

The Michigan FFA Creed



Spring 2016



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Aim to be ONE OF A KIND.



One in 400 trillion - those are the odds that we became exactly who we are; that our parents would meet, and that we would have our hair, eyes, or height. Some may say that we look like a sibling or we remind them of a celebrity, but our differences outweigh any similarities. We all have a unique set of talents, experiences, and passions. But how can we harness our individual powers?

In school we do all that we can to avoid sticking out. We search for a group to hang out with in order to model their styles and the activities they like to do. It is far easier to follow the path of others than to tread a new one. In class we are afraid to ask questions for fear of others thinking we are dumb for not knowing the answer. Or perhaps we are afraid to join an after school group because of the stigmas associated with them. Only nerds join robotics or chess club, only geeks are in band and orchestra, and only jocks play sports. This fear of not conforming also affects our relationships with others. What would other people think if I go talk

to that new kid who is sitting all alone?

Throughout our travels this year as state officers, we have met members who are breaking these bonds of conformity. We met a student who wants to make reborn dolls and another member who disregarded what others would think when she wore an Elsa costume to school to celebrate homecoming week. There are students all across the state who are unabashed to live an authentic life.

Each one of us is a miracle. We need to follow our arrows in whichever direction we choose, to live a life that brings us the most joy. Being one of a kind requires nothing extraordinary--we don't need to become a world renowned recording artist or work to save the wildlife in Africa—all we have to do is chase after our dreams regardless of the opinions of others. In being one of a kind and doing what we love, we can make the world a better place. Michigan FFA, aim to be one of a kind.

-2015-2016 Michigan FFA State Officer Team

DID YOU KNOW

Michigan produces over 300 different commodities.



In 2015, Michigan produced 5.1 million turkeys.



Michigan organic sales totaled \$71.1 million in 2015



Check This Out!

A Trip to World Food Prize: One Student's Role in Fighting Food Insecurity

By: Autumn Zwiernik
Laingsburg FFA

It was an email marked "From: Mrs. Egg" that began my most interesting experience yet. Mrs. Eggleston, my FFA advisor, had sent me a flyer for the World Food Prize experience at Michigan State University. She informed me



that if I won at the state level I would have the opportunity to travel to the esteemed World Food Prize conference as a youth delegate for Michigan. Over the summer, while my little sister ran through the grass under my not-so-watchful eye, I sat with a computer on my lap learning about and contemplating

major issues in the world that were impacting food security. After much consideration, I wrote a paper detailing the impacts of and solutions to climate volatility in the Bahamas. To give a brief summary of my paper, I concluded that food security in the Bahamas could be improved with increased home gardening and harvesting of invasive fish as a food supply. In addition, the contribution the Bahamas makes to climate change could be reduced by increased use of solar energy.

Once I was done with my paper I traveled to the Bahamas for a nine day Earthwatch research project studying the habitat of green sea turtles to determine what types of resources are most used by them. During my trip I was also able to tour the island of Eleuthera. I saw

firsthand the lives of the locals and refined the ideas for my paper. Many of the locals hunted queen conch, which is endangered, and as a result the quickly shrinking population is at risk. As an alternative, locals could hunt lionfish, an invasive species that is populating the fragile reefs of the Bahamas.

Once I got to Michigan State University, paper in hand, I was ready to share my ideas. The youth and faculty experts gathered in a lecture room for a light breakfast. This was a valuable time because we were able to network with experts from my local community and who work on diverse topics in food sustainability. Soon we split off into groups to tour sites of interest on campus. I went to a bean genetics lab. It was not a big space or even very organized but highly valuable work was being done there. Later I presented my paper to the group of youth and experts. Everyone had a chance to ask questions and discuss the issues we each brought forward.



I was on a bus in Milwaukee with my grandfather and sister when I got the news that I had been selected as a Michigan youth delegate to the World Food Prize conference. At the sight of the email I shrieked with excitement, hugged my grandfather and sister and explained to them that I had been selected to go to the World Food Prize. I was invited to take one mentor with me and since



Mrs. Egg was unable to attend, my mom was able to go with me. The World Food Prize would pay for most of my trip and the FFA generously

covered the remaining cost.

Months later I stepped into the Lansing airport, with suitcase and excitement overflowing. I met with the other young ladies who I would share the experience with. I couldn't imagine being more excited, until another delegate informed me that we were receiving gifts for our work. She smiled wide, held up a brand new Kindle Fire, and informed me that I would be getting one as well. This way we could document our experiences while they were occurring. Soon we were flying in the metal bird, looking down at the beautiful lights of Des Moines at night. We saw the elegant Hall of Laureates and the gold-topped capitol of Iowa.

The next morning when we all met in the lobby I was presented with some materials for my conference including a bracelet and motivational cards from Revolution Hunger to give to my friends. The conference hall was stunning. More than a hundred flags hung down from the wrap-around second story balcony. An elegant fountain stood in the lobby and giant murals of India hung down from the ceiling. After heading upstairs with the other Michigan delegates and our advisors, we all picked up our coffee and settled into the lecture hall, being careful not to walk in front of any of the cameras that were filming for TV.

There were multiple sessions of short talks and discussion panels on topics ranging from wheat genetics to water conservation. There were also sessions from aquaculture in small villages that provided protein for nursing mothers and improved infant survival, to micro-loan financing in remote locations that helped people purchase farm land. For me, the highlight of the conference was when all of the delegates had the privilege of hearing a speech from her Excellency Joyce Banda. She was the second female president in Africa, and she brought the crowd to tears as she spoke of her past as a young woman living in Malawi where the challenges she faced included limited opportunities for girls to attend school and later an abusive husband. She succeeded the former president after he died, as the constitution said she should, although people tried to prevent her from doing it and even attempted to assassinate her.

On the last day of the conference, all of the delegates

from around the world gathered at DuPont headquarters for breakfast and to split off into groups of ten to discuss their papers and present them to experts. This time there were experts from around the world - global thinkers and former World Food Prize laureates - who had spent a lifetime of effort raising millions of people from food insecurity and starvation. I have never been in a space with so many dedicated, inspiring, and generous people. I will never forget that feeling. †



Say What?

By: Tyra Jonas
State Reporter

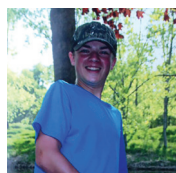


John Williams
Region I
Olivet

“I do think that having organic crops is important because it is a large industry and is still in high demand. However, organic crops alone could not keep up with the current demand. I believe it’s necessary to have alternatives such as GMOs and pesticides to increase yields to keep increasing the crop industry.”

“I like organic farming because it works with nature instead of against it. It helps make soils better and it shows that agriculture is diverse. I think people struggle to see the positives in organic farming, but I can see why this is. Organic farming won’t feed the world with the growing population, but it will help show the diversity within agriculture.”

Carl Tighe
Region II
Saline



Andrew Davis
Region III
Laker

“Organic farming methods are less efficient than that of farming conventionally. The crops grown by organic processes are more prone to pests and diseases than genetically modified crops. Although there has been some controversy over the labeling of products with GMOs in them, these products have not caused major food safety incidents.”

The question: What do you think about organic farming?

“While the organic label is heavily regulated and hard to obtain, organic farming has allowed consumers to find food that they feel better about eating. Organic foods are non-GMO and hormone free in animal products which some consumers want. But organic farming will not provide enough food to feed a growing population.”

Eric Moser
Region IV
Dansville



Drake Roseler
Region V
Montague

“Organic farming is on the rise. It contains significantly lower levels of pesticide residues compared to conventional produce. The main strategy for organic farmers in controlling pests and diseases is with good plant nutrition and management. I believe that organic farming is good with the continued spread of practices and knowledge.”

“I think that organic agriculture is a good thing as long as it’s used correctly. I’ve noticed within my region that a lot of people do not understand what it is. It is great that we are keeping agriculture so diverse, but using just organic farming will not help feed the world. Organic farming has a role in the fight to help though.”

Makayla Shaw
Region VI
Standish-Sterling



12 years ago, FFA members answered this exact question with these responses:

Braidie Butters

Homer

“Organic farming is a natural, environmental friendly way to produce food. Yet, with today’s increasing population, it will not meet the world-wide food requirements and is not a practice many farmers can implement.”

Dawn Fellows

Waldron

“Organic farming will become more popular in the future because it is healthier. Most people are willing to buy organic products even if it costs more, to ensure that their food does not contain any pesticides or herbicides.”

Kaela Thom

Breckenridge

“Organic farming is a good option for farmers to earn more by selling organic crops and for consumers who want to buy natural foods. However, there are a few drawbacks, in that crops grown without the use of chemicals may be more susceptible to weeds and lower yields.”

Jack Renwick

Traverse Bay Area Tech Center

“I live next to an organic farm and support organic farming because it is cheaper to produce, safer to consume, and is better for the environment.”

Our Motto

Learning to Do

By: Tyra Jonas
State Reporter

Meet the winning Teacher Tuesday – Mr. Tom Stahl. He teaches at the Milan FFA Chapter and the Dundee FFA Chapter, but his journey did not begin there. Thirty-seven years ago, he started teaching at Reading High School in the fall of 1979. Before teaching, he went to Britton High School and Sand Creek High School



playing many sports. In high school, he never pictured his life to involve agriculture and never saw a need for it. However, when he went to Michigan State University he changed his major to Agricultural Education and began his journey as an advocate for agriculture.

As a teacher, he says one of his greatest accomplishments is starting and reopening FFA chapters. “Reading HS had been closed for two years when I went there to start teaching. I opened and started the South and West Washtenaw Consortium Ag program for Washtenaw county school and took over as Milan HS teacher and FFA advisor.” He also assisted in many openings of FFA chapters throughout the state of Michigan!

At Dundee and Milan, Mr. Stahl hosts many unique activities. Dundee’s activities include an



annual antique tractor raffle, a mechanical applications class, and weekly challenges between ag classes for ice cream sandwich prizes.

Milan hosts very similar activities that include a pre-football game hog roast tailgate, the Milan FFA coat drive for a local support group, and an ‘Invasive Species Watch’ at a large pondscape system in front of the school.

Mr. Stahl enjoys watching his students grow and become confident, strong leaders in their classwork, FFA, and life. As a teacher, he encourages his students to grow, achieve, and to do their very best. He says one of the best feelings is watching a student when they reach their goal. He is a strong believer in hard work, determination, planning to be a success, and doing everything to your best ability the first time. One of his favorite phrases is, “The easiest thing to do is nothing, but what can you get that is worthwhile with nothing?”



His advice to students is to have confidence that they can do things and do them well. Anyone can achieve great success. Mr. Stahl believes no other organization offers more activities, contests, awards, travel, assistance, and people who care about students’ success. ‡

In Motion

Doing to Learn

By: Emmalee Blough
Past State Officer

Pursuing agriculture no longer limits an individual to 'just farming.' Today, agriculturalists engage in all facets of science, technology, business, communication, and promotion adapting to the growing and changing face of the industry. There are many opportunities for FFA members, regardless of our background, within the agricultural industry to pursue our individual passions and interests.

Botanist:

Botany is the scientific study of plants which includes algae, fungi, lichens, mosses, ferns, conifers, and flowering



plants. Just as the variety of plants is diverse, so is the field of Botany as individuals can work with a large number of plants. The minimum education required is a bachelors, but some positions require a Master's or a Ph.D.

Food Chemist:

Food chemistry is the study of chemical qualities of food primarily to ensure the safety of consumers and to produce enough nutritious food to support the growing population. Individuals in this field study and evaluate properties of food during storage, preparation, and production based on legal regulations. At least a Bachelor's in chemistry or a related subject like food science is required. In most advanced positions a graduate degree is necessary.

Animal Geneticist:

Animal Geneticists apply scientific principles

to improving the health of wild species and to enhance production and quality of the livestock industry. They



study gene function and how these functions affect growth, reproduction, disease resistance, behavior, and other characteristics in wild and production animals. To become an animal geneticist a Master's or Ph.D. is required after receiving a Bachelor's studying animal science or other related subjects.

Agronomist:

Agronomy is the study of soil productivity and seed and crop quality. Individuals who study agronomy test soil and run statistical analysis on crops to understand and improve soil management and field crop production. They deal with the health of crops in terms of disease, weed control, and insect control to recommend solutions to farmers. Most jobs only require a Bachelor's in agronomy or a related degree, but a Master's is necessary for most research positions.



Agriculture is extremely diverse and offers careers for almost every passion. These are just a few of the opportunities students can find within the agricultural industry. There are many more options to explore when pursuing a career in agriculture, food, and natural resources! ‡

Earning to Live

By: Alexandria Schnabelrauch
Michigan Farm Bureau

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I'm Alex Schnabelrauch, and I'm blessed to work with some of the state's most passionate, talented agriculturalists as Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer manager. My childhood was spent walking and fitting lambs for the best week of the year – county fair week – and tagging along with my ag teacher dad to Parliamentary Procedure practices. My FFA career included service as a state and national officer and facilitation for the National FFA Washington Leadership Conference, Blast Off, National Leadership Conference for State Officers, and 212 Conference. A proud Spartan, I graduated in 2012 from Michigan State University with a degree in agriculture and natural resources communications.

Tell us about what you do every day.

I know I'm biased, but I have one of the coolest jobs on the face of the planet. I get to work with 18-35 year-old agricultural leaders to develop programs, contests and opportunities to promote leadership, personal growth and business success. We try to help these young agriculturalists learn more about the industry, meet other industry leaders and help serve their local communities. With so much overlap with FFA, it's a great organization to transition to after hanging up your blue corduroy jacket.

What is the best part of your new job?

Growth. From helping members of the State Young Farmer Committee gain the confidence to speak in front of a large group to watching county programs flourish under passionate leadership, the best part of my job is being part of something that's constantly growing and improving. I love being able to see the hard work of farmers pay off at the local, district and state level. I'm lucky to be part of an organization that puts farmers' interests first and gives back to local communities.

Who do you look to as a mentor?

I've had some amazing mentors along the way: Don Wheeler, Dave Wyrick, Dale Beaty, Beth



Stuever, Renee Durham, Laura Moser, Sheila Burkhardt and the list goes on. They've served as advisors, confidants, coaches, and cheerleaders, and they constantly

look out for my best interest and long-term success and growth. They're the people I call when I'm weighing decisions, and the leaders I trust to help me see sides or options I never would have previously considered. If you don't have a mentor, get one! It's easy.

Step 1: Pick someone with the qualities I mentioned above

Step 2: Develop a list of three to five goals so they can hold you accountable

Step 3: Ask them (in person is best)

Step 4: Set up a regular time to meet with them face-to-face to catch up and gauge progress

Do you have any advice for high school students preparing for their future in college and the workforce?

1. Job Shadow – Don't know what you want to do after high school? You don't have to! Take the opportunity to check out a variety of options, not just on Google, but by riding along with professionals in your community. Don't know who to ask? Reach out to your ag teacher, alumni and sponsors!

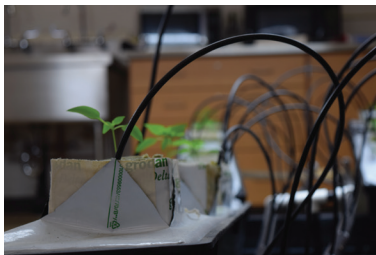
2. Try Everything – You might not know what the FFA Discussion Meet is or realize there's a Risk Management Essay Contest, but try them anyway! Some of my favorite high school experiences came from trying something new or volunteering for something I didn't totally understand. And take charge of finding these opportunities yourself! Future employers love initiative.

3. Build Your Rep – From thinking twice before posting something on Instagram to networking with local business people, it's never too early to start building a great reputation. Introduce yourself. Write thank you notes. Volunteer your time. The more people you meet now, the better off you'll be in college and your future career. ‡

Living to Serve

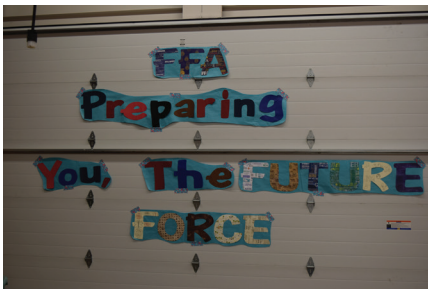
By: Andrea Williams
State Secretary

Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, and Living to Serve. This statement is one that inspires 629,367 blue corduroy wearing members from across the United States. The National FFA Organization is one that takes pride in orienting itself around the



purpose of serving others. There are so many individuals I have encountered within my year of service who are the true definition of servant leaders.

According to Illinois FFA State President, Kade Hill, his definition of living to serve “is all about making an effort on a daily basis to serve”. He does little things every day that add up to make a big impact. Sheridan Pawlowski from the North Huron FFA Chapter defines living to serve as helping with a variety of different community projects, setting goals for herself, and truly challenging herself to get out of her comfort zone. Sheridan helps her chapter by promoting a n d inspiring younger members. She loves being able to help m e n t o r



underclassmen with different events and awards. Her favorite part of her chapter is her advisor, Mr. Joe Ankley. Sheridan explained she wouldn't be as successful if it weren't for the kindness of her advisor. He challenges her to go above and beyond every day helping her to grow. Thank you Sheridan

and Mr. Ankley for your outstanding amount of service and love for this organization.

Being elected as the State Secretary has opened my eyes to the diversity of agriculture within FFA and the state of Michigan.



Hailing from the Ogemaw Heights FFA, I am filled with passion and love for my home chapter. Traveling to seventeen different chapters all over Michigan this year has been the best experience of my life. I have not only been able to see everyone else's dedication and love for their chapters, but also their excitement for agriculture. I have witnessed every chapter living to serve their communities. I see advisors living to serve for the better of their students. I see FFA members from across the state living to serve for agriculture. We serve this great organization to learn and grow. We learn the true testaments of life; we learn how to be good winners and losers; we learn how the FFA can benefit our futures. But most importantly we grow as individuals who live to serve our families, communities, and our chapters. Through my travels, I have experienced the one thing that all FFA members have in common - living to serve for the FFA! ‡



JOIN MICHIGAN FFA ALUMNI

IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE
STATE, FFA ALUMNI MEMBERS
ARE COACHING, MENTORING,
FUNDRAISING & PREPARING THE
NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.

JOIN THEM. NO JACKET REQUIRED.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT MICHIGANFFA.COM/ALUMNI



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Student Spotlight

By: Tyra Jonas
State Reporter

Jenna DuBois

Fremont FFA



Jenna is currently a senior at Fremont High School where she has decided her current career path will be in the medical field. Right now her goal is to attend

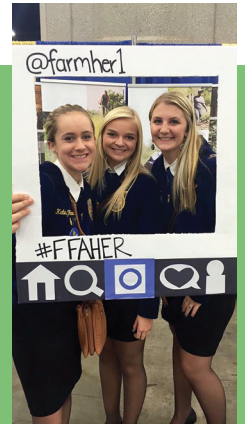
Lake Superior State University because aside from the FFA, healthcare is one of her passions. She enjoys making positive changes in people's lives and believes through this career path she will be able to make an impact. Jenna serves as her chapter's Historian and has participated in many activities in her FFA career. On the local level, she has participated in her school's annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day, Homecoming Hog Roast, several river clean ups, and assisted with numerous fundraisers in her chapter. Outside the local level, she has attended the Washington Leadership Conference, Region V Camp, the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers, and three State Conventions.



Recently, Jenna has created an SAE through the Washington Leadership Conference. She created a "Living to Serve" plan to take back to her community that would satisfy a need. Jenna saw that in her community there was a lack of knowledge on agriculture. With her urban background, she also saw her own need to gain more knowledge on agriculture. After doing massive amounts of research and designing a six-week curriculum for younger students, she went to Fremont Elementary School. Now she educates these younger students every Friday during her sixth hour. She covers

topics including nutrition and food safety. Later in the year, she will make lessons on preservation, the history of agriculture, distribution, and trade and marketing. Jenna says the biggest challenge she faced was working with teacher's schedules and her own schedule for these lessons.

Outside of FFA, Jenna interns at the Gerber Memorial Hospital's medical lab. This allows her to see how various tests are run. She enjoys being able to see the individuals who are doing the behind the scenes work. Interning here taught her how to appreciate everyone within the healthcare field and showed her that everyone is able to make a difference in the lives of others. Jenna remains in the FFA and continues to stay actively involved because she discovered a deep passion for the organization's values and beliefs. Looking back to her first FFA meeting, she remembers her first thought about FFA was that it's just farmers. However as she became more involved, she noticed it wasn't just farming. It was about developing agriculturists, building future leaders, and growing students who want to make a difference in the world. Jenna encourages students thinking about joining the organization to attend their chapter meetings. "FFA is for anybody and everybody; there is absolutely something amazing in this organization."



State Officer Stats



Lucas Wielfaert State Sentinel

Favorites

Chapter: Lenawee Tech Center Sport: Bull Riding
College: Michigan State University Movie: *We Were Soldiers*
SAE: Vegetable Production T.V. Show: *American Pickers*
Theme Song: "Voices" Candy: Zero bars



Taylor Williams Region I State Vice President

Favorites

Chapter: Centreville Sport: Golf
SAE: Diversified Livestock Movie: *How to Train Your Dragon*
Hobby: Hunting Musician: Jason Aldean
Theme Song: "Let it Go" Food: Venison Stew



Holly Tait Region III State Vice President

Favorites

Chapter: Laker Sport: Track and Field
College: Michigan State University Hobby: Exploring
SAE: Diversified Livestock Book: *The Giving Tree*
Theme Song: "Uncharted" Musician: Taylor Swift



HANDS ON PROGRAMS

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Agricultural Operations

Southwestern Michigan College
Dowagiac, Michigan
Agricultural Operations
Applied Horse Science
Landscape Management
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management
Viticulture

Grand Rapids, Michigan
Landscape and Lawn Management

Montcalm Community College
Sidney and Greenville, Michigan
Agricultural Operations
Applied Horse Science
Landscape Management
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management

Northwestern Michigan College
Traverse City, Michigan
Agricultural Operations
Landscape Management
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management
Viticulture

Delta College
University Center, Michigan
Agricultural Operations
Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management