



The Michigan FFA Creed

November/December 2005

"I believe that to live
and work
on a good farm..."

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Important Dates

Nov	2-4 15	Broilers and Cornish Hen Contest in Fowlerville FFA Membership Rosters and POAs due
Dec	14-15	MFB/FFA Ag Career and Leadership Conference in Lansing
Jan	3 7	Star Candidate Interviews Regional Degree Scoring

I believe in...



To live and work on a good farm...

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

It is not always easy to be an FFA member – and one doesn't have to live or work on a farm to recognize this fact. In honor of all the hard work and leadership that our membership puts in, an ode to the FFA member was written last year. For anyone who has been to State Convention in the past few years, it might sound familiar.

"And on the ninth day, God gazed upon his Earthly creation and said, 'I need a leader.' So God made an FFA member.

"God said, 'I need somebody willing to rise ahead of the sun and do chores before heading into school for an officer meeting, concentrate and focus on six hours of schoolwork before Parli Pro practice only to go home for supper, do more chores and hours of homework before retiring

to bed.' So God made an FFA member.


"I need somebody with patience strong enough to train a hog before fair time and someone with the teamwork skills to work with others from varied walks of life. Somebody to build character and promote citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism all while exuding a cooperative attitude toward all people.' So God made an FFA member.

"God said, 'I need somebody willing to work for hours on a speech that will inform a community on an important agricultural issue and then when they receive a hard-earned silver, will dry their eyes and say, "Maybe next year." I need somebody who can increase awareness of the importance of agriculture and its contribution to our well-being and spread the belief of better days through better ways. Someone who, during convention season will put in twenty hours of practice time all while managing their academic, work and personal schedules.' So God made an FFA member.

"God had to have somebody who has a faith in agriculture that is stronger than words and can see past the hours of toil to a future that is bright, secure

and paved with the sweat, blood and tears of present and past generations of agriculturalists. So God made an FFA member.

"God said, 'I need somebody who will set goals in all avenues of their life and work to achieve those goals. Somebody who will radiate a feeling of pride when they don their jackets of blue corduroy and upon placing their right hand over their heart to pledge allegiance, will mean every word of it.'

"It had to be somebody who'd work to portray an image rich in cooperation, intelligence and diligence to all those around them. Somebody to travel around the nation, befriending those they meet with a firm handshake of brotherhood, sharing ideas and working together to move forward an organization that thirty-three farm boys started and millions of young men and women helped advance into what we today hold. Somebody who had learned from wise owls the attributes of premier leadership, personal growth and career success and when asked by others who they are, reply with smiling eyes that they are an American Organization filled with opportunity, wonder and a brilliant future. So God made an FFA member." 

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C

A Sweet Tale... Sugar Beets in Michigan

By: Jason Smith
State FFA President

How do you spell sweetness? For many Mid-Michigan farmers, "sweetness" is spelled S-U-G-A-R B-E-E-T-S, and rightfully so, because for many of these farmers sugar beets are their bread and butter. For those of you who don't live in sugar beet country; let me back up and explain a little bit.

Sugar beets are a specialty crop grown in select areas across the United States. In Michigan, most sugar beets are grown in the thumb and other parts of Mid-Michigan. Like most specialty crops, sugar beets are a lot like a heavy weight boxer with a glass jaw. They can deliver quite an impact, but at the same time, disaster is never too far away. That is to say, sugar beets can be a difficult and expensive crop to grow. Young sugar

beet crops have to face the difficulties of soil diseases, insects, and dry, crusty soil, not to mention the weather. Weather is very important to sugar beets. If the soil is too dry, the seeds will not germinate and heavy rains can drown out the sugar beets. Freezing weather can also kill small seedlings.

After planting, the farmer is hoping for some warm weather and soft rains. Furthermore, strong winds can cause the sugar beets to twist and turn and along with blowing soil, the sugar beets can be cut in half by the wind. Along with these dangers, farmers have to spend extra money on specialty equipment to help raise and harvest the beets. So with all of the extra costs and the hidden dangers, why would farmers bother with the crop? Simple, it's a great money making crop. Despite their fragile nature and their high cost, sugar beets offer farmers a great return on

their investment when things go right. In fact, for years they were known as the "Mortgage Lifter" because of their potential profits. This year alone Michigan sugar generated \$300 million in revenues in the communities in which it operates.

In the past few years, the face of sugar production in Michigan has seen some dramatic reconstruction, starting in 2002. It was at this time that local farmers were faced with a very difficult situation. For years, Imperial Sugar Co., who owned and operated many of the processing and packing facilities for sugar beets in the area, announced that they were selling the company.

This left farmers with a difficult decision, would they leave their future to chance and risk not having processing facilities, or would they take matters into their own hands? In the end, local farmers decided to take the risky, but potentially worthwhile venture of buying out Imperial Sugar, and creating a farmer owned Sugar Co-Op. For the low, low price of 63.5 million dollars, farmers from the Croswell, Carlton, Caro, and Sebawaing areas purchased the sugar company from the Texas based, Imperial Sugar Co. This purchase included piling facilities in Croswell, Carlton, Caro, and Sebawaing as well as processing and storage facilities and the brand name "Pioneer Sugar". The result of this transaction was a farmer owned cooperative which encompassed a large portion of Michigan's sugar growing area.

Then, just to shake things up a bit more, Michigan's sugar bowl was turned upside down with a new announcement. As of October 1, 2004 the decision was made to merge Monitor Sugar (A Bay City based company) with the Farmer's Cooperative. The result? The largest sugar beet processor this side of the Mississippi river, and the third largest in the entire United States. In fact, the resulting co-op contains about 1,300 sugar beet growers, employing 500 year-round employees and 1,850 seasonal and it generates nearly \$300 million in direct economic activity annually. It also now encompasses the entire state of Michigan, making it the only sugar beet processing facility in state.

So, with all of these great advantages one might think that Michigan sugar is all set, and ready to take on the world, right? Well, not quite. As things stand, there are a few issues that concern sugar growers, and threaten their happy future. First, as already mentioned, weather is a huge issue when dealing with sugar beets. Furthermore, because sugar beets are stored outdoors in large piles before they are processed, weather can make a difference before and after the harvest. This past year, growers found this out the hard way, as they watched almost all of their crop rot in storage because of untimely warm weather. It's not a situation that happens often or even



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much at all, and measures are being taken to insure that it won't happen again, but it is a stark reminder of the unpredictability of the industry.

Secondly, like everyone else in the world, the sugar industry is suffering from the rising cost of energy. Whether it's electricity to run processing and packaging plants or fuel to run vehicles the costs all add up and make it more difficult to turn a profit. Also, growing interest in health fads has led American consumers away from pure sugar and into the use of alternative sweeteners. Finally, many farmers feel threatened by a new push in the federal government for free trade agreements, such as the recently passed Central American Free Trade Agreement to include the Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR). Many sugar farmers feel

that free trade threatens their business because they are unable to produce sugar at a comparable price to what many Central and South American farmers can. Their competition potentially threatens to undermine the American sugar market by allowing cheaper, untaxed sugar to cross our borders, sugar that is not grown with the same standards as many American farmers hold to.

Now that the history and the issues are clear, we must look to the future, and the future all depends on you. We are the future growers and consumers of Michigan sugar, and without our support the industry is doomed to failure. So, the next time you pick up a pack of sugar, make sure it's Michigan grown (Pioneer, Monitor, etc.), make sure it's beet sugar, and make sure you enjoy it! 



Sweeten Up Your Day...

Pioneer Brown Sugar Pound Cake

Cake:

- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. butter or margarine, softened
- 1 c. milk
- 2 ¼ c. firmly packed Pioneer Golden Light Brown Sugar
- ½ c. Pioneer Sugar
- ½ c. shortening
- 5 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 c. chopped pecans

Caramel Glaze:

- ¼ c. butter or margarine
- ½ c. Pioneer Golden Light Brown Sugar, firmly packed
- ¼ c. milk
- 2 c. Pioneer Confectioners 10X Powder Sugar, sifted
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan or bundt pan. Cream butter, shortening and both Pioneer Sugars together in mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in vanilla.

Sift flour, baking powder and salt together; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Mix well after each addition. Stir in pecans.

Spoon batter into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until pick (inserted 1-inch from edge) comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes; turn out onto wire rack and cool completely. Drizzle with caramel glaze if desired.

Caramel Glaze: Melt butter in small saucepan over medium-low heat. Stir in Pioneer Golden Light Brown Sugar; cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat; gradually stir in Pioneer Confectioners 10X Powder Sugar. Add vanilla, stir until smooth.



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Our Motto in Motion

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

Learning to Do

By: Sarah McCurley
Region I State
Vice President

The Calhoun Area Technology Center (CATC) is one of the many newly chartered chapters of the Michigan FFA. Despite this, CATC is the only new chapter that resides in an entirely new school that was just finished in 2004 and is located in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The founders must have felt that their jobs were done, having a new building with

new programs: a two year program for high school juniors and seniors, a full tissue culture lab with two laminar flow hoods for micro propagation of explants, a two bay, computer controlled greenhouse with a bio-filtration system, numerous culture and breeding tanks for their aquaculture lab, and 22 wireless remote computers. A truly amazing lab!

Yet the new program was missing something, while the school did house an amazing Agriscience program, it needed some renovation. This was when the founders enlisted the help of Mrs. Sue Smith.

"I was teaching chemistry, biology, earth and physical sciences at Battle Creek Central High School when my principal asked me if I was interested in being on a panel of people to help redesign the program. My

husband, Harley, and I joined the group, where our mandate was to design an agriculture program that was 15 years futuristic." said Smith.

While some might have seen this as a daunting task, Mrs. Smith was ready for action. She soon found that it was not as hard as she had originally thought. The "design team" looked to Europe for the answers – Holland specifically – to find the latest ideas in the agriculture industry.


When all was said and done, the newly revised program was born. The programs now contain sections of hydroponics, aquaculture, environmentally controlled agriculture, biotechnology, and environmental science, with a measure of plant science and botany thrown in the mix. The new program also contains entrepreneurship curriculum that Mrs. Smith says "helps her students own and run their own business, also helping them with their SAEs."

The CATC articulates and works together with Ferris State University for biotechnology and environmental science and Lansing Community College (LCC) for biology. The CATC is also in the process of working on articulation with LCC for biotechnology.

A few of their specialized projects include breeding Tilapia fish and Australian Red Claw Lobsters. They have the first,

and so far, the only research permit for this unapproved species in the state of Michigan.

Mrs. Smith, with the help of her students soon established their very own FFA chapter on January 1, 2005 and received their charter at the 2005 State FFA Convention. "We have 100% membership!" says Mrs. Smith.

One of the students that benefits from the incredible opportunities at CATC, Jayson Street, said, "Throughout my high school career, I have never had a teacher who was so passionate about what they teach, and I believe that Mrs. Smith's passion for this class has really helped all of us to further our education on the environment." 



We Want to Hear From YOU!

Is your chapter taking part in an exciting new project? Have you begun a unique community service activity? Do you or someone you know have an interesting SAE program? If you have any news that you consider newsworthy, share it with the Michigan FFA Creed. Email details to pettyd@carrs.msu.edu and let us know what's up!

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Who Said THAT???

- 1 - "I love beef jerk of any flavor. I rarely leave home without it!"
- 2 - "I don't like to shower often."
- 3 - "I'm part of a really big family. I have seven brothers and one sister."

1-Kevin, 2-Andrea, 3-Alon



Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Julie Thelen
State Vice President

Jordan Pincik, now a senior at Corunna High School, grew up watching his father work the land on their family farm and can still remember how exciting it was to ride along with his dad on their tractors and combines. It didn't take long for Jordan to discover his passion for agriculture and farm machinery.

Jordan's toy collection started on his first birthday when he received a 1/16 scale Case

International 3294 tractor. He continued to grow his collection, each time his father went to a farm dealership to get equipment or parts, Jordan would ride along and pick out a new toy to add to his collection.

Jordan's toy collection today numbers over 700 pieces. Most of the tractors in his collection are Case IH because that's what most of the equipment his dad uses on their farm and they are displayed on shelves with the exception of his collection of Ertl Farm Country Buildings which is displayed in his 8' by 16' farm display. This farm display features a farm dealership, a grain elevator, a fertilizer and chemical dealer, along with an actual farm which includes a dairy, hog, and beef set-up. Jordan recently modified his display to look more lifelike by adding trees and gravel. His display also features a few custom built toys. Most of the field cultivators and chisel plows

have been modified to better fit the larger farm tractors. Jordan's collection features a unique sugar beet harvester, a sugar beet topper, and a set of Michigan doubles (two grain trailers) that were hand built. In addition, Jordan has been collecting the Michigan FFA tractors for the last seven years.

Today, Jordan works alongside his dad on their 1500 acre cash crop farm and has never forgotten how much he enjoyed watching his dad do field work. Together they raise wheat, soybeans, and corn; as well as doing custom tilling for other farmers.

When Jordan's not working on the farm or attending toy shows, he finds time to be a member of the National Honor Society and is incredibly active in the 4-H program in Shiawassee County. In his eleven years as a member of the Radical Happy Hoppers 4-H Club, he has held a variety of offices and has been a 4-H junior leader for six years. At the Shiawassee County Fair Jordan has received numerous ribbons and medals from exhibiting rabbits, swine, field crops, writing, photography, crafts, and food.

Jordan has been a member of the Corunna FFA Chapter for four years. During his time as an FFA member Jordan has received many prestigious awards and honors, a few of which include being a state winner in Grain Production Entrepreneurship in 2004, the state winner in Grain Production Placement in 2005,

being a finalist for the Michigan FFA Star Farmer award, and a member of an agronomy team that competed in the national contest placing 18th in the nation overall. However, it's not the trophies and awards that Jordan says he'll remember most, but rather, the memories, skills, and friendships that will last him a lifetime.

After graduating from Corunna High School in 2005, Jordan plans on attending Michigan State University to study Agricultural Industries. Following college, he plans on using his education to obtain an agricultural related employment position and one day return to work full time on his family farm. [G](#)



Toy Tractor Tidbit...

Over the 2005 summer, a complete set of FFA tractors was auctioned off at MSU Ag Expo. The set included such models as the Farmall 350, the Massey Harris 44 Special, the Oliver 1555 and eight different varieties of John Deere. Donated by former Michigan FFA Advisor Mr. Rich Karelse, the set raised money for the Michigan FFA Foundation. The FFA tractor collection brought in a whopping \$7,500 when auctioned. Thank you again Mr. Rich Karelse for your continued support throughout the years! Your generosity will never be forgotten by the Michigan FFA!



- 1 - "When I was little, I wanted to grow up to be an opera singer."
- 2 - "I am a cartoon addict! My favorites are Road Runner and Wyle E. Coyote."
- 3 - "I love to talk. I'm loud and there is rarely a quiet moment when I'm around."

1-Caitlin, 2-Jason, 3-Erin

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Earning to Live

By: Dustin Petty
ANR Communications

She wore the blue and gold. She wore the blue and gold and it is for that reason that we knew her. She lived a beautiful life and it is for that reason that we will remember her.

Staci Cheadle, a member of the Coopersville FFA, daughter to Theresa and Roger and friend to countless others, passed away on Wednesday, September 7th of this year. In the days and weeks to follow memories and tributes to this kind soul's character and

humanity have flooded the Coopersville community.

Staci was a very active member of the Equestrian Team at her school and of course, her FFA chapter where she was vice president. She competed in public speaking contests, showed hogs at her county fair and participated in Crop-O-Rama and the Floriculture contest at Ag Skills. She also touched lives.

Beth Wikstrom, sophomore member of the Coopersville FFA remarked, "Staci was a wonderful person with a beautiful heart and a soft spot for animals. She was my light in a world of darkness, making my days a little brighter."

Ellen Timmerman, the Coopersville FFA Reporter and a member of the Equestrian Team said, "Staci was always there when I was growing up. We rode the same bus, took the same classes at school and were




in the same clubs. Every time I saw her, she would smile, wave and start talking to me about the horses we work with. She loved horses so much and it showed. It's hard not seeing her anymore."

Sam Hardrader, an FFA and Equestrian team member, remembered, "Staci was a great friend and just an awesome team player. You couldn't ask for a better, more motivated person. She will be missed, but forever remembered."

And the tributes go on and on...

Now we are left with the memories that filled a short span of 17 years. A community isn't supposed to bury their young, but when left with that harsh reality a community comes together as one large extended family. A memorial service was held shortly after her passing and the church was packed from rafter to pew with people who had

come to offer condolences and embrace those who knew and loved Staci.

Mr. Kent Bollinger, the Coopersville FFA advisor, summed up the feelings of the entire community. "Staci was an individual who as a thoughtful listener and willing contributor, was always there for her friends. That is all we can ask for in our society – a compassionate, caring soul. Apparently, she was there...to simply remind us of the fragility of life and the power of one. Our theme this year for the officer team is RSC - Remember Staci Cheadle. We will be working to make her proud! We will miss her." 



- 1 - "I have some sense of style because my twin sister always picked out my clothes."
- 2 - "My favorite musician is Michael Jackson (MUSICALLY, NOT PERSONALLY)."
- 3 - "My favorite movie is Forrest Gump because... 'life is like a box of chocolates.'"

1-Tony, 2-Kylee, 3-Zac

FFA NEW HORIZONS
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Living to Serve

By: Andrea Kerbuski
State Reporter

With the death toll over 1,000 people and 200 billion dollars worth of damage, Hurricane Katrina has affected the entire nation, including the FFA.

Over 5,000 FFA members, 120 FFA chapters, and 150 agriscience teachers were displaced by this humanitarian crisis. To paint an accurate picture of how many this has affected, imagine the entire Michigan FFA Association being wiped out completely.

With all the pain and suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Michigan FFA chapters have been aiding in the efforts to help heal their brothers and sisters of the Gulf Coast.

The Pascagoula School District was left with flooded schools and broken hearts after Hurricane Katrina devastated Pascagoula, Mississippi. Each of the ten elementary schools within the district stood desolate and destroyed following August 29th. The wretched floodwaters ruined everything inside the school. With the help of the Ubly FFA chapter, these schools will no longer stand abandoned.

Ubly FFA has partnered with their school to adopt the Pascagoula School District and to help rebuild.

Ashley Cregeur, president of the Ubly FFA chapter has been extremely involved with the efforts. "I have never seen so much participation in the school and community before. I feel like we have over-achieved our goal because everyone has been so involved," she stated proudly.

FFA members, students, and faculty have been collecting school supplies, books, clothing and playground and gym equipment, to name a few items.

A local farmer, Allen Bischer has volunteered to drive his semi truck, loaded with the donated supplies, to Mississippi on October 9th.

Jenna Kramer, vice-president of the Ubly FFA stated, "We have to put ourselves in [the victims'] place. It's very important we help because they have to start over again and they have nothing."

The ten elementary schools have plans to reopen their schools much sooner than expected with the generosity and help from the Ubly community...

FFA members at Oakland Tech Center SW have been busy creating and decorating grapevine wreaths to sell at the Farmers Market Days. The profits are not to benefit their FFA chapter, but to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina by donating the money earned to the Red Cross. Already in their first week, they raised \$300!



"Our designs are helping out in a small way. Knowing that the profits go to something so important makes our work all the more pleasing," said Jen Smith from the OSTC-SW FFA Chapter.

Every Wednesday, the students travel to Walled Lake, Michigan to sell their wreaths. They plan on continuing this weekly fundraiser through September and October...

The Springport FFA chapter has joined forces with their school to raise money and collect school supplies, clothing, and other necessities for families from the Gulf coast.

They raised 375 dollars and received enough supplies to fill an entire 54 foot semi-truck. The supplies were shipped to the Lansing Catholic Charities for the families that relocated in Michigan.

Shirley Chisholm once wrote that "Service is the rent we pay to for the privilege of living on Earth." If this is to be true, then following the horrific days of Hurricane Katrina, Americans across the nation, including those in our high schools and FFA chapters, earned the right to live in this world. We came together as a people and political lines and boundaries on the map ceased to divide us for a time. We were all brothers and sisters. ♪



- 1 - "I love 'could happen' movies like *Little Black Book* or *Mean Girls*."
- 2 - "My survival kit includes my cell phone, a planner and chocolate."
- 3 - "I love the television show of *Joan of Arcadia* and I am great at drawing stick cows!"

1-Sarah, 2-Julie, 3-Ashley

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Member Highlights

By: Andrea Kerbuski
State Reporter


Region 1: Henry Reinart Hopkins

Henry has an extensive SAE most people would be overwhelmed by! He works on his family's 283 acre farm where he raises sheep, hogs, beef cattle, and chickens. He also raises corn, hay, wheat, and rye. Not only does he have an extensive SAE, he is very involved in the Hopkins FFA Chapter, serving as the chapter president and also serving the region as sentinel.

As far back as Henry remembers, he has been involved on the family operated farm, but started his SAE in seventh grade when he joined FFA. Henry's duties begin with feeding the sheep, chickens, and beef cattle. He also has the job of, "shutting up the chickens at night." During the summer, he counts cattle and during the winter, he feeds them hay. In the spring, Henry is in charge of lambing ewes. When the lambs are born, he puts them in separate pens and makes sure the ewe is taking care of the lambs. He also moves hay in the summer and crib corn in the fall.

From his involvement in his SAE, Henry has learned how to take proper care of many animals and raise different kinds of crops. He also learned how to keep up the appearance of the farm, so that it looks pleasing to potential buyers.

Henry is also involved in the National Honor Society and throws shot and discus in track.

After graduation, Henry plans on attending Michigan State University and majoring in Animal Science. He hopes to become a veterinarian. 

Region 2: Adam Lewis Jonesville


The day of Adam Lewis of Jonesville FFA Chapter begins with getting up every morning and checking the pens and making sure that they have fresh straw, feeding the 450 cows on his family owned and operated farm. He takes care of the calves and checks all the pens each day. He also grows 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans, and alfalfa.

Adam shows steers, sheep, and ducks at the Hillsdale County Fair for his SAE as well. His SAE has taught him patience especially. "You have to be patient and not rush when handling equipment. I've learned you must be patient and calm when handling animals as well," Adam says.

After attending national convention, Adam realized that he wanted to become a better speaker and improve his leadership skills which motivated him to stay involved in FFA.

FFA has taught Adam to be comfortable with himself and be confident. He has also learned that it is important to work with other people and have good teamwork skills.

Besides FFA, Adam can be found on the field, playing football at his high school.

After graduation, Adam would like to attend Michigan State University and take a two year program in Agriculture Management. 

Region 3: Megan Ross St. Louis

As chapter president of the St. Louis FFA Chapter and the Region III Sentinel, Megan Ross is a role model for her chapter and region. She has attended numerous conferences and conventions while earning many awards. Even with a busy schedule, Megan has been extremely involved with her SAE ever since she was thirteen years old. Her SAE is cattle and sheep production, while helping her family on their 43 acre farm.

After helping out on the farm and handling animals, Megan's interest for farming grew tremendously. She began showing at the Gratiot County Fair for Youth, which she has been doing the last five years. She started out her first year showing a calf and the next year she added sheep!

Megan's responsibilities include checking the cows and sheep in the afternoon, walking and working her animals, driving tractors, and other tasks that need to be done on the farm. She absolutely loves driving the tractor while baling hay and straw.

Megan plans to attend Michigan State University next fall and pursue a career in agricultural and natural resources communications. She hopes to become a journalist or editor, yet still be involved on a farm. 



Henry Reinart
Hopkins



Adam Lewis
Jonesville



Megan Ross
St. Louis

Region 4: Tyler Thaler

Perry

Tyler Thaler is an outstanding member from the Perry FFA Chapter. He is currently the vice-president and serves as the Region IV Treasurer. His SAE involves working on Leach Farms and working at Grenbrier Golf Course.

His SAE began when he was 15 years old and he first started working at the local golf course. Tyler works in the Proshop where his duties include answering phones, scheduling tee times, assist in setting up banquets, take money, conduct inventory for products, order beverages and food, and keeping the Proshop clean. While being involved in his SAE, Tyler has learned marketing and business accounting skills.

Tyler has received numerous awards including Outstanding Jr., Ag. Issues State Silver twice, received third place at state for Milk Quality, and many more.

FFA has given Tyler so many opportunities he would not have had otherwise. "FFA has taught me that working hard actually pays off. I don't know what I would do without FFA."

Outside of his busy FFA schedule, Tyler is an active member of the Perry Golf team and he is running for Jr. Fair Board Member of the Shiawassee County Fair.

Tyler plans on attending Michigan State University for a degree in Sports & Commercial Turf Management and Golf Course Turf Management. 

Region 5: Kate Krepps

Ravenna


Kate Krepps is a true trooper of the Ravenna FFA Chapter. From the very start of her involvement, Kate has volunteered for numerous activities and has had perfect attendance at all meetings, always with a smile stretched across her face.

When Kate isn't busy with FFA, 4-H, student council, track, or quiz bowl, she is extensively involved with her SAE, beef production. Since the age of four, she has raised animals. For ten years, she has shown pigs, steers, and sheep at the Muskegon County Fair.

A typical day for Kate begins with checking her animals each morning and after school she feeds her animals both grain and hay.

Kate says "my SAE has taught me responsibility and hard work. Working with the animals has taught me what it takes to run a farm and the dedication it takes. It has been a project full of life lessons that I would never trade for anything!"

Besides serving as the Ravenna FFA Chapter's sentinel, Kate is the Executive Board President of Ravenna High School's student council, and historian of her 4-H chapter.

Kate plans on attending Michigan State University to become either an Agriscience teacher or veterinarian. 


Region 6: Renee Wangler

Ogemaw Heights

Renee Wangler, a junior at Ogemaw Heights has a busy SAE schedule taking care of both her beef cattle and sheep. Between her SAEs, being Ogemaw Heights FFA Chapter's vice president and serving as the Region VI secretary, she can be considered a role model for the younger members in FFA, striving to accomplish as much as she can.

Renee's SAE started much before her involvement in FFA. At age eight, she began her SAE sheep production and at age 12 she started her SAE beef production.

Record keeping, handling money, and responsibility are just a few of the skills she has learned through both her SAEs. While raising lambs and steers, she is solely responsible for feeding, checking for illnesses, training, and preparing them for show. Each morning Renee begins her day by getting up earlier for school and feeding them. She checks them for warts, ringworm, and other illnesses. Trimming hooves and clipping her steers, and getting her lamb shorn are a few of the things she must do before they are ready for show or sale.

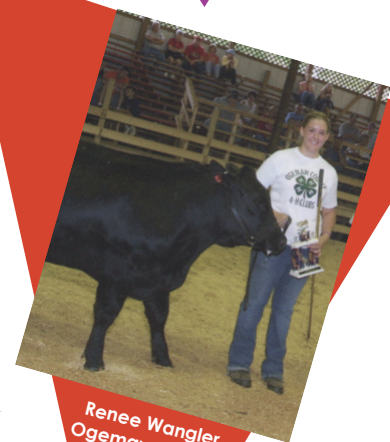
When Renee graduates next year, she plans on attending Michigan State University to study secondary education. She would like to become an Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor. 



Tyler Thaler
Perry



Kate Krepps
Ravenna



Renee Wangler
Ogemaw Heights

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

Email Dustin Petty at pettyd@carrs.msu.edu

Nov/Dec 2005
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Back Where I Come From

By: J.D. McLeod
*Texas Vice President and
 Kacey VanDeaver
 Texas Vice President*

Howdy Michigan FFA!

When people think of Texas, they might picture a rancher sitting on his horse on an open range surrounded by cactus, watching his cattle roam the wide-open pastures. What they might not see is that same rancher using his cell phone to check current market prices of those cattle. The face of production agriculture is changing drastically and Texas FFA is working very hard to stay updated with changing technology, especially those issues directly involving FFA members.

Many of our members have taken the opportunity when entering contests such as Ag Issues and Prepared Public Speaking to learn more about advancing technologies and becoming more prepared to enter into a future agricultural career. Another way Texas FFA members have shown interest

in technology is by submitting a National Issue to our state association to be forwarded to State Presidents Conference. The idea to create a CDE involving biotechnology was originally formed at the local level and will be considered at this year's national convention in Louisville.

In the weeks following Hurricane Katrina, Texas FFA members found themselves surrounded by evidence of its devastation as victims of our neighboring state Louisiana pour into Texas cities in search of shelter, food and security. Our creed expresses a call to FFA members concerning charity to give "more of it when needed." Members from across the state have taken a leading role in reaching out to victims on every level, from collecting donations to traveling to the affected areas to provide much needed assistance.

In July, Lubbock hosted the 77th Annual Texas FFA Convention. The West Texas Panhandle provided a unique opportunity for more than

Texas Tidbits...

- More wool comes from the state of Texas than any other state in the country.
- Texas has the nation's largest herd of whitetail deer.
- The King Ranch in Texas is bigger than the state of Rhode Island.
- Brazoria County in Texas has more species of birds than any other comparable area in North America.
- Texas' cattle population is estimated to be near 16 million.
- Texas was an independent nation from 1836 to 1845.
- A coastal live oak near Fulton, Texas is the oldest living tree in the state. The tree has an estimated age of more than 1,500 years.

8,000 members and guests to spend four days in an area known for agricultural diversity. The convention was all about celebrating the past year's accomplishments and taking lessons and memories back home to chapters.

Members from across Texas were recognized for their accomplishments throughout the year in proficiencies, contests and activities. Members just like you received more than \$1 million in scholarship money through the Texas FFA Foundation and other sponsors to help fund their college education. FFA members also had the awesome opportunity to learn personal and chapter development skills at workshops led by past state and national officers. Keynote addresses from Sam Glenn (The Chalk Man) and Dr. Rick Rigsby lit a fire in the members that will burn throughout this next year.

Over the past three years, Texas FFA has begun to look to the future of our as-

sociation and work toward financial independence. The Texas FFA Foundation Capital Campaign has set a goal to raise \$15 million to permanently fund our program. This year marked the three-year anniversary of its launch, and we are excited to learn that we have exceeded our three-year goal of \$3 million and have raised a total of \$4.1 million to insure the future of our association and its members forever.

In a state with an \$8.4 billion cattle market and 103.5 million acres of farm and ranch land, it is easy to see where people get their stereotypes about Texas' agriculture industry. Because of urban sprawl and economic restraints, Texas FFA members are working extra hard today to ensure a successful tomorrow--and having a lot of fun doing it. Michigan FFA members, we wish you the best of luck this year. Thanks for allowing us to bring you just a little bit of Texas!



FFA NEW HORIZONS

The Rest of the Story...



Julie Thelen
State Vice President

Nothing to Lose is a favorite song of State Vice President Julie Thelen and could also be something of a motto for life. This Saline native enjoys munching on kniffls and sauerkraut as she watches *One Tree Hill* and *CSI* on TV or reading her favorite book, *Where the Heart Is*. Personal hobbies include showing cattle and sheep across the nation, sewing and modeling.

An Agriscience Education freshman at Michigan State, Julie is actually enjoying a relaxing year as a state officer after a high school schedule that would make many professionals dizzy. She was involved in National Honor Society, SADD, the Saline Family and Community Leaders of America, varsity track and field, many 4-H clubs and even more beef clubs.

Julie has just as many plans for her year of service to the Michigan FFA. She said, "I hope to travel around to visit as many chapters as I can and inspire members to become more active in their communities and as individuals strive to always do their best." Describing herself as determined, Julie believes that her main responsibility over the next year is to "serve as a role model to all members and inspiring them to make an impact on others."

Her piece of advice is this: "Life is like a rollercoaster, but you must never get off. There will be great and amazing days and days with endless challenges, but it is all worth it."

Region III State Vice President Zac Ruthenberg has the best cars of anyone on the state officer team - no contest. The reason for could possibly be that Zac owns and operates Ruthenberg Auto Detail where he "takes client's vehicles at their dirtiest state and returns them as if they came from the dealership's showroom." However, when Zac isn't rolling in the cash, he likes to watch *Forest Gump* and the *Simpsons* while eating homemade mac n' cheese and Baby Ruth candy bars.

Zac is currently majoring in pre-law and marketing at Saginaw Valley State University but the distance isn't going to prevent him from achieving his goals as a state officer. He said, "I hope to enrich myself with all the association has to offer, in addition to serving our mighty state to the fullest extent, giving back what it has given me. I'd like to see my officer team bring the state closer together and interweave the vast diversity it contains - making six regions into one awesome body."

Zac hopes to go on to pursue a degree in Corporate Law from MSU and upon graduation, work for the John Deere Corporation. He would like to start a family and reside in Iowa as well.

Zac, who looks to his father and close best friend for strength, wants to share this piece of truth with the Michigan FFA: "Life is but a deep breath, inhale to almighty crests before assuming exhalation."



Zac Ruthenberg
Region III State
Vice President



Erin Koglin
State Sentinel

When State Sentinel Erin Koglin isn't busy with class or in the state office, she can be found watching the *Gillmore Girls* or belting out the tunes in *Grease* while cleansing her palate with Hot Tamales and her mom's turkey-rice casserole.

A freshman at Michigan State, Erin originally joined the FFA because in her family, it was a rule that everyone had to belong for at least one year. She excelled as a member and went on to become her chapter's sentinel, vice president and president. She also served as the Region III Vice President her junior year in high school.

Erin sees one genuine purpose in her service as a state officer: the members of the Michigan FFA. She said, "As a state officer, I see my primary responsibility as the members. Without them, I would have no purpose. Whenever something arises, it is my job to always put the members first and do whatever is best for them."

To the Michigan FFA membership, Erin has this message: "Never give up. No matter what it is that you want to do, if you set your mind to it, you can accomplish anything. It may not happen right away, and even if you fail at first and something seems hopeless, just keep trying."

A Dream Fulfilled



By: Dustin Petty
ANR Communications

Imagine attending the 2005 National FFA Convention. The hall is packed full and National Officers are taking to the big stage. You look around and notice that something is missing. Where is the diversity? Where are all of the different hues of humanity?

For today's FFA member, this is an almost unthinkable occurrence – National Convention is a time when one can meet members from all walks of life. However, up until 1965, this was the reality for the members of the FFA.

The 1960's were a turbulent time for the United States – the Vietnam War and political assassinations occupied the troubled news reports each night. There was one struggle though that seemed to be affecting the entire nation – the fight for equal rights among the races.

Since the late 19th Century, the country had worked under a Supreme Court decision that boiled down to the idea

of "separate but equal." This meant that the races could be segregated from each other as long as conditions were equal. For example, all across the south blacks and whites had separate public restrooms, drinking fountains and entrances into movie theatres. There were even black schools and white schools.

This segregation in the school systems lead to the rise of two organizations for young farm boys – the Future Farmers of America (FFA) in 1928 for white boys and seven years later, the New Farmers of America (NFA) for black boys. The NFA was born in the south and in the south is where it, for the most part, stayed. Whereas the foundation of the FFA emblem is corn, the NFA had a cotton bole. Instead of treasurers being stationed by the emblem of Washington, a picture of the legendary African American educator Booker T. Washington was kept on hand. The jackets were of black corduroy and like the

FFA of the time, girls were not allowed.

The NFA held its National Conventions at the Municipal Auditorium in Atlanta, Georgia. There were fifteen state associations - nearly all of which were located in the southern states, the exception being Delaware.

They had their own degrees. As the FFA has Greenhand, Chapter, State and American degrees, the NFA had the Farm Hand, the Improved Farmer, the Modern Farmer and the Superior Farmer degrees.

The members worked hard and achieved much. The NFA presented their ideals of hard work and honest dealings in their own Creed.

The last stanza of their Creed spoke volumes: *"I believe that each farm boy bears the responsibility for finding and developing his talents to the end that the life of his people may thereby be enriched so that happiness and contentment will come to all."*

The New Farmers of America were building a legacy of success that matched, and in some cases, exceeded that of the Future Farmers.

But starting in the early 1960's, talks began. Talks between the two unique organizations were proving fruitful – there was talk of a consolidation. In 1955, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the "Separate but Equal" statute and in the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, handed down that segregation in the

schools and public facilities was unconstitutional.

At this time, according to Dr. Eddie Moore, a former NFA member of North Carolina, there was no intermingling between the two organizations whatsoever; even if they were in the same county. Despite this unfamiliarity with each other, the discussion had begun to bring these two factions together.

Through these talks, it was decided – starting at the 1965 National Convention of the Future Farmers of America, these two organizations that had been segregated for over three decades would become one body.

The black jackets were packed away and replaced with blue corduroy with an unfamiliar cross section of corn. Physically, we were one.

Yet there were still difficulties. While the two groups might have become joined on paper, it was not as easy to change the prejudices that exist in peoples' minds.

Olander J. Fleming served as the first African American State Officer of Virginia. After going through the interviews required to become a state officer, he felt that he had been screened much more strongly than the others. Once elected, his team accepted him without question, but trying to convince other members was a different story.

"We went to one chapter and once they saw me we



Olander Fleming, fourth from left, poses with his 1972 Cumberland FFA Chapter Officer Team.

FFA NEW HORIZONS

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were told to leave and not come back with another person of my color," Olander said. Besides this instance and others like it, his state officer year was a memorable, rewarding experience.

In 1965, before the merger took place, the New Farmers of America had 54,000 members. Today, in the 21st Century, the National FFA Organization has only 19,600 African Americans - a mere 4% of our membership.

State Projects Consultant David Wyrick said, "When I began my teaching career, Ag Ed was primarily a white gentleman's club. 99% of the teachers were male and so was most of the student enrollment. This has changed drastically and needs to continue to change so that student enrollment and the make-up of our teaching force more accurately reflects the make-up of our society."

Here in Michigan, we too have had problems with diversity and acceptance. Ren'ee Bryant, an advisor from the Golightly FFA Chapter, spoke of the challenges her Detroit-area students have dealt with. "We had a lot of problems being accepted. The students have been called names at

the conventions and had things thrown at them during convention. I thought for a minute that this was not an organization for us - Detroiters, African Americans. But I liked the teachings of the FFA...and while I saw so many reasons to leave this, look at what the FFA offers. I look at the pride, the education and the training and we need to stay - we need to learn. The Michigan FFA needed diversity."

It was over thirty years ago, on the steps of the Lincoln Monument that the new crusade for racial equality was given a face, a voice and a rallying cry. On that sweltering day in August 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told his captivated audience about his dream.

Dr. King shared with his fellow man, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character... And when this happens, when we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles,



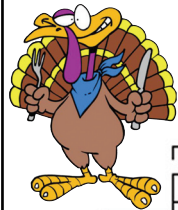
Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Today, in a new decade, a new century, a new

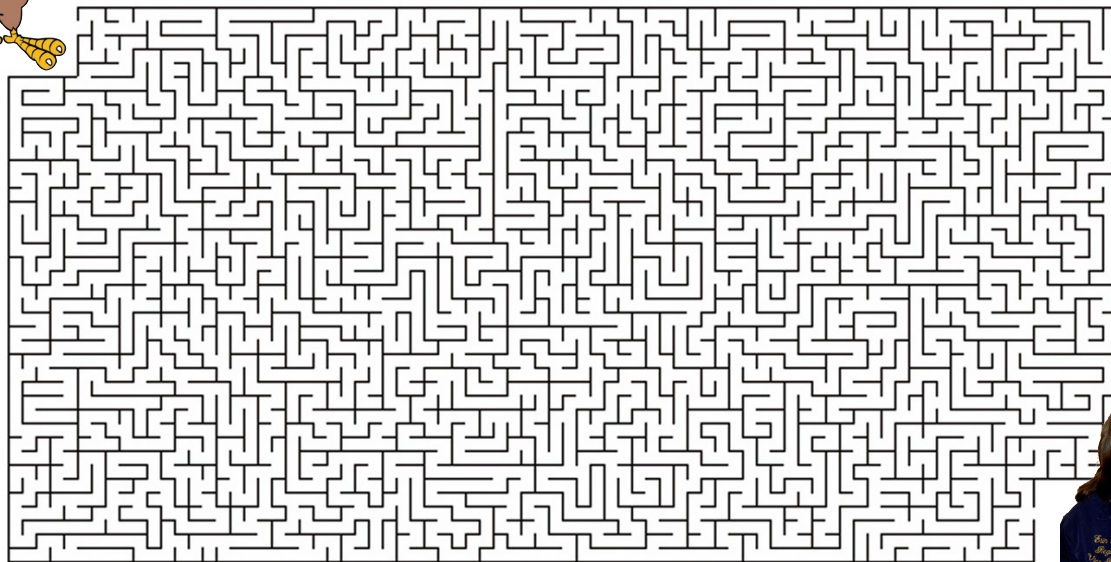
millennium, we can look back at those turbulent times and say, "We overcame that. We saw the change coming and tried to make up for past mistakes. We still have farther to go, but we'll get there."

Special Thanks...

A special thank you is in order to Dr. Eddie Moore, a member of the Agriscience faculty at MSU who was a member of the New Farmers of America in North Carolina and an Agriscience teacher and FFA advisor in Virginia. Information was also contributed by Ren'ee Bryant, Golightly FFA advisor and Olander Fleming, the first African-American State Officer from the state of Virginia.



**Help Save State Sentinel Erin Koglin from the Crazy Turkey!!!
Get to Her Before Tom Does!!!**



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