



The Michigan FFA Creed

Spring 2017

FEATURED *inside*

- Our Student Spotlight & Teacher Tuesday Feature
- Catch up with our Region V State Vice President
- Learn about the Glassbrook Endowment Fund
- Hear about skills contests
- See what one past state officer has done since leaving the blue & gold jacket

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Meet Cass City FFA
member Joseph Sieradzki
in our Student Spotlight
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Shatter Expectations THROUGH ACTIONS

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UPCOMING *events*

MARCH 8-10: State FFA
Convention at Michigan State

MARCH 26: Horse Judging
Contest at Michigan State

APRIL 21: State FFA Career
Development Events at Michigan
State

MAY 5: Lansing Lugnuts Game

MAY 10: Rabbit Processing
Contest at Munsell's Processing

A letter FROM OUR REGION I V.P.

How many times have you suggested an activity for your chapter or school, but it never happened? Although successful activities start with an idea, followed by brainstorming, it is the third step, taking action, that creates results. Make a plan for what you want to do, but don't stop there. After the planning period is done, you have to take action. Even though brainstorming is a beneficial part of the process of change, action cannot take place unless someone steps up to do it. Seek approval from your advisor. Invite other members to help. Set a date that is convenient for your chapter or community. Reserve a location that suits your needs. Advertise to your target audience. You won't see any change in your chapter, your community, or yourself if you are

not willing to put forth the effort to make it so. One of the most common reasons an activity is never carried out is procrastination. Don't wait for someone else to take care of it; step up and be the one to accomplish your goals. Ralph Waldo Emmerson once said, "What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say." Don't just tell people your ideas. Bring them to life through your actions. You may even shatter your own expectations of what you are capable of. Michigan FFA, I encourage you to shatter expectations through actions.

- Josephine Forbush

Shatter
EXPECTATIONS



89th National FFA Convention & Expo Results

Career Development Events

- Agricultural Communications: Ubly FFA, Bronze
- Agricultural Issues Forum: Cassopolis FFA, Bronze
- Agricultural Sales: Mason FFA, Silver
- Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems: Durand FFA, Bronze
- Agronomy: Ovid-Elsie FFA, Silver
- Conduct of Chapter Meetings Leadership Development: Coopersville FFA & Ubly FFA, Gold
- Creed Speaking: Emma Scholfield, Jonesville FFA, Bronze
- Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management: Laingsburg FFA, Bronze
- Dairy Cattle Handling: Julia Doughty, Chippewa Hills FFA, Silver
- Environmental & Natural Resources: Ovid-Elsie, Silver
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Adrian Schunk, Mason FFA, Bronze
- Farm Business Management: Corunna FFA, Bronze
- Floriculture: Lapeer County Tech FFA, Gold (Madison Fricko, 9th Place Individual)
- Food Science & Technology: Tuscola Tech Center FFA, Bronze
- Forestry: Lenawee Tech Center FFA, Silver
- Horse Evaluation: Alma FFA, Silver
- Job Interview: Monica Ward, Cassopolis FFA, Bronze
- Livestock Evaluation: Branch Area Career Center FFA, Gold
- Marketing Plan: Sanilac Career Center, 4th Place Gold
- Meats Evaluation & Technology: Sanilac Career Center FFA, Bronze
- Milk Quality Products: Chesaning FFA, Silver
- Nursery/Landscape: Lapeer County Tech FFA, Silver
- Parliamentary Procedure: Springport FFA, Silver
- Poultry Evaluation: Laker FFA, Silver
- Prepared Public Speaking: Claire Laurenz, Breckenridge FFA, Bronze



TRANSFORM Floriculture Career Development Event

Delo Tractor Restoration

- National Winner: Austin Haywood, Hastings FFA
- Top 12 Finalist: Devin Haywood, Hastings FFA

Agriscience Fair

- Power, Structural and Technical Systems Division 2 National Winner: Loren King, Branch Area Career Center FFA



TRANSFORM Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event



TRANSFORM Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event

American Degree Recipients

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sarah Ash | Summer Lemon |
| Heather Berens | Lillian Lieffers |
| Alexis Birdsell | Joshua Locke |
| Emma Blough | Jessica Lohman |
| Bethany Borup | Samantha Ludlam |
| Kenna Botten | Troy Markley |
| Greg Bristle | Brad Martyn |
| Brianna Chaffin | Christian McGuire |
| Adam Constine | Stephen Merchant |
| Sarah Crosby | Brendan Miller |
| Joslyn Crowley | Mitchell Myers |
| Connor Ewald | Katelyn Nordbeck |
| Daniel Flynn | Richard Olger |
| Josephine Forbush | Shannon Oliver |
| Kimberly Forbush | Zach Pennington |
| Kyle Forbush | Lucas Prikasky |
| Hannah Fricko | Danyel Ransler |
| Erin Fritz | Alyssa Richards |
| Taylor Fritz | Briana Schmidt |
| Courtney Fronck | Grace Shields |
| Willene Gehl | Teddy Sobleskey |
| Wyatt Gordon | Morgan Stewart |
| Alex Green | Wyatt Stout |
| Coy Hansen | Holly Tait |
| Emily Harke | Kelsey Uddel |
| Ethan Haywood | Taylor Walker |
| Dana Hengesbach | Keri Walling |
| Dylan Higbee | Amanda Wiel |
| Emily House | Andrea Williams |
| Tyra Jonas | Lacey Wilson |
| Olivia Kauffman | Brent Windemuller |
| Emma Kauffold | Alexi Wolf |
| Katrina Klaes | Alexis Woodward |
| Abbie Kowalski | Zachary Young |

Teacher TUESDAY

DR. JOHN SCHUT

QUICK FACTS

School:
Caledonia High
School

Years Teaching:
20

College Attended:
Bachelor's and master's from MSU
Ph.D. from Purdue

FFA Chapter
Attended: Hopkins

Past FFA Offices:
1992-93 State
President

Dr. John Schut is currently the advisor for the Caledonia FFA Chapter, where he has been teaching for 13 years. Dr. Schut graduated from Hopkins High School where he was an FFA member for four years. In college, he became the 1992-93 Michigan FFA State President. Before finding his place at Caledonia, Dr. Schut taught at Montague



High School for three years and Lowell for four. Dr. Schut is most proud of the Caledonia FFA Chapter being named the Region IV N.A.A.E. Outstanding Secondary Ag Ed Program,

which is given to only six agriscience programs throughout the United States. With his two daughters, Dr. Schut raises club lambs, show horses and exhibits livestock in national shows from Phoenix to Denver to Louisville.

*By: Lauren Heberling,
State Reporter*



Q: What are some of the biggest things students can gain from being an FFA member?

A: I always go back to the mission of premier leadership, personal growth and career success. And, you get cool jackets. My advice to incoming ag students is to give it a whirl. You might be surprised.

Q: Why would you recommend students to consider agriculture as a career path?

A: There will always be a demand for workers in the agricultural industry. There are good paying jobs and things are constantly changing. Overall, agriculture is a really good career to be in.

Q: What is the best part about being an agricultural education teacher and why would you recommend students to pursue it as career?

A: There are a lot of different students you get to work with and help them to discover their passion. There is always something different every day.

How has Dr. Schut impacted you?

"He has truly helped me break out of my shell and has pushed me and supported me through every challenge I took on. I would not have been able to accomplish goals and feel confident without his constant encouragement. Something I love is his ability to be completely spontaneous. He is never afraid to break into rapper Schut and rap every word to a Kid Rock song. And he always has a sarcastic comeback to anything you say. You can always count on Dr. Schut for a laugh."

–Jordyn Skinner, Caledonia FFA Member

"Dr. Schut has played a huge role in my FFA career. He's been someone I can always go to with questions. He goes out of his way to help every member he can and constantly looks to improve not only the Caledonia FFA but the Michigan FFA Association. He's always extremely willing to help any member that asks."

–Austin Haywood, Michigan FFA State Officer

"In and outside of the classroom, he strives to enrich and learn from everyone he comes in contact with. As his daughter and former student, I know he values the impact he can make as well as the impact his students have on him. He boldly testifies his morals and beliefs on every front, an action I've seen many say they do, but not an action many have actually done. Students are truly blessed to be in his classroom, and my sister and I are truly blessed to call him dad."

–Alexandria Schut, Caledonia FFA alumna and Past State Officer



Student SPOTLIGHT

QUICK FACTS

Grade:
11th

FFA Chapter:
Cass City

Current Positions Held:
Cass City President
Region III Representative

Workplace:
Unique Wildlife Designs
Taxidermy

Joseph in 3 Words:
Honest
Caring
Outgoing

Biggest Accomplishment:
Becoming a Region III
Officer

“I am the first member of the Cass City FFA Chapter to become a regional officer since the chapter re-formed. I am definitely planning to run for a ceremonial position my senior year.”



JOSEPH SIERADZKI

Now a junior at Cass City High School, Joseph Sieradzki joined FFA when he was just a freshman. A push from an older member to join snowballed into, ‘wow this is something really cool,’ Sieradzki says. Joseph recalls a quote by John F. Kennedy that says, “...We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things not because they are easy, but because they are hard.” Joseph has modeled his FFA experience just the same as J.F.K. addressed the U.S.’s trip to the moon. He continues to step out of his comfort zone, put forth his best and do things



because they are hard, all because he saw the difference FFA has made in his life.

For two years in a row, Joseph has earned a gold at regional leadership contests for Ag Issues and Extemporaneous Speaking. He also placed in the top 20 in the Food Science Career Development Event (CDE). and attended National Convention his sophomore and junior year. After high school, he wants to further his education, with his ultimate goal to become employed in the electrical or engineering career fields. “I love working with my hands,” Joseph says, which is why being an engineer, electrician or master mechanic fits him perfectly.

Joseph’s top role model is his great-grandpa, who would “give you the shirt off his back and do anything for anybody,” he says. He inspired me in everything he did.” Joseph has made it his goal to become just like his great-grandfather. In FFA specifically, Joseph hopes to accomplish two things. One, to bring the Cass City FFA Chapter back to where it was before it closed and two, to encourage more people to get out of their comfort zone and become themselves. Joseph Sieradzki, keep shattering expectations!

By: Lauren Heberling, State Reporter



Q: From FFA member to another, why would you suggest you go into an agricultural career?

A: Agriculture as a business has plenty of opportunities. Even if you don’t know what you want to do, agriculture has so many different parts, you can find something. Don’t like animals? You can be a mechanic and still be involved in agriculture.

Q: What is your advice to any incoming FFA/agricultural education students?

A: Be open-minded. Ag class is so diverse, you can always find something to fit you. I know for a fact I wouldn’t know what I wanted to be or have gained the skills I did without FFA. Today I am always the first one to talk or walk up to somebody and meet them. Before FFA, I was shy and didn’t like public speaking.



LAUREN HEBERLING
SANILAC FFA CHAPTER

Theme Song:
"Small Town USA"
Favorite Homemade Meal:
Potato Cheese Soup
Favorite T.V. Show:
"How It's Made"

Currently attending Lansing Community College, Lauren plans to transfer to Michigan State to major in Animal Science. She attributes her passion for the dairy industry from growing up on her family farm and creating her Dairy Production SAE. Lauren uses her authentic personality to encourage and motivate FFA members to reach and exceed their goals. She wants members across the state to take every opportunity they are given and to never be afraid to ask for help.

STATE OFFICER *Feature*

**SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS
HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!**



MADDY MEYER
IONIA FFA CHAPTER

Theme Song:
"Humble and Kind"
Favorite Candy:
Starbursts
Favorite Sport:
Basketball

Maddy attends Michigan State University where she is majoring in Animal Science. Her SAE of Dairy Production developed as a result of growing up on her family dairy farm Sandy Ridge Dairy in Ionia, MI. In high school she was involved in multiple sports, National Honor Society, her church youth group and 4-H. She believes that while winning can be a fun experience, what really counts is always trying, never giving up and working hard.



HAILEY ANDRES
NEW LOTHROP FFA CHAPTER

Theme Song:
"I Lived"
Hobby:
Traveling
Favorite Movie:
"Forrest Gump"

As a Pre-Vet student at the University of Michigan - Flint, Hailey knows what it means to work hard. Showing livestock developed her SAE of Diversified Livestock Production. Hailey was involved in choir, 4-H, Track, Bowling, NHS, and volunteered at the Special Olympics. She hopes to use her optimism to encourage members to be kind to everyone and to make a positive impact in whatever way she can.

Living to Serve: THE LIFE OF A STATE OFFICER

From Greenhand initiations and broiler contest, to regional recreations and leadership contests, it sure has been a busy and exciting fall and winter for all 7,853 Michigan FFA members and for the state officers.

This fall, the officer team had the opportunity to explore all corners of our great state, from the tip of the thumb to the western shores of Lake Michigan, and even north of the Mackinac Bridge to visit some chapters in the UP! Earlier on in our year of service, each traveling pair had a list of chapters they needed to visit by the close of 2016. The purpose of our chapter visits was to meet members and teach them about leadership, agriculture and FFA. It's crazy to think how quickly those chapter visits flew by. Although we thought we would be the ones doing the teaching, we came away from those chapter visits with many valuable lessons that the members had indeed taught us.



Besides chapter visits though, our team has had opportunities to interact with members at more personal levels at events such as broiler contest. Spending three days processing chickens probably isn't everyone's cup of tea, but it was time well spent for us because we had a blast talking to all the hard-working members who participated in this contest and seeing how their birds weighed out.

In November, members across the state competed in the Farm Bureau Youth Discussion Meet. These members discussed important topics such as environmental sustainability, producing more food with fewer resources, the increasing age of farmers and emerging technology in agriculture. Three students from each region, 18 total, had the opportunity to advance on to the state level to compete at Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids. There, the top 6 were determined and competed in a final round of competition.

Job interview, Demonstration and Prepared Public Speaking are just a few of the leadership contests that members competed in at the district and regional level over the snowy winter months. At these contests members showed off their knowledge of agriculture while putting their communication skills to good use as well. We can't wait to see the final results of these contests at State Convention!



to serve this year.

When the team isn't traversing the state, we are spending our weekends and any other free time we have writing and memorizing scripts and practicing retiring addresses in preparation for the 89th Michigan FFA State Convention. We are so excited to greet all of you in East Lansing to share with you the memories we made this year. We have been constantly amazed by the diversity of our Association's chapters, and we are so excited to share with you the impressive things that the members have accomplished throughout the year!

-Maddy Meyer, Region V Vice President

**'ALTHOUGH WE
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BE THE ONES DOING
THE TEACHING, WE
CAME AWAY FROM
THOSE CHAPTER
VISITS WITH MANY
VALUABLE LESSONS
THAT THE MEMBERS
HAD INDEED TAUGHT
US.'**

-MADDY MEYER



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2006-2007 STATE PRESIDENT ALYN KIEL IS STILL ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN ADVOCATING FOR THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY.

In my young life, I have been many things. Daughter. Big sister (mostly not a brat). Speechwriter to a Cabinet Secretary. Keeper of a rooftop chicken coop. World traveler. Sky diver and rock climber (sorry, mom).

The coolest thing I've ever been is an FFA member.

I grew up in Montague, Michigan – home of the world's largest working weathervane, a lot of asparagus and honestly not too much else. I didn't grow up on a farm, although my grandparents had a small hobby farm so somehow I still ended up doing farm chores despite not being a farm kid.

They build character. Or

so I'm told.

I joined FFA because I thought I wanted to be a veterinarian and any class that got me out of school to play with animals was a-okay in my book.

Then, I fell in love – with FFA, not a boy. I took advantage of everything FFA had to offer, from leadership contests to mentoring to serving as a state officer.

I still remember how I felt, running out onto that stage as a newly-minted state FFA president. The pride, the elation, the pain of being hugged too tightly by that year's state secretary, Gabe Holdwick.

I felt love for my teammates, and a love

for the FFA that would eventually take me across the country and around the world.

Our 12-person state officer team has grown a lot over the last ten years. Spouses, partners and babies (there's love again!) bring our complement to well over 20 these days. We are reporters, dentists, veterinarians (two of 'em, but neither one is me), ag teachers, artists and extension educators.

Most importantly, we are all champions for food, farming and FFA.

Producing food is an emotional business. Your way of life is tied up with extremely high risks and razor-thin margins. Only someone in love would be that crazy.

As advocates for food and farming, we must remember that eating is emotional, too. Consumers want to feed their families the right foods in the right way. They are worried about doing the wrong thing and they fear that they're being lied to or misled.

As frustrating as that can be, it also creates enormous

opportunities for FFA members.

I am fortunate that my career allows me to channel my love for food and farming, and drive programs and policies that benefit those who grow and

“If you find something you love – and I hope you find it in the FFA – stick with it. You never know where that love will take you.”
-Alyn Kiel

raise our food, and those who eat it, too.

Sometimes the messenger is as important as the message. FFA members and alumni offer a fresh and relevant voice in a very old conversation.

My advice for FFA members is simple – be transparent, be relevant and be patient. Eating and producing food are hip and trendy right now. That offers us an amazing platform to engage – but only if you stay patient and channel people's interest in a positive way.

And remember, if you find something you love – and I hope you find it in the FFA – stick with it. You never know where that love will take you.

By: Alyn Kiel, Past State Officer



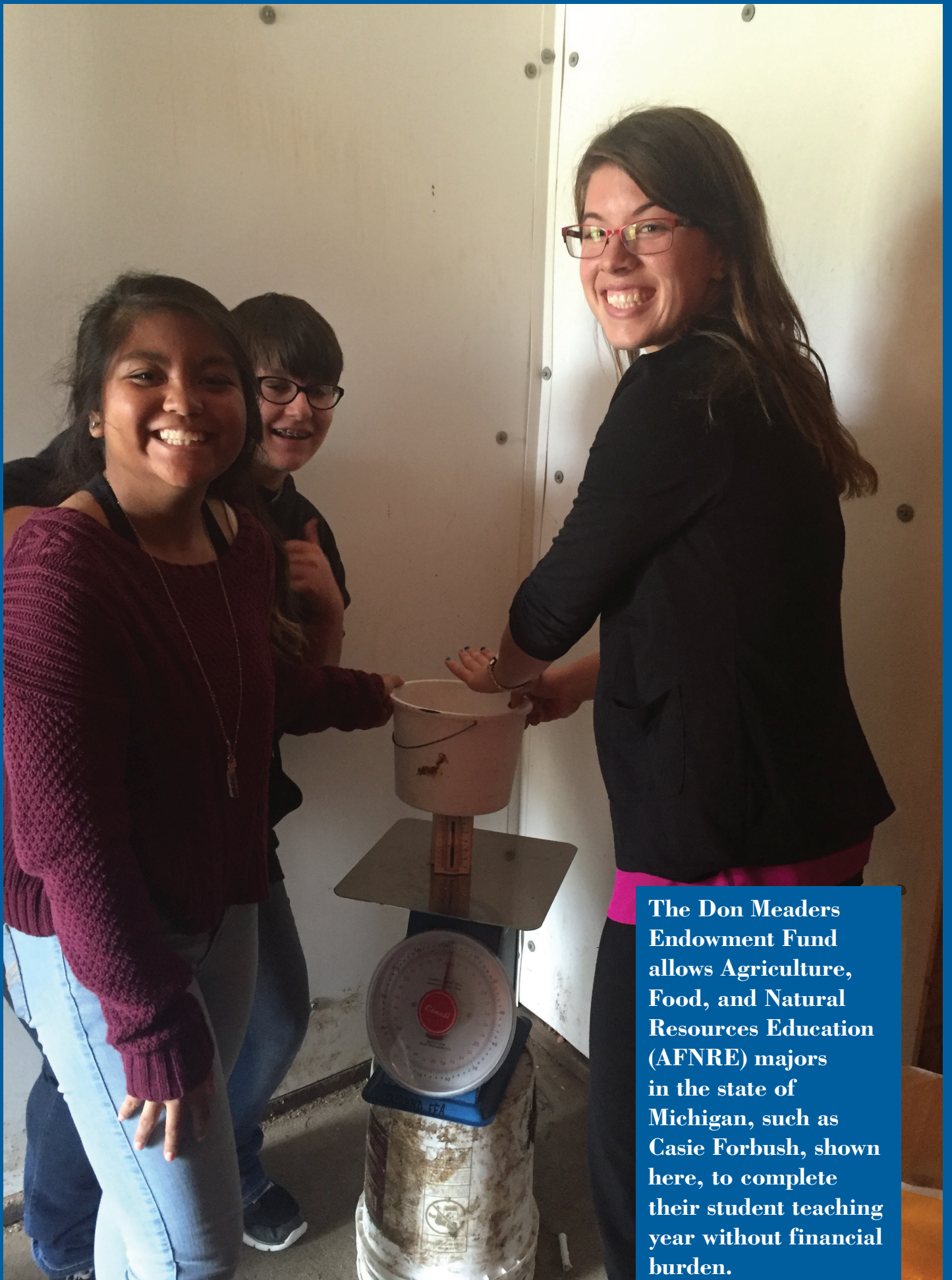
JOIN MICHIGAN FFA ALUMNI

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



The Don Meaders Endowment Fund allows Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education (AFNRE) majors in the state of Michigan, such as Casie Forbush, shown here, to complete their student teaching year without financial burden.

THE FUTURE of AFNRE

A recognized icon in agriculture education, Don Meaders always placed one priority above all others: the educator's obligation to the future.

Meaders, a renowned Michigan State University professor who died in 2012, was a pioneer in global approaches to agriculture research and outreach, and he received many awards for his international contributions. His influence and impact will reach far into the 21st Century. But perhaps his most enduring contribution is evident in a very tangible financial commitment to the people who will shape the future, an endowment to support the education of students who have chosen to make agriculture education their careers. As an avid student of history, Meaders, a World War II veteran, believed that history has taught us a good teacher must inspire, not only teach; a master educator must prepare students to one day become master teachers themselves. A true believer in the land-grant mission, Don, a Nebraska native, was unswerving in his demand that future teachers know how to apply their knowledge to solve problems and to energize effective instruction inside and outside the classroom.

The O. Donald and Martha Meaders Agriculture and Natural Resources Endowment at Michigan State University supports students in their fifth, post baccalaureate, year of education preparing them to become agriculture education professionals.

"The Meaders endowment helps pay for the fifth-year unpaid internship

The Don Meaders Endowment honors a commitment to education by helping future AFNRE teachers fund their education.

By Terry Denbow

which is required to become a certified teacher," said Mark Forbush of the Department of Community Sustainability at Michigan State. "It is challenging for recent college graduates to pass on full-time paid positions in the agriculture field and then continue on and pay for another year of college tuition to become a teacher. The Meaders Endowment has so far given more than \$3,000 to students pursuing

their Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Education (AFNRE) certification.

"The growth of this endowment will mean even more students will be able to continue with their education and meet the need for teachers in AFNRE," Forbush adds. And he emphasizes there definitely is a growing supply-demand problem.

"AFNRE is experiencing a shortage of teachers in Michigan and nationally. In fact, more than 400 AFNRE positions went unfilled nationally in the current school year," he said. "Here in Michigan we had 13 teachers who had to receive 'annual authorization' from the state so they could teach in an AFNRE classroom.



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Sadly there were two positions for which we werenot able to find a person.” It had become clear to Don and



to his equally committed wife of 60 years, Martha, that a required fifth year of undergraduate education was more and more posing a financial challenge to students. After much discussion and soul searching about how they could best give back to MSU, the Meaders’s decided that easing that fifth-year burden was the best way to directly make a contribution to the future.

“Don was convinced that we owe a debt to MSU and to the field of agriculture education, and that by far the best way to repay that debt is to invest in the future,” said Martha, a library scientist who retired from MSU in 1989. “The land-grant mandate calls us to provide both access and opportunity to our students, and we wanted very much to make sure both access and opportunity were never at risk for students wanting to become agricultural educators.”

Administrators at MSU also note that the Meaders Endowment goes beyond paying bills. It calls students to aspire “not only to become good teachers, but to become the best teachers.”

Martha also makes it clear that “maybe as never before” there are

challenges to assurances of a robust, large-number cadre of students wanting to enter the agricultural education profession. “We not only need to maintain aspiration, we need to increase it,” she said.

David Wyrick, Michigan FFA State Executive Secretary, points out that, “As required by the National FFA constitution and the federal charter issued to the National FFA Organization, in order to have an FFA chapter a school must offer a state Department of Education-approved AFNRE program. This program must be taught by a certified AFNR teacher who also serves as the FFA advisor.

“We know how much AFNR

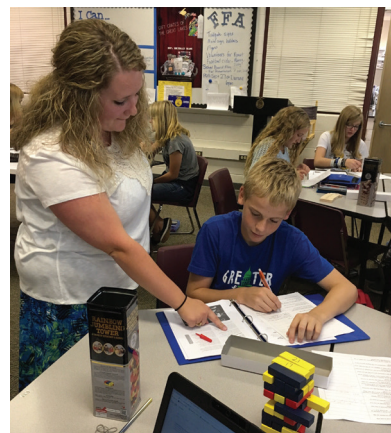


programs need excellent teachers who are properly and rigorously trained, and the Meaders gift assists with this training by helping students fund their student teaching experience,” Wyrick says.

So how do student recipients of the Meaders gift see the future?

Samantha Ludlam, of Hopkins FFA, is hopeful.

“I have been impressed that agriculture education students I know are passionate



about their topic on a completely different level,” she said. “Within agriculture, we are not only facing consumer demands for more food to feed a growing population, we also are facing a consumer demand to learn more about where food comes from and how it is produced. “This puts agriculture education programs and educators in demand now more than ever — but our response to this demand has been less than adequate.”

Ludlam is convinced that the Meaders Endowment and similar commitments to agriculture education must become wider known---and she adds that the field of agriculture education itself needs to be promoted and understood more.

“Many of my fellow College of Education students don’t even know that my major exists,” she lamented. “But once I explain what I am studying and what I will one day be teaching my students, many peers are extremely interested and intrigued. In fact, many wish they had known about the major earlier or wish they, themselves, had experienced the benefits of an agriculture education when they were in high school.”

For more information:

Visit www.michiganffa.org or call the State FFA Office at (517) 353-9221



Got Skills?

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. To accomplish this mission, the Michigan FFA Association strives to provide members with a multitude of opportunities to grow themselves as leaders while gaining practical skills through leadership contests, conferences and skills contests. Of these three amazing opportunities, I will always hold a special fondness for our agricultural skills contests held every spring. My very first FFA competition was the Land Conservation skills contest, and I can remember all of the hard work and studying that my team put into preparing for the contest. After weeks of preparation, contest time finally came and we boarded the bus up to Michigan State University! We spent what felt like hours outdoors judging soil profiles, calculating slopes and scoring land parcels. Finally, our score cards were filled out and we turned them in! When the results came, our team hadn't placed, but we had tried our best.

Fast-forward four years to my freshman year of college: I'm sitting in a lecture hall and the professor is deep into a lecture about soil science. All of a sudden, it starts coming back: top-soils, sub-soils and parent materials? I've done this before in FFA! My experience participating in skills contests helped me in my classes, and when working in the agricultural industry.

Later on in my FFA career, I also participated in the Ag Sales



contest, where teams develop a sales plan for a product of their choosing and sell their product to the judges. Members also partake in several practicums that range from advertising to customer support. Our team decided to "sell" a farm-made artisan cheese and we made our pitch. After placing 6th in the state, my brothers and I decided to use the sales plan and promotional materials from the contest with our hobby of making cheese with our grandpa, forming Haywood Family Cheese. This turned out to be an important part of our SAE's as we grew our business,

leaning on the skills and feedback we gained while competing. Today we continue to market our cheese and plan to expand in the future while building on our FFA sales skills and materials.

Talking about the FFA skills contests with Alex Payne, a former FFA member from the Jackson Area Career Center, reminded him of his first Ag Skills experience. Through his experience in the crops contest, Alex gained valuable knowledge about field crops, insects and weeds which sparked his interest in studying Crop and Soil Science at Michigan State University.

CONTINUED ON PAGE M



Alex also used this knowledge when starting his own custom application business, saying that “Experiences in FFA ag skills contests helped me find what I enjoy and plan my own future,” he said. “What I learned in this contest helped with my SAE, my education and gave me a huge knowledge base that has proven important in internships and my own business.”

When talking with our State Secretary, Austin Haywood, about opportunities for skill growth in the FFA, his go-to experience was the tractor restoration contest. Going through the experience of restoring a tractor inspired his Ag Mechanics SAE, where he built his skills around the restoration of antique tractors. When asked about the benefits of skills contests, Austin said that “hands-on” skills contests give students the ability to learn and grow in an environment different than the regular classroom setting. In the tractor restoration contest, students not only learn the basic mechanic skills needed for the project, but also learn

even larger skills like project and time management, how to better communicate and how to work with, and learn from, others around you.” Like CTE classes, skills contests provide students with a real-life environment to gain the knowledge that they need for the future.

**EXPERIENCES IN
FFA AG SKILLS
CONTESTS HELPED
ME FIND WHAT I
ENJOY AND PLAN
MY FUTURE. WHAT
I LEARNED IN THIS
CONTEST HELPED
WITH MY SAE, MY
EDUCATION, AND
GAVE ME A HUGE
KNOWLEDGE BASE:
-ALEX PAYNE**

My favorite part about skills contests is the fact that there is a contest out there for absolutely everyone. From communications to crops, ag mechanics to meats, and floriculture to food science, there is a contest out there for you to gain the skills and experiences needed to develop your potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Skills contests can provide the opportunity to sharpen a skill you already have or to experience something completely new and exciting! Whatever that skill is, find your contest and give it a shot! Got skills? Our Michigan FFA members do!

By: Ethan Haywood, Past State Officer

DID YOU KNOW?

There are many opportunities to continue your education in the field of agriculture. Some examples include studying food industry management, crop and soil science, animal science, food science, horticulture and much more!





HANDS ON PROGRAMS

The Institute of Agricultural Technology delivers innovative, educational programs that develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in animal sciences, plant sciences and electrical technologies.

All programs can be completed in two years, including a required professional internship experience. Programs are offered on MSU's East Lansing campus and in partnership with several Michigan community colleges across the state.

Learn more about the Institute of Agricultural Technology by visiting www.iat.msu.edu or call 517-355-0190.

Certificate Programs in East Lansing

Agricultural Industries
 Livestock Industries
 Dairy Management
 Landscape and Nursery Management
 Horse Management
 Electrical Technology
 Fruit, Vegetable and Organic Horticulture Management
 Turfgrass Management (Golf emphasis)
 Sports and Commercial Turf Management

Off Campus Certificate Programs

Glen Oaks Community College
Centerville, Michigan
 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



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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