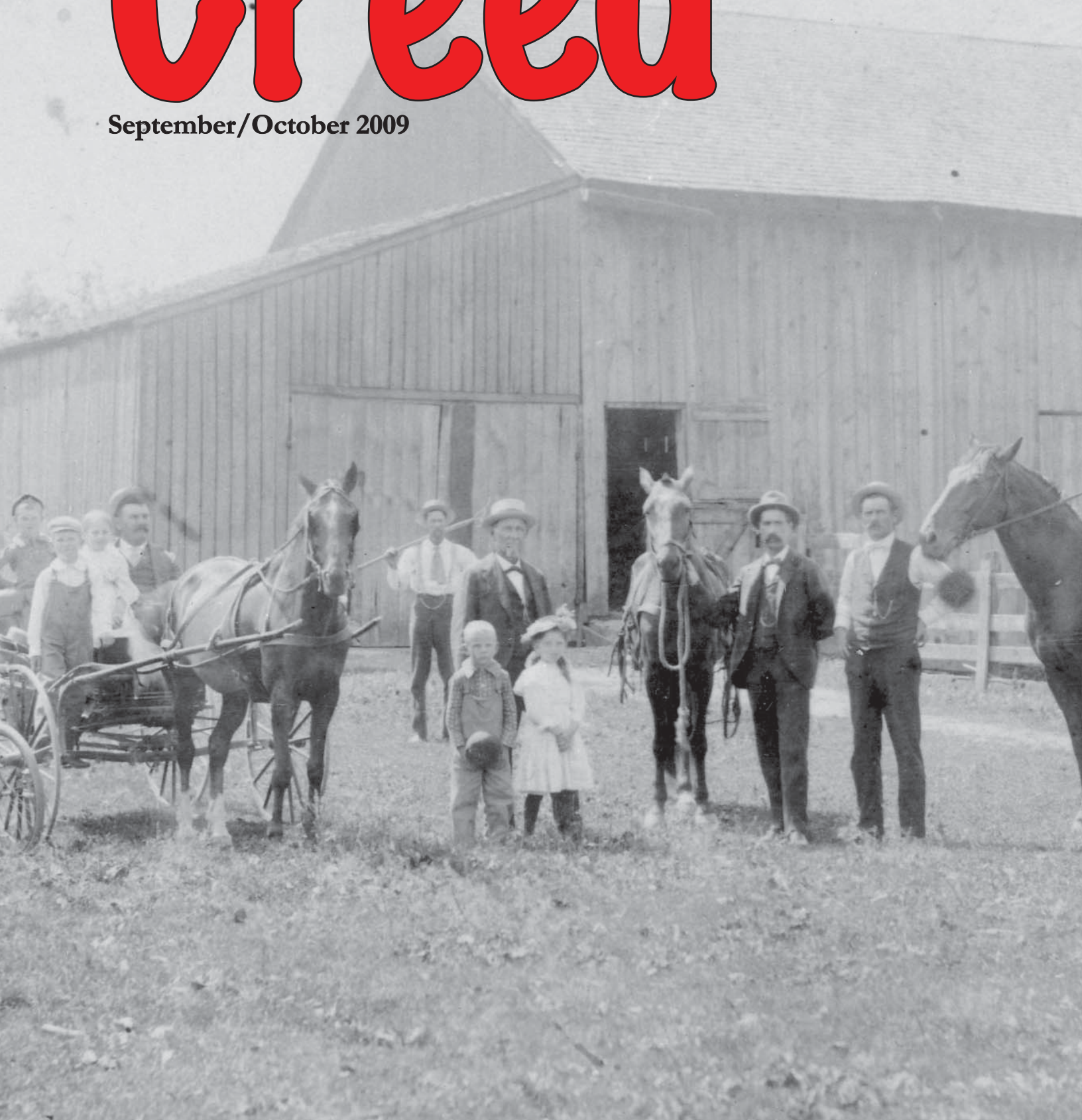


The Michigan FFA Creed

September/October 2009



The Michigan FFA Creed



Issue 1 Volume 8

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 appreciating every moment in your life, written by your State President

D Always by the Owl

Help remember the life of Mr. Rich Karelse, past State FFA Advisor

E Say What?

Members give their opinion on their favorite FFA event.

F Chicken Soup for the FFA Member's Soul

Help celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Poultry Contest, with an article about the contest and how it has evolved over the years.

H Our Motto in Motion

Check out how chapters and members around Michigan are serving their communities.

L Chapter Chatter

Read about six Michigan chapters and their events and projects.

N Rest of the Story

Learn more about two of your state officers.

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.

Creed Staff

Managing Editor Marie Hruby
Staff Editor Meghan Bonthuis
Writers Tiffany Rogers
Dustin Petty
Brent Osantoski
Haley Schulz
Elizabeth Hager
Amanda Sumerix
Elizabeth Oliver
Kelli Fulkerson
Jeff Schmitt
Jonathon Brewer

Advising Editor Michelle Sidel

State Officers

President: Tiffany Rogers
Vice President: Emily Walker
Secretary: Brittany Parkhurst
Treasurer: Haley Schulz
Reporter: Meghan Bonthuis
Sentinel: Brent Osantoski
Region I State VP: Kelli Fulkerson
Region II State VP: Jeff Schmitt
Region III State VP: Jonathon Brewer
Region IV State VP: Elizabeth Oliver
Region V State VP: Elizabeth Hager
Region VI State VP: Amanda Sumerix



I believe in...

...appreciating each and every moment. Sitting down at the piano, a creak escapes from the 90 year old wood of the bench, my fingers stretch out over the ivory keys and I begin to play the first few chords of my favorite song, *“I’m fifteen for a moment, caught in between ten and twenty and I’m just dreaming...”*

Fifteen – some of us have long passed the year of being able to say, *“I’m fifteen years old.”* While for others that goal is still a few years out of reach. And then there are those who are able to say that at this very moment they are indeed fifteen.

At this age, it may seem as though the lyrics to the Five for Fighting song 100 Years, say it all – caught in between ten and twenty and just dreaming... dreaming of what tomorrow holds... dreaming of the promise of the days to come... dreaming of upcoming opportunities... dreaming of the future...

I press more keys and the notes continue to fill the room around me, *“Fifteen, there’s still time for you. Time to buy and time to*

lose yourself within a morning star...” So easy it is to get lost in the melody that time seems to slip away. At fifteen it seems as if time stretches out endlessly before us, the expanse of years that holds the possibilities of sometimes being lost and other times of knowing exactly where you are and exactly where you are going. The unknown awaits and so many are eager to jump, to lose themselves within a morning star.

Measures pass and the song is nearing its end, *“I’m ninety-nine for a moment, I’m dying for just another moment and I’m just dreaming...”* Too often we get caught up in the future, that we forget to take a step back and truly appreciate what is happening in the here and now. We are constantly worrying about the possibilities of tomorrow that we don’t take advantage of the present. Our goals loom in front of us, just waiting to be achieved, tempting us to concentrate on what we have not yet attained, rather than celebrating our current success. The issue isn’t that tomorrow might not come, the problem is that it will. That is precisely why today is so very important. What you choose to do

with the next twenty-four hours predicts tomorrow. Our today defines our future.

Notes on the paper are translated into a melodic tune, *“I’m chasing the years of my life.”* But why wait until then to learn that time is precious? Take a moment and enjoy your journey. Take a moment and realize that it isn’t the destination that makes everything worthwhile; it is how you get there.

Your quest into the future will be filled with uncertainties and you may not end up exactly where you planned, but take a moment and reflect how you got there. Embrace each hour... each minute... each second. Maria Edgeworth once said, *“If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.”*

The last few notes resound from the depths of the piano, *“Hey, fifteen, there’s never a wish better than this, when you only got a hundred years to live.”* Michigan FFA, take care of the moments and appreciate each and every one of them in *your* 100 Years.

Dates to Remember...

September

- 8 Fall Leadership Conference Scholarship
- 14 Deadline for ordering Broilers
- 24 FFA Board of Directors Meeting – 5-8 p.m. – MSU
- 29 Start date for Broilers

October

- 16 Broiler Entries Due
- 21-24 National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, IN
- 26 Fall Leadership Conference/Fall PDI Registrations Due



Always by the owl...

In loving memory of Rich Karelse

By: Dustin Petty
Past State Officer

“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

At least that’s what Scripture tells us. And in the case of Richard Karelse, former advisor of the Michigan FFA Association, the joy is much deserved. After a life of hard work, dedication and devotion and later years of bad health, he’s earned the peace and rest he now calls his own when he passed away this June.

Born May 26, 1936 in Paris Township, his earliest years were spent in Caledonia Public Schools where he donned the blue corduroy jacket of the FFA.

Rich’s eyes were on a higher education at college. But his family was not made of money so his prospects were looking bleak. It was his chapter advisor, Jerry Adler, who stepped in, introducing Rich to people he knew at Michigan State University. Through these connections, he got a job to put himself through his studies.

“I worked my way through college at Brody Hall in the kitchen,” Rich remembered years later. “I washed thousands of dishes and cleaned millions of tables.”

This education made him ready to teach vocational agriculture at Caro High School from 1958 to 1966, advising members of the Future Farmers.

But when Karelse had the chance to work in Lansing for the State of Michigan, advancing the work of vocational agriculture within the state, he jumped at the opportunity. And within six short years, he was made State Advisor of the Michigan FFA Association and vocational education consultant.

His time as state advisor was a time of dramatic change to the face of Michigan agriculture, vocational education and the FFA.

In the high school classroom, agricultural courses that were once simply “Ag 1,” “Ag 2” and so forth, were changed to specific subjects: animal science, crops science, etc. Curriculum was updated and natural resource topics were brought into the classroom.

It was Karelse who helped lead the revolution, bringing agricultural classroom instruction into a new era and paradigm that would match the needed skills of the coming 21st Century.

In addition to these duties, he made time to provide direction and assistance to 25 state officer teams during his tenure as state advisor. But he was more than an advisor.

Mr. Karelse befriended these young college students, making them a part of his professional extended family.

“What a lot of people don’t know,” said past state officer Beth Stuever, “is that when Rich’s wife died in the ‘80s, he became a single dad and raised his girls pretty much by himself. He would bring them to FFA events, trying to keep an eye on them and be a good dad.”

In 1997, Karelse retired from his duties with the Michigan FFA, earning the opportunity to spend time with loved ones and enjoy life after a lifetime of doing for others.

For most recent members of the Michigan FFA, Karelse was the man who came to State Conventions, saying the advisor portion of opening ceremonies when the 20 year team reunites. He was serious, stern and demanded respect, this wise, old advisor.

But when those who knew him gathered to remember Mr. Karelse at his funeral, they thought of a different man.

Former Michigan FFA Executive Secretary and longtime friend Charlie Arensmeier, delivering the eulogy, remembered a man that, when asked “why by the owl?” at state officer meetings, would respond “to clean up after the old bird” to send the state officers into hysterics.

He was gentle. He was kind. He was dedicated. He was everything and more you could ask for from a supporter and friend of the Michigan FFA and its membership.

Mr. Karelse will forever be missed. And for many, he’ll forever be by the owl.

Mr. Karelse pictured here with good friend Mr. Dave Wyrick



Say What?

Want to see
yourself on this page?
Contact your State
Reporter or Michigan
FFA for details.

The Question:
What is your
favorite FFA
activity and why?

Region 1



Sydney Miller
Olivet FFA

The lock-in is my favorite FFA Event because I get to spend all night hanging out with all my friends.

Region 2



Jake Mead
Springport FFA

My favorite FFA activity is our annual paint ball tournament. I love being able to hang out with all my FFA friends!

Region 3



Joey Kruse
USA FFA

The Agricultural Sales contest is the event that I enjoy the most because it allows me to experience a real career.

Region 4



Taylor, Jocelyn, Felcia & Chelsea
Corunna FFA

Our favorite FFA event is the Agricultural Olympics because we can not only have a lot of fun, but also show others how fun FFA is.

Region 5



Tim Spoolman & Nichole Arends
Ravenna FFA

The cider chugging contest is by far our favorite FFA event. Its not only fun to participate but to watch as well.

Region 6



Mckaylyn, Jane, Makenzie & Rachel
Standish-Sterling FFA

Our favorite FFA event is Donkey Basketball. Trying not to get bucked off is always interesting to not only do to but watch.

Chicken Soup for the FFA Member's Soul



By: Brent Osantoski
Baker College Medical Science Major

September.

A time of the year when trees start to change color, students and teachers go back to school and FFA members buy their broilers for the Michigan FFA Poultry Contest. Every year FFA members purchase their birds with excitement, hoping to be named the champion of the Michigan FFA Poultry Contest, held in Fowlerville Michigan just six short weeks after purchasing their pen of birds. This year is sure to be filled with just as much excitement and anticipation as any other. This year is an exciting one, as the Poultry Contest is celebrating it's 60th Anniversary.

Formally known as the Chicken-of-Tomorrow Program, the Michigan FFA began this contest in 1949, three years after the start of the National Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest began in 1946. This national contest was created to encourage breeding chickens for superior meat in the state of Arkansas, and in 1946 the first National Contest was held in Fayetteville Arkansas. The Chicken-of-Tomorrow



contest consisted of people raising fully New York Dressed birds, (birds that are slaughtered and plucked not eviscerated). Rasing fully New York Dressed birds allowed for participants to easily process their own birds, eventually leading to an increase in the number of people who wanted to raise birds for slaughter. Participants would raise their birds for approximately 14 weeks, fattening their birds to about three pounds with an average feed conversion of about 4.5:1.

Soon after the start of this contest participants were subject to raise broilers due to Fully New York Dressed birds being outlawed.

Since 1949, the Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest has

diminished and now Michigan is the only state in the nation with a contest that is similar to the original one.

In Michigan, the Chicken-of-Tomorrow contest is now known as the Michigan FFA Poultry contest. Participants in the contest purchase a batch of about 25 broilers (a change from the original 100 birds in 1970) fatten them up as much as they can in 36 days, usually to 5-5.5 pounds. Once the 36 day period is up, participants take their three largest birds to Poultry

Processing Plant in Fowlerville Michigan, where they slaughter, weigh and have their birds judged. Until 2007 contest participants were also allowed to raise Cornish Hens to be judged. Contestants would raise their hens about 25 days, and their hens would reach an ending weight of about two pounds.



For approximately 25 years Dr. Sam Varghese, a poultry specialist at Michigan State University would judge the birds on weight, rate of gain, mortality rate and overall appearance of the bird. Though he might have been a tough judge he was always sure to give all participants pointers on how they can improve their birds for the coming years.

In 2007 Dr. Sam, as he was known to FFA members and contest participants retired from Michigan State



University and Dr. Darrin Karcher, also a poultry specialist at Michigan State University in the Animal Science Department, filled his shoes, jumping into the Michigan FFA Poultry Contest with two feet.

As we celebrate 60 wonderful years of this contest we cannot forget to pay tribute to the men who began the Michigan contest and who have been a continued inspiration to uphold the traditions of the contest.



Charlie Shepard and Howard Zindel were the actual founders of this contest. Zindel was a student at Michigan State University, studying animal science,

and even played on the MSU football team. After graduating from MSU, he went from student to faculty member and eventually became the chair of the MSU Animal Science Department. While in this position Zindel was able to show his strong support of the FFA and its contests like the broiler contest.

Today, the Michigan FFA Association still pays tribute to Mr. Howard Zindel for all of his work by handing out the Howard Zindel Award at the annual Michigan FFA State Convention in March. This award is given to the chapter that takes home the most gold, silver, and state winner awards at a particular years contest. The Laker FFA Chapter has been the proud holder of this award for several years. Both Charlie Shepard and Howard Zindel played a huge part in the success of the Broiler contest, and we couldn't celebrate a 60th anniversary without taking a moment and paying tribute to all their hard work and dedication to this contest.

This year the Michigan FFA Poultry contest will be held once again in Fowlerville on November 5th



and 6th. If you are interested in participating in this years contest make sure to have your birds purchased so they arrive by September 29th which is the start date for feeding your batch of birds. Don't miss out on your opportunity to uphold the traditions of this contest, but also build your own legacy along the way. If you need more information, order forms, or registration information visit the Michigan FFA website at www.michiganffa.com.

In addition to having a very special contest, on November 10, 2009 there will be an Anniversary Banquet in honor of 60 successful contest years. The purpose of the banquet is to honor and pay tribute to all of those that have played a part in helping keep this contest a part of the Michigan FFA, but also

celebrating all the lives this contest has touched by teaching FFA members and other contest participants the importance of hard work, dedication, animal care and record keeping. Be sure to stay tuned for further information on the upcoming banquet as it will get published when it becomes available.



On behalf of the Michigan FFA, Happy 60th Anniversary to the Poultry Contest!



Our Motto in Motion



Learning to Do

By: Haley Schulz
Baker College Nursing Major
&
Elizabeth Hager
MSU Engineering Major

Allyson Koglin is a 16 year old junior, and a three year member from the Port Hope FFA Chapter. Allyson is an active member in her chapter participating in numerous events and activities, some of which include National Convention, State Convention, leadership contests



and Agricultural Skills contest.

Besides being involved in numerous contests and conventions, Koglin has worked hard over the past three years developing two main Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE's) in the areas of Landscape Management and Beef Production.

Koglin's Landscape Management SAE consists of caring for, mowing, raking and trimming lawns. Allyson's responsibilities also include managing her client's gardens

by planting high quality plants and managing weeds and pests.

After one year of lawn care and garden maintenance Allyson expanded her SAE to include landscaping. For this portion of her project she creates designs that include plants, flowers, and numerous varieties of shrubs. Once a design is in place Allyson places the plants to fit her design. The last step in her design process is spreading either cedar chips or stone around the plants. Adding stone or chips adds not only a "wow" factor but also helps keep certain weeds and pests from growing.

Adequate bookkeeping is also an essential part of Allyson's SAE. Throughout the summer Koglin works hard keeping accurate records, which include profit/loss statements, receipts, client information and inventory lists. By maintaining accurate records Allyson is able to document the progress she has made throughout the summer and it allows her to stay in touch with her client base.

The other half of her SAE is in the area of Beef Production. Allyson carries on the responsibility of purchasing, raising and selling cattle to local FFA members. When purchasing cattle Allyson is sure to buy animals structurally sound, have adequate muscle content, and correct feet and legs. Though purchasing cattle is a very important task in her SAE, Allyson has learned that daily maintenance which includes feeding,

watering, bedding and cleaning the pen, is crucial when caring for her cattle. Koglin said that "learning how to properly care for my cattle daily is one of the biggest things that I have learned from my beef SAE. In addition, Allyson is sure to keep a close eye on the health of her cattle and trying to prevent any sickness or disease.

In addition to daily care of her cattle, Koglin trains her cattle to walk and stand. This step of her project is vital to success in the show ring. The final portion of her project consists of choosing the best steer from her herd, and showing it at the Huron County Fair. "Every year is exciting," Koglin said. "I love walking into the show arena with a steer that I worked to hard so get as perfect as possible and I always hope that my hard work pays off in the end."



Doing to Learn

By: Amanda Sumerix
MSU Public Relations Major
&
Elizabeth Oliver
MSU Agribusiness Management Major

In a typical botany class, one might say that students walk through the doors, identify some plants, complete a worksheet or two, water a few seeds and leave, day in and day out.

But at Whittemore-Prescott High School (WPHS) this is not the case at all. Mr. Matt Jakubik's Agriscience students and FFA members are applying what they have been learning in the classroom into a year end project. In the classroom, students have learned about the various soil components and types, landscaping design, tree pruning, making drawings to scale, and plant health. Though book work is a key component to Jakubik's curriculum, students at WPHS also participate in what is known as experiential learning.



In May, students and FFA members were able to apply what they learned in the classroom to make an impact in their community. At Whittemore-Prescott High School there is an oval that lies in front of the school that measures 140 feet in diameter. This 140 foot piece has been a landscaping focal point since the school was built; however, it has been neglected and disrupted in recent years.

One Whittemore-Prescott FFA member said "I really enjoy being able to take what I have learned in the classroom and apply it to something hands on. I think that this makes classtime so much more fun and interesting."

The piece of land was covered with overgrown perennials and weeds with a field stone border, and to put it lightly was in need of a dire face lift. The students ran soil tests, took measurements, identified plants and saw the need to improve the school appearance and sprit within that area. Once all the information was gathered on size, soil components, and what was usable they were then faced with a challenge from the WPHS administration to come up with a plan by creating a landscape drawing and an itemized price list of costs. The students jumped in, after a lot of hard

work, a combination of two different designs were decided upon. Following approval of the design students



got down in the dirt and contacted businesses and community members to help with donations and installation of a new retaining wall, electricity for lights, sprinklers, plants, and a fountain. After three long weeks of hard labor the students of WPHS had a beautiful landscaping feature that was done right before graduation for the seniors to take stunning pictures with their family by.

This project was much more than just a beautification process though. The students learned valuable hands on experience that will prove valuable when applying for jobs upon graduation from high school. Mr. Jakubik commented saying "this project also allowed students to grow as individuals by teaching them importance of hard work, and dedication, and also allowed them to attain priceless communication and people skills with one another, members of the board of education, teachers and community members."

Earning to Live

By: Kelli Fulkerson
MSU Animal Science & Pre-Veterinary Major

Mr. Gerard Reaume was born and raised on a family farm in Fulton, Michigan located within Gratiot County. Mr. Reaume was one of 13 children, 8 boys and 5 girls.

He got started in the FFA at Fulton High School under the direction of his FFA advisors, Mr. Jake McVanal and Mr. Craig Edgerly. He, like any other high school FFA student worked on raising and selling projects to earn money towards his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). This was one of the main ways that he was able to pay for his college education.

Mr. Reaume graduated from Fulton High School with the intention of becoming an Agricultural Educator. He attended Michigan State University earning both his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Agri-science Education.

After graduating from college he moved to Redwood, Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. This is where he began his teaching career after accepting his first agri-science education job offer. After a few years at Redwood High School he was informed about a job offering in Cassopolis Michigan. Mr. Reaume decided that it was a good opportunity that was closer to home, and moving would allow him to experience a different part of Michigan's very diverse agriculture. Reaume took

the teaching position in Cassopolis and taught there for seven years.

After seven great years of teaching he was faced with the decision to either take over the family farm or continuing teaching agri-science. After much thought, Mr. Reaume decided that he was not only going to take over the family farm, but he was also going to teach. However, with this decision came the realization that if he wanted to do both, then he would need to start looking for teaching jobs that were closer to the family farm in Fulton. So once again Reaume began the hunt looking for teaching jobs, and luckily he stumbled upon an agri-science education position at Breckenridge High School. Shortly after finding the job opening, Mr. Reaume was hired and has been there ever since, this year marking his 22nd anniversary as Breckenridge High School's agri-science educator!

When talking to Mr. Reaume about his greatest achievement as an agri-science teacher one might think that he would talk about a national or state winning contest team or individual but Mr. Reaume said that his greatest achievement in the last 22 years is "watching the kids that he

had in his program walk across the stage at graduation and receive their diplomas." Mr. Reaume is a man that was said to have spent more time with the kids that were in his class than with his own children. Over the last 22 years Mr. Gerard Reaume has had many great achievements including receiving Honorary State Degree in 1998 and Honorary American Degree in 2005. Besides receiving honorary degrees on the state and national level, Mr. Reaume has led the Breckenridge FFA Chapter to 14 Gold National Chapter Awards and two Superior Chapter Awards at the National level.

Mr. Reaume is someone that truly believes and trusts in the future of agriculture. Mr. Reaume currently is serving as the Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators (MAAE) President, he believes that Agriculture is the future of this state and country's livelihood. Mr. Reaume is truly someone that is earning to live within the Michigan FFA Association. Thank you Mr. Reaume for all your hard work and dedication to this Association and State!



Living to Serve

By: Jeff Schmitt
MSU Radiography Major
&
Jonathon Brewer
St. Claire Community College Computer
Science Major

Sand Creek FFA is Living to Serve!

Members of the Sand Creek FFA are literally living to “serve”. Each April, FFA members zip up their FFA jackets and put on their best smiles to wait on tables during the Sand Creek Communication Stockholders Banquet. The annual banquet is held in the heart of the Sand Creek community, the school. Banquet officials say that the school is the only logical place to hold the banquet because the village of Sand Creek consists only of a church, post office, the communications company, cornfields, and of course the school.

FFA members especially enjoy this event because they are not only providing a service, but are also able to socialize with community members. Amanda Thomas, the FFA chapter treasurer, has served at the banquet

for the past three years and says “It’s a chance to see old friends and to serve the community”. Likewise, Katelyn Robertson, the FFA chapter secretary said “I love to meet the people of the community that support the local economy and the FFA chapter.”

Besides meeting the community, FFA members perform other tasks before, during and after the banquet takes place. A few months prior to the banquet, members work with the local FFA Alumni which communicates with the catering company and Sand Creek Communications to make sure the menu is set, and all other catering arrangements are in line. The day of the banquet students from the seventh hour agriscience class, as well as FFA members transform the gymnasium into a banquet hall. During this process tables are set correctly, with every fork, knife and spoon in its proper place .

As the guests start to arrive, members of the Sand Creek FFA make sure that no one enters without having the door opened for them. Throughout the banquet, FFA members keep glasses full, serve desserts, and clear tables.

After the banquet, it is the FFA member’s responsibility to clear the tables, wash the silverware, take out the trash and



assist the custodial staff with any cleaning that may need to be done.

“The stockholders enjoy having the FFA members at their banquet.” said Harvey Souders, Vice President and General Manager of Sand Creek Communications and President of the Sand Creek School Board. In his thank you to the Sand Creek chapter he wrote “Again this year we have received numerous compliments on the service and how well your group handles their tasks and how sharp they all look in their FFA dress.”

Though it is a lot of work, the Sand Creek chapter is proud to be part of this event. They feel that by participating in this event that they are giving back to the people that give to them graciously every year!

To read more about how Sand Creek FFA members are serving their community or to learn more about the Sand Creek community, FFA, or school district be sure visit them online at www.sc-aggies.us



Chapter Chatter



By: Meghan Bonthuis
MSU Agriscience Education Sophomore



Region I

Calhoun Area CareerCenter-Sue Smith, advisor

“Under the direction of Mrs. Sue Smith, the Calhoun Area Career Center is a newly chartered chapter in region one. There is currently about 75 members in two different agri-science classes, all being members of the Calhoun Area Career Center (CACC) FFA Chapter. The students of this chapter are huge advocates for a greener world. To promote a greener world, during class time and after school students are deeply involved in greenhouses, hydroponics, plant science and aquaculture labs.”

Throughout the next year members of this chapter plan to become more involved in career development events, leaderships contests, and the discussion meet.”

Region II

Jackson Area Career Center - Harold Schmidt & Jason Gehrke, advisors

“At JACC, the students design and plant the beds at Ella Sharp Park, in Jackson. In all, the students will put between 12,000-15,000 plants in the park in about a two-week period. The beds are seen by the public driving by or when they play the putt-putt golf course. The beds spruce up the park by adding lots of color to the community. It is a great community service event and is very tricky to do. The students must balance between the rainy spring weather, frosts and yes the pesky deer. Overall, about 40 students help to plant the park. The plants are all grown by the students and about half of the plants are planted from seed by the students.”



Region III

Ugly FFA - Melissa Cantrell, advisor

“Every summer the Ugly FFA members look forward to their annual Canoeing and Camp Out Trip. This two day event helps members become closer friends while expanding their team building skills. They start out canoeing down the Pinebog River and end up near Lake Huron. After lunch they make the hike to Wagner Township Park where they work on more team building and leadership activities. The evening activities start out with a campfire, where they share ghost stories. The members then go on a midnight trail walk and wrap the night in their tents. The following day includes Tug-of-war and Volleyball Tournaments and so much more!”

Region IV

Dansville FFA - Amanda Johnson, advisor

"It's spring in Dansville and the syrup is flowing. The snow began to melt, and the days were becoming warmer, but the nights were still bitter cold. Mrs. Johnson's natural resources class headed out to the sugar bush to begin maple syrup season. Over the course of several weeks about 24 students worked diligently, some staying after school to help to create our chapter's maple syrup. To wrap up the season, tours were given to the entire Dansville Elementary third grade, about 75 students in all. The students in the class divided into groups to explain the sugaring process. Then the chapter hosted a coloring contest for the third graders with a picture of students at a sugar bush. The winners received awards and the winning class won pancakes with fresh maple syrup. After the season was over the 13 gallons of syrup were sold to support the Dansville FFA's senior scholarship. This project helps increase knowledge of our program and gets the younger students interested in FFA. The project is also used by several members as part of their SAE project. Along with our maple syrup buildings we also maintain a nature trail that several classes in the school use through out the year."



Region V

Caledonia FFA - John Schut, advisor

"The Caledonia FFA Chapter hosted the 3rd annual Blue and Gold Lamb Show at the Kent County Fairgrounds on May 30th. Students, parents, 4-H volunteers, FFA alumni and MSU Extension staff were involved in the planning, promotion and implementation of the show. Volunteers from neighboring counties assisted with operating the show along with FFA members from the Caledonia, Belding and Lowell chapters. Sixty-one exhibitors from 17 Michigan counties, Indiana and Ohio exhibited 111 market lambs and 39 breeding sheep. The Michigan Club Lamb Association sanctioned the show as one of its qualifying Youth Challenge shows. Steve Myers from Rushsylvania, Ohio, served as judge of the show. He selected the champion lamb owned by Sarah Kennedy of Saranac. The FFA also garnered sponsorship from twelve sheep producers and feed companies."



Region VI

Alcona FFA - Brian Matchett, advisor

"On March 28, 2009, the Alcona FFA Chapter held its First Annual Maple Syrup Celebration Day. The chapter, in conjunction with agri-science classes led by teacher and FFA advisor Brian Matchett, had been planning the event for weeks, for the purpose of thanking the community members who help make the Sugar Shack a possibility. Throughout the day, high school students and Alcona FFA Chapter members gave tours of the Maple Syrup production facilities to adults and children. The tours discussed the process of maple syrup production and the history of the Sugar Shack. The chapter was able to offer horse-drawn wagon rides made possible by gracious community support. Adults were able to try using an old-fashioned cross-cut saw, while their children participated in activities such as a sap collecting relay, coloring, and a tree building activity meant to teach the kids about how trees produce sap. All the participants enjoyed a serving of pancakes with Alcona FFA pure maple syrup, sausage, and orange juice. Over the course of the day, the FFA chapter provided well over 1,700 pancakes and served seven gallons of pure Michigan Maple Syrup to community members. Mr. Brian Matchett said in response to the success of the day, "We definitely plan to make the Sugar Shack Celebration Day an annual event; the students have worked extremely hard to plan this day for the community, and there was a good turnout for the first year. The Celebration Day turned out to be a success, and we hope to see everyone next year when we plan to run the Sugar Shack with bio diesel!"



Advisors and students: Do you want to see YOUR chapter highlighted here? Now you can! E-mail your State Reporter Meghan Bonthuis at bonthuis@anr.msu.edu

The Rest of the Story...



BRENT OSANTOSKI
STATE SENTINEL

One word that best describes you: Compassionate

People looked to for strength and guidance: Mr. Wheeler and my mom

High School Activities: Soccer & National Honor Society



Chapter: Laker

SAE: Landscape Management

College: Baker College

Major: Medical Lab Technology



Favorite Movie: *Remember the Titans*

Favorite Musician/Musical group: Country and Polka

Favorite Chapter Activity: Plant Sale



AMANDA SUMERIX
REGION VI STATE V.P.

High School Activities: Track, Volleyball and Tennis

Person looked to for strength and guidance: My dad, he is hardworking, level-headed & determined

Favorite homemade meal: Peanut Butter & Jelly



Chapter: Alpena

SAE: Agricultural Sales

College: Michigan State University

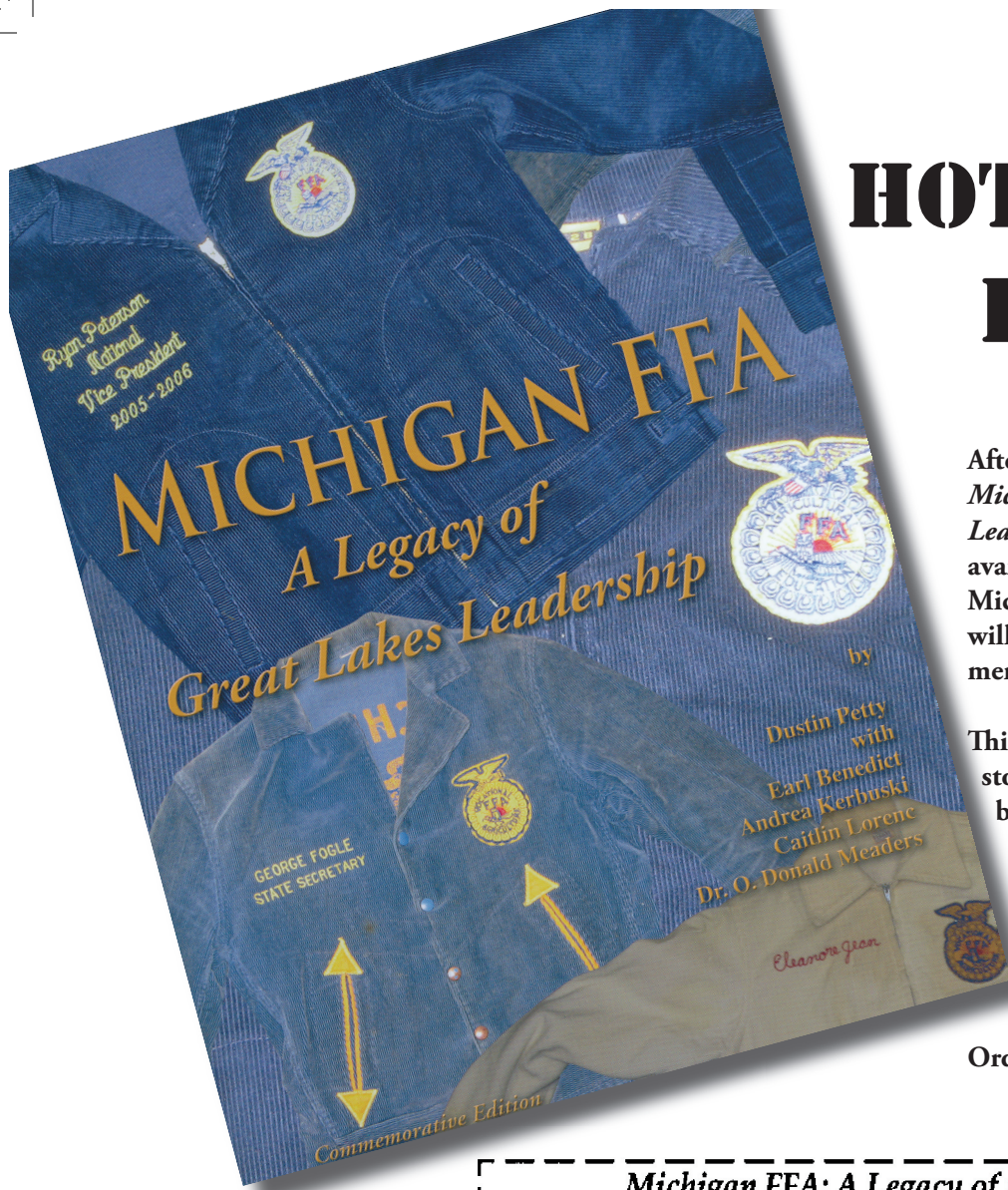
Major: Agricultural Communications



Theme song that describes your life: "We Rode in Trucks" by Luke Bryan

Favorite FFA Activity: National Convention

Favorite Quote: "Never let success go to your head; and failure to your heart." -Anonymous



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

After three years, the history collection *Michigan FFA: A Legacy of Great Lakes Leadership* has been printed and is available for purchase NOW from the Michigan FFA Association. All proceeds will go to help support the activities and members in the blue corduroy.

This hardcover, 120-page book tells the story of the Michigan FFA from the very beginning. Complete with never-before-seen pictures and interviews from the men and women that created what we know today as the world's premier leadership organization.

Order your copy TODAY!

Michigan FFA: A Legacy of Great Lakes Leadership

Description	Qty	Price	Total
Deluxe Standard Edition		\$39.50	
<i>Michigan Residents Only add 6% sales tax (\$2.37 per book to subtotal above)</i>			
Shipping \$6.50 for the first book, \$4.00 for each additional book		\$6.50/ \$4.00	
		TOTAL	

Send order form and payment to:

Michigan FFA Book
 c/o Michigan FFA
 Michigan State University
 108 Natural Resources
 East Lansing, MI 48824-1222

For Office Use Only

Check # _____ Amount _____
 BR ___ RV ___ SH _____

 Your Name

 Address

 City State Zip

() _____

 Daytime Telephone

 E-mail Address

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

You're already part of it!

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

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

We're more than you imagine....

