



# THE MICHIGAN FFA Creed

WINTER 2017

## FEATURED *inside*

DISCOVER OUR #STUDENT SPOTLIGHT!

CATCH UP WITH OUR 2017-18 STATE SENTINEL.

HEAR WHAT CHAPTERS ARE UP TO RIGHT NOW IN "CHAPTER CHATTER"!

MEET A PAST STATE OFFICER AND LEARN HOW HIS FFA PAST IS INFLUENCING HIS CAREER TODAY.

### MICHIGAN FFA ASSOCIATION

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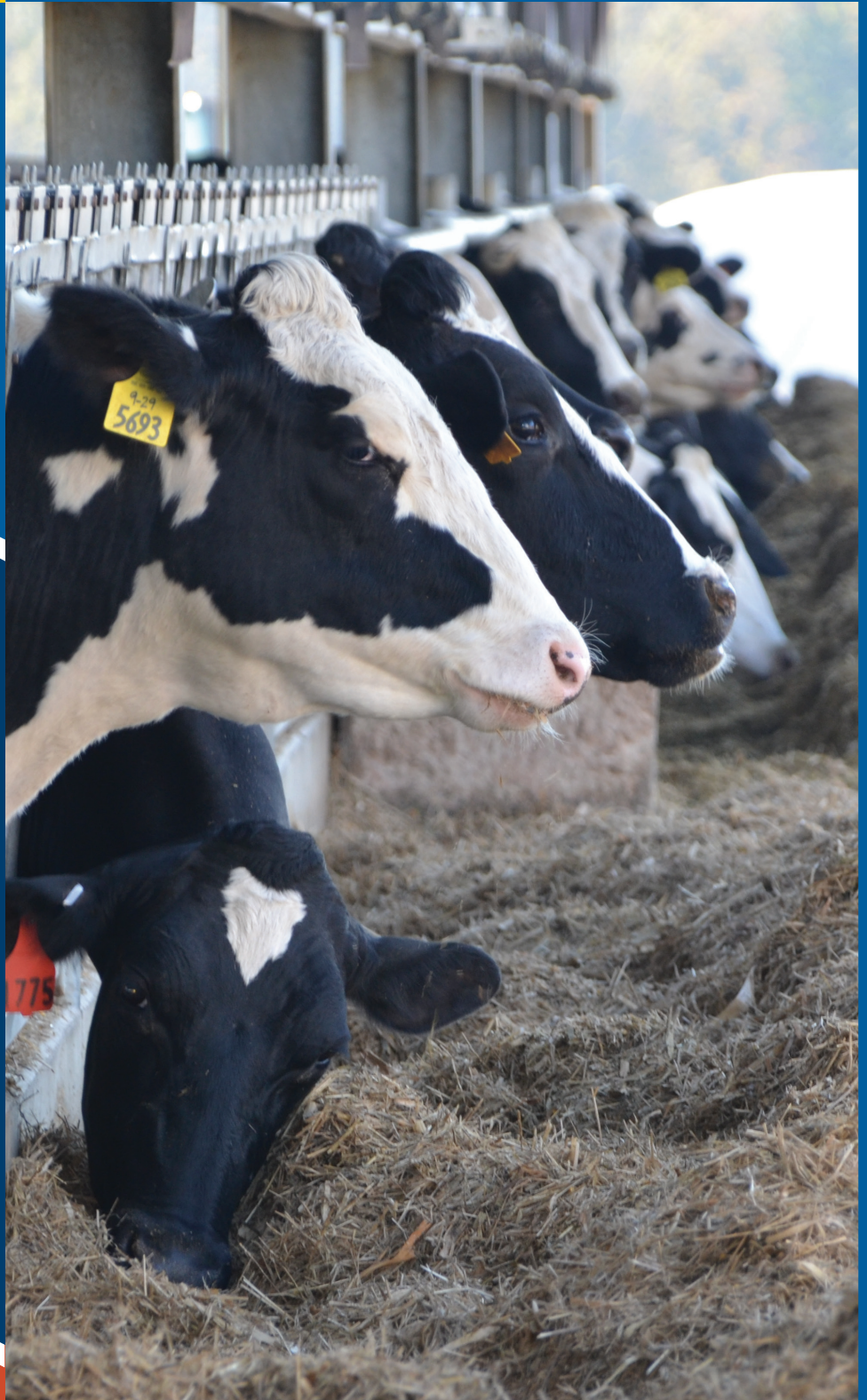
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# Cultivate Change: UTILIZING OUR TALENTS

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## UPCOMING *events*

**JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 1.** District Leadership Contests

**FEBRUARY 14 - 15.** Regional Leadership Contests

**MARCH 7 - 9.** Michigan FFA State Convention

**MARCH 25.** State FFA/ 4-H Horse Judging Contest

**APRIL 20.** State FFA Career Development Events (Ag Skills)

## *a letter* FROM OUR STATE SENTINEL

In these times, it seems that the voice of future agriculture is being drowned out more and more. With accusations of mainstream media being full of false labeling, fake news and twisted information, we are in a truly confusing time. One thing that we can be proud and hopeful of is the United States of America— that's right, me and you! We are a part of the next generation that has the power to destroy or rebuild the name of agriculture. We all have a gift, an opportunity and a responsibility to Cultivate Change. I think the best way to visualize our potential impact is to think of FFA as this big toolbox, with each of us as our own individual tool. We all have our own special abilities and talents; alone, we would be considerably less effective. It is when we work together that we are the most efficient. Find what you are good at, and embrace it!

Michigan FFA, we will Cultivate

Change as an organization only if each one of us acquires the necessary tools to become great leaders and puts those skills toward cultivating change in our homes, schools and fellow members. Our organization's voice will only be heard when we band together.

Change does not happen all at once; it starts as one drop of water and slowly builds to an ocean. What we inspire here can affect the world! We are standing on the edge of a mountain. Will we be the ones to set off an avalanche?

By: Jake Bushey  
State Sentinel

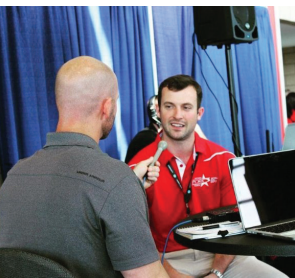


# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

2008-09 STATE PRESIDENT DUSTIN BAKER ATTRIBUTES HIS CURRENT CAREER TO FFA EXPERIENCE



FFA's influence on my career started long before I left my family farm in Michigan to advocate for the public policy interests of agriculture in Washington, D.C. As a 7th grader, I competed in the Junior High Public Speaking contest, a confidence-building first step toward developing a skill that I use today in my position with the National Pork Producers Council. That was only the beginning of the solid educational and career foundation provided by FFA. As a member of the St. Louis



FFA Chapter in Region III, I was honored to serve as 2008-09 Michigan FFA State President, attend the Washington Leadership Conference (which sparked my interest in a career representing farmers and ranchers in our nation's capital)

and build lasting friendships with other members from across the country.

A third-generation Spartan, I graduated from Michigan State in 2012 with a degree in Agribusiness Management and a specialization in Political Economy. While at MSU, I was a regular in the Izzone, served on the



College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Senate and was elected President of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. My summers were filled with internships in the U.S. Senate and on the trading floor of the Chicago Mercantile



Exchange. Wanting to delve deeper into the

world of applied research, I obtained my Master of Science degree in



Applied Economics and Management in 2014 from Cornell University, where I studied dairy markets, policy and the 2014 Farm Bill.

I started my career with the National Milk Producers Federation, before moving to the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) in



September 2015. In my current position, I analyze complex policy issues and price and production trends to determine how they will impact NPPC's members: America's 60,000 pork producers. I serve our members by engaging members of Congress and other federal government

officials to help them understand how policies and economic trends come together to impact pig farmers and their operations around the country. I frequently tap

**“MY ADVICE FOR FFA MEMBERS IS SIMPLE: WHATEVER YOU ARE, BE A GOOD ONE.”**

into the skills I developed during my days wearing the blue corduroy when conducting interviews with the media or presenting to the pork producers we represent. The 2018 Farm Bill, agricultural labor and tax reform are among the issues on which I'm currently focused.

I am proud to have been a part of Michigan FFA, an organization that instilled in me a sense of responsibility to honor past generations of agriculturalists. My advice for FFA members is simple: Whatever you are, be a good one. So long as people need to eat, there will be a need for a next generation of leaders in agriculture.

By: Dustin Baker  
Past State Officer

## Doing to Learn:

# ALMA FFA

**LEARN ABOUT ONE OF THE ALMA FFA CHAPTER'S LARGEST EVENTS AND HOW THEY ARE UTILIZING THEIR LAND LAB TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT AGRICULTURE!**



The Alma FFA Chapter is kicking off their school year with their annual Land Lab Exploration. This educational event partners Alma FFA members with professionals in the agriculture industry to host an experience that uses the Alma FFA Land Lab and their facilities to teach Alma students and community members more about agriculture. At this six-hour event, which takes place at the end of September, there are five informational stations covering the topics of soybean biology, soil health, environmental



conservation, GMO literacy, and agriculture technology. The Alma FFA Advisor, Leyna Miller, says the exploration is “one of the top-three largest events that the chapter puts on.” To make everything possible, the Alma FFA

partners with AgroLiquid and A & E Ag, LLC. The majority of the planning and scheduling is left to 12 FFA members and students, who sit on the Alma FFA Land Lab Exploration Committee. These 12 individuals are responsible for many tasks, from the planning to the execution of the exploration. The committee is in charge of advertising, securing speakers, making sure the soybean field is clear, setting up tents, and providing refreshments. Although the planning is left up to those members, all students will participate in this exploration as learners, listening to guest speakers and partaking in a detailed tour of the land lab. This event also acts as a unique way to recruit sixth graders to join FFA the following year, with over 200 sixth-graders attending. Mrs. Miller adds, “This exploration event serves as a cool, positive first FFA experience that they participate in.” There are also more than 160 other students in attendance, both FFA members and non-members alike. Since last year, the Alma community has been invited to tour Alma FFA’s facilities and listen to the guest speakers. Again this year, the invitation has been extended to the entire Gratiot County community, the Alma Chamber of

Commerce, the Alma School Board, Kiwanis Club and every other group that has an impact on the Gratiot County community as



a whole. While last year the Alma FFA didn’t see the turn out they had hoped for, several people have asked if the event was happening again this year, making them more than excited for the potential of this year’s exploration. Mrs. Miller stressed the positive impact this event has, not just on the FFA chapter, but on the community as a whole. She says, “Alma is a small urban area with just over 9,000 people, but so many still do not know about technology in agriculture and its benefits.” The chapter would like to extend a special thank you to Advisory Board President Christie Apple with A & E Ag, LCC of St. Louis, Mich.

# State Officer FEATURE

SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS  
HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!



**SIDNEY LINCK**  
STATE SECRETARY

**Theme Song:**  
“Living the Dream”

**Favorite Candy:**  
Mike and Ikes

**Favorite Sport:**  
Running

Sidney Linck, originally from the Ravenna FFA Chapter, is currently serving as the Michigan FFA State Secretary. Sidney is attending Michigan State University to pursue a major in Crop and Soil Science— a choice that is undoubtedly influenced by her SAE in Vegetable Production. Sidney’s SAE included planting, managing, and harvesting many types of gardens for clients who wanted a garden but did not want to take care of it themselves. Outside of FFA, Sidney was involved in student council, cross country, track, basketball, Business Professionals of America, National Honor Society, and 4-H.



**KELSIE LETTS**  
REGION I STATE VICE  
PRESIDENT

**Theme Song:**  
“I Hope You Dance”

**Homemade Meal:**  
Lasagna

**Personal Hobby:**  
Cooking

Region I State Vice President Kelsie Letts is attending Michigan State University this year as an Animal Science Major. Kelsie grew up on a small farm in Marshall, where she raises steers, dairy starter calves, dairy heifers and goats. These projects have led her two SAEs: Livestock Entrepreneurship and Beef Production. As a state officer, Kelsie sees her primary responsibility as serving the Michigan FFA, through inspiring members, while helping our program continue to thrive and grow. Kelsie would give this piece of advice, “I would like to encourage all members to embrace all situations they find themselves in and make the best of it.”



**CHANNON TURRELL**  
REGION IV STATE VICE  
PRESIDENT

**Theme Song:**  
“I Go Back”

**Favorite FFA Activity:**  
Washington Leadership  
Conference

**Favorite Movie:**  
“Big Hero 6”

Channon Turrell is currently a freshman at Michigan State University studying Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource Education, as well as our Region IV State Vice President. Her interest in AFNR Education may have stemmed from her advisor, Tammy Hyatt, who is always her go-to person for advice and guidance. In high school, Channon’s SAEs were Sheep Entrepreneurship and Vegetable Production. When asked to describe herself in one word, Channon said, “Dedicated. Any event I choose to involve myself and others in, I see purpose behind my involvement. I am dedicated to seeing an event through to its fullest potential.”

# In the Industry Today:

# DAIRY

**SHEILA BURKHARDT, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS FOR THE MICHIGAN MILK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, SHARES HOW SHE FOUND A CAREER SHE LOVES AND GIVES AN INSIDE LOOK INTO ONE OF MICHIGAN'S AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES.**



Just as we see a wide variety of products in the dairy case, the types and kinds of jobs that get the products from the farm to the dairy case are endless. Michigan's dairy industry is a fast-growing segment of the state's economy. Since 2000, milk production has increased by over 90 percent, and all indicate that the growth will continue. The dairy industry is the largest component of Michigan's agriculture segment and has an overall economic impact on our state's economy of more than \$15 billion. Behind this economic powerhouse is a wide range of careers that ensure fresh, quality milk makes its way to the market.

I serve as Senior Director of Member and Government Relations for Michigan Milk Producers Association (MMPA), a dairy farmer-owned cooperative established over 100 years ago. MMPA markets about 5 billion pounds of milk annually with members in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and

Wisconsin. Growing up on a Michigan dairy farm, I always knew I wanted to stay involved in the dairy industry but wasn't always sure what aspect of it. My education and experiences over the years have led me to my position today. I first obtained a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources Communications from Michigan State University. And now my responsibilities at MMPA include creating and implementing various educational and informational programs for members, working with our field staff, communicating with the membership regarding legislative, association and industry issues, and working with legislators on policy and legislative initiatives.

During college, I had the chance to take advantage of many opportunities that exposed me to a range of career possibilities in the dairy industry. Internships are a great way to gain experience in a field you may be interested in to help determine if it is a career area you may want to pursue. Participating in student organizations such as the MSU Dairy Club helped me meet business professionals in the dairy industry while having the comradery of fellow students with an interest in dairy.

My involvement in FFA during high school also played an important role. Participating in our local FFA chapter and FFA leadership contests was beneficial in expanding my leadership and organizational skills. The out-of-classroom experiences from FFA and other organizations taught me how to juggle multiple projects, meet deadlines and take on responsibility. These skills are important in the job that I have now and assisted me as I entered college.

Whatever your background and skills are, if you have an interest in working in the dairy industry, there is a diverse range of job opportunities available in a dairy cooperative like MMPA— from our field staff who work closely with our dairy farmer members, to our

quality control team who work to ensure we are offering a quality product to consumers.

MMPA owns and operates three processing plants where employees are responsible for receiving the milk from the farm, processing and packaging the product. Our sales team works closely with selling the manufactured products to many companies who use MMPA products in a wide variety of products, such as baked goods, infant formulas, candies, ice cream, etc.

The entire process of taking milk from the farm to the consumer involves employees in a range of areas, such as communications, human resources, accounting, sales, technology, plant operations, engineering, and the list goes on. Many of the skills required are job specific, but in general MMPA looks for potential employees who have strong interpersonal skills and a commitment to teamwork, proven initiative and self-management skills, strong organization skills, good communication skills and the ability to balance multiple projects and tasks.

The next time you enjoy a glass of milk, a piece of cheese or a bowl of ice cream, think about the diverse range of people and skills needed to make it happen.

By: Sheila Burkhardt  
Industry Professional



# #SpeakAgMichigan Grants

Apply for the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture's #SpeakAgMichigan award! This award will recognize eight FFA chapters who are working to help their community become more agriculturally literate and have a basic understanding of food, fuel and fiber production.

Plan a Project · Increase Agriculture Literacy · Inform Your Community

## TOP 10 TIPS

**1** **SIZE** doesn't matter. No points are awarded for the size and scope of the activity or chapter applying. Even small groups and activities can make a big impact.



Get a real letter of support. While we can all appreciate a good old-fashioned email chain, a formal letter from a teacher whose class participated in the activity carries much more clout.

**3**

**2** New due date! Turn in your #SpeakAgMichigan application on December 1.



Start early. There's no better time to start your activity planning and application than regional leadership camp or SLCCO. Plus, it takes some of the stress out of December.

**4**

**5** Don't reinvent the wheel. There are plenty of pre-made, teacher-tested resources at your disposal for free.

Check out: National FFA's SpeakAg resources, National Agriculture in the Classroom lesson plan database, Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom lessons and materials, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and My American Farm.



**6** **PROOFREAD** (and repeat.) After you complete the application, ask two alumni members, teachers or county Farm Bureau members to proofread it. Six eyes are better than two.



Make activity goals **SMART**. Write goals with specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-based results and timelines.

**8**

Fill in all the blanks. Incomplete applications will not be considered, so make sure to complete all pieces before submission.

**7**

**9** Keep it clear, concise and logical. Consider using bullet points and other organization techniques to make it easy to follow your plans, goals and results throughout the application.

**10** **JUST APPLY!** There's really nothing to lose. Chapter awards range from \$500 to \$1,000, and eight chapters will receive an award.



For more information, visit [www.michiganffa.org](http://www.michiganffa.org)  
or contact [association@michiganffa.org](mailto:association@michiganffa.org) or 517-353-9221.



MICHIGAN FOUNDATION FOR  
AGRICULTURE

# CHAPTER *Chatter*

**CHECK OUT SOME OF THE THINGS FFA CHAPTERS AND THEIR MEMBERS ACROSS THE STATE HAVE BEEN UP TO IN THE PAST COUPLE MONTHS!**

## REGION 1 COUNTRYSIDE FFA

Each year, Countryside FFA's cooperative animal program grows larger. Students raise sheep and hogs as a group at the school and have also built the pens and small buildings that house their animals. This past year, they had nine members showing 18 animals at the fair. The Countryside FFA Chapter receives incredible community support each year as they sell their animals at the Berrien County Youth Fair. Also, they raise and donate 100+ pounds of pork annually to the local Emergency Shelter as part of their service to community. "Countryside equals Community!"



## REGION 2 SAND CREEK FFA

Every year, in the fall and spring, the Sand Creek FFA Chapter adopts 3 miles of Gorman Road from M-52 to Sand Creek Schools. This year members have been doing community service by keeping that section of highway free of litter. Additionally, in December, the Sand Creek FFA Alumni will be holding their annual toy show. FFA members also help by setting up, bringing in boxes, greeting attendees, serving food, helping run the children's tractor pull and helping tear down.





## REGION 3 CHESANING FFA

In October of this school year, both the Chesaning FFA Chapter members and students in the Agriscience classes worked with the Shiawassee Stream Team to monitor the health of the Shiawassee River at Showboat Park in Chesaning. Members and students helped collect, sort and count macro invertebrate samples.



## REGION 4 OVID-ELSIE FFA

The Ovid-Elsie FFA Chapter officers and members participated in the Elsie Dairy Festival this past summer, where they assisted the Ovid-Elsie Alumni Chapter in a pig roast for the community. This fall, as students returned to school, Ms. Hoffman and the chapter officers hosted a “Welcome Back BBQ.” At the BBQ, the officers and current members discussed the advantages of being involved in FFA and agriscience education with potential students. Additionally, the chapter holds their annual “drive your tractor to school day,” along with driving their tractors in the school’s Homecoming Parade.



## REGION 5 WEST SHORE FFA

West Shore FFA was newly chartered last year and the members have jumped right in and have been participating in 4-H, summer internships, and continued SAE projects this past summer. Members are most excited for FFA contests and continuing their various SAE placements. Brooke Lee was one of the many West Shore FFA members that participated in the Western Michigan Fair in August. At the fair, Brooke won Reserve Junior Champion Dairy. Cassie Holladay enjoyed learning about pest management in her Agriscience class, which led her to the opportunity to intern with Wilbur Ellis this summer as a crop scout. Her experience at Wilbur-Ellis introduced her to the many diverse careers within agriculture and natural resource management.



## REGION 6 WHITTEMORE-PRESCOTT FFA

Over the summer, members of the Whittemore-Prescott FFA Chapter participated in the county fair, where they showed and marketed livestock projects. Also during the county fair, chapter members put on their special BBQ chicken dinner and hog roast, which is one of their major fundraisers. The beginning of a new school year also means helping with the Whittemore-Prescott FFA open house, where present members have the chance to showcase FFA in the school, allowing the chapter to recruit new students.



# Mr. Rebel Smith

Mr. Rebel Smith is the agriscience instructor and FFA advisor at Fremont High School. He has been the advisor there for 13 years after attending Michigan State University and graduating with a degree in agriscience education. For those 13 years, agriculture and FFA members have been Mr. Smith's life. His members describe him as a very positive man who cares about every person he meets. He gives his best effort to all to ensure that his students are successful in the future.



Mr. Smith was a member of his high school FFA chapter for four years in high school. He started off in FFA for the competition and enjoyed working with teammates on a variety of teams, including Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Livestock Judging, Forestry and Parliamentary Procedure. Mr. Smith's achievements began with being a member of an FFA livestock judging team his senior year that won the state contest and competed at the National FFA Convention & Expo in Kansas City, Missouri. He also participated in the Parliamentary Procedure contest with his team at the state finals. Also during his senior year, he was chapter president and regional vice president. Finishing off his FFA career, Mr. Smith had the privilege of serving on the 2000-01 Michigan FFA State Officer Team.

Mr. Smith found his calling to be an advisor when his ag teacher, Mr. Rottman, talked to him about agriscience education. Mr. Rottman convinced Mr. Smith that becoming an ag teacher would match perfectly with his strong passion for the ag industry and working with people. Mr. Smith had hopes to be like his own advisor and make a positive difference in the school and community, which he has accomplished with all his achievements.

Being an advisor for 13 years has meant many memories,

and Mr. Smith shared a select few that really stick with him. His favorite memory as an advisor happened last spring when his officer team orchestrated a schoolwide assembly to wrap up the Fremont FFA Chapter's "drive



your tractor to school day." He was so happy when his officers did opening ceremonies in front of the entire school, in a gym where you could hear a pin drop. Out of all the moments at Fremont High School, Mr. Smith proclaimed that was the best.

With 75-100 members annually, Mr. Smith has his hands full, but still finds time to have a few hobbies. Outside the classroom, Mr. Smith can be found on the football field, where he coaches the Fremont High School football team. If not on the field with his players, he is at home with his wife and three beautiful daughters: Breslynn, Gwen and Marli.



By: David Lindsay  
State Reporter

## #STUDENTSATURDAY

*Demi Oliver*

Demi Oliver from the Alpena FFA Chapter says passion for youth and agriculture has been a part of her life from a young age when she started showing animals in 4-H.

Through 4-H and FFA, Demi has shown and marketed poultry, meat and dairy goats, pigs, lambs, and rabbits. Through all her projects, Demi has learned about each

individual species and how they are raised. Her favorite is poultry. Demi's SAE is in poultry production, and she raises Cornish hens, quail, ducks and turkeys! With her diverse range of poultry, she is able to sell unique products to her friends, family and community members. Along with her SAE, Demi has competed in and placed gold in the State Broiler Contest.

While Oliver's SAE was a huge part of her FFA career, she has accomplished so much more. Demi has received the Academic Excellence Award, Outstanding Junior Degree and her Michigan FFA State Degree. In addition to her awards and degrees, Demi has also competed in the Job Interview contest, where she placed with a gold at the Michigan FFA State Convention her junior year. In the past, Demi has served as chapter chaplain, reporter and Region VI sentinel. As a senior, Demi served as Alpena FFA chapter president and Region VI Treasurer. This year, she became a proud Alpena FFA Alumni member.



When asked what

FFA has done for her, Demi responded, "When walking along the road less traveled, that is when you truly grow." FFA has really showed her how to help others in her school, home, community and church. "When you take the road less traveled by helping others, it can get bumpy, but if you ever fall off, you have your chapter and family helping you back up," Oliver says. Her favorite chapter moment was seeing students grow their banquet centerpieces in the newly added Alpena FFA greenhouse. She enjoyed seeing



students grow things for their school and community, all while learning how to produce a quality crop.

Because of opportunities in FFA and 4-H working with children, Demi has been thinking about pursuing a career in elementary education. She really loves the idea of elementary education because she can continue to work with younger children and also teach agriculture to kids at a younger age. Demi says that she is excited to have the chance to expose students to the opportunities that are available in agriculture. Currently, Demi is attending Alpena Community College with the intention of transferring to Michigan State University in a few years. Going to school close to home allows her to stay active within the chapter as an alumni member. She has plans to continue to tell new members about all the leadership opportunities FFA has, even the ones that aren't strictly agriculture-based.

By: David Lindsay  
State Reporter

# Inside the life of an AFNRE STUDENT



My journey to pursuing agricultural education started in high school when I joined FFA. Being an FFA member helped me realize my passion for conveying the importance and practices of agriculture to others. So when I started to really think about what career path I wanted to pursue, becoming an agriculture teacher seemed a perfect fit for me. As you probably know, there is a huge demand for agriculture teachers right now in Michigan and all across the country. So over the last few years, the Michigan FFA Association was able to implement many new ideas to help recruit more students to pursue a degree in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education (AFNRE).

I was fortunate enough to be in high school at the time I was, because I got to experience a lot of these new opportunities. Since I was starting to get interested in becoming a teacher, I applied for the Challenge 24 Scholarship. Being part of the first group to participate, I was really not sure what to expect from it. All I knew was that it was (and is still) a scholarship that was available to students who wanted to pursue a degree in AFNRE at Michigan State University. This was an amazing opportunity I was given, as it was the only time I ever was able to meet with professors at any university I was considering applying to. I learned a ton

about campus and the program at MSU. When I left the conference, I was a little surprised at how much I liked what we had done. So I decided to enter the AFNRE CDE contest that fall to see if I would be able to do the hardest part: teaching. I worked with my advisor to put together a lesson plan and used some of the tips I had received at Challenge 24 to create a lesson. Between actually enjoying the work and doing well in the contest, I reaffirmed that becoming an agriculture teacher was a good option for me. Honestly, I probably wouldn't have pursued it without either of those opportunities.

After having earned some scholarship money and being accepted to a university I had been a fan of my whole life, I made the decision to come to MSU. I couldn't be any happier today with my decision. Between the amazing students and faculty in our major, there is always someone to go to for help or just to get some advice or hear a



good story or two. Our major was able to restart the AFNRE Club this past year, which has been another great opportunity for me and other students in the major. I have personally learned a lot more than I

expected through this club from all of the activities we did and trips we went on.

For anyone reading this who might be interested in becoming an agriculture teacher, I would highly encourage you to do three things. First, talk to your agriculture teacher. Ask them about how they ended up teaching, what they do every day and how you might be able to become a teacher. Second, apply for both the Challenge 24 Scholarship and the AFNRE CDE. Both are amazing programs for students who are on the fence about becoming a teacher.

**“BETWEEN THE AMAZING STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN OUR MAJOR, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE TO GO TO FOR HELP OR JUST TO GET SOME ADVICE. “**

And finally, reach out to someone at MSU. I know any student or faculty member in the program would be more than happy to talk with you about our program. There are so many opportunities offered in Michigan now for students who want to become agriculture teachers, and I encourage you to look into at least one of them.

By: Eric Moser  
AFNRE Student

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IT TAKES A SPECIAL PERSON TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGES  
IN **FOOD, HEALTH** AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**.

## IT TAKES A SPARTAN.

In the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, students are learning to use principles of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, business and creative design in tackling some of the world's challenges related to food, health and the environment.

Our students are engaged around the world through one of the nation's largest study abroad programs to improve communities and ensure a sustainable future.

Connections to campus through activities and clubs ensure that our students have opportunities to grow, excel and have fun too.

## FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMS

Agribusiness Management  
Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education  
Animal Science  
Biosystems Engineering  
Construction Management  
Crop and Soil Sciences  
Dietetics  
Entomology  
Environmental Economics and Management  
Environmental Studies and Sustainability

Fisheries and Wildlife  
Food Industry Management  
Food Science  
Forestry  
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Landscape Architecture  
Nutritional Sciences  
Packaging  
Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Learn more about the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources by visiting [www.canr.msu.edu/majors](http://www.canr.msu.edu/majors) or calling 517-355-0234.



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**MICHIGAN STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources

# Living to Serve:

## THE LIFE OF A STATE OFFICER

Living to Serve: three simple words, but how do you envision carrying out that service in your everyday life? Are you rolling out of bed or are you jumping up full of excitement? When you hear “serving others,” what comes to mind? Is it harvesting a field of crops to donate to your local food pantries? Or does your day look more like educating the public about agriculture? The 2017-18 Michigan FFA State Officer Team faced that same question: “How do we envision our 365 days of service?”



The year began with a blast at “Blast Off.” There our team discovered our true characters and created our goals for the year. We all soon realized that there is so much more to state office than we ever imagined. From speech prep to first impressions, every detail matters. When we serve others, we invest wholeheartedly in making a lasting impression. One memory we each will never forget is our first time holding our State Association Jackets. Being able to serve our state and to influence and inspire Michigan FFA members during the next 365 days is an amazing feeling. From Lake Michigan to Lake Huron, the Michigan FFA State Officer



team has taken in the true “Pure Michigan” experience this past summer. Sailing up to Traverse City, we experienced the National Leadership Conference for State Officers (NLCSO). Here we met state

officers from Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. During NLCSO, we gained team-building and presentation skills. When we were not in session, all the officers enjoyed the breathtaking sunsets on the beach and from the water with a tour on a tall ship!

Then it was time to facilitate our own conference, the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers. From presenting sessions for chapter officers to flag-raising ceremonies and a reflections program, state



officers were busy prepping for an eventful two days. These two days were the most nerve-racking, exciting and rewarding of our summer. We were actually interacting with members from across Michigan and helping them to bring innovation to their chapters.

The next step along our journey took the team up into the thumb of Michigan to tour agriculture-related businesses. These three days allowed us to experience the diversity of Michigan agriculture from research centers, sugar beets, welding and manufacturing to dairy, flour mills, potatoes, ethanol energy production and even a tour of Saginaw Bay aboard the Appledore Tall ship while learning about the environment and aquatics. Thank you Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Potato Industry Commission for sponsoring this three day trip!

Since then, business and industry tours have kept the state officers traveling— from contests, breakfast on the farm and Agro Expo to the Sanilac Miracle of Life Building Dedication and much more. More state officer requests are flooding in for the AgroLiquid Farm to Fork 5k, board meetings, preparing for fall leadership conferences, and one of the most exciting times of year— chapter visits!

Michigan FFA, we, the 2017-18 State Officer Team cannot wait to see how you cultivate change this upcoming year! Remember, you can never hold onto a moment, so make the most of it while you can. “Remember your Purpose!”

By: Channon Turrell  
Region IV State Vice President

# 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.**



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