

# The Michigan FFA Creed

September/October 2010



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The FFA logo is a circular emblem with a yellow background and a blue border. It features a central eagle with wings spread, perched on a globe. The words "CULTURE", "FFA", and "EDUCATION" are written around the eagle. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located below the logo.

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

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# I believe in...

Optimism.

As children, we grow up with the sense we can become anything we wish. We play make-believe; fight dragons, ride horses as “cowboys”, and in the end, girls always find their prince. Our imagination runs on overload, and if we can dream it, we can be it.

But as we become adults, this sense of confidence and wonder seems to drift farther and farther out of our spectrum; we put aside the “kid stuff” and touch base with reality. We generally try to find the negatives in most situations that occur. “I should have worn that outfit.” “Why don’t I ever win?” “Nothing seems to be fair.” We find ourselves feeling bad for the only person who can change our fate: us.

The only thing that can turn all of our tragedies into learning realities is optimism. We must overcome those times of strife and look at the brighter side of the bigger picture.

We all share a common interest, the FFA. Through our membership in the FFA we are taught to work hard and achieve our biggest goals. For some people that may be winning a contest, selling the most nuts in your chapter sale, or becoming a chapter officer. We work hard to achieve our goals, and if we fail, we learn from our mistakes; we get back up, dust ourselves off, and try again because FFA members are dedicated individuals.

As a starry-eyed freshman in high school, wanting nothing more than to wear national blue and corn gold, I joined the Corunna FFA. After attending my first meeting, my greatest goal was to become a chapter officer. Not yet being old enough to run for chapter office, I interviewed for a junior officer position. The night of the most important meeting, I was nervous; my fate rested in the votes of the chapter members. I gave my thirty second speech, and hoped to gain the approval from my chapter.

After the votes were counted, my advisor announced the new junior officer as some other girl. I had lost; and I was devastated. But, I wasn’t going to let that get me down. I had optimism and a faith in myself that one day, I would be helping run those meetings.

Since that evening, I have learned so much about the power of optimism. It has allowed me to overcome many obstacles and achieve one of my life’s biggest goals, to become a state officer. With a little faith in yourself, and the ambition to learn and succeed, you can achieve your greatest goals too.

FFA members, our lives are filled with choices. When we fall, we have the option to learn from that experience and get back up, or we can stay seated on the ground and watch the world turn around us. Be brave, courageous, optimistic and fierce, learn from your mistakes, and have faith in yourself. Make progress today and tomorrow will bring success.

## Dates to Remember...

### September

- 13 Deadline for ordering broilers
- 23 FFA Board of Directors Meeting-MSU-5-8p.m.
- 28 Start Date for Broilers

### October

- 15 Fall Leadership Conference Scholarship Applications Due (mail to Michigan FFA Alumni Director)
- 15 Broiler Entries Due
- 20-23 National FFA Convention- Indianapolis, Indiana
- 26 Fall Leadership Conference/Fall PDI Registrations Due



# MEMBER HI

## Region 1

### STEVEN BUTLER

Chapter: Cassopolis FFA  
Advisor: Mrs. Carrie George

This year's 2010-2011 Region I President is Steven Butler from the Cassopolis FFA Chapter. Steven has competed in numerous FFA events, including the Agricultural Issues contest for two years. The first year, his team placed second at State, and then the next year, through hard work and dedication, their team won State. Steven has also competed in the Job Interview contest where he competed at State. Steven has attended both State and National FFA Conventions. Steven's SAE is Diversified Livestock Production. He raises dairy feeders and swine at his home and shows them at the Cass County 4-H Fair. Steven's future plans are to attend Michigan State University to major in turf grass management. Steven looks forward to serving this year as the Region I President.



## Region 2

### Addie Spoylar

Chapter: Jonesville FFA  
Advisor: Ms. Erin Bosch

Addie Spoylar, Jonesville High School senior participates in many events. She keeps herself active in sports such as softball and FFA. Spoylar has been a very influential individual in her chapter and has worked mainly in Parliamentary Procedure, where this past year she helped coach a new team which made it through regional competition. This year she has the opportunities to serve as Jonesville's FFA Chapter President and the Region II Treasurer. Addie started FFA just like many of the other greenhands at Jonesville. Simply by walking into Miss Bosch's agriculture room with really no idea what to expect. Addie worked her way through numerous contest learning as much as possible and gaining the knowledge to succeed. Addie also raises her own feeder pigs and when they are the right sizes will be processed and/or sold at auction.



## Region 3

### LANCE FOWLER

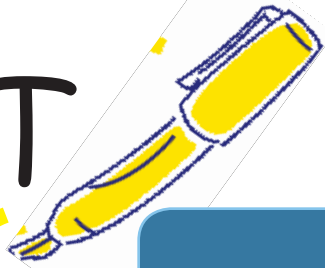
Chapter: St. Louis FFA  
Advisor: Mr. Steven Beattie

Lance Fowler is a junior at St. Louis High School. He has been in the FFA since freshman year and has taken every opportunity FFA has presented. His SAE is sheep production which involves taking sheep to the local fair, going to lamb camps across the country, and participating in the Gratiot County Sheep for Charity fundraiser. He has competed in leadership contests, gone to state and national conventions, and has received his chapter degree. He has been the Reporter of his chapter and was recently elected to chapter Vice President. Lance has aspirations to be an agricultural teacher and FFA advisor. Lance says, "My passion for FFA is what drives me to do whatever I put my mind to." Besides being involved in the FFA, Lance is also on the National Honor Society, track & field team, and plays in the band.





# HIGHLIGHT



## AMANDA MITCHELL

Chapter: Ovid Elsie FFA  
Advisor: Mrs. Tracey Hoffman

This coming fall Amanda Mitchell is to be a junior at Ovid-Elsie High School and a fourth year member of the Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter. Busy and active accurately describes her lifestyle.

Amanda participates in Basketball, Bowling, Student Council, 4-H, Jr. Livestock and helps coordinate for St. Johns Relay for Life. In her local FFA chapter she is the historian elect and has a diverse SAE program. Amanda raises show cattle and hogs to sell at the county fair in addition to having 25 laying hens and 25 broiler chickens. She has claimed the title of the first place showman in her age division at the Clinton County fair, but has still learned "that even with the let downs and disappointments there's always a way to better yourself."

In the future Amanda plans to run for regional office and attend Michigan State University.

## Region 5

## SARA FOSBURG

Chapter: Lowell FFA  
Advisor: Mr. Kevin Nugent

Sara Fosburg is an active member in the Lowell FFA Chapter who has a passion for agriculture and the FFA Organization. She started showing horses while in sixth grade, which soon led to her membership in FFA. Within the Lowell FFA Chapter, Sara takes advantage of all events including PALS, chapter hog roast and Adopt-A-Highway. Fosburg has competed in numerous CDE events since her membership began and during her sophomore year earned a gold award in Agricultural Issues Contest at the state level. Sara also keeps herself busy with her SAE's in Equine Science and sheep production where she works for a carriage company, as well as trains horses and sheep of her own. Sara is currently serving as the chapter vice president and had the honor of serving as the 2009-2010 Region V Treasurer.

Her future plans include earning a degree in business from Grand Rapids Community College. After graduating, Sara hopes to open her own horse training business.



## Region 6

## MEGAN GRIFFITH

Chapter: Alcona FFA  
Advisor: Mr. Brian Matchett

As a sophomore at Alcona High School, Megan Griffith has just begun to work on the foundation of her FFA career. As she has not decided on an SAE she is experimenting with many different SAE's. Megan enjoys helping out with her zoology class's chicken project, whether it is caring for the chickens or the marketing aspect after the project. Megan also helps with her chapters Fruit Sale and Maple Syrup project. Megan has succeeded in carrying a Greenhand Conduct of Meetings team to state competition, to receive silver. Her role as president on the Conduct of Meetings team lead her to serve the Alcona FFA Chapter as 2010-2011 Treasurer. Along with her numerous FFA activities Megan enjoys riding horses and bowling. After high school Megan plans to study physical therapy. Megan's future looks brighter than the rising sun.



# Our Motto in Motion



## Learning to Do

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

The Branch Area Careers Center FFA Chapter is very busy, between service projects, Project Red, and contest season it is hard to have the time to fundraise. However, fundraising is something that the BACC takes very seriously, with such a large and active chapter. There is one project in particular that the chapter has done which has greatly impacted them, the BACC Greenhouse. The BACC Greenhouse has been in operation for the last seven years and was first built as an area for students to do botany labs and now has multiple uses including being used as a fundraising tool.



To start their project, a local greenhouse donates all of the starter plants and then the chapter places all the plants into pots and baskets. All of the students within the chapter work in the greenhouse, placing soil in pots, planting plants, and watering. This work is all started in time to allow plants to grow and be ready for spring sales. However, the students and advisors spend a large amount of the year preparing for the opening of the greenhouse. Students volunteer their time in the greenhouse, watering, cleaning and monitoring plants daily. Once the greenhouse sale has begun, the students and advisors all work with their customers to ensure a good product. Throughout the last seven years, the customers have grown from a few to over 250 customers. "It's a great fundraiser because students can take an interest in it during class as well as offering a good product to the community," Mrs. Preston, BACC Advisor, stated. "And the community loves the greenhouse."



Flowers are also donated to the 4-H flower beds, the city of Coldwater, and the Laurel's Retirement home in Coldwater. All of these donations not only let the community know about the FFA, but also let the students see them working hard both in the classroom and out. The greenhouse is the chapter's largest fundraiser. They take pride in their basket and flat arrangements and tell every customer that they will not be disappointed. However, running the greenhouse is not an easy job. The daily up keep and steady flow of customers keeps the greenhouse a busy place. "The hanging baskets are always amazing. The chapter packs so many beautiful plants in one basket. I look forward to their greenhouse sale every year," said one very contented customer. The greenhouse is open for the whole month of May so that the customers can start gardening each spring. The profits are then used for National Convention, spring Skills and helps support the members of the chapter.

Students not only receive the opportunity to see their work go together to make a finished project, but they are also given the opportunity to see how the greenhouse is started. The BACC FFA Chapter tours plant and soil companies to raise awareness in students. These tours allow students the opportunity to see all of the work that goes into greenhouse operations. Through the tours, students also gain knowledge of the option of horticulture as a profession.

The Greenhouse also played a major role in allowing the chapter to receive the Outstanding Secondary Program on behalf of the NAAE!



# Doing to Learn

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



fixing fences one of Celia's number one jobs. She has found it essential to monitor the fence lines to ensure that no calves are able to escape. Another duty that she has found to be important is helping her dad feed cattle on their farm. Working with her father has taught her a lot about cattle nutrition and how rations need to change throughout out the year for pregnant cows and market steers. In market cattle, Celia now knows that she needs to feed them a high protein ration to create the best marketable product for her customers., while feeding her cows is a different task. She has worked closely with her dad to establish a sturdy maintenance plan that helps produce healthy, strong calves year in and year out. Along with these main jobs she also helps break and train calves for show and sale. Karweik knows that the life skills she has and continues to learn will help her reach her goals.

Although she is not one-hundred percent sure about her career pathway she knows that her endeavors in the beef industry will help her no matter what field she chooses whether it is Agricultural Communications or Political Science. "In Agricultural Communications I have to be able to communicate and use social and writing skills, which is what I have learned while exhibiting my cattle in shows and



Celia Karweik is a senior at Hopkins High School and is currently serving as the President of the Hopkins FFA Chapter. Through her years growing up and participating in the FFA she has come to be an avid spokesperson for the Beef industry. When she was younger, Celia found success in the beef industry simply by purchasing her very own quality show heifer; however, the success she attained came with a wave of commitment. The numerous expenses that came with the project, as well as the calf's attitude, provided a tough new experience for the beginning showman. Through her hard work she has reached multiple goals in her SAE of Beef Production and has found success in and outside of the FFA. The places that Celia's SAE has taken her and the lessons that she has learned through her experiences make her a member who is living the FFA motto by "Doing to Learn."

"My SAE consists of using the show ring as a marketing tool by exhibiting cattle nationally at shows and sales," says Celia. Celia is no stranger to the show ring and that one heifer that she had owned gave her a solid starting point that she quickly used to establish a small herd of her own. As time progressed she became more and more active in the industry by working with her family on their farm. She has found her passion for cattle has broadened her horizons and she now competes on a national level showing across the U.S. and does extremely well. Celia and her family have brought home multiple championships, division winners, and premier exhibitor awards.

Celia knows that the prestige found at the shows is not the only part of the job. She has grown to realize that success is something you have to work for and Celia puts in plenty. She helps on her family's Red Angus farm where she runs her 17 cows and one bull with her parents cow calf operation. On a daily basis Celia is willing to get the jobs done that are necessary to keep the farm in good condition. One of her main jobs includes administering shots and antibiotics to cows and calves when needed. Karweik has found that using good bio-security practices are important to maintaining a healthy herd. Basic maintenance is also a must when owning and operating a beef cattle farm. This makes



to the potential buyer how the heifer or bull will help their herd. My SAE has also pushed me into going into political science because I feel that there isn't a big enough voice in the political world..."states Karweik. "I want people to understand that agriculture is more than farming but also, processing and marketing which creates jobs."

Partnering with the FFA, Celia has also been able to achieve goals that she has set for herself in the organization. She hopes that the work she puts into her SAE will aid her in her journey to attain the American Degree. She has been lucky enough to receive the chapter proficiency award for beef production. This is a first step she has taken in her quest for success and has high hopes for her coming years.



# Earning to Live

By: Andrew Kellenberger  
MSU Mechanical Engineering Major  
&  
Jordan Henry  
Lansing Community College Physical Therapy Major

she had ahead of her. Agriculture was missing from the equation, so Ms. Engle decided to go back to her roots and become the Alma High School Agricultural para professional and assist with the Alma FFA chapter. After several years serving the agricultural program, she wrote a grant for the USDA Nutrition Grant from the Michigan Nutrition Network. This grant allowed Alma Public Schools to have a nutrition program that would be able to teach students the importance of well balanced meals and where their food comes from. After the Alma Schools was approved for the grant, she applied for the Nutrition Project Coordinator of Alma Public Schools. This was a position that fit her well because she was able to take her skills of writing and communication, and be able to teach students the importance agriculture has on everyone's lives. With this grant, Ms. Engle has hired an elementary educator, headed up the nutrition summer garden camps, prepares monthly budgets and makes sure that all things are able to work within the parameters of the grant. Her passion to educate students on the importance of agriculture and build leadership skills are the reasons she does her job. She does not think of it as a burden, but a privilege. She loves working with the students and making her mark on their lives. When talking about the program she said, "Not many people can say they love their job, but I get to make a difference in FFA members lives, what more could I ask for." Working with the Alma FFA has been the jewel in her crown of accomplishments. She has assisted numerous teams, worked with the students on their projects, and has been to every convention she can attend. She recently has been able to chaperone Washington Leadership Conference by riding on a bus with over 40 FFA members to get them to Washington D.C.

Her favorite part would have to be the nutrition summer garden camps that take place during the months of June, July and August. For two days a week elementary students work in the garden and learn about a healthy lifestyle. Ms. Engle plans games and activities to do in between the weeding and picking of the garden. FFA members are able to come lend a helping hand with the garden and learn to interact with children. Ms. Engle thinks the best part is seeing the children come out of their shells and interact with other students. She also appreciates students learning about agriculture, "A nutrition program running alongside an FFA chapter just makes sense. You cannot have nutrition without agriculture, you cannot eat without agriculture."

Ms. Selina Engle defines the "Earning to Live" part of the motto. Her passion for agriculture and the need to work with people has shone through her various projects she does for the nutrition program and the Alma FFA. She encourages, "FFA chapters should establish a nutrition program not only to benefit the chapter, but the community as a whole." She works hard to live what the FFA represents and knows that FFA has made her the person that she is today. Thank You Ms. Selina Engle for being an example to the younger generation of nutrition students, workers, and teachers.

Ms. Selina Engle grew up in the village Breckenridge, Michigan which has one stop light and a grain elevator. She has one older brother and her mother works in echocardiography and her father is a crop consultant at Hemlock Elevator. Growing up she always was a daddy's girl who looked up to her older brother. This was especially the case when it came to the FFA. Her brother got her involved and Ms. Engle was hooked. Her shyness was destroyed and her leadership skills were established. In high school she was the Junior Reporter for two years, Reporter, and then Vice President of the Breckenridge FFA Chapter. She also served as a Region III Representative for two years. She attended Central Michigan University and majored in journalism and public relations. While in college she was still greatly involved in the FFA by assisting with the Breckenridge FFA Alumni and helping teams who were in competitions.

After college she knew that something was not right with the future



# Living to Serve

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



“I was born into the horse world, so I had no choice but to start taking care of them and working with them. Not knowing that it would be my life” says Taylor Pierce a junior from the Benzie FFA Chapter. Taylor started her Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) by reading books on riding and eventually taught herself how to ride. When she was old enough she started helping out at a local horse breeding facility, Triple T Farm. She would be in charge of taking care of twenty plus horses on a daily basis. While working at the breeding facility she critiqued her riding skills and even began to work on her reining skills on her own horse. By the time she was 13 she started riding English and began learning how to jump horses. Taylor purchased her own paint horse in 2009 and is currently training it how to jump.



Not only has Taylor focused on Equine but also small animal care. Taylor owns and cares for three horses, three dogs, and six cats. Taylor also volunteers numerous hours at her local veterinarian office and is actively involved in her chapter's swine raising project. Along with her FFA activities Taylor plays softball and is an active participant in the Adopt-a-Highway program. This has allowed Taylor to impact the lives of many of the members of her community.

Taylor joined the Benzie FFA Chapter her freshman year of high school. Taylor said she joined the FFA thinking it was just an agriculture class and she wanted to learn about the environment. But little did she know how much it had to offer. “It was one of the best choices I have ever made.” Taylor said, “I love getting people involved in FFA and teaching them about it.” Taylor has also enjoyed participating in many Career Development Events and skills contests. As a freshman Taylor competed in Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Job Interview as a sophomore and Demonstration as a junior. One of her favorite accomplishments was placing first at Ag Skills Contest for the individual horse judging competition. Taylor also received her Outstanding Junior award at the 2010 Michigan FFA State Convention in East Lansing. She also has served as her chapter secretary and the Region VI secretary.

Taylor was recently elected Chapter Reporter and plans on running for regional office again. Taylor plans to attend Michigan State University in the fall of 2011 to major in Veterinary Medicine to focus on large animals. Ever since she was little she loved being around horses, and she always knew that she wanted her career to be focused around them.

Taylor says her family has helped and supported her so much while pursuing her career in horse management. She also shows much gratitude towards Tammy Schill from Triple T Farm and Mike Zerby, the local farrier. She says they helped her start her project and continue to help her achieve and learn more. One of the greatest lessons she has learned through her SAE is "If you have no hoof, you have no horse". She would also like to thank her advisor Mr. Block. She says “Mr. Block has always pushed me to succeed in FFA and helped steer me in the right direction to be successful in FFA.”





Story by: **Emily Kroll**  
**Muskegon Community College Education Major**

Throughout history the line between poverty and prosperity has been determined by agriculture and now in the twenty-first century it is no different. It's no mere coincidence that the richest nation on earth is also the nation that produces the most agricultural products: America has truly been blessed. However, the result of our prosperity is urbanization, today the cities are spreading, in fact the US has an annual urban growth rate of 1.3 percent. As the population becomes ever more removed from the farm new issues arise for agriculturalists; one of these issues is public understanding. Today farmers not only have to fight traditional enemies such as insects and disease but they also have to protect themselves from the very people they are trying to feed. Agriculturalists constantly have to defend against an army of reports that are throwing out words like inhumane, environmentally damaging, unsafe and harmful. In this modern age accusations spread like wildfire and when the sparks hit in an area removed from the farm, people become engulfed in the flames. "Obviously, today's farmers need a Public Relations Campaign because they are beset by an army of angry acronyms, each determined to change modern agriculture in a way that better reflects their particular

worldview," said Mike Rowe on his new website mikeroweWORKS.com. In the midst of this new battle the Michigan Farm Bureau has created a revolutionary new program to show the people that farmers do CARE. Commitment to Agriculture While Respecting Our Earth, better known as Farmers CARE, is taking a whole new approach to eliminating agriculture's bad image.

Over the past few years agriculture has been drastically changing, this has created the need to educate people about farming. Multiple circumstances including: the removal of people from the farm, the ever-present threat of climate change and even the growing popularity of locally grown food, have put a new premium on agricultural education. Farmers CARE was created by MFB staff last year in order to deal with many of the problems facing agriculture today by centering on the area of education. The main factors that led to its establishment were: the need to connect consumers and farmers, the rise of groups opposed to modern agriculture and the fact that more people are seeking information about agriculture. Because of the diversity in agriculture the program has a multifaceted approach to the problem with methods





ranging from petting zoos to political lobbying. While the program is designed to improve the image of agriculture throughout the state it must be noted that it is not a tool for retaliation against opposing groups; CARE is a practical approach to educate and interact with all audiences.

Instead of treating the symptoms of agriculture's bad reputation CARE drives to the center of the issue. "We are using straightforward simple messages to get to the heart of the matter," says Jill Corrin, Michigan Farm Bureau media relations manager. The program was designed to emphasize the similarities between farmers and consumers, instead of discussing science and technologies it talks about the principles and philosophies of farming. Their approach centers around four key principles; farmers care about: feeding families safe food, raising safe and healthy animals, protecting the environment and fostering Michigan's future. "Put simply, Farmers CARE is a way to express how farmers care about every acre, every animal and every person in Michigan," said Corrin. The campaign uses easy to remember slogans like, "we do it for our family; we do it for your family," and "striving to create a wholesome product for our family and yours." The idea is simple and the strategy is similar to that of Mohandas Gandhi; find the common ground between opposing groups and reach an understanding, thus securing a prosperous future for all. Currently with the lack of understanding about agriculture it is almost impossible to compromise; however, if the people were to have a basic understanding about what makes farmers tick, then agreements could be reached much more quickly.

Individuals working within the Farmers CARE program are dedicated to exposing the truth about agriculture in a number of different ways. Right around the time the program was unveiled last year; there was a fast-moving piece of legislation in the state legislature regarding animal care standards. Immediately FCATs (Farmers CARE Action Teams based in each county Farm Bureau) were deployed to center on the legislation. The FCATs used CARE legislative strategies with an emphasis on animal care messaging. Other tactics used by CARE personnel involve the education of children and adults through classroom activities, this, among other things, includes career day presentations and field trips. Also public events

such as fairs and festivals are used as special tools to promote an accurate image of agriculture. Another key way the CARE message is spread is through the use of local farmers markets. As more and more people begin to buy fresh produce it gives farmers the opportunity to meet with the consumer face-to-face, these simple relationships are an invaluable asset to the program. The message of farmers that genuinely care about the land they work, the animals they raise and the people of Michigan is the message that will overcome the current struggle. The people of Farmers CARE are leaving no stone unturned in their quest for understanding.

It is evident that in the future people will continue to move away from the farm, one statistic by the National Farm Bureau says that for every one person added to the US population 1.7 acres of agricultural land is lost to development. Farmers are forced to grow larger and larger amounts of food but are given less resources to do it. Agriculture is on the path to becoming more efficient and more sustainable but in order to ensure future economic prosperity for the nation the public opinion must be turned. Instead of fighting over the use of herbicides the public and farmers need to face the reality that they depend upon each other. The public and agriculture are like Yin and Yang both interdependent upon each other for survival; without food the public would not survive and without consumers agriculture would dry up. The common ground of ideals and philosophies could be the area where the gap will be bridged. When consumers begin to realize that farmers care about safe food, healthy animals, the environment and Michigan's future then the image problem will be resolved. Farmers CARE is a means to an end where the public will truly understand agriculture. Imagine the possibilities of a Michigan where instead of fighting over small issues the people work together to ensure a prosperous future. In the midst of propaganda war there is one group saying, "Yes, farmers care."

For more information, go to the Farmers CARE Web site, at [www.farmers-care.com](http://www.farmers-care.com). If you are interested in becoming involved contact your county Farm Bureau. Also related information can be found on the Michigan Farm Bureau's social network sites: [www.facebook.com/MichiganFarmBureau](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganFarmBureau) and [michfarmbureau](https://twitter.com/michfarmbureau) on Twitter.

**Protecting the Environment**

**Michigan Farmers**

- Conserve land
- Protect air and water quality
- Preserve open space

**Farmers CARE**  
[www.farmers-care.com](http://www.farmers-care.com)

**Farmers Share Your Values**

**Dedicated to Michigan's Future**

**Michigan Farmers**

- Provide stable, local jobs
- Support vibrant communities
- Respect tradition and family

**Farmers CARE**  
[www.farmers-care.com](http://www.farmers-care.com)

**Farmers Share Your Values**

# What's the word?

By: Emily Swartzendruber  
MSU Communications Sophomore

FAAFLL O

TOSA

BALEYR O

YRE

NCRO O

BANES O

RAIDY O

NIAGR O

SIWNE

WETHA O

BURTAGESE O

M





# 2010 National FFA Convention School Leader's Experience



This action packed two-day trip provides high school administrators, counselors, school board members and others the opportunity to experience the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Participants will gain a better understanding of FFA, visit with state FFA officers, MSU Agricultural Education staff, FFA Alumni members and students from local FFA chapters. For more information, visit [www.michiganffa.com/alumni](http://www.michiganffa.com/alumni).

## Wednesday, October 20

7 am Depart Michigan Farm Bureau Center  
8:15 am Pick-up at Coldwater Park & Ride  
2 pm Attend Career Show/Meet with FFA chapters  
5 pm Dinner with State Officers and Staff  
7:15 pm Attend Opening Convention Session

## Thursday, October 21

8 am Attend finals of leadership contests/  
Visit with Students  
11 am Lunch with MSU Staff/FFA Chapters  
2 pm Afternoon Session  
4 pm Travel Home



# The Rest of the Story...



**JORDAN PUNCHES**  
**STATE SENTINEL**

**Q** As a state officer what do you see as your primary responsibility?

**A** The biggest responsibility is to serve the members. As state officers we have a lot of eyes on us watching our every action. Our job is to inspire and motivate the leaders of tomorrow. If we act like leaders who positively inspire and motivate those we serve than we have done our job successfully!

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

**A** I hope that all Michigan FFA members will live to the fullest and believe in themselves and also in those who believe in you. Never forget to thank all of those that support you and never stop striving for your dreams. Most of all, never underestimate your capabilities!!

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

**A** My mother, she was in FFA as a student and she was the driving force behind my membership. If it were not for her pushing me to the first few meetings, than I am sure that FFA would not have come to be part of my life. I am grateful for her motivation!

## FYI

### JORDAN'S FAVORITES

Coming from the land of great competition, Jordan is a member of the Hopkins FFA Chapter in Region I. Some of his favorite things are:

**SAE:** Beef Management

**Candy:** Sour Punch Straws

**Personal Hobby:** Working club steers and heifers

**FFA Activity:** National Convention

## FYI

### ASHLEY'S FAVORITES

Up in the wilderness of Region VI, Ashley comes from Alcona FFA Chapter where she enjoys many things. Here are just a few of her favorites:

**SAE:** Turf Grass Mgt, Agricultural Sales

**Homemade Meal:** Peanut Butter & Jelly

**FFA Activity:** Decathlon

**Movie:** Serendipity

**Sport:** Basketball

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

**A** I look to my older sister Amanda for strength and guidance. She has always been there for advice, a shoulder to cry on or just a laugh.

**Q** If you have to choose one word to describe yourself what would it be?

**A** If I had to choose one word to describe myself I would choose enthusiastic. This is because I am always willing to try something new and fun as well as make the best of every situation!

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

**A** I plan to obtain a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in Agronomic Science.



**ASHLEY SUMERIX**  
**REGION VI STATE VP**

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

**A** FFA has been a very popular activity in my family and it was my family that encouraged me to get involved. My cousins and my older sister were the first to join and they had the honor of holding a state office. Watching them achieve so many great things and inspire the members of this great organization was the driving force behind my membership and active involvement in the Alcona FFA Chapter and Michigan FFA Association.



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A young man with short brown hair, wearing a pink button-down shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a large, rectangular hay bale. He is looking down at a laptop computer on his lap, with his hands on the keyboard. The background shows a green field of crops under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

***For More Information Contact:  
Frances Kaneene ([kaneene@msu.edu](mailto:kaneene@msu.edu))  
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