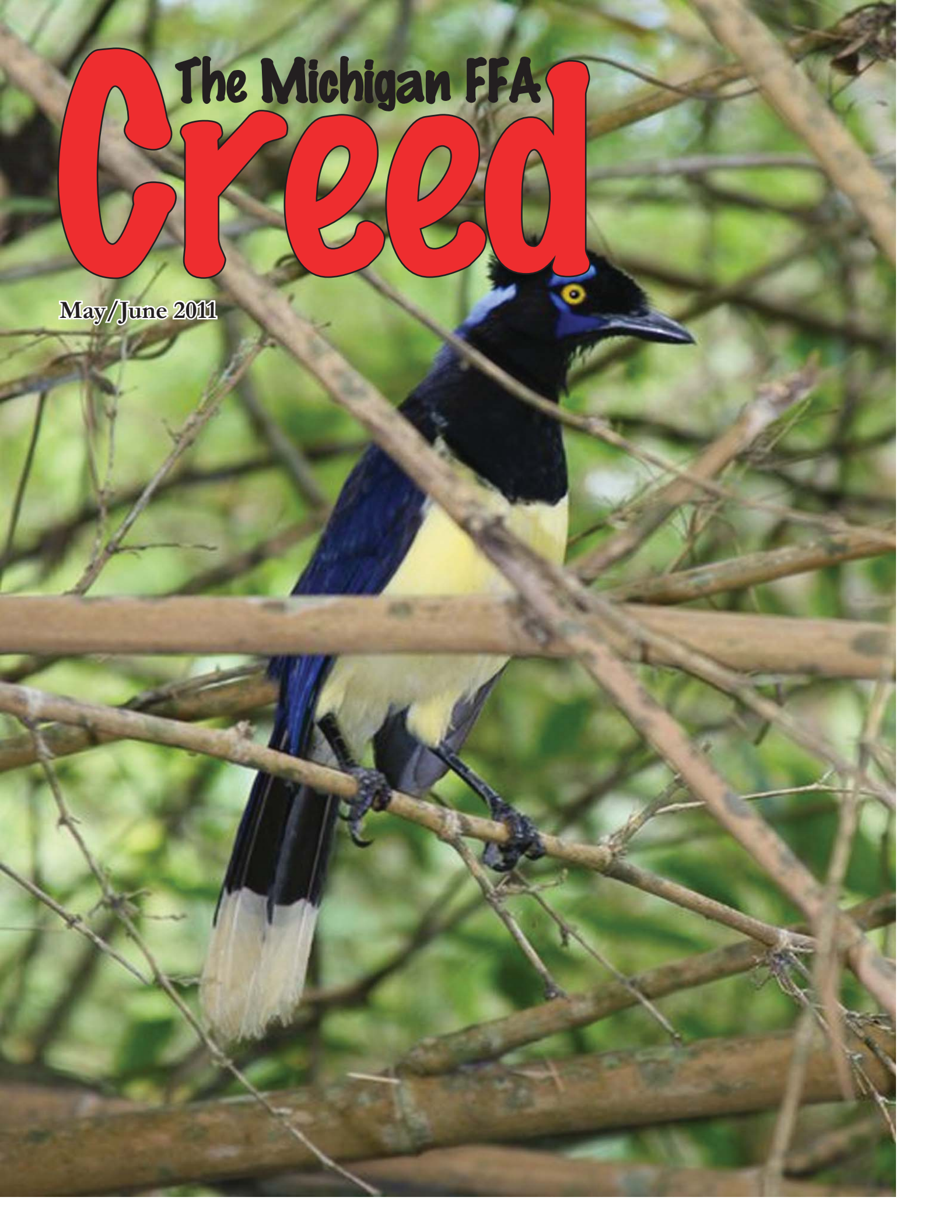


# The Michigan FFA Creed

May/June 2011



# The Michigan FFA Creed



The State FFA Office  
108 Natural Resources  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
www.michiganffa.com  
association@michiganffa.com  
(517) 353-9221  
(517) 432-5632 (fax)

## C I Believe In...

Read some words of insight about the importance of being optimistic from your Region V State V.P.

## D Member Highlight

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Read about the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers

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## O What's the Word

Test your word search skills with this summer word search

*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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Staff Editor Emily Swartzendruber  
Advising Editor Michelle Sidel

Writers Emily Swartzendruber  
Kelsey Steketee  
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# I believe in...

... in going “green.”

Going green means living sustainably. You would be making decisions that correspond with the planet’s long-term well being. You can promote going green by changing your lifestyle, by choosing locally produced products and by using resources around you that will have a minimal impact on the environment. The most common things we hear about going green are recycling and conserving water and energy when possible. Simple changes like these pay off in long-term rewards. Changing little things in your everyday life can have many benefits in your environment, health, and economy.

Normally, the first thing we think of when going green is preserving and protecting our environment. By taking care of our surroundings, the area around us provides a more attractive, cleaner landscape. By keeping our environment a more beautiful place, allows us to enjoy our home along with tourist attractions and scenic areas. Within agriculture, if we continue to take care of our soil, we will have a high quality source that will let us have essentials such as clean air and water. Providing an environment that is clean, it will allow future generations to continue to help change the planet.

Having a green world is a healthy world. Reducing air pollution, driving green vehicles and purchasing products with minimal carbon footprint, we will have cleaner air to breath. Without

having to worry about air pollution, our risks for respiratory diseases will decrease. If we take efforts to conserve water whenever possible, we will be able to have clean, safe water to serve as a resource for others. Consuming sustainable foods, that are normally healthier for you, allows you to get all the required nutrients needed for your body. It makes buying local foods the perfect option because they are fresh and healthy.

Last but not least, there are economic benefits. The main thing going green can do is benefit you from an economic stand point by saving you money. Changing your light bulbs in your house to be energy efficient, installing compact florescent bulbs can cut down on costs on your electric bill, and fixing leaky faucets in your house can make your water bill go down. Something simple like putting tape around your windows or putting up curtains can help you during the winter months to conserve heat within your house and lower your heating bill.

You may not see the long-term effects of going green at first, but the generations after you will most certainly benefit from the little things you do in everyday life today. By going green, you are contributing to the natural ecological balance in your environment by living in a way that preserves the planet and its natural resources. Saving money, improved health and a clean environment are just a few of the major benefits of going green.

## Dates to Remember...

### May

- 10 FFA Board of Directors Meeting-MSU-5-8p.m.
- 13 Lansing Lugnuts Game
- 13 The following are due to the State FFA Office:  
American Degree Applications, Agri-Entrepreneurship Award Applications,  
Proficiency State Winner’s Applications, National Chapter Applications,  
National Band, National Chorus and National Talent Applications

### June

- 13 SLCCO/SLCRO Registration Due
- 27-7/1 NLCSO-Kentucky
- 20-23 Summer PDI
- 24 Dairy Showmanship/Dairy Judging/Tractor Driving Registrations due to State FFA Office via online registration

# MEMBER HI

## Region 1

### RYAN HALL

Chapter: Olivet FFA

Advisor: Mr. Doug Pennington

A junior at Olivet High School, Ryan Hall has been involved in FFA for three years. He has a strong SAE in Dairy Production and agricultural placement. Besides raising dairy animals, he raises swine and poultry for meat. Ryan is very involved in his FFA Chapter, 4-H and Shooting Sports. Ryan has participated in agricultural issues, public speaking, agricultural mechanics, dairy judging where he placed second at state. He also has attended State and National Convention and received the Star Greenhand award for his chapter. Hall is very involved with Agricultural Literacy Day that the chapter does for elementary students around the area every year. On this day Ryan is in charge of bringing animals, as well as display equipment. Additionally, Ryan has been on the Eaton County Jr. Farm Bureau Board for the past two years and after his graduation he plans to pursue a career as an Agricultural Equipment Technician and would like to own his own dairy farm.



## Region 2

### MORGAN STUART

Chapter: Dundee FFA

Advisor: Mr. Tom Stahl

Morgan Stuart is the chapter reporter for the Dundee FFA Chapter and a regional officer for Region II. Morgan works at the schools greenhouse where she grows and plants a variety of plants. When Morgan is not in the greenhouse she is usually seen riding with the Equestrian Team or training horses. She does all this while also being an active student at her high school participating in Student Government, Student Council, and Interact. Morgan enjoys dedicating her time to volunteering for her school and events that she knows will help others.



## Region 3

### LARYSSA BATES

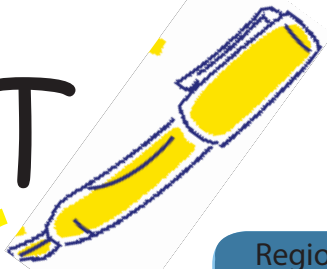
Chapter: USA FFA

Advisor: Mrs. Victoria Yackle

Laryssa is a junior at USA High School and is serving as her chapter's Vice President and a Regional Representative. Her FFA experiences include participating in the Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, competing in Public Speaking, as well as the new Vet Science Career Development Event. She has attended numerous conferences including National and State Conventions, Fall Leadership Conference, SLCRO and Region III Officer Camp. She strives to lead her chapter in their many events like Project RED and a haunted trail that benefits C.R.O.P. Even with her many activities she enjoys showing cattle, hogs, and goats through the 4-H and FFA. Laryssa is also a member of the NHS, Band, NTHS, and Junior Livestock Council. After high school she plans on attending Ferris State or Michigan State University to major in graphic design to work at a livestock magazine. Laryssa was also named one of the top 3 Outstanding Juniors for 2011!



# HIGHLIGHT



## Region 4

### SKYLAR PRATT

Chapter: Byron FFA  
Advisor: Mr. Tate Forbush

A junior at Byron High School, Skylar Pratt is an active member and serves as the chapter Sentinel. Skylar's SAEs began as a freshman and have grown to include Swine Production and Wildlife Management. This year he will also be raising his own hogs to show and sell at the Shiawassee County Fair. Skylar is also involved in various FFA leadership contests where he has competed at the state level in numerous events. Outside of FFA, Skylar is a member of NHS, Cross Country, Track and Field and Soccer Team. In the future Skylar plans to run for Regional and State FFA Office to continue to serve the organization. He is planning on attending Michigan State University to pursue a degree in the medical field, but to also remain an advocate for Agriculture to make sure people understand "how farming and agriculture affects their everyday lives."



## Region 5

### TIM DANKLEFSEN

Chapter: Ravenna FFA  
Advisor: Mrs. Melanie Block

Tim Danklefsen is an outstanding FFA member and is an asset to the Ravenna FFA Chapter. He has always had a passion for agriculture and soon became interested in the FFA after discovering all of the benefits of this organization. Tim continues to grow as a member and individual because of the opportunities the FFA has to offer. Soon after becoming involved in the Ravenna FFA Chapter, he has taken advantage of all opportunities offered. Tim participates in the chapter's spring highway clean-up, Apple Cider sale, donkey basketball, along with many other activities. Currently, Tim is serving as the Ravenna FFA Chapter Treasurer. When Tim is not competing in contests, attending conventions and conferences, he puts time into his Supervised Agricultural Experiences, Swine Production and Dairy Placement. Each year, Tim raises pigs to bring to his county fair to show and market. On the weekends, he works at DenDulk Dairy Farms where he feeds the dry cows, hauls feed, and scrapes the cow barn to maintain cleanliness, along with many other tasks.



## Region 6

### MICHAELA JOY

Chapter: Stephenson FFA  
Advisor: Mrs. Pat Wehner

Fifteen year old Michaela Joy is from the most northern Michigan FFA chapter, Stephenson. She joined the FFA in the 9th grade with the hopes of obtaining more confidence in her abilities, become a better student and help to make a difference in her community. Since joining the FFA Michaela has participated in multiple events including Greenhand Conduct of Meetings and Agriculture Issues. Michaela keeps herself busy with an extensive SAE of beef production and she was also elected to the position of chapter secretary. Outside of the FFA Michaela enjoys participating in 4-H, horseback riding, showing cattle, reading, photography and playing the piano. Michaela plans on attending Michigan State University to major in Veterinary Medicine after she graduates from high school in 2013.



# Our Motto in Motion



## Learning to Do

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

To have success in agricultural education you need three parts; classroom/laboratory, SAE, and the FFA. If you are missing any one of these parts then it is like a missing gear and the system does not work as well or worse shuts down completely. With the tough economic times, state schools are being pressured to cut the budget. Sadly one of the first things to go in many schools, is the Agriculture Education program. Hastings High School is just like any other high school trying to save money, because it is plagued with heavy layoffs and teacher reassignments their FFA program was suffering to say the least. Classes were being rearranged and for each teacher assigned the task it was hard for them to work on their classes as well as the agricultural classes, leaving no time to be the advisor and work on the FFA chapter. Due to this situation membership in the Hastings FFA fell so low they did not have enough active members to fill positions or even have chapter meetings. It seemed that this would be the end of the Hastings FFA Chapter.

When it seemed like the chapter was down, the Agriculture Advisory Committee tried to step in and help. After several meetings and much debate it became clear there was no way the

committee could change the school's decision to cut back. They also knew the committee was too small to help on their own and thus the Hastings FFA Alumni was formed. They meet monthly before chapter meetings and help to transport members, host recreational activities, coach leadership and skills teams, raise funds, assist members who need financial assistance, and much more. They have greatly helped in reducing the amount of work that must be done by the advisor, Mr. Ed Domke. This is really the key to the existence of the chapter since Mr. Domke is not only the advisor and agriscience teacher he also teaches drafting & design, is the Michigan industrial & technology education advisor, and the career & technical education advisor.

Since the alumni started helping the chapter it has made a full turn and is continuously growing. "The best part of being in the Hastings FFA chapter is the fact that the alumni, teachers, and students all have the common goal of getting involved in FFA activities, having fun, and improving each year," said chapter President Ethan Haywood. Improving each year is what they have done. Currently the chapter has 33 high school members and 23 middle school members. Last year 15 members competed in contests on some level and this year over 30 participated. The chapter also participates in Crop-o-Rama, Region 1 leadership camp, State and National band and choir, hosts lock-ins, and has other chapter recreational activities. They have become a large part in their community becoming involved in Relay for Life, Big Brother/Big Sisters, they have grown vegetables and donated them to community gardens, and each spring the chapter cleans up around the high school and the Gilmore car museum.

It is amazing to see how fixing the classroom situation has allowed for the FFA chapter and its members to grow and prosper. The Hastings FFA program has its gears repaired, well greased, and ready to be run at full speed. Mr. Domke would like to see a wider variety of opportunity available to his students in the future. Expanding supervised agricultural experiences and FFA events that the students have not had the opportunity to participate in yet are going to be the focal points for their chapter. He would also like to see members strengthen their leadership abilities by running for chapter, regional, state, or even national office.

With the current program the Hastings FFA chapter has evolved and with the continued support from the alumni, I am sure that Mr. Domke's and the officers' vision for the future of the chapter is not far away. Congratulations and good luck in the future.



# Doing to Learn

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

Amanda Mitchell is a junior at Ovid-Elsie High School, where she is very active in the Ovid-Elsie FFA and works hard on her Supervised Agricultural experience. Participating in the Diversified Livestock Production SAE, Amanda has multiple projects that keep her busy. From raising beef cattle and market hogs, to caring for broiler and egg laying chickens, Amanda has a passion for animals. She also puts a huge emphasis on learning everything she can about all the species she has. Mitchell's interest in her animals and dedication she has to learning all she can about them make her an exemplary model for the "Doing to Learn" portion of the FFA motto.

It didn't take Amanda long to find her enthusiasm for animals. Since she has been four years old, she has watched her family's herd grow from two head on a three acre piece of land to a total of seven cattle on a 50 acre farm. From the moment her family bought the first few cattle she has been eager to help out. Though the beef industry has remained a huge part of Amanda's life, she still had the urge to learn more. "As I grew older and became involved in the FFA I learned of other opportunities I could take advantage of and found myself wanting to try raising the other species of animals and my interests have just continued to grow," says Mitchell.

Amanda's parents wanted her to start small before she began her career in the beef cattle industry. She began by working with and showing sheep at her local county fair. After watching her two older siblings grow up and wanting to pursue the same path of her older brother she finally got the opportunity to own her very own beef steer. Now she has shown her beef cattle five consecutive years at the Shiawassee County



Fair. Mitchell really enjoys showing at the local level but soon strived for more. She now shows at multiple shows throughout the year across the state. Over her years, Amanda has become interested in growing a small herd. Currently, she owns a Simmental heifer which she plans to breed so she can sell the calf. She has learned a lot from the whole experience but was still looking for more.

In the spring of 2010, Amanda found an interest in a new species. She had decided to purchase and raise a pen of market hogs for her county fair. She quickly found that due to the short period of time she owns the pigs that she needed to put extra effort into the project. Amanda was up to the challenge. When she sold her first pen of hogs she decided to put the money towards her college savings. Mitchell's Supervised Agricultural Experience has really helped her to learn money management which is apparent when we look into the third part of her project.

Raising and caring for broiler chickens is the third part of Amanda's project. She first became interested in the broiler industry in her freshman and sophomore years of high school. She participated in the FFA broiler contest and found that she really enjoyed the project. Since then she has began her own small business of raising and selling the birds for customers. As of now, she has a few repeat customers and friends but she is hopeful for growth. Along with these meat birds she has 12 laying hens that she cares for. These hens lay about an egg a day that Amanda is responsible for collecting, as well as keeping the coop a clean habitat for the birds. She sells not only the meat birds she raises but also the eggs she collects. "The money we get from these sales is not enough to make a profit but it is enough to cover the cost of the feed for the hens and supply my family with farm fresh eggs whenever we like," explains Amanda. She has surely learned the importance of money management and how to ensure the future of her project by re-investing her profits.

Amanda has worked extremely hard to make sure her animals are comfortable and happy while also serving their purpose. She has pushed herself to learn as much as she can over the years about multiple species. She has also learned multiple skills such as time management and the importance of a strong work ethic. Mitchell really understands that not everything will come easily but that with a positive mind set and a sense of what true responsibility is, that any goal is achievable. Amanda really enjoys spending time with her animals and is thankful for the experiences she has gained through the FFA. Her dedication to her Supervised Agricultural Experience is what shows that Amanda Mitchell is living the "Doing to Learn" segment of FFA the motto.

# Earning to Live

By: Andrew Kellenberger  
MSU Mechanical Engineering Major  
&

Jordan Henry  
Lansing Community College Physical Therapy Major

What's All the Tweet About Agriculture? When you type Agricultural



Blogging into Google, over one million results are found. Over one million people are tweeting, blogging, and making a buzz over agriculture in our world. More and more agricultural journalists are using the world wide web to report on agricultural news. Topics ranging from agricultural policies to agricultural education, and to agricultural businesses. With these wide range of

topics, there's no surprise that there are over one million agricultural blogs.

One of the biggest ways that agriculture is being advocated in cyber space is through the Ag Chat foundation. Ag Chat is a foundation that shows the procedures of food, fiber and fuel points of view on agribusiness. Ag Chat's main focus is to expose agriculture to social media, because everyone in some form these days uses the internet. People on the Ag Chat foundation have weekly "Ag Chats" which have been able to build up the support and run the Ag Chat foundation. These weekly "Ag Chats" allow farmers throughout the country to communicate and learn from each other.

This past August our very own Past Michigan FFA State Officer Amanda Sollman traveled to Chicago to the first ever Ag Chat conference. The AgChat Foundation did their first-ever social media training conference where farmers and other people in agriculture - of all experience levels - were able to meet others with similar interests and learn the SM 'tools of the trade'. They learned about Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, blogging, SEO (search engine optimization), video, and how to make the connection between online and in-person 'advocacy'. People who attended the conference have gone on to use SM to share their farm stories, expanded their SM usage and some are even training others in how to use SM tools. Amanda does more than the average worker

when it comes to agriculture social media. Her work includes being a member of the agchat community and volunteering her time with the Ag Chat Foundation when they need help running the site, loading videos, and moderating weekly chats. She explains, "My main social media efforts are for personal use, however I also operate the MI Farmers Feed US Facebook and Twitter accounts for the Michigan Ag Council and have done some SM work for the 2011 Agriculture's Conference on the Environment as a part of my internship with Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications. In those roles, I set up and run Facebook fan pages and Twitter accounts; then I interact with people who comment on the page, post new info and ask questions to the online community. Social networking is all about interacting with people (hence the "social" part), so I do whatever I can to share agriculture's story and converse with people who have questions."

Even though Amanda's job is not social media, she explains that there are people out there who make their living from agricultural Facebook updates, tweeting with farmers, and educating farmers on how to use technology to benefit their lives.

Amanda shared that a Spartan Alum and Past Michigan FFA State Officer, Michele Payn-Knooper, is a certified public speaker who travels all over the country training and speaking to agriculture organizations and groups about how to use social media. She has made a living from educating and explaining the need of social media in the agricultural field. Her work has been able to connect farmers with other farmers, and people who have concerns about their products.

When I type Agriculture into my Facebook search, the first tab that pops up is Agriculture Every Day. This is a company that advocates for agriculture and promotes: What is something you did today that involved the use of agriculture? Eat? Put on clothing? Drink a glass of milk? Drive your car? Feed your pet? Each of these activities all have agriculture involved. From food & feed to fuel & fiber, agriculture is involved. These types of organizations and people make up the basis for agriculture in the Social Media mass that has taken over our world.

But why? Why does agriculture need to be tweeted and blogged about? Our world is expanding, mostly through the World Wide Web. People need to be educated on the issues and facts that are the agriculture industry. Without the help of Social Media, and the people who promote agriculture through the internet, people would not get the information tomorrow, like they did today. The need for social media in agriculture is crucial to the changing world that we live in.





# Living to Serve

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

17 year old Joe Whaley is the perfect example of the portion of the FFA Motto, Living to Serve. As a senior at Byron High School Joe is an asset to the Byron FFA Chapter, as well as the community. With the help of his FFA Advisor, Tate Forbush, and family members he has developed several Entrepreneurship and Placement SAEs. "My SAEs have been a part of almost my entire life; I began helping my Dad and Grandpa when I was in the 2nd grade, unloading hay wagons into the barn and riding along on the tractor." His love for field work and for working with a variety of equipment has only helped his SAE to grow and prosper more.

Joe began his forage production SAE by helping unload wagons, then that progressed to raking hay, and now he does everything from mowing to delivering hay to the local area auctions. He says his favorite part about his SAE is communicating with the customers and ensuring that they are satisfied with the product. Whaley received a silver placement proficiency award at the 2011 Michigan FFA State Convention for this SAE.

Along with being very busy helping out on his family's hay farm Joe has worked hard to build on a woodland management SAE. He takes pride in cutting and harvesting firewood for his area. Each customer has their own requirements for each face cord of



wood and this is a top priority then filling the order and selecting the proper trees to cut down. Joe has set up his SAE so that he can sell at his road side stand or he can take orders from customers and then deliver directly to their home or business. Joe's Entrepreneurship SAE of diversified livestock production began when he was in the 4th grade when he was 10 years old through 4-H. Since starting with a hogs and a steer the experience has grown to include lambs and turkeys. Each year he has strived to increase the quality of meat that is marketed and sold at the auction for buyers of the Shiawassee County Fair. In turn this has taught him the importance of proper feeding and care of the different animal species.

Joe's FFA career began in the 7th grade when he was encouraged to join by his parents and horticulture teacher. Little did he know that the organization would provide him with so many different opportunities and the ability to gain a very diverse experience through agriculture. Joe competed in the Farm Business Management Contest and was a member of the 1st place state winning team that also received a silver award at Nationals. He was also a member of the 2008 state winning Greenhand Conduct of Meetings Team and has earned a 3rd place gold award at regional level in the Demonstration contest. In addition to competing in contests, Whaley served as the Byron FFA Jr. President his sophomore year and the Chapter Vice-President the past 2 years.

Joe also enjoys participating in National Honor Society, Student Council, 4-H, Varsity Cross Country and Track teams, and Band. He plans on attending Michigan State University in the fall to major in chemical engineering. Joe says that none of this would have been possible without the encouragement of his older sister Becky Whaley who has always been a big help in providing him with the tools needed so that he could be successful and achieve his goals.



# Adventures in Argentina

By: **Karice Hard**  
MSU Education Major

Argentina: isn't that "south of the equator"? I mean literally, down under! How could this country girl from Michigan ever go to such an exotic place as Argentina? Lucky for me, the opportunity arose through National FFA. Every year FFA's program International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO) offers state officers and past state officers the opportunity to study agriculture internationally. ILSSO's 2011 destination: Argentina. I never dreamed that I would set foot in Argentina, let alone have the opportunity to go as an ambassador for FFA. I learned all the trip details in October at the National FFA Convention and the trip actually took place in January 2011. The waiting time was filled with preparations and paperwork. The rendezvous point was Miami, Florida. Once there, the ILSSO representatives

met at the hotel and spent the next day talking about the expectations and itinerary for travel within Argentina. Bright and early on the morning of January 5, sixty students and four group leaders boarded the flight that would carry them from Miami to Buenos Aires, Argentina in eight hours.

Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina, home to one third of the Argentine population, and boasts some of the best farm land in the country. ILSSO arranged for two special Argentinean tour guides: Jorge and Jimmy. We learned that Jorge was the person who brought the idea of no till farming into Argentina thirty years ago. Now, almost all Argentine farmers engage in no till farming. Jorge was definitely "a pretty big deal" in Argentina! Jimmy gave us a large amount of history on Argentina and helped to give us a real taste of the Argentine culture.

Our tours included the farm of Alejandro Calderon. He is a large scale producer of soybeans, wheat, corn, and green beans. He also runs a prosperous bull breeding business. We were informed by our tour guides how hard it has been on farmers throughout the last few centuries. It is very difficult for people to make a living as a farmer. Over and over again, at the places that we visited, we were reminded of how there used to be many more farmers, but a large number of them moved to the city, because there just wasn't any more money in farming, unless they were a larger scale production. The Argentine government and farmers struggle to work together, just like how it is difficult for the United States government and the farmers to work together sometimes. Another tour included a gaucho farm. Gauchos are Argentine cowboys. We spent the day on a ranch, watching the tango, riding horses, and watching the gaucho games. We also traveled to a polo pony operation. Polo is an official game in Argentina that is played with horses. We got to see these polo horses and hear how the owner uses embryo transplants in his mares in order to enhance genetic properties of the ponies. It was also interesting to learn that Argentine farm owners







were able to speak English, while the farm workers spoke only Spanish. It was very interesting to hear their ideas of America and their thoughts of our agricultural industry as well. Another tour that we experienced was one of a sheep farm operation as well as agri-tourism location. This farm was a much larger farm until times got tough. From there, the family decided to decrease the size of the farm, but rent out their home and backyard to people for weddings and other such occasions. It was so cool to see that when people use these facilities for their own occasions, they are always given a tour of the farm and told how agriculture affects them. The marketplace within Buenos Aires was a tour that we all thoroughly enjoyed. Within the marketplace, livestock are sold by the pen. The auctioneer and the buyers move above the livestock on platforms and travel to each pen. It was so different compared to our own livestock sales, but it was so cool to see. The men moving the cattle even rode on horses!

One of the trip sponsors was Bunge and we toured their impressive Terminal 6 in Melincue. This terminal is a soybean crushing plant, as well as a dry and liquid facility plant. All of the terminals, like Bunge, were on the Parana River. The companies ship all of their supplies on the river which travel to the ocean from there. They treated us all to a great lunch of steak. Every meal within Argentina was a four course meal and steak became the normal main course.

A highlight of Argentine culture included a tango show. Throughout the show, the actors danced and sang about the history of Argentina and even though it was in Spanish, our tour guide Jimmy was kindly trying to translate for us. Additionally, we had the opportunity to visit to the United States Embassy and the chance to meet the U.S. Ambassador and her staff. We were presented with an Argentine youth program that was a lot like FFA. It was so cool to see their perspective on Agriculture and what it meant to be a farmer in Argentina. And the youth were very interested to hear all about the FFA and agriculture in the U.S.

At the end of our trip, we got to see more of the wildlife within Argentina. We were taken to the Iguazu Falls in Puerto Iguazu. We walked over the falls, which are bigger than the Niagra Falls, and got to see the gorgeous landscape and wildlife within northern Argentina. Another way that we toured the falls was by boat. We drove through the falls, and got to see their natural beauty from over the water. The jungle was another very cool experience. One of the more interesting creatures is an animal from the raccoon family. It kept walking right up to us within the forest, waiting for us to feed it. It is an amazing experience to see all the different types of animals and wildlife that Argentina has to offer.

This trip was absolutely unbelievable and I am so glad that I went. I could not have picked a better location and group to go with. The National FFA made this trip completely worthwhile, and such a great learning experience. It was so amazing to learn about Argentine culture and agriculture. There are so many similarities yet differences to the way that Americans and Argentine people live. This was an experience that I would have gladly done again.







# STARS OVER MICHIGAN

## STAR IN AGRISCIENCE

Ashley Frye is a member of the Lenawee FFA Chapter and a senior at Britton-Deerfield High School. Ashley's agriscience project introduces the ethanol by-product Dry Distillers Grain(DDG), into poultry rations as a nutrient supplement. Her goal is to use this as a feed ration for broiler chickens. Through her project, she hopes to discover which percent of DDGs will produce broilers with similar growth and meat quality as other poultry feed rations, as well as be of an economic benefit to producers. She fed her rations to both Japanese Quail and White Mountain Hubbard broiler chickens, finding a ration which showed similar results to commercial feed rations. In her next trial, Ashley hopes to improve the flavor of the DDGs in order to be more appealing to the birds. After high school, Ashley plans on attending Michigan State University to major in Agricultural Education.



## STAR IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Carmen Zwemmer is a senior member of the Laker FFA chapter. Carmen's family owns and operates three dairy farms with a total of 6,500 dairy cows. While Carmen is involved with all three farms, she has 41 cows, 12 heifers, and 6 calves as a part of her Supervised Agricultural Experience. Carmen raises her calves in a barn separate from her family's larger operations. Once the calves are ready to freshen, they are moved to one of the larger cow herds. Carmen keeps records on her SAE animals using the farm's computer programs to ensure her records of income, expenses, and breeding are accurate. While Carmen's main project is the nearly sixty cows she maintains, she also assists in the daily activities of her family's operation. She helps with milking, medical care, and the many other jobs necessary to keep the cows happy and healthy. After high school, Carmen plans to attend Michigan State University to major in Veterinary Science.



## STAR IN AGRICULTURAL PLACEMENT

Nicholaas Verhaar is a senior member of the Laker FFA chapter. For his project, Nicholaas works on his family's 4,000 head dairy farm. As Nicholaas has grown up on the farm, his responsibilities have grown as well. However, his real interest is in agricultural mechanics. With 2,200 milking cows, the farm has a lot of equipment, which requires regular maintenance. Nicholaas, along with one other person, is in charge of most maintenance on the farm. He has designed a portable toolbox to hold welding supplies, torches, tools and other equipment, and has modified the farm's automatic calf feeder and feed mixing trailer. In addition to the maintenance, Nicholaas has increased responsibilities with the cows on weekends and during the summer. Upon graduating from high school, Nicholaas plans to attend a concentrated dairy program at the University of Wisconsin.

## STAR IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS

Bethany Schreur is a member of the Branch Area Career Center FFA and a senior at Tekonsha High School. For her project, she raises dairy goats and cows. Bethany markets the milk by selling shares of each animal. Each customer can receive up to two gallons of milk per week and Bethany has sold twenty-seven shares. The money she earns from her project pays to maintain her herd of animals. To milk her goats and cows, Bethany wakes up before school each day and then milks again in the evening. While she owns twenty-six head of goats, she milks sixteen goats each day at peak production. To market these shares, she maintains a website advertising her product. Also, Bethany exhibits her animals at county, state, and national shows, even receiving top honors at the national level. After high school, Bethany is attending Michigan State University working to become an agricultural lobbyist or political campaign manager.





# 2011-2012 Michigan FFA State Officer Team



After, what seemed like an eternity, on March 11, 2010 twelve individuals were installed into their respective offices at the 83rd Michigan FFA State Convention!

President: Addison Spoylar-Jonesville  
Vice President: Caitlin Pell-Fremont  
Secretary: Casie Forbush-Corunna  
Treasurer: Katie Jo Genter-Ubly  
Reporter: Lindsey Garner-Byron  
Sentinal: Mallory Weber-Hopkins  
Region I State VP: Bethany Schreur-Branch Area Career Center  
Region II State VP: Brittney Bommarito-Springport  
Region III State VP: Rebecca Gulliver-Breckenridge  
Region IV State VP: Jennifer DeClerg-Durand  
Region V State VP: Sara Fosburg-Lowell  
Region VI State VP: Connor Hubbard-Alcona

## *A 4 Star Constellation*

A '4-star' constellation is shining in Huron County. At Michigan's 83rd State Convention, one Huron County family celebrated its fourth state winner, when Nick Verhaar was announced 'State Star' in Agricultural Placement. Nick, representing the Laker FFA Chapter, was the fourth sibling in his family to earn this recognition. John and Anja Verhaar made history March 10th, by having their 4th child win this prestigious award.

In 2004, oldest son, Johnny received State Star in Agricultural Placement. As an FFA member, he was the Laker FFA chapter president, a state winner in both Agricultural Communications and Environmental Science and placed 5th, nationally, in Extemporaneous Speaking. He graduated from MSU and owns a crop farm.

In 2008, Marco gained 'star'dom. His SAE was dairy production, and he earned his State Star in Agricultural Production, with ownership of 100 Jersey cattle. Marco served as chapter treasurer and competed at Nationals in both Parliamentary Procedure and Ag Issues. He is currently constructing his own dairy facility that will utilize robot milkers.

In 2009, Maaike, the Verhaar's daughter, was awarded State Star Agricultural Placement. Her SAE included training new employees and taking care of the calves on the family farm. Maaike was a member of the Parliamentary Procedure team and the state-winning Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team. She is also the first Laker girl to earn State Star. She graduated from University of Wisconsin's Dairy Management Program.

On March 10th, 2011, Nick completed the family's '4-star' status by becoming this year's State Star in Ag Placement. He received this award for demonstrated ability in agricultural welding, mechanics and construction. Nick serves as both the Region III and chapter Vice President, and represented Michigan at national convention in the following: Agricultural Communications, Agricultural Issues and Poultry Contest. Nick plans to attend college, continuing studies in welding and mechanics.



# The Rest of the Story...



**LAURA KRHOVSKY  
STATE PRESIDENT**

## FYI

### LAURA'S FAVORITES

Coming from a region of great leadership and enthusiasm Laura is a member of the Corunna FFA Chapter. Some of her favorite things are:

**College:** MSU, Biology, Pre-Medicine Major

**SAE:** Diversified Livestock Production

**TV Show:** Pretty Little Liars

**Personal Hobby:** Dance

**Q** Has a member ever truly inspired you?

**A** My sister Elizabeth, joined the FFA her freshman year, as a very shy person. While in FFA she came out of her shell and participated in many activities, including becoming a state officer. She has inspired me and continues to encourage me each and every day!

**Q** If you had to choose one word to describe yourself, what would it be and why?

**A** Altruistic! I care deeply about others, which is why I have chosen the medical field to study. It is important to me to watch over others and make sure I am there if they were to need help at anytime. Helping others is what motivates me every day to wake up in the morning. During my life, it is my goal to help as many people as I can.

**Q** What message do you have for the members of the Michigan FFA?

**A** Everyone is special. Although there are over five-thousand of us, it is the members that have made and continue to make this amazing organization what it is today. Keep up the positive attitude and the best is yet to come!

## FYI

### KARICE'S FAVORITES

From a region of great competition, Karice is a member of the Branch Area Career Center FFA Chapter in Region I Here are just a few of her favorites:

**College:** MSU, Elementary Education Major

**SAE:** Diversified Livestock Production, Agriculture Education

**Candy:** Reese's

**Personal Hobby:** Reading

**Q** What one person do you look to for strength and guidance?

**A** I look to Jesus Christ for strength and guidance. I was raised in a home that was very religious. My parents taught me the importance of trust and faith in God, and for that I look to him for all of my needs.

**Q** What inspirational message would you like to give to the members?

**A** Take chances and get involved in as many activities as possible, because you never know what the outcome will be. Soak up everything that you learn from being in the FFA because it will impact your future.

**Q** What personal goals do you have for yourself?

**A** Upon graduation from Michigan State University, I plan on teaching elementary students. Additionally, I would one day like to be married and have a family of my own.

**Q** Who inspired you to join the FFA?

**A** I am blessed to have more than one person encourage me to join the FFA. It is a family tradition to be in the FFA and I am proud to be part of that tradition. The success and opportunities that my family has had ignited a fire within me to want to accomplish all the great things they have! I believe with all of my heart that if it weren't for their inspiration that I would not have had the opportunities that I have had within this organization.



**KARICE HARD  
REGION I STATE VP**



# What's the word?

By: Emily Swartzendruber  
MSU Communications Sophomore

## SWEET SUMMER TIME

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

BARBECUE

BASEBALL

BIKE

BIRDWATCH

BOATING

CAMP

CANOE

CLIMB

DIVE

FISH

FRISBEE

GARDEN

HIKE

HOPSCOTCH

JUMPROPE

PICNIC

ROLLERBLADE

ROLLERSKATE

SEESAW

SKATEBOARD

SLIDE

SNORKEL

SURF

SWIM

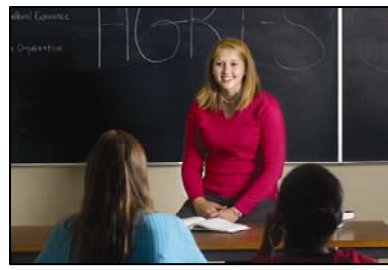
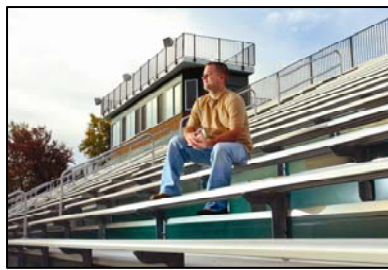
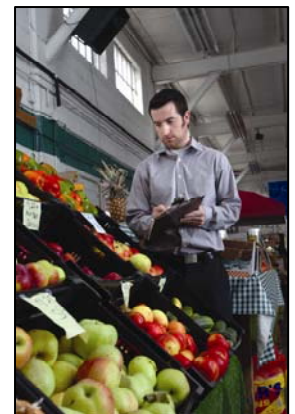
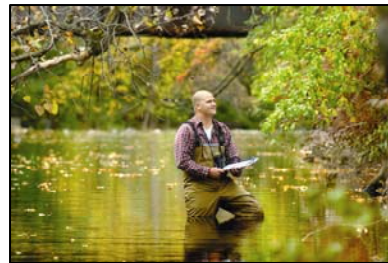
SWING

VACATION

VOLLEYBALL

WADE

WATERSKI



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