GET TO KNOW Mr. Jake Gust, this edition's #TeacherTuesday.

LEARN about Michigan FFA's Regional Officer teams.

EXPLORE the area Michigan FFA State Officers traveled during Business & Industry tours.

MEET Michigan's AFNR student teachers.
DECEMBER 2nd

The following items are due to the State FFA Office:
- Academic Excellence Applications
- Regional Grant Applications
- Star Candidate Applications (includes Star Battery and State Degree Application)

The following items are due online to Michigan Farm Bureau:
- #SpeakAgMichigan Applications

NOTE: Star Candidate Applications and #SpeakAgMichigan Applications must be in the state office by December 2nd at 5:00 p.m. Those received after this time will not be considered.

JANUARY 8th – 11th

The following items are due at the regional update:
- State FFA Degree Applications
- Outstanding Junior Applications
- Agriculture Proficiency Award Applications
- State Officer Applications
- Courtesy Corps Certification Form
- State FFA Band, Choir and Talent Applications

NOTE: Proficiency Award Applications received after 5:00 p.m. on the date of the final regional update meeting will not be considered.

JANUARY 17th

The following items are due to the State FFA Office:
- BOMC Applications
- National Chapter Award Applications Forms I and II
- Chapter Program of Activities (Must be submitted in order to be eligible for the National and Superior Chapter Awards)

Due online via the CANR online submission process:
- Arthur Berkey Agriscience Fair Applications

NOTE: National Chapter Award Applications Forms I and II must be in the state office by January 17th at 5:00 p.m., as late applications will not be considered.
State Officer FEATURE

SEE WHAT THE STATE OFFICERS HAVE IN COMMON WITH YOU!

HAILI GUSA
STATE PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Ubly
Favorite Movie: “Anastasia”
Favorite Sport: Cross Country

What is one word that best describes you? “Driven. My ambition and willingness to go the extra mile have opened many doors for me. My drive is my best and most noticeable trait.”

KYLE STACK
STATE REPORTER

Home Chapter: Fremont
Favorite Hobby: Traveling
Favorite Television Show: “Gold Rush”

What is your SAE? Goat Production & Diversified Livestock Production
“I was the ABGA National Sales Talk winner and raise pig and lamb projects for the Newaygo County Fair.”

ANDREW DAVIS
REGION III STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Home Chapter: Laker
Favorite FFA Activity: National FFA Band
Favorite Athletic Team: MSU Spartans

What do you think is the main role of a state officer? “To serve and represent the Michigan FFA Association. That means motivating, inspiring and helping Michigan FFA members in any way possible.”
CAMP DATE: MARCH 23-24, 2020

ADVISORS: TOREY BIRCHMEIER & BETH WILSON

PRESIDENT: HALEY ZDUNIC

VICE PRESIDENT: REBECCA FRALEY

SECRETARY: EMMA BARNUM

TREASURER: LOGAN HAGERTY

REPORTER: JOSEPH DUCKERT

SENTINEL: REGAN KOPESKY

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CAMP DATE: APRIL 29, 2020

ADVISOR: TONY MCCAUL

PRESIDENT: IAN KLAES

VICE PRESIDENT: TREY ELLENS

SECRETARY: CLAY JANCEK

TREASURER: ZOEY ZUPIN

REPORTER: ANDY YONKER

SENTINEL: SADIE LOVELESS

DISTRICT 1 VP: AVERY CLAYBAUGH

DISTRICT 2 VP: AUBREY WOODWYK

DISTRICT 3 VP: CORDELL DERUISCHER

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CAMP DATE: MAY 14-15, 2020

ADVISOR: KATIE HOLT

PRESIDENT: JONATHAN SAYLES

VICE PRESIDENT: RACHEL LEFEVER

SECRETARY: LIZ HENDERSON

TREASURER: STUART LIMBAUGH

REPORTER: ALISON HARDY

SENTINEL: LINDSEY RUPPERT
FFA NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that your everyday job involves skills that could benefit an unlimited number of youths today? Adult volunteers are an asset to local youth as supporters and mentors. Invest in the future of agriculture and join the Michigan FFA Alumni today!

To learn more about the Michigan FFA Alumni & Friends, visit michiganffa.com/alumni
Mr. Jake Gust, from the Whiteford FFA Chapter, is this edition’s #TeacherTuesday! Mr. Gust’s career in education began at Camden-Frontier High School, where he taught agriscience from 2011 to 2014. Today, Mr. Gust is currently in his sixth year advising and teaching agriscience at Whiteford High School. The Whiteford chapter is home to 120 high school members and nearly 100 students in a middle-school–level “Ag-Explore” course that allows them to be involved in state, chapter and regional FFA events throughout the year.

In high school, Mr. Gust was a member of the Dundee FFA Chapter. As a member, he was able to compete in leadership contests, attend state convention and work in the greenhouse. While in FFA, he knew he wanted to have a career in teaching but wasn’t sure of which subject. He had also always been involved in his family’s farm and loved agriculture. After taking agriscience classes and participating in FFA, Gust knew that teaching agriscience would combine his two passions perfectly. “My advisor, Mr. Stahl, had a large impact on my decision to become an ag teacher,” he says, “He was, and still is, someone I look up to.” After graduation, Mr. Gust attended Monroe Community College and then transferred to Michigan State University to earn his degree in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Gust’s favorite thing to do is spend time with his two children and wife Jessica. Working with his three brothers and their parents, he enjoys growing corn, soybeans, wheat and hay on their family farm. In the fall, the Gust family also markets pumpkins they grow at the Gust Brothers’ Pumpkin Farm.

When reflecting on which one piece of advice he would share with new agriscience educators, Mr. Gust says, “Learning can be fun. Always try to add more hands-on opportunities for students. It takes time to make things hands-on and real-world, but students will learn the material better and be more excited to take ag classes when those components are there.”

Congratulations, Mr. Gust!

By: Kyle Stack, State Reporter
BE AGRICULTURE
UTILIZE YOUR INTERESTS TO FIND A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...

Photography, Design, Video Production, Writing, Computers, Social Media

Science, Sustainability, the Environment, Food Science, Safety, Animal Care

Vehicles, Equipment, Renewable Energy Mechanics, Problem Solving

Creating Change, Politics, Advocacy, Public Speaking

Athletics, Landscaping, Plant Science, Soil Health, Genetics

YOU CAN BE AGRICULTURE IN....

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
Broadcasting, IT Specialist, Graphic Designer, Journalist, Social Media Director

FOOD & ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS
Food Safety Specialist, Fermentation Scientist, Biological Technician, Biosecurity Monitor

HEAVY MACHINERY & CONSTRUCTION
Freezer/Refrigeration Specialist, Forklift Operator, Hydraulic Technician, Wind Turbine Technician

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION
Lobbyist, Legislative Assistant, Government Advisor, Agricultural Lawyer

AGRONOMY & TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT
Crop Adjuster, Golf Course Superintendent, Crop Advisor, Athletic Turf Manager

HOW WILL YOU BE AGRICULTURE?

For more information, visit www.michfb.com/MI/CareerExploration/
Business & Industry Tours

Each year, Michigan FFA State Officers attend Business and Industry Tours. For these tours, one part of our state is selected, and officers travel to different agribusinesses, farms and processors, meeting leaders in the industry and learning more about the diversity of Michigan Agriculture.

This year, officers toured the West Side of Michigan. Check out the awesome stops they made!

2019 Tour Stops

1. Gordon Foods, Wyoming, MI
2. Dykhuis Farms, Zeeland, MI
3. Big Dutchman, Holland, MI
4. Victory Farms Tour, Holland, MI
5. Grand Rapids Market, Grand Rapids, MI
6. Cheese Kurls, Grand Rapids, MI
7. Dietrich Orchards, Conklin, MI
8. Muskegon County Wastewater, Ravenna, MI
9. Jawor Blueberries, Ravenna, MI
10. Swanson Pickle, Ravenna, MI
11. Herbruck’s, Saranac, MI
12. Carbon Green, Lake Odessa, MI
13. Nutrien, Woodbury, MI
14. Sunnycrest Youth Ranch, Sunfield, MI
What STATE OFFICERS visited your CHAPTER?

FIND THE 2019-2020 STATE OFFICER TRAVELING PAIR THAT CAME TO YOUR CHAPTER VISIT!

KYLE STACK & ABIGAIL STUBBINS
ALPENA
BENZIE CENTRAL
BLOOMFIELD HILLS
CALEDONIA
CAPAC
CHESANING
COLEMAN
DURAND
EATON ISD POTTER PARK ZOO
FOWLERVILLE
ITHACA
KENT CAREER TECH CENTER
MAPLE VALLEY
OGEMAW HEIGHTS
SALINE
VICKSBURG/KALAMAZOO RESA
WEST SHORE

AVIANNA JACKSON & KALIE CHRYSTLER
BEAL CITY
CALHOUN AREA TECH CENTER
CAMDEN-FRONTIER
EATON RAPIDS
LAKER
LAPEER COUNTY TECH CENTER
NEWYAGO TECH CENTER
OLIVET
PETOSKEY
SARANAC
TUSCOLA TECH CENTER
UBLY
WEBBERVILLE
WHITEFORD
WHITTEMORE-PREScott
WILSON TALENT CENTER
ANDREW SMITH & LINDSEY HOPPE
ALANSON
ALMA
CENTREVILLE
CHIPEWA HILLS
DANVILLE
DUNDEE/MILAN
GAYLORD
HOMER
LOWELL
NEW LOTHROP
PANKOW VO-TECH CENTER
RAVENNA
SPRINGPORT
ST. LOUIS
VAN BUREN TECH CENTER
WALDRON

HAILI GUSA & DEVIN HAYWOOD
AIRPORT
ALCONA
ALLEGAN AREA TECH CENTER
ASHLEY
BRANCH AREA CAREER CENTER
BYRON
CASS CITY
CEDAR SPRINGS
ASHLEY
IONIA
JACKSON AREA CAREER CENTER
MARSHALL
OAKLAND TECH CENTER NW
PERRY
NORTH HURON
USA
WEXFORD-MISSAUKEE

NICHOLAS PRESTLY & ANDREW DAVIS
BAD AXE
BRECKENRIDGE
CASSOPOLIS
CHARLOTTE
COOPERSVILLE
ELLSWORTH
HOPKINS
JONESVILLE
LAINGSBURG
LENAWEE VO-TECH CENTER
MONTCALM AREA CAREER CENTER
MUSKEGON TECH CENTER
OVID-ELSIE
OWOSSO
ROOSEVELT
SANILAC CAREER CENTER
STANDISH-SterLING

ANNA BAKER & MATTHEW ALBRECHT
BAY ARENAC CAREER CENTER
CAREERLINE TECH CENTER
CORUNNA
COUNTRYSIDE
FREMONT
GENESEE CAREER INSTITUTE
HARBOR BEACH
HASTINGS
KALAMAZOO NATURE CENTER
MANCHESTER
MASON
NILES
OAKLAND TECH CENTER SW
SAGINAW CAREER CENTER
SAND CREEK
TRAVERSE BAY AREA CAREER CENTER
Hello everyone! Since my year as a Michigan FFA State Officer, I’ve both become a student at Michigan State University and a member the MANRRS Organization. Before transferring my leadership skills into my role with MANRRS, I began cultivating them while wearing a blue jacket. My journey in FFA started my junior year of high school at the Careerline Tech Center. At Careerline my advisor, Tony McCaul, helped me discover and explore my passion for agriculture, leadership and personal development. During my time as a high school student in FFA, I was able to compete in leadership contests; serve as a chapter, regional and state officer; and find a job at a local swine farm. It is because of the lessons and experiences I gained during these activities that I am able to be successful today.

I remember when I took a leap of faith and decided to participate in the FFA prepared public speaking contest during my junior year. The night that I moved onto regionals was the start of my journey to confidence and personal development. It was because of that contest that I strived to improve my skills as a public speaker and developed my desire to learn more about different topics surrounding agriculture.

Just this past year, I was faced with a very similar opportunity to take a step and compete in a public speaking contest, except this time, it was at the annual MANRRS Region V Cluster. To my surprise, I was able to place first and continued on to place third at the National Conference. Since then, MANRRS has allowed me the opportunity to establish meaningful relationships with friends from across the country, build a network with incredible companies and professionals, and find a family that is just as passionate about uplifting every voice in the ag community as I am. If I hadn’t been pushed to take risks and challenge myself during my time in the FFA, then I wouldn’t have been able to build the courage to take risks now.

By: Micah Cuevas, Past State Officer

Interested in learning more about MANRRS and diversity in agriculture? Visit http://www.manrrs.org/
Developing Today’s Agricultural Workforce

Gain career-ready skills through hands-on training and professional work experience in the Institute of Agricultural Technology. Certificate programs are offered on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing and in partnership with several Michigan community colleges.

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

Community College Partner Locations
- Bay College – Escanaba
- Delta College – University Center
- Glen Oaks Community College – Centreville
- Kellogg Community College – Battle Creek
- Lansing Community College – Lansing
- Monroe County Community College – Monroe
- Montcalm Community College – Sidney
- Muskegon Community College – Muskegon
- Northwestern Michigan College – Traverse City
- Southwestern Michigan College – Dowagiac
- Wayne County Community College District – Downriver Campus
- West Shore Community College – Scottville

iat.msu.edu/learn-more
IATMSU

Michigan State University
Institute of Agricultural Technology
“Having the opportunity to connect with all of the students, staff and community in Fremont is one of the best parts of teaching.”

“FOR ME, I ENJOY working alongside the students in the greenhouse. It’s a wonderful thing to see them get excited about getting their hands dirty!”

Chase Bos
Fremont FFA

Nicholas Console
Mason FFA
**JOSEPHINE FORBUSH**
CHESANING FFA

“BEING ABLE TO CONNECT WITH MY STUDENTS AND INCORPORATE THEIR INTERESTS INTO OUR CLASS HAS BEEN SO AWESOME.”

**ANDREA GERLOSKI**
HOPKINS FFA

“WATCHING MY STUDENTS BEGIN TO OPEN UP WITH ONE ANOTHER, BUILDING OUR CLASSROOM CULTURE IS ONE OF THE COOLEST COMPONENTS OF STUDENT TEACHING.”

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**SAMANTHA LUDLAM**
COOPERSVILLE FFA

“MY FAVORITE PART OF STUDENT TEACHING IS ENGAGING STUDENTS IN OUTDOORS AND HANDS-ON LABORATORY EXPERIENCES.”

**SAMANTHA WAGNER**
LAINGSBURG FFA

“I HAVE A PASSION FOR INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS AND WATCHING THEIR ‘AHAA’ MOMENTS OF LEARNING HAPPEN WITHIN THE CLASSROOM!”
Michigan FFA
Celebrating 90 Years

We’re celebrating 90 years of growing the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

Over 8600 Michigan students from 116 active chapters benefit from:
- 36 career development events
- 7 conferences and conventions
- 47 proficiency awards

FFA is a dynamic youth organization that changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members’ potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give members the tools to achieve real world success.

With your help, the Michigan FFA Foundation remains dedicated to educating young people to serve as the next generation of leaders who will change the world.

MICHIGAN FFA
AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

Help empower tomorrow’s farmers, scientists, communicators, and food processors.
Purchase a Michigan Agricultural Heritage license plate!
For just $35, you can help prepare the next generation of agriculture leaders by supporting FFA and K-12 agricultural education programs!