FEATURED inside

DISCOVER AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR #STUDENTSAURDAY AND #TEACHERTUESDAY!

ADRIAN SCHUNK, NATIONAL EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT, SHARES A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE.

READ HOW MICHIGAN FFA CAREER AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TEAMS DID AT THE 2018 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION AND EXPO!

MICHIGAN FFA ASSOCIATION

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THE MICHIGAN FFA
Creed
Spring 2019

LEARN HOW THE SARANAC FFA CHAPTER IS TACKLING HEALTH AND HUNGER WITH THEIR TAKE-HOME LUNCH PROGRAM.

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The Michigan FFA Foundation is the fundraising arm of the Michigan FFA Association. Funds raised through Foundation activities support the Michigan FFA State Convention, Skills Contests, Leadership Conferences and other FFA activities throughout the year.

**ABOUT**

The Michigan FFA Foundation was founded in 1984 at Michigan State University (MSU). Founded to be a fund-generating source for FFA, the foundation operated without an executive director until the late 1980s. In 1995 Michigan State University and Michigan Farm Bureau joined in cooperation to hire a part-time executive director to oversee fundraising activities. At this time the Michigan FFA Foundation moved from Michigan State University to Michigan Farm Bureau. In 1998 the Michigan FFA Foundation hired a full-time executive director to manage all foundation activities. In 2006 the FFA Foundation was moved back to MSU and now finds its home in Agriculture Hall, back to where it began. The Michigan FFA Foundation has grown from a small operating fund to over four million dollars in assets and raising nearly half a million dollars annually to fund FFA and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education.

**HISTORY**

…

Kyle Schaberg, Assistant Director of Development for the Michigan FFA Foundation, holds a degree in Mass Communications from Principia College and is originally from Williamston, MI. He has been with MSU since he started in the Development Associate program in January 2017. Prior to MSU, Kyle spent eight years at Claibourn School in Pasadena, CA, where he worked in a number of different positions from alumni relations to annual giving and major gifts. Having worn many hats there, he came to MSU seeking to focus on learning best practices of major gift fundraising. Kyle has already had the opportunity to participate in several FFA functions, including the ceremonial bill signing for the Ag Heritage License Plate in December 2018. Kyle officially began his role with the Michigan FFA Foundation on January 2, 2019.
It was four days after we were elected when our National Officer Coach, Mr. Back, asked my team to gather in a conference room at the National FFA Center. As we quietly took our seats in the back of the room, we noticed about 20 dominos lined up on the table in front of us. I had to refrain the six-year-old inside of me from walking up to the line, tapping one domino, and watching the whole line fall, one by one.

In the midst of my attempt at self-control, Mr. Back began explaining to each of us that we are a result of a domino effect. I didn’t quite understand at first. He continued to say that our lives are chain reactions; each and every person we have interacted with have impacted us in some way.

When I think about the domino effect in my life, I think about my advisor Mr. Barnum. The chain reaction started when he looked at me during my freshman year and said, “Adrian, I think you should do the creed speaking contest.” Little did I know that sentence would be the beginning of a life-shaping journey in the FFA.

From there, alumni members like Ramey and Laura Lunceford invested their time in helping me prepare for career development events. Chapter officers like Gwen Bagley encouraged me to run for chapter office. Mentors like the Henry family and Amanda Sollman were committed to my growth during the National Officer Candidate process. One by one, these people took a small action which created a chain reaction for the rest of my life.

All of us have a domino effect. They are the people who believe in us and teach us to believe in ourselves. They are the people who help us determine our goals, and play some small role in helping us achieve them.

We can be a part of some else’s domino effect, too. We can invite them to their first FFA meeting, encourage them to run for an office or stay after school to help them prepare for leadership contests. We can take one single action to help someone else grow.

What I have come to understand as a national officer is this: the domino effect is what being a leader is all about, and it is what being an FFA member is all about.

**“WE TAKE ONE SINGLE ACTION, REACH OUT TO ONE PERSON, OR GIVE ONE PIECE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT. AND, MAYBE WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT, WE IMPACT THE REST OF THEIR LIFE BECAUSE OF IT.”**

We take one single action, reach out to one person, or give one piece of encouragement to someone who needs it. And, maybe without even knowing it, we impact the rest of their life because of it. Let’s think about who has been a part of our domino effect. Who invited us to our first FFA meeting? Who offered us new knowledge at a conference or convention? Who has believed in us from the start? No matter how big or small the action, let’s thank them for being a part of the chain reaction of our lives. Then, let’s look up from our own line of dominos. Who needs us to take an action to be part of the chain reaction of their life?

By: Adrian Schunk
National FFA Eastern Region Vice President
For the second year in a row, the Saranac FFA chapter has been awarded a year-long Living to Serve Grant for the amount of $2,970. The nationwide program provides grant money to local FFA chapters to support yearlong service-learning projects that address needs related to community safety, environmental responsibility, hunger, health and nutrition, and community engagement.

The Saranac FFA plans to help address hunger, health and nutrition by providing students at the Saranac Elementary School and Saranac Jr./Sr. High School a Take-Home Lunch on scheduled half-days of school. Parents must sign a form in the office to have their child participate. The Living to Serve Grant will be used to provide a free Take-Home Lunch to those students receiving a free or reduced priced lunch. All other students will have $2 deducted from their lunch accounts. The lunches will be packed by Saranac FFA members and other school groups. Community members have volunteered to help transport the lunches to the elementary school. The Take-Home Lunch also includes educational materials from choosemyplate.gov and a food label for every item.

The Living to Serve Grant program provided over $300,000 to FFA chapters in 33 states. The 2018-2019 Yearlong Living to Serve Grants are sponsored by CoBank, CSX, Tractor Supply Company, Cargill, Domino’s, Elanco and Sealed Air. For more information and a complete listing of sponsors, visit FFA.org/livingtoserve.
Did you know that your everyday job involves skills that could benefit an unlimited number of youth today? Adult volunteers are an asset to local youth as supporters and mentors. Invest in the future of agriculture – join the Michigan FFA Alumni & Friends today!

To learn more about the Michigan FFA Alumni & Friends, visit MichiganFFA.com/Alumni
Mr. Kevin Nugent, our #TeacherTuesday, comes to us from the city of Lowell. Mr. Nugent is the current advisor and agriscience teacher at Lowell High School, where he is in his 15th year. Prior to being the Lowell FFA Advisor, he was also the advisor at Homer for two years and the co-advisor at Marshall for one year.

In high school, Mr. Nugent was an active member of the Lowell FFA Chapter and served as a chapter officer. Outside of his chapter, he was a regional officer and the 1996-1997 Michigan FFA State Vice President. Similar to a lot of other agriscience educators, Mr. Nugent was inspired to become an AFNR educator by his very own advisor in high school. “I had always wanted to do something in agriculture, but it wasn’t until my FFA advisor suggested becoming an ag teacher that I really thought of it as an option,” states Mr. Nugent. After graduating, he attended Michigan State University, where he majored in AFNR Education. Later, he went on to receive his master’s in Career and Technical Education from Western Michigan University.

Mr. Nugent was asked what advice he would give to a new advisor, he answered, “Just like I tell new FFA members—you don’t have to do everything! Pick and choose a few activities that interest you and your students. Don’t be overwhelmed by all of the activities and what you see other chapters doing. Once you have figured those out, then you can start to work on adding other activities.”

When asked about a specific experience that captures how valuable FFA is, Mr. Nugent says, “I don’t think I can pick a specific experience. I think all of the activities together is what makes FFA such a great organization—everything from the leadership contest to skills contests, proficiency awards to officer positions; there is an opportunity for every student to succeed.” Mr. Nugent’s passion for agricultural education is reflected in the success and growth in Lowell’s members. The Lowell FFA chapter, which is home to nearly eighty members, describes Mr. Nugent as someone who helps and pushes us to reach our goals while still having lots of fun.

By: Sam Wortz
State Reporter
In this edition of the Michigan FFA Creed, we will be highlighting Dylan Baker, a senior at Byron High School. When asked about how his FFA journey began, Dylan stated, “Both my brother and sister were in FFA and were very successful in contests. I joined because I wanted to compete and do as well as, if not better than, my siblings! I quickly found out, however, that FFA is so much more than contests! I could show animals, go to training sessions, and prepare for careers at a young age.” Today, Dylan has now been a Byron FFA member for seven years.

Through FFA, Dylan has competed in many different contests including Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Demonstration, Milk Products & Quality and Forestry. When asked which contest was his favorite, Dylan stated, “Throughout the seven years that I have been in FFA, I have found a love for the Demonstration Contest! Starting in tenth grade I competed in this contest with the topic of processing baby pigs. The demonstration ranged from ear notching all the way to castration. I had the opportunity to present this on the Wharton Center Stage with my teammate, Kyle Markley, earning second place at the state level. Last year my teammates and I performed an APPLE demonstration, otherwise known as A Parliamentary Procedure Learning Experience. In this demonstration we showed how to properly use Robert’s Rules of Order and how to fix common mistakes that arise in meetings, which then earned us third place at the state level. I believe that the Demonstration Contest is the most influential contest because you have such a broad spectrum of things to demonstrate while still challenging your public speaking skills!” In addition to contests, Dylan has received his Outstanding Junior Award, has served as his chapter’s junior secretary and is currently serving as the Byron FFA President and the Region IV Secretary.

When asked to describe his SAE and what skills he has gained from it, Dylan said, “My SAEs are Turkey and Swine Production. Through my SAEs I have found the impact that agriculture plays on society and how sometimes you have to get your hands dirty and work hard to succeed.” “Dylan has been an awesome leader in our chapter. Not only has he spent the past two years as chapter president, but he leads by example. Dylan is always encouraging others to step outside of their comfort zone and get involved in FFA activities. He has also done an excellent job serving as our Region IV Secretary this year,” Dylan’s advisor, Mr. Forbush, says as he attests to Dylan’s drive and leadership.

In addition to FFA, Dylan is also currently serving as his senior class president and the National Honors Society Vice President. He is both a cross country runner and a basketball cheerleader. Throughout high school, Dylan has also been involved in track and field, drama, bowling, and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). After graduating from Byron, Dylan plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Special Education at either Northern Michigan University or Saginaw Valley State University.

By: Sam Wortz
State Reporter
SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!

**JESSIE NASH**
STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Ovid-Elsie

Favorite Movie: “The Sandlot”

Favorite Sport: Softball

Word That Describes Myself: “Progress. I think this word describes me because I can easily see my flaws and so I try to find ways that will better my flaws. I also try to find ways that I can grow so that I can help others.”

**GRACE PLATTE**
STATE SENTINEL

Home Chapter: Ionia

Favorite Hobby: Working with calves

Favorite Television Show: “Drop Dead Diva”

Your educational goals: “To complete the Agricultural Technology program at Michigan State University (MSU) and then transfer to a four-year degree program at MSU in either AFNR Education or Communications.”

**NATE SCOVILL**
REGION IV STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Perry

Favorite FFA Activity: Leadership Contests

Favorite Athletic Team: MSU Spartans

What inspired you to join FFA: “I was surrounded by FFA my whole life, so I knew it was an organization that I wanted to be a part of it. My dad, my grandfather and three of my uncles were all in FFA. They all were my inspiration.”
“Time flies when you’re having fun.” This saying could never be truer than it is in this moment. It feels like only yesterday my team and I took our places in office, but in reality, it has been nearly a whole year. I am so blessed to have received the opportunity to serve the Michigan FFA Association and meet all of you extraordinary people.

This past year, our team has met so many FFA members outside of our association as well, especially this past October at the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. I was able to serve as Michigan’s flag bearer, some teammates competed in their last contests and others served as delegates. One of the coolest convention experiences, however, was being able to hear the U.S. President, Donald Trump, address thousands of members from around the country. Shortly after, we were blessed to see the former Michigan FFA State President, Adrian Schunk, be elected as the 2018-2019 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President.

Thus far we have had so many awesome state events such as the broiler contest, state officer interviews, and leadership contests—and state convention is soon on its way! I, along with my teammates, have been able to work behind the scenes on all of these events. This fall the officers stuffed hundreds of packets full of leadership contest materials that were used during the leadership contest season. We also all took shifts at the broiler contest, helping in many different areas of the contest from scorekeeping and recording to weighing birds. Michigan FFA Vice President, Jessie Nash, and the Regional Vice Presidents helped organize state officer interviews through selecting nominating committee members and writing prompts and test questions.

Right now, the team has been working super hard to make sure we are ready to give you guys an awesome state convention! Since October we have been writing scripts, practicing our lines and recording videos to be used at convention. We cannot wait to recognize all of the members that have worked so hard over this past year in their SAEs, chapters and communities.

Through everything I have learned throughout my year of service thus far, I would say this; if you are trying to decide whether or not to do something, regardless if that is a contest, officer position or anything else, do it. As soon as your time in FFA is over, there is no turning back, so take advantage of every opportunity now. My traveling partner Ben shared a quote with me that our state advisor, Mr. Forbush, once said, “FFA is filled with opportunities not obligations.” Do not view the conferences, conventions, positions and activities in FFA as obligations. Rather, view these things as awesome opportunities to grow and become a better you.

This year, my team chose “Be the Reason” as our theme. This theme strives to embody selflessness and the drive to help others become the best they can be. In 7th grade, my advisor, my chapter and my fellow members were the reason I am who I am today. Today, I have the opportunity as a state officer to be somebody else’s reason that they grow through this organization. Michigan FFA, who is your reason and how can you be somebody else’s reason?

By: Autumn Loss
Region III State Vice President
100TH YEAR CHALLENGE
HELP MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU CELEBRATE ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY!

We’ve created a list of 100 ways that you can advocate for agriculture. Below are the first 10 ways — to see the full list, watch the MFB Promotion & Education Facebook page, facebook.com/miagclassroom, for the first 100 days of 2019.

WANT TO SHOW US HOW YOU’RE ADVOCATING?
Share your photos on social media and use the hashtag #MFB100.

Submit an entry to the Michigan GROWN, Michigan GREAT blog. Read some of their posts at michiangrown.org.

Invite your Farm Bureau Insurance agent to conduct a snow sculpture contest.

Volunteer in the FARM Science Lab when it’s at your school.

Hold a county-wide agricultural career scavenger hunt with local businesses for local high school students.

Place a Michigan Made food basket in your teachers’ lounge during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Volunteer at your county Farm Bureau’s Project Rural Education Day (Project RED).

Thank 100 farmers for all that they do — via mail, social media, email or phone call.
On October 11, 2018, students from across Lower Michigan explored the high-tech world of agriculture at Ag Career Day. Seventh-grade students from Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties were given tours and hands-on demonstrations designed to motivate student’s interest in one of many agriculture-related careers.

“We are very excited to see such a high participation rate at this event,” said Jim Van Doren, Executive Director of Lenawee Now. “Students are interested in learning about the changing agriculture industry and how they may play a part in its future. The next great ag-tech pioneer may have been a part of today’s event.”

Students were able to witness technology in action and engage with professionals in a variety of agriculture-related fields at the Lenawee Intermediate School District’s (LISD) Center for a Sustainable Future and the Hudson Dairy. Students then enjoyed an agriculture-themed lunch and brought home a vast amount of knowledge and materials to share with their families.

“Technology has greatly changed the agricultural industry,” explained Van Doren. “Most families will probably be greatly surprised at the many high-tech careers now available. Our region in particular is a place of innovation and development of new cutting-edge technologies due to our rich history in agriculture and our top-notch education system.”


Other organizations involved include: Market House, Briskey Brothers, Kellogg’s, Countryside Veterinary Services, Crop Risk Services, Donna Baker & Associates, Genex Cooperative, Great Lakes Crop Tech LLC, MI Dept of Agriculture & Rural Development, Monroe Community College, Precision Ag Services, RCO Law, Sieler’s Lanscape & Design, and United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

“The collaboration and partnership in our region is unique,” said Van Doren. “Having a talented workforce is essential to attracting, retaining, and building business in our community. We are engaged with our stakeholders and partners, and together we are committed to developing and improving our talent pipeline.”

By: Lenawee Now
http://www.lenaweenow.org/
2018 American Degree Recipients

Achsah Butchart
Adrian Garcia
Adrian Schunk
Alejandra Correa
Alejandro McGill
Alexis Knoblock
Ashley Rodanhiser
Ashley Womble
Cami Harris
Chad Timmer
Channon Turrell
Christopher Ringle
Collin Randall
David Lindsay
Dylan Brown

Elissa Mutschler
Elyse Zimmerlee
Emily Wisuri
Felicia Kempf
Freedom Shelley
Haley Lemle
Haley Talaski
Hanna Dutcher
Hannah Erffmeyer
Heather Mahoney
Henry Hautau
Jake Bushey
James Parker
James Robinson
Jared Miller

Jessica Timmer
Jocelyn Kempf
John Williams
Jordan Lulham
Keeley Pape
Kelsie Letts
Kilie Jo Sheffer
Kristin Klager
Kyle Markley
Kyle McFarren
Lacie Mates
Lane Swan
Laurrelee Musolf
Levi Guziak
Lydia AcMoody

Mackenzi Lambka
Madeline Henrickson
Margaret Rose
Mason Horning
Matthew Dwyer
Micah Cuevas
Mykala Lulham
Sidney Linck
Stacey Drzewiecki
Tanner McFarren
Trace Pardee
Ty Finegan
Wyatt Demerly

2018 National Career & Leadership Development Event Results

Agricultural Communications: Laker FFA, Bronze
Agricultural Issues: Niles FFA, Silver
Agricultural Sales: Perry FFA, Gold 8th Place Team
Agricultural Technology & Mechanical Systems: Durand FFA, Bronze
Agronomy: Lapeer FFA, Bronze
Conduct of Chapter Meetings: Coopersville FFA, Silver
Creed Speaking: Maze Gusa of Ubly FFA, Bronze
Dairy Cattle Evaluation & Management: Sanilac FFA, Silver
Dairy Cattle Handlers Activity: Kirsten Langamaack of Charlotte FFA, National Winner
Environmental & Natural Resources: Branch Area Careers Center FFA, Bronze
Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Addy Battel of Cass City FFA, Silver
Farm and Agribusiness Management: Lapeer FFA, Silver
Floriculture: Lapeer FFA, Silver
Food Science & Technology: Sanilac FFA, Silver
Forestry: Chesaning FFA, Bronze
Horse Evaluation: Perry FFA, Bronze
Employment Skills: Alexis Monette of Montague FFA, Silver
Livestock Evaluation: Sanilac FFA, Silver
Marketing Plan: Jackson Area Career Center FFA, Bronze
Meats Evaluation & Technology: Branch Area Careers Center FFA, Bronze
Milk Quality & Products: Saline FFA, Silver
Nursery - Landscape: North Huron FFA, Silver
Parliamentary Procedure: Mason FFA, Silver
Poultry Evaluation: Laker FFA, Silver
Prepared Public Speaking: Nathan Scovill of Perry FFA, Bronze
Veterinary Science: Lapeer FFA, Silver

MICHIGAN
Michigan FFA History: A Letter From a 1938 National FFA Convention Delegate

An excerpt from the letter written by John Pendergrass while he was attending the 11th National Convention of the F.F.A at Kansas City as an official delegate from Michigan to his ag teacher.

“Sunday night we went to a concert given by the Iowa F. F. A. band. This took place in K. C.’s pride and joy, the Municipal Auditorium, where the convention was held. When you step into this huge enclosure, you are awe-struck by its beauty and immense size. It is a huge round building with the dome painted silver, seats of azure blue, and the guard walls in front of the 3 layers of terraced seats in the balcony painted a maroon color.

As to size, Mr. Benjamin Hennick, our group leader, seemed to describe it when he said, “You can place one of Michigan’s small towns inside of it and still have enough room for a football field.” As to the concert, the band furnished excellent music, which could be heard clearly in the auditorium; but not bragging, I really believe our own Michigan F. F. A. Band is far superior.

The National F. F. A. convention held its first session Monday morning, so there I sat, soaking it in. They use the same opening and closing ceremony that we use in our small chapters and it was very interesting to note the precision of the business portion of each session. Each officer was seated on a raised platform and when it came his turn to give a report of his past year’s program, he would step down and talk into a microphone. All of the officers had traveled at least several thousand miles a piece. The president, Lester Poucher, had traveled approximately 35,000 miles.

At eleven o’clock A. M., the business session was postponed while preparations were made for the “Farm & Home Hour” broadcast, put on at the scene of the convention. Iowa’s F. F. A. band furnished the music. Then the president gave his address, not only to the delegates but the whole nation over the air, and it was a wonderful talk given in a delightful manner. The business was taken up right after the program and the meeting was adjourned after a half hour’s discussion. Throughout the whole session parliamentary procedure was insisted upon and any mistakes were immediately corrected by the president.”
The Institute of Agricultural Technology (IAT) delivers innovative, two-year educational certificate programs designed to address industry needs in Michigan and beyond. Students learn best by doing, so IAT programs are built on the concept of hands-on learning. IAT programs develop career-ready graduates through intensive, practical learning and skill enhancement in agricultural, environmental and applied technologies. Certificate programs are offered on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing and in partnership with several Michigan community colleges.

TWO-YEAR CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Agricultural Industries
- Agricultural Operations
- Dairy Management
- Electrical Technology
- Fruit and Vegetable Crop Management
- Fruit, Vegetable and Organic Horticulture Management
- Horse Management
- Landscape and Nursery Management
- Landscape Management
- Livestock Industries
- Sports and Commercial Turf Management
- Turfgrass Management – golf course emphasis
- Viticulture

For more information about the certificate programs and locations, visit www.iat.msu.edu or call 517-355-0190.
The group of individuals that work to make our State Convention awesome is entirely made up of former state officers who are now college students. Learn more about them below!

**MADDY MEYER**
POSITION: Convention Director
COLLEGE MAJOR: Animal Science
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2016-2017

**SAMANTHA LUDLAM**
POSITION: Courtesy Corps Director
COLLEGE MAJOR: AFNR Education
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2017-2018

**JOSEPHINE FORBUS**
POSITION: Audio & Video Director
COLLEGE MAJOR: Agribusiness Management
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2016-2017

**KYLE FORBUS**
POSITION: Backstage Director
COLLEGE MAJOR: Biosystems Engineering
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2015-2016

**LAUREN HEBERLING**
POSITION: Audio & Video Director
COLLEGE MAJOR: Agribusiness Management
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2016-2017

**KELSI LETTS**
POSITION: Courtesy Corps Asst.
COLLEGE MAJOR: Animal Science
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2017-2018

**JAKE BUSHEY**
POSITION: Backstage Asst.
COLLEGE MAJOR: Crop and Soil Sciences
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2017-2018

**CHANNON TURRELL**
POSITION: Convention Asst.
COLLEGE MAJOR: Agribusiness Management
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2017-2018

**MICAHE CHEVAS**
POSITION: Backstage Asst.
COLLEGE MAJOR: Agricultural Industries
STATE OFFICER TEAM: 2017-2018
Get your plate today. Visit your local Secretary of State Office or go to www.michigan.gov/SOS and click on the “Owning a Vehicle” link for order forms. Questions? Call 517-432-2482.

www.michiganffa.org