

# FFA Focus

A joint publication for supporters of  
the Michigan Association of FFA

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# FFA Focus

July 2002

## Upcoming events:

### September

- 2 Deadline for ordering Broilers
- 2 MFE Scholarship Applications due
- 13 MFE/PDI Registration due
- 16 Deadline for ordering Cornish hens
- 24 Start date for Broilers
- 24 Start date for Cornish hens
- 30-Oct. 1 MFE/ALD/EDGE

### October

- 8 Start date for Cornish hens
- 25 Deadline for Broiler/Cornish hen entries
- 30-Nov. 2 National FFA Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

Michigan FFA Association  
418 Agriculture Hall • MSU  
E. Lansing, MI 48821  
(517) 353-9221  
www.michiganffa.com

Michigan FFA Foundation  
P.O. Box 26111  
Lansing, MI 48909  
(517) 323-6569  
foundation@michiganffa.com

Michigan FFA Alumni  
Association  
7373 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917  
(517) 323-7000, ext. 3234

## FFA spends the day at Oldsmobile Park

Despite the cold weather, FFA chapters from around the state gathered at Oldsmobile Park on May 17 for "FFA Day at Lugnuts Stadium." FFA members sported hats and mittens as they watched the Lansing Lugnuts battle the South Bend Silver Hawks.

2001-2002 State FFA Reporter Jon LaPorte and Durand FFA member Nicole Campbell had the opportunity to throw in the first pitch of the game.

"I was really nervous standing down on the field," said Campbell, "but I think I did a good job."

This is the fourth year that FFA Day at Oldsmobile Park has been held. It was a chance for members around the state to come together and hang out, watching America's favorite past time.



## Michigan FFA wants to know...Where's your jacket?

Did you ever compete in a state leadership contest or career development event? Were you a chapter, regional, or state FFA member? If so, the Michigan FFA wants to hear from you!

In June, the "Where's YOUR Jacket" campaign kicked off in celebration of FFA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The purpose of the campaign is to reconnect with past FFA members.

"We want to contact past FFA members and find out where they're at and how FFA made a difference in their lives," said Molly Avis, executive director of the Michigan FFA Foundation. "We want to know their story."

So, where's your jacket? Did you donate it to your local FFA chapter? Is it tucked away in the back of your closet? Or did you lose touch with the FFA over the years, and you can't find it? If so, it's time to reconnect with your agriculture roots, find that old blue corduroy jacket, dust it off, and share your FFA experiences with others.

If you ever proudly wore an FFA jacket or care about someone who did, contact the Michigan FFA Foundation at P.O. Box 26111 Lansing, MI 48909 or call (517) 323-6569, or [www.michiganffa.com/foundation](http://www.michiganffa.com/foundation), and tell us about the positive influence FFA has had on your life. You wore the jacket for years, now relive the experience of a lifetime. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



### 2001-2002 Michigan FFA

#### Foundation Board of Directors

President: James Byrum, Michigan Agri-Business Assoc.; Kirk Heinze, Michigan State University; Melinda Jones; James A. Bosserd, Choice One Bank; Amy Frankmann, Michigan Nursery & Landscape Assoc.; Herm Geers, Michigan Agricultural Commodities; Terry Hansen, Pharmicia; Michael R. Jones, Lochmoor Club; Jack Keller, Progressive Farmer Magazine; Larry Meyer, Michigan Retailers Assoc.; Charles L. Mulholland, Michigan Farm Bureau; Jim Schiller, Greenstone Farm Credit Services, Inc.; Jeff Armstrong, Michigan State University; Jay Tuggle, T&W Construction, Inc.; Jake Wamhoff, Michigan State University; Walt Wosje, Michigan Milk Producers Assoc.; Dan Wyant, Michigan Department of Agriculture



## Hardy family purchases 2002 FFA Collectors Tractor

The Michigan FFA Foundation auctioned off the 2002 FFA Collectors Tractor during the V.I.P. Breakfast at Ag Expo on July 16. The John Deere 4010 was purchased by Jim and John Hardy of Maple Row Farms for \$3,000. The Hardys are shown with Past State President Kendra Butters (far left) and Region V Treasurer Bryan Posthumus (far right).

Michigan FFA Mission: To make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Visit [www.miteamaged.org](http://www.miteamaged.org) to connect to websites related to agriculture education. This website features links to the Michigan FFA Association, Alumni, and Foundation sites, as well as links to the Michigan Association of Agriscience Educators site, the Agriculture and Natural Resources Education and Communication Systems site, Agriscience and Natural Resources Curriculum, and the Michigan State University Ag Ed club sites. The website is sponsored by GreenStone Farm Credit Services.



## You didn't have to wear the Blue and Gold to be a part of it!

Are you a member of the FFA Alumni? If not, here's your chance. Any person that supports the FFA program is eligible for membership, whether you were an FFA member yourself or not. Annual dues are \$18 and lifetime dues are a one-time fee of \$150. The dues money supports students by sponsoring FFA contests, providing scholarships and providing assistance to local agriscience programs. So what are you waiting for? It's never too late to be a part of the FFA. For further details, contact Matt Smego at (800) 292-2680, ext. 3234.

## Get your administrator up to speed with FFA

During the 2002 National FFA Convention, the Michigan FFA Alumni will organize a trip to Louisville allowing administrators to see firsthand what the FFA organization is all about.

In 2001, 13 administrators traveled to the convention.

This year's trip is planned for Oct. 21 – Nov. 2. Cost of the trip is \$450, which includes travel, lodging and some meals. Past participants have found the convention to be an educational and enjoyable experience.

Contact Matt Smego for more information at (800) 292-2680, ext. 3234.

## FFA Alumni showcased at Ag Expo

The FFA Alumni sponsored a booth at Ag Expo, July 16-18, on the campus of Michigan State University. Additional information on the FFA Alumni was available at the booth.



### Michigan FFA Alumni Association

#### President

Darron Birchmeier

#### Vice President

Keith Smith

#### Secretary

Brian Preston

#### Region I VP

Larry Martz

#### Region II VP

Brent Leininger

#### Region III VP

Dave Armbruster

#### Region IV VP

Bryan Droscha

#### Region V VP

Lee Ranthum

#### Region VI VP

Charles Snyder

#### At-Large Director

Floyd Beneker

#### Administrative Director

Matthew Smego

*Members of the State Alumni Council are elected each year. Regional Vice Presidents serve two year terms and President, Vice President, Secretary and the At-Large position serving one-year terms.*

## Michigan Farm Bureau and FFA: Continued success

FFA members have many opportunities before them. They can attend regional camps, compete in leadership contests and apply for proficiency awards, but these opportunities are only possible through the help of sponsors. Companies and individuals that sponsor FFA programs are dedicated to the development of young leaders and the future of agriculture. One such sponsor is the Michigan Farm Bureau- Family of Companies.

Michigan Farm Bureau has been a core supporter of the FFA since the early 90s. Farm Bureau annually sponsors contests, conferences and state convention. It was also a key contributor in the creation of the Glassbrook FFA Endowment and the leading supporter of the Elton Smith Memorial Fund. Above all this, it helped establish the Michigan FFA Foundation and houses it at the Michigan Farm Bureau home office in Lansing.

"Our focus is providing leadership development to young men and women," said Wayne H. Wood, Michigan Farm Bureau president. "We saw an opportunity to enhance this commitment through FFA."

The future of FFA and MFB lies in the hands of the FFA members. The partnership between FFA and Michigan Farm Bureau is a tremendous opportunity for both organizations. FFA members can continue their commitment to agriculture by becoming involved in Farm Bureau through programs such as the Young Farmers Program. This will help develop leaders at a local level. The young FFA members of today are the leaders of tomorrow, serving their area as school superintendents, business owners and county officials.

The next step is to strengthen the bond between FFA and MFB. Farm Bureau and FFA are looking for opportunities of more interactions. Currently, the company hosts

state officers for their annual meeting, sponsors conferences and holds executive committee meetings at the home office.

"It is a really nice sight to see all the blue jackets come into the building," said Wood. "It helps establish a good communication system between us and the young people."

There also must be an interaction between county Farm Bureaus and students. FFA members need to attend their county meetings, interact with Farm Bureau members and take part in what Michigan Farm Bureau has to offer.

Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies was honored at the 72<sup>nd</sup> State FFA Convention as a Donor of the Decade. Since then, MFB has increased its support to FFA.

The Michigan FFA Foundation would like to thank Michigan Farm Bureau for its continued support of leadership, agriculture and FFA.

## 2002 Michigan FFA Scholarship Recipients

Name	Chapter	Scholarship	Amount
Molly Bandkau	New Lothrop	Daimler Chrysler Corp. – Dodge Trucks	\$500
Kara Butters	Homer	National FFA Alumni Association	\$1000
Mary Daniels	Whittemore-Prescott	BASF Animal Nutrition	\$1000
Luke Daniels	Whittemore-Prescott	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Constance Keefer	Stephenson	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Garrett Landel	Waldron	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Amanda Lee	Laingsburg	Farmers Mutual Hall	
		Insurance Company of Iowa	\$1000
Matthew Lindsey	BACC	Agrilink Foods/Pro Fac Foundation	\$1000
Katie Marchal	Blissfield	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Amber Mullins	Saline	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Scott Neabeck	Saline	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Thomas Ross	St. Louis	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Rachael Schultz	Dundee	National FFA/AERO Staff/Board	\$1000
Gordon Shetler	Laker	CARQUEST Corporation	\$1000
Bryce Slavik	Ithaca	Ford Trucks	\$1000
Aaron Tomac	Chesaning	Ford Trucks	\$1000

## FFA Golf Outing

The third annual FFA Masters Golf Scramble is Tuesday July 30 at the Emerald at Maple Creek Golf Course. The event is hosted by the Michigan FFA Foundation.



Last year, the Foundation was able to raise more than \$13,000 that went toward funding regional leadership camps for FFA members through the golf outing. The organization hopes to better that amount this year.

The success of the golf outing hinges on support

from businesses and organizations that help support the foundation's efforts. Organizations that give a donation of \$250 are considered hole sponsors. For this donation, a sign is placed at a designated hole to recognize the organization.

The FFA Foundation also welcomes anyone who would like to golf. The cost of the event is



## Bronson celebrates success

The winner of the 2002 Campaign for Change was the Bronson FFA Chapter. Bronson raised \$500 by holding a Milk-A-Cow contest. Jars were set out around the community and high school and the senior collecting the most change had to milk a cow during a school assembly.

Bronson was awarded a pizza party by the Michigan FFA Foundation for all its hard work. This is the second year Bronson raised the most money. This year more than \$1,100 was raised to benefit FFA programs around the state.

\$125 per person or \$500 per team of four. The registration cost includes: 18 holes of golf with cart, breakfast, lunch, and steak dinner, longest drive and longest putt opportunities, and a benefit auction. The event begins at 9 a.m. with a shotgun start and dinner will be served at 3:30 p.m.

If you would like to enter a team or be a sponsor for the outing, contact Noelle Dunckel at the Michigan FFA Foundation at (517) 323-7000 ext. 3207.

## Chapters win State Honors

Over 50 Michigan FFA Chapters gathered on the campus of Michigan State University to participate in the 2002 Career Development events. Good luck to the state winners as they advance to nationals!

### CDE

Agriculture Communications  
Agriculture Mechanics  
Agriculture Sales

### Crops

Environmental Skills  
Farm Business Management  
Floriculture  
Forestry  
Greenhouse Crop Production  
Horse Judging  
Land Conservation  
Landscape

### Marketing

Meats Judging  
Milk Quality  
Poultry  
Jr. High Crops  
Jr. High Environmental Skills  
Jr. High Floriculture  
Jr. High Forestry  
Jr. High Horse Judging  
Jr. High Land Conservation  
Jr. High Meats Judging  
Jr. High Milk Quality  
Jr. High Poultry

### State Winner

Laker #1  
Lapeer PM  
Branch Area  
Career Center #1  
Laker #1  
Laker #1  
Byron  
Lapeer #1  
River Valley A  
Lapeer #1  
Fremont  
Alma #1  
Jackson Area  
Career Center  
Montague  
Bronson B  
Perry-Morrice  
Laker #2  
Harbor Beach  
Saranac  
Sand Creek #2  
Stephenson  
Ithaca  
Akron-Fairgrove  
Bronson B  
Waldron  
Akron-Fairgrove

## Introducing the 2002-2003 Michigan FFA State Officers

Each issue of the FFA Focus will highlight the newly elected state officers.



**Royce Humm,  
President**

Royce Humm is a member of the Breckenridge FFA Chapter, under advisor Gerard Reaume. His supervised agriculture experience includes emerging agricultural technologies and diversified crop production. He is a freshman at Baker College, studying computer-networking technology. His favorite FFA activities are attending conferences and conventions. This year, Humm is looking forward to visiting chapters around the state.



**Luke Gentz,  
Vice President**

Luke Gentz is a member of the Centreville FFA Chapter and his advisors are Tom Condon and Heather Teadt. His supervised agriculture experience consists of diversified crop production and fruit and vegetable production. He is a sophomore at Michigan State University, majoring in agribusiness management. He enjoys attending FFA dances and plans to visit as many chapters as possible over the next year.



**Alysa Isley,  
Secretary**

Alysa Isley is a member of the Blissfield FFA Chapter, under advisor Laurie Isley. Her supervised agriculture experience is diversified livestock production. She is a freshman at Michigan State University, studying agriscience education. Her favorite FFA activity is leadership contests, especially Job Interview. She is very excited to get to know all the other FFA members around the state.



**Samuel Scarborough,  
Treasurer**

Sam Scarborough is a member of the Stephenson FFA chapter and his advisor is Pat Wehner. His supervised agriculture experience is dairy management. He is a freshman at Michigan State University, majoring in agriculture and natural resources communications. His favorite FFA activities are chapter meetings and he is very excited to serve as State Treasurer. He hopes to unite the state and meet future leaders.

### Supporting youth in agriculture: Today's 4-H and FFA members are tomorrow's agriculture leaders

By Jeff Layman, Marketing Manager of UAP Great Lakes, Michigan FFA sponsor

As the days lengthen and we start chomping at the bit to get into the fields, several other springtime rituals occur. FFA chapters hold their annual awards banquets and 4-H clubs start gearing up for the season. UAP Great Lakes salutes these organizations that support our youth and help them grow into productive citizens.

Whether you have children involved in these programs or not, I encourage you to support them. Many of today's agricultural leaders first learned the tough lessons of responsibility and leadership through raising a market steer or serving as a club or chapter officer. The same will be true of the next generation.

Many members of the UAP Great Lakes staff have fond memories of membership in these organizations and are actively involved in support roles today. You'll see our staff at county fairs purchasing livestock at the junior sale and helping the young people in a myriad of other ways. For example, UAP staff help coach judging teams and assist in the selection process for a variety of 4-H and FFA awards.

We believe in these programs and the tremendous work they do to help prepare our young people for successful lives.

Developing young leaders in agriculture is critical to our success as an industry.

We need well-trained people who understand agriculture to lead our commodity organizations; work in our businesses; serve on local conservation districts, school boards, city councils and county commissions; and speak out about this great industry that provides food and fiber for our country at such an economical price. People with leadership skills are desperately needed throughout our society, and these organizations are excellent training grounds.

So, when you're asked to attend an awards banquet; help prepare a judging team; become a club leader or help a young person select a club lamb, give it serious consideration. Who knows? You might get something out of it, too. I often find when I give my time and energy, I get more out of it than I give.

None of us have attained the success we enjoy today by ourselves. We each have many people in our lives who have helped us develop into the people we are today. Now it's our turn to give back and take an

active role in preparing the next generation of leaders.

UAP Great Lakes is committed to serving its customers in many ways. While we strive to provide outstanding products and services to our customers today, we also recognize the importance of preparing for the future by investing our time, talent and treasure in today's young people.

While there are many worthwhile organizations deserving of support, 4-H and FFA are great places to start.

### FFA celebrating 75 years of excellence

In 1928, 33 farm boys from around the country gathered in Kansas City, Mo. to develop their potential for leadership and love for agriculture. Little did they know that 75 years later over 457,000 students across the America would still hold that love and devotion. As Michigan celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FFA, it is hoped to be a year of growth, discovery, and success.

Many new activities and programs will celebrate the diamond anniversary. The Michigan FFA Foundation plans to reconnect with past members in hopes of discovering more about the past of FFA, while insuring a link to the future. The 2002-2003 State FFA Officers have chose the theme "Continuing the Legacy - 75 years of Excellence," and are ready to share their excitement with members around the state.

"Over the next year, we want to reach out to schools that no longer have chapters," said Royce Humm, 2002-2003 state president. "Our team is excited to represent Michigan in the diamond anniversary year."

What started with 33 has grown into a tradition of leadership and excellence that is 457,000 members strong. Committed to teaching students agriculture and leadership, FFA has been developing leaders for the last 75 years and will continue for many years to come.



### Thank you from the Michigan FFA president

The Michigan FFA has been continuing to build excellence for 75 years.

Excellence in what you may ask: everything.

The Michigan FFA has been training members in leadership and agriculture for the last 75 years. FFA as a whole has moved from a boys club of farmers to a diverse and well supported organization. The support of family, friends, and advisors from across our great nation has made a major impact on the image of the FFA. Members tell me stories all the time of how they came to be in FFA. Every time they tell me their stories, they speak of how amazed they were of what FFA had to offer.

However, the financial support is an important key to the success of the Michigan FFA as well. Without the support of our sponsors, these members, new and old alike, would not be exposed to more than 100 opportunities of growth in leadership in agriculture. Once these members are exposed, they are hooked. I see members every day become excited about what they are doing. Whether it is their Supervised Agricultural Experience program, the Partners in Active Learning Support program, or leadership contests and career development events. After each activity, they are more determined to continue the excellence that the Michigan FFA has had for 75 years. This is why I am confident that the FFA will grow and prosper for years to come. Thanks to the

support of family, friends, and financial sponsors, FFA members can benefit from these opportunities.

On behalf of over 5,000 FFA members across the state, thank you for continuing to help develop the excellence in the minds, hearts, and souls of Michigan FFA members.

Royce C. Humm  
2002-2003 State President

### FFA adds news sponsors

The Michigan FFA Foundation would like to thank its newest sponsors:

**Michigan Horse Council** – Equine Evaluation Career Development Event

**Wolverine Packing** – Beef Proficiency- Placement; Sheep Proficiency

**Koegel Meats** – Swine Proficiency- Placement

**Michigan Wild Turkey Federation** – Wildlife Proficiency- Placement and Entrepreneurship

**Tractor Supply Company** – Michigan FFA Foundation Tractor

**Michigan Forestry & Parks Association** – Forestry Proficiency

## Greenstone Farm Credit Services is proud to support FFA now and into the Future

For over 80 years, Greenstone FCS has been helping Michigan farmers achieve their goals with a variety of loan products for real estate, equipment and livestock, as well as risk management tools and financial services.

Call 1-800-444-FARM for the office nearest you, or visit [www.greenstonefcs.com](http://www.greenstonefcs.com).

