days a week, along with healthier school lunches. I feel that even at a young age my boys are facing the effects of being cooped-up in the classroom for too many hours during the day. When they come home from school they are so full of energy. From a parent’s point of view, I would love for my boys to be able to have more hands on learning outside of the classroom. I think they would contain more information if they were able to be out of the classroom and get their hands dirty.”

Although one of the major goals of this legislation was to help stop childhood obesity and encourage children to enjoy the outdoors and Michigan natural resources, this proposal also



has the power to affect the use of Michigan parks and natural resources.

Dale Elshoff, a faculty member at Michigan State University in the Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies (CARRS) Department commented on the proposal, saying that “I think the No Child Left Inside movement is wonderful! We have years of research from many fields of study (psychology, education, child development, health) that point to the detriment of people spending too much sedentary time indoors, and the positive effects of being outdoors. The effect of getting more people – I don’t see this as just a ‘kid’ issue- it’s ALL of us! – outdoors is far reaching. Because tourism and natural resources are among Michigan’s top three industries, encouraging more people to use these systems may have a huge positive economic impact.”

She added, “Michigan State Parks are 100 percent funded by entrance fees; the declining number of citizens using our parks has devastated their budgets.”

Sarah Nicholls, another faculty member at Michigan State University and advisor of the Parks and Recreation Club, had similar comments saying that “I think that parks – whether small urban pocket parks or regional/state parks or our national parks – are absolutely critical to the NCLI initiative. I would say that this is especially the case for children in urban areas who may have direct access to little if any private outdoor space in the form of their own backyard.” She added, “As far as the economy, I think we might have a dilemma on our hands. More visits to parks is always good, but, in the current fiscal climate it is often parks and recreation that suffer disproportionately from funding cuts, often because they are not perceived to be as important as other services such as health, police, education, etc.”

Wrapping up her comments to the 2,000 high school students, parents and guests at the Michigan FFA State Convention Humphries encouraged all to get involved within their communities and urge their school officials to apply for the grants that this proposal offers, in order to keep environmental education off the chopping blocks in their respective communities and get activities such as archery back in physical education classes. Humphries concluded her speech by urging students, parents and advisors to become involved by becoming a member of the No Child Left Inside Coalition.

For more information on the No Child Left Inside legislation you can visit the No Child Left Inside Coalition website at www.nclcoalition.com or contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Do you or someone you know have an impressive SAE? If so, please email pettyd@anr.msu.edu and let us highlight the student!!!

Member



Region I Ross Williams, Homer

A member of the Homer FFA Chapter, Ross Williams has served as the chapter parliamentarian and vice president. This in addition to serving in many officer positions in his 4-H dairy starter calf club.

Having lived on a dairy farm his entire life, his SAE is Dairy Herd Management and swine production, showing both at his county fairs.

Williams will be attending Michigan State University, participating in the Dairy Tech program. After graduating, he hopes to go back and take over the family dairy farm.



Region II Brittney Bommarito, Springport

Brittney Bommarito has been an active member of the Springport FFA Chapter for three years. She has served as the chapter treasurer and is currently the Springport president.

Bommarito's SAEs have included Diversified Livestock Production, working on her chapter's ten acre land lab through the pasture cooperative. She has also raised and shown both lambs and hogs for the county fair each year.

Bommarito has also been heavily involved in other activities, including basketball, volleyball, softball and student government.



Region III Stacey Garske, USA

A member of the USA FFA Chapter, Stacey Garske takes her SAE of Agriculture Education quite seriously. During her time in the FFA, she planned and began the TONE (Training on Nutrition and Exercise) Program, promoting good health for local elementary school students. She has also coached her chapter's Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team, volunteered for Haunted Trail and served as a demonstrator at Project RED.

In the fall, Garske will be attending Delta Community College. She will stay involved with her chapter by serving as an assistant advisor.

Highlights



Region IV Jordan Hague, Webberville

If you're looking for an active FFA member, you need not look any further than Jordan Hague of the Webberville FFA Chapter. Hague's SAE consists of breeding mature rabbits and raising them into show rabbits. She also raises pigs.

She has competed in leadership contests and career development events numerous times, showing her skill in floriculture, parliamentary procedure, ag issues and meat judging.

After high school, Hague hopes to attend Michigan State University and study veterinary science or something in the Agriscience field. She'd like to be involved with the MSU Collegiate FFA, as well.



Region V Andy Rocheleau, Grant

A FFA member since 7th grade, Andy Rocheleau of the Grant FFA Chapter has been "Mr. FFA" to many in his community. He has been involved with the Region V Leadership Camp, Newaygo County Fair, Small Animals Day, leadership contests, community service activities and the restoration of a John Deere 630 that was raffled off for the FFA. Rocheleau has served as his chapter's treasurer and is currently the president.

His SAE includes beef and swine production.

Rocheleau plans to attend Ferris State University to become a diesel mechanic and hopefully get a job with a New Holland dealership, working on tractors while continuing to farm.



Region VI Tom McKay, Alcona

Tom McKay has been an active member of the Alcona FFA Chapter for many years, serving both as vice president and president.

As a member, some of his favorite activities were the PALS program and his chapter's annual banquet.

McKay's SAE included starting his own hardwood tree nursery from seedlings purchased from his local Soil Conservation District. His nursery specializes in nut trees such as walnut, chestnut and hazelnut.

McKay is a freshman at Michigan State University, majoring in forestry.

10 X 15



By: Jillian Holdwick
MSU Animal Science Major

10 by 15?

Measurements of a room?

An obscenely large piece of lumber?

Or a lofty goal to increase the number of quality FFA chapters nationwide?

Team AG ED, which is composed of The National Council for Agricultural Education, AgrowKnowledge, Agricultural Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education, American Association for Agricultural Education, National Association for of Agricultural Education, National Association of Supervisors of Agricultural Education, National FFA Alumni Association, National FFA Foundation, National Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association, National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization and the National Young Farmer Education Association has established a nationwide program that created long range goals for agricultural education.

This initiative is called 10 by 15. The goal of the campaign is, by the year 2015, to have 10,000 quality agricultural science education programs in operation. These programs will serve students through classroom/laboratory instruction, experiential learning and leadership and personal skill development.

Sounds simple, right? The National FFA Organization

currently has 507,763 members from 7,439 chapters in all of the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam. 10 by 15's progress has been slow in some areas but it has continued to make great strides in other taskforce areas toward the ultimate goal of establishing 10,000 quality chapters by the year 2015. Funding for this initiative comes from The Council which is a nationwide partnership for excellence in agriculture and education. This initiative has been boiled down into topics that impact the success of the 10 by 15 goals. The campaign is composed of eight taskforces which have been identified as high priority initiatives that will be operating over the next 6 years to obtain the goal of achieving 10,000 agricultural education programs by the year 2015.

The first taskforce is one that deals with program standards for Agricultural Education. The goal of this initiative is to define quality programs as those based on National Program Standards for Agricultural Education. These established standards emphasize the concept of learning and providing all students with progress towards their career and educational goals. Recent progresses on the national quality program standards include implementation of a pilot process. Ten states were each asked to recruit five schools to participate in the implementation of the program. Throughout the summer of 2009, the pilot programs will be put into action the program's standard to other schools in their school district.

The second taskforce considers the Food, Agriculture and National Resources Content Standards to National

Academic Content Standards initiative. The objective of this particular initiative is to design, offer and evaluate Ag Ed programs that are of the highest caliber and meet the needs of business and industry, education, society and local communities. The AFNR Career Cluster knowledge and Skill Statements are focused on transitioning to a product that have a) completely revised Cluster Skills that crosses all pathways; b) levels of performance that apply to each element; c) are in alignment with academic standards and lastly d) have been fully expanded to include Biotechnology as a pathway.

Developing multiple agricultural education designs and case models is the general theme of the third taskforce. This initiative is focused on building a framework that encourages the development of programs based on the needs of the communities in which the programs are a part of. This committee has established five potential models for agricultural education. The first of which is home school/on-line. Pre-Professional Sciences are the focus of the second model, which would include high levels of curriculum dependent on a heavily science-based agricultural education. The third model encompasses issue-based agriculture which is focused on the issues affecting natural resources, food, environmental sciences and those who consume by-products of all of these industries. Specialized programs concentrate on a single career pathway. Lastly, urban planning has been designed to serve multi-subject areas that reach the often forgotten about urban communities.

Taskforce four is focused on the creation and operation of programs that are responsible for providing initial data and annual data so that programs at the local, state and national levels have documentation. This data will enable the programs to exhibit continual improvement and documentation for their respective program.

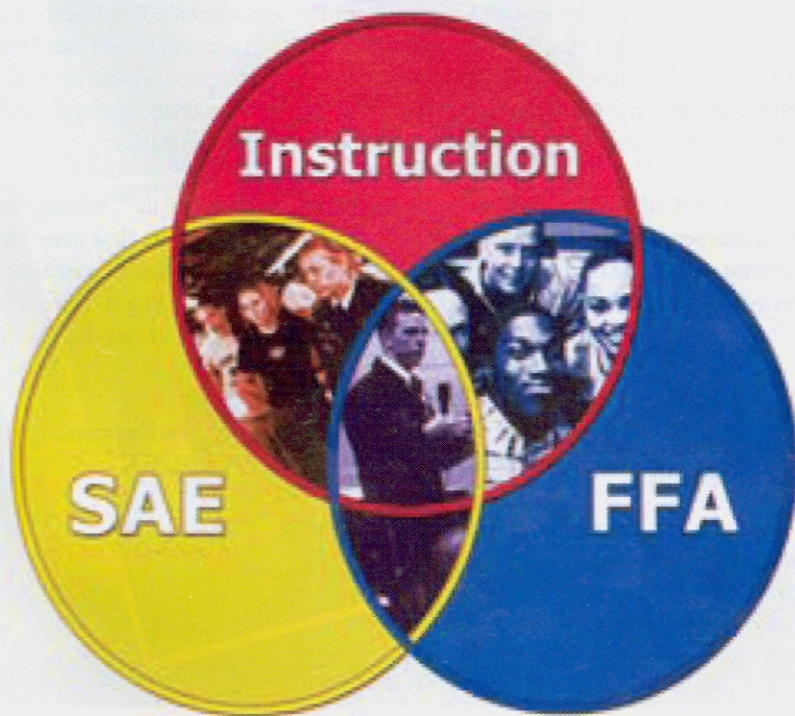
Recruitment of quality agricultural educators is the primary focus of the fifth initiative. Securing an abundant supply of well-trained yet highly qualified agricultural educators is a major concern of this taskforce. There are five separate phases that are being implemented to ensure the success of this taskforce. 1) Researching factors affecting recruitment; 2) assembling a work committee; 3) identifying target audiences; 4) development of products and 5) implementation of a recruitment plan. The goal of the committee is to estimate a five-year projected demand for agricultural teachers. This estimate will be used to predict the teacher shortage and also to help guide students to be teachers in the future.

The sixth initiative is focused on the advocacy of agricultural education. Development of local, state, and national strategies to advocate agricultural education are goals for the taskforce. Creation of materials, tools and education that help inform others about the 10 by 15 initiative are in current plans to accomplish the ultimate goal of agriculture advocacy.

Goals of the seventh taskforce are to develop a strong brand and promotional plan for agricultural education at local, state and national levels.

Partners and Resource Development is the objective of the eighth taskforce of the 10 by 15 initiative. Providing maximum opportunities from businesses, alumni, industry associations, educators' students and parents is a major goal of this taskforce. These participants are going to will be considered long-term contributing partners with Agricultural Education.

The 10 by 15 initiative has been designed to strengthen the leadership, management and coordination of agricultural education at all levels of education through the agricultural education leadership taskforce. Each state in the FFA Organization will have a growth plan in operation that supports the long range goals of the coordinated growth plan taskforce. With the current state of the economy, agriculture is quickly becoming one of the most stable industries nationwide. FFA supplies this nation with quality leaders, and agricultural education is the main supply for quality leaders that the agricultural industry is in dire need of.



Signing Out



By: Dustin Petty
MSU ANR Communications Major

You probably don't know me nor remember when I was a state officer.

Heck, sometimes I can't remember that far back.

My name is Dustin Petty and I was the 2004-2005 Region VI State Vice President. Over the past five years, I've had the honor of being the Managing Editor of this magazine.

This summer I'm graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications. I'm going to take a dive into the "real world" but before I left, I wanted to share a few thoughts with you, our readers.

I'm a big fan of The Killers – the band, not the occupation. If you're familiar with them, you've probably heard their song *Human*. One of the lines from the song says:

*And I'm on my knees looking for the answer:
Are we human or are we dancer?*

I never really understood what the song was saying here but that didn't stop me from loving it! Finally, one day I addressed my confusion to a group of friends when Aaron Balowski, your Region I State Vice President, told me what he thought.

He said that in life, we have a choice. We can either choose to be dancers, having every movement choreographed and planned in advance. We can avoid the risks in life, even if they could lead to better things and the fulfillment of our dreams.

Or, he told me, we can be human. Flawed and making the occasional mistakes, we may lack the perfectionist moves of the dancer but with creativity, spontaneity and risk on our sides, we can champion the best of humanity.

I encourage you all to let your humanness win out over your desire to have a choreographed life. If you make mistakes, LEARN from them. A former American President said, "Only if you have been in the deepest valley, can you ever know how magnificent it is to be on the highest mountain." The old adage is true: nothing risked is nothing gained.

A few other tips coming from five years of work in the FFA office:

- Advisors, please check our website for answers to your questions before calling the FFA office. Not only do you save your time but in this troubling economy, you save your school long-distance charges! Didn't know we had a website?! Check out www.michiganffa.com/association today!
- There IS a difference between *your*, *you're* and yes, even *your*. *Your* shows possession, as in "Is that *your* donkey?" *You're* is simply the combination of you and are – for example "You're an excellent singer." And *your* should only be used while IMing your friends, to annoy an editor or if you want Noah Webster to roll over in his grave.
- The *Creed* is your magazine! If you want to see something or have an idea, contact my amazingly talented successor Marie Hruby. She is going to do a fantastic job. Be patient with her.

Before I leave, I need to give special thanks to two groups of people.

First, the State FFA Reporters that I've been incredibly fortunate to work with: Andrea Kerbuski, Emily Ries, Dustin Grezeszak and Kaitie Hard. These people have kept me sane when deadlines loomed and put up with my occasional colorful vocabulary. They're champions of our organization and you'll see their names as experts in their fields one day.

And then there are the people behind the scenes of the Michigan FFA office: Dave Wyrick, Michelle Sidel and Henry Reinart. If it weren't for the hard work of these individuals, our association would quite simply fall apart. The next time you see one of them working at convention, contests or a conference registration, thank them for all they do. They've more than earned it.

I'll be signing off for now. It's been great bringing you happenings of the Michigan FFA these past five years.

Peace and love,

Dustin
pettydus@gmail.com

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY!

Get where you're going with one of the two new majors from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources CARRS (Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies) Department!

In the Fall of 2008, two new majors will be revealed within the CARRS Department: Environmental Studies and Agriscience & Park Recreation and Tourism Resources.

In the Environmental Studies and Agriscience major, options will include: Communication, Community Engagement and Education, Science and Policy, as well as Agriscience and Natural Resources Teacher Education.

In the Park Recreation and Tourism Resources major, options will include: Community Engagement and Education, Commercial Recreation and Tourism, Community Recreation and Zoo and Aquarium Sciences.

For more information please contact: Dr. Randy Showerman (showerma@msu.edu), Dr. David Krueger (kruege20@msu.edu) or Dr. Jenó Rivera (jeno@msu.edu).



The Rest of the Story...



Dustin Baker
State President

Chapter: St. Louis

SAE: Beef and Sheep Production

College: Michigan State University

Major: Animal Science freshman

High school activities: class president, student council, Quiz Bowl, 4-H, Model UN, spanish club, National Honor Society, cross country, basketball, track

Who inspired you to join FFA: "My dad was the 1979-1980 State Reporter and my sister joined when she was in the 7th grade. I wanted to compete and be involved just like them."

Favorite TV show: *The Office*

One word to describe you: passionate

Favorite athletic team: Michigan State

Favorite personal hobby: skiing and collecting bouncing balls

Message to the Members: "Enjoy the short time you have in our organization, learn more about the agricultural industry and the opportunities that it presents, try to take advantage of all the opportunities that FFA has to offer...and have fun!"



Marie Hruby
Region V State VP

Chapter: Fremont

SAE: Diversified Livestock Production and Agriscience Education

College: Michigan State University

Major: Agriscience Education freshman

High school activities: orchestra, National Honor Society, cheerleading, ballet, 4-H, National Baby Food Festival Queens Court

Favorite Quote: "Opportunities in life are often missed because they are dressed in overalls and look like work." - Thomas Edison

Favorite personal hobby: showing pigs and ballet

Favorite FFA activity: National FFA Convention and WLC

Favorite TV show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Theme song: *Live Like You Were Dying* and *Dream Big*

Message to the Members: "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something or get in your way of achieving your dreams. Work hard and never quit trying no matter how many times you fall on your face."



Alumni in Action

Headlines in the Michigan FFA Alumni!

Alumni Council Elections

At the State FFA Alumni Annual Meeting on Saturday, February 21, elections for the 2009-2010 State FFA Alumni Council were held.

The results are as follows:

President Dave Armbruster, Laker
Vice President Royce Humm, Breckenridge
Secretary Alexandria Henry, Alma
Region I VP Michelle Sealy, Marshall
Region II VP Danielle Martinez, Springport
Region III VP Kayla Tuggle, Ithaca
Region VI VP Wauneta Ritter, Byron
Region V VP Sherry Kiel, Montague
Region VI Dustin Petty, Standish-Sterling
Delegate-at-Large Katie Eldred, Maple Valley

DEADLINE!

This is a reminder that the FFA Alumni rosters are due to the Michigan FFA Alumni by April 15th. If you are unsure if your alumni chapter is working on this, please contact your local alumni contact to remind them of the deadline. Rosters were emailed in late December/early January and if you need another copy, please contact Dana Gallagher at dgallag@michfb.com or Lori Chamberlain at lchambe@michfb.com. You can also reach Dana or Lori at 517-323-7000 ext. 3233.



State Alumni Council President Dave Armbruster handing out WLC Scholarships at the 81st Michigan FFA Convention

Meet Your NEW Managing Editor

We at the Michigan FFA Association are proud to announce the selection of Marie Hruby as the new Managing Editor of the Michigan FFA Creed magazine. Hruby will assume her duties beginning this summer, assembling her first issue of the publication.

As the 2008-2009 Region V State Vice President, Hruby has served a year making her mark on the Michigan FFA. She will continue this legacy in this new position, bringing with her an incomparable work-ethic.

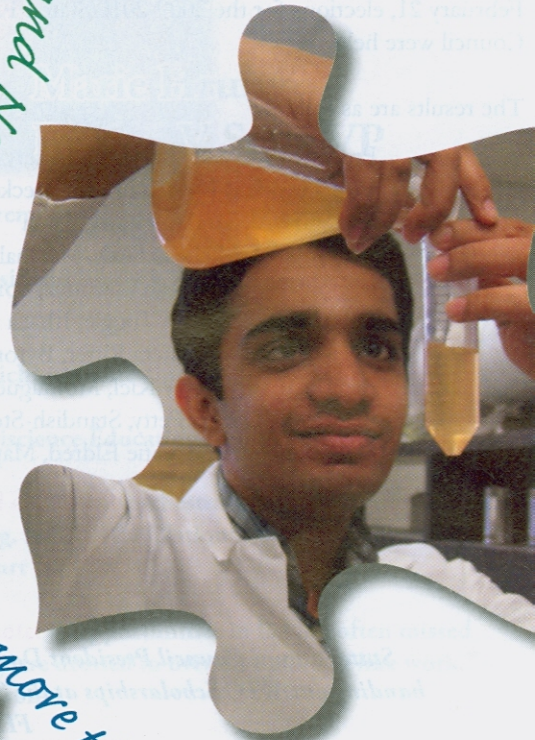
Hruby said, "I'm really excited to begin work on the Creed. If any members out there have any ideas on what they want to see in the coming issues, I invite them to shoot me an email at hruby@anr.msu.edu."

Find your fit in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!

You're already part of it!

From the food you eat to the home you live in; from the water you drink to the recreational activities you enjoy, professionals educated in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources make your life better every day.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degrees, certificate programs, and graduate programs leading to the master's degree and Ph.D.



We're more than you imagine....