

the Creed Staff

Editor Amanda Lee  
Managing Editor Scott Smalley  
Editor Kara Butters  
Staff Editors Kendra Butters  
Michelle McMullen  
Rebecca Parker  
Design Noelle Dunckel  
Manager Kara Butters  
Designers Kendra Butters  
Writer Noelle Dunckel  
Jeremy Gaspie  
Jason Jaekel  
Ryan Kramer  
Ryan McBride  
Debbie Munson

Dr. Michael Woods

Advising Editor

State FFA Officers

President Ryan Peterson  
Secretary Jason Jaekel  
Treasurer Michael Sheridan  
Reporter Amanda Lee  
Sentinel Seth Earl  
Region I VP Katy Reber  
Region II VP Katie Marchal  
Region III VP Ryan McBride  
Region IV VP Nicole Campbell  
Region V VP Bryan Posthumus  
Region VI VP Julia Hilliker

The State FFA Office

412 Agriculture Hall  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
www.michiganffa.com  
association@michiganffa.com  
517.353.9221  
517.432.5632 (fax)

# Inside Scoop

## contents

### B Believe in...

State officers outline their belief in building a movement.

### C Check this Out!

Debbie Munson informs us of a different energy source... manure!

### F Learning to Do

Highlights the Greening of Motown at the Golightly Career and Technical Center on Belle Isle Park

### G Doing to Learn

Ashley Schewe shares her SAE experiences featuring swine production.

### H Earning to Live

Mr. Alan Alaga and Mrs. Becky McGuire share their insights on being an AgriScience Teacher.

### I Living to Serve

Laker FFA Chapter highlights their Crop Drive community serve project.

### J Member Highlights

Find out what members across the state are up to as they feature their various SAE projects.

### L Skills Contest Results

Top team and individual results of the 2003 State Skills Contest are provided.

### M VP Impact Challenge

Regional VPs share their challenge of making an Extreme Impact through community service.

### N The Cornerstone

Corey Flournoy, Michigan FFA Foundation Director asks "Whose Job is it Anyway?"

### O Alumni in Action

Featuring the many current alumni programs and activities.

### P "Foundation's Focus?"

Past Charlotte FFA member Cindy Harris shares the story behind her jacket.

## Important Dates



# I believe in...



## Building A Movement

### Katy Reber Region I State Vice President

Centreville FFA  
Chapter

SAE: Dairy and Beef  
Production

Majoring in ANR  
Communications at  
Michigan State  
University

### Seth Earl State Sentinel

Camden Frontier FFA  
Chapter

SAE: Dairy Placement  
and Christmas Tree  
Production

Majoring in  
Agricultural Industries  
at Michigan State  
University

officer profiler

As you seek to make an Xtreme Impact through premier leadership, personal growth and career success, you must also grow stronger. Thus, we challenge you to enlarge the place of your FFA tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back, lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes.

**REACHING** – “enlarge the place of your tent...” Reaching is the call to cover more ground, to expand your influence, to move outward.

**CONNECTING** – “stretch your tent curtains wide...” In our blueprint, the tent represents the FFA

community woven together and providing shelter, safety and life for each other. Connecting will help you build an environment of community and caring.

**INVOLVING** – “lengthen your cords...” The cords hold the tent up so it can function properly. Lengthen your line of growth through participation and service to your community and family.

**TRANSFORMING** – “strengthen your stakes...” Stakes keep the tent

grounded and secure. Transformation speaks of strengthening your passion, values and commitment in order to achieve the personal success you seek.

**ORGANIZING** – “do not hold back...” To make an Xtreme Impact means to not hold back, to go for it, to put it all on the line. Align your chapter’s commitment to premier leadership and personal growth in order to bring in new members, create new support systems, and transition toward career success for all, not on your own strength, but in partnership with your community.



### Did you know...

- Every year, ethanol adds \$4.5 billion to farm income in the United States



# Waste Not: Manure may be the new end product

-by Debbie Munson-

Manure stinks. And for those people who live on or near farms, it's just a fact of life.

Well, maybe not. Manure may soon be shedding its stinky reputation and gaining a new one – as an environmentally friendly, money making, odorless agricultural product.

This remarkable change is due to ambitious research involving anaerobic digesters - oxygen-free containment systems full of bacteria that decompose organic material - and the energy producing potential of manure.

Anaerobic digesters have been in use for more than 20 years, but previous attempts to incorporate the technology on Michigan farms have ended in failure. The successful and efficient operation of anaerobic digesters will be the key to getting manure's

power from the end of a cow to the end of an extension cord.

Dana Kirk, a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University, is currently developing an anaerobic digester with the ability to treat the manure of 3,000 dairy cows – about 70,000 gallons of waste per day – while producing enough methane gas to power a large farm's daily operations.

"Digesters in the past have failed because they couldn't handle the sand present in the manure," said Kirk, who is studying agricultural engineering.

For animal health reasons, sand is typically used as dairy cow bedding in Michigan, but the sand is easily mixed into raw manure and is damaging to expensive digester pumps. In the past, digesters have relied on the use of dried manure and other organic

types of bedding, which aren't as highly recommended by animal health experts.

"This project came about as a way to keep animals on their optimal bedding while building on the success of anaerobic digesters elsewhere," Kirk said of the digester project he is designing at Green Meadow Farms in Elsie, Michigan.

The anaerobic digestion process starts when raw manure is pumped from the dairy barns into a large containment system where bacteria attached to tiles wait to do what they do best – decompose waste.

As the bacteria eat away at the waste, gases such as methane and carbon dioxide are produced and trapped inside the digester. These gases – called biogas – not only cause the infamous smell of manure, they are also greenhouse gases that may contribute to

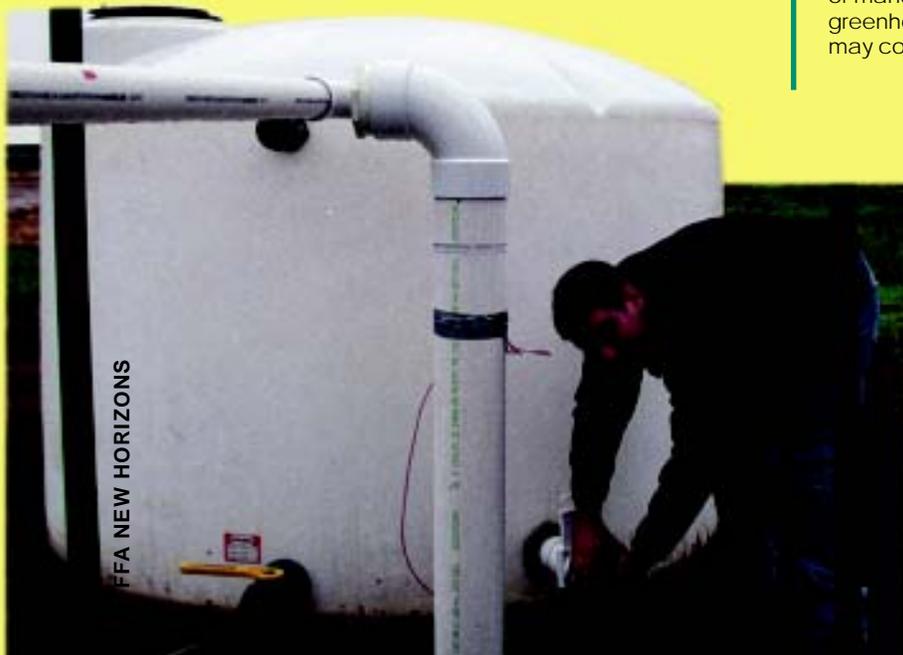
unnatural global warming.

Livestock manure is one of the largest sources of human caused methane in the world – second only to the methane emitted from rice fields. But, it is estimated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency that the 40 anaerobic digesters currently in operation on livestock farms across the country have reduced methane emissions by more than 124,000 metric tons since 2000.

"I hope this research will serve as a model for how we can reduce our footprint on the environment here in Michigan, while becoming more efficient and increasing the value of agricultural outputs," Kirk said.

After raw waste is treated in an anaerobic digester, the liquid and solid parts of the manure are separated and pumped out of the container, continuing on the path to a more sustainable purpose.

If Kirk's research is successful, the 33 million gallon manure lagoon at Green Meadow Farms will become a holding tank for the nutrient-rich, pathogen-free, odorless liquid pumped from the digester, replacing the liquid manure slurry presently filling the storage pit. This treated liquid is perfect for spraying on fields, Kirk said, and poses much less of an environmental threat because it will soak into the soil more readily, reducing the chance of runoff due to





heavy rains. The solid part of the treated manure will be processed into a dry fertilizer that the farm can sell – something manure management experts refer to as a “value-added” product, because there is a second and sometimes even third opportunity to profit from the manure treatment.

Biogas produced during anaerobic digestion provides farmers with the initial profit opportunity. The gas is piped to an engine-driven generator where electricity is produced and heat is captured during the process.

On large farms – usually more than 500 milking cows – enough energy can be produced with biogas to keep the whole farm running year round, which means no electric or heating bills as long as there is a steady supply of manure flowing to the digester.

According to Roxanne Pillars, an MSU Extension agent in Hillsdale County, the value of 1,000 gallons of dairy manure when used strictly for fertilizer is about \$23. But when biogas from that manure is captured and used for energy, the value rises to about \$75.

“At a time when dairy farmers are seeing

increasingly low prices for milk, finding ways to increase the value of other agricultural outputs is very important,” Pillars said. “Anaerobic digestion coupled with value-added products provides a new source of profit.”

Although the option to sell excess electricity to power companies at a competitive price does not yet exist in Michigan, a consumer driven interest in “green energy” – environmentally friendly power - may encourage that to happen in the near future. In other states such as Minnesota and Wisconsin, green energy programs are already incorporating the purchase of alternative energy from wind and biogas projects.

“Even if there isn’t a competitive market for selling surplus energy yet, that is beside the point. Farmers can still sell the extra for slightly less while providing clean, sustainable energy for consumers,” Kirk said.

There are other benefits to using anaerobic digestion that may not be as obvious as energy production. With more people moving from urban and suburban areas into the countryside, the

sensitive noses of newcomers are an increasing concern.

“Where anaerobic digesters have been successfully used, there has been a 95 percent decrease in odor from manure,” said Kelly Launder, Michigan Biomass Energy Program coordinator. “The economic benefits for farmers using anaerobic digestion are great, but they also gain socially when their neighbors are no longer offended by the strong smell of manure from storage and spreading.”

Launder said another aspect that has driven recent interest in anaerobic digesters among farmers is the increasing severity of environmental fines related to water contamination from manure spills and run-off.

“Environmental suits brought by the Department of Environmental Quality are serious situations and have undoubtedly been pushing farmers to renew their interest in manure management technology,” Launder said. “The ability of anaerobic digestion to add value to

agricultural outputs just makes it all the more attractive to farmers when weighing their choices.”

As the regulations governing manure handling and management continue to get tougher, the amount of space available to farms for spreading manure responsibly is being reduced daily due to urban sprawl.

Because treated manure occupies 40 percent less space than the original raw waste, said MSU Extension agent Pillars, there is less manure to store, transport and spread – reducing the cost of manure management for the farmer while reducing the risk of environmental contamination due to the over-application of fertilizer in too small of an area.

Although the benefits of implementing anaerobic digesters on dairy farms across Michigan seem to outweigh the costs, nothing will be certain until needed changes in the technology are proven successful.

“The future of manure management and anaerobic digestion in Michigan hinges on what happens with Dana Kirk’s research at Green Meadow Farms,” Pillars said. “A successful project there will promote confidence in the



Our

# Motto in Motion

Michigan students and alumni demonstrate the FFA motto.

## Learning to Do

### Green with Envy in Van Buren County

By: Kim Wood  
Chapter Reporter  
Nellie Whitaker  
Chapter President

The Floriculture and Landscaping Program at the Van Buren Technology Center provides students with hands-on experience in

the floral industry, thanks to their Learning Lab/ Floral Shop.

In the Learning Lab/Floral Shop, which is named Green with Envy, students learn to design many different types of floral arrangements.

Students start the school year learning how to prep flowers and properly care for them. Over the course of the year, students will learn many different floral techniques such as; round, vertical and asymmetrical forms. Students will also learn to create wrapped bouquets, bud vases, large vased

arrangements, boutonnieres, bridal bouquets, wrist and pin-on corsages.

Students have the opportunity to run the floral shop which provides them with experience in customer service and business management skills.

The program takes orders for large production days such as; Sweetest Day, Halloween, Bosses Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter, birthdays, proms and weddings. Of course, they take orders for those special "thinking of you" days.

Students attend various floral shows and events so they can keep up on the newest trends. They recently attended a floral show in Battle Creek and had the opportunity to observe professional florists create very unique arrangements, which gave them many ideas.



New this year, students will go out on work experience in a local floral shop in town. All students will have the opportunity throughout the year to work at the Jeni Wren Floral Shop owned by Todd and Jeni Skinner in Bangor, Michigan. This will give students the opportunity to see how a real business operates and opens up avenues for future employment in the area.



## Animal Nutritionist Better food, better life!

Animal nutrition is a science that combines chemistry, physics, biochemistry, mathematics, animal behavior, economics, and food processing with animal production techniques. Animal nutritionists formulate diets for food,

companion, and zoo animals. They work with mammals, birds, and fish. The diets they create must be nutritionally sound, good-tasting, and economical for the ages and types of animals that will use them.

To be an animal nutritionist you should be a curious person who is very interested in both animals and the sciences. Most animal scientists want to improve the quality of life for both people and animals.

# Doing to Learn

## Something New and Unusual

By: Jason Jackel  
Lyman Briggs

This winter as the snow falls outside two FFA members are busy growing their unique SAE inside. Beth and Amanda, two sisters from Dowagiac are busy this winter raising their unique crop of watercrest.

It's such a rarity that only two other farms grow it nation wide. It is a very



important crop with Campbell using it in their V8 splash, along with the open markets of Chicago being the farms top buyers.

Beth and Amanda have been working on their SAE their whole life, and have been putting in at least 20 hours a week during the school year, and at least double that over the summer. Their parents Flint and Penny Mengel own the farm and green house, which is now in its fourth generation. The two girls do all aspects of the job, from harvesting all the way down to the maintenance of the green house.

Both sisters said, "fixing the plastic, and picking flowers can be very challenging but very important tasks in making sure the water crest do well." Watercrest is



unique in that it is grown in swamp like conditions. The girls must wade in with large rubber boots to harvest the tops of the plants. They then buddle the tops with rubber bands and placed them into boxes to be shipped either to Campbell's or to the markets of Chicago.

The two girls also are very active in their Dowagiac FFA chapter, by participating in the broiler poultry contest, along with the demonstration contest, which was on watercrest. Beth and Amanda's advisor Mr. DeBoer also has them involved in the greenhouse at school, along with taking care of ducks in the aquatic pond.

These two sisters are very well rounded and are both very active in 4H.

Amanda participates in senior board at school, and plays in the band. She also likes to golf and is on the schools golf team. Beth also participates in band and is planning on playing golf next year.

Both girls in the future plan on attending college. Amanda wants to go into special education and Beth wants to go into nursing. They have had many challenges with their S.A.E along the way such as having to run the whole green house operation while their father and uncle were away.

Both girls have had a great time with there SAE, and FFA, and thank Mr. DeBoer for all his hard work in helping them.

## Turf Scientist A championship course!

Turf scientists must be skilled in science, business, and personnel management. In their first jobs, they often work outside caring for lawns, golf courses, park sites, athletic fields, or grounds around corporation headquarters. They use their scientific knowledge to maintain turf, as well as to

operate computer-controlled irrigation equipment and highly technical machines.

Turf scientists can be golf course superintendents, turf managers for sports stadiums, park managers, grounds managers for corporate headquarters, sod producers, lawn care professionals, sales representatives for companies that produce turf care products, researchers, or teachers in colleges and universities.



# Farming to Live

By: Kara Butters  
Kendra Butters  
AgriScience Education  
Seniors

Farmers, agribusiness owners, landscapers and foresters—these careers may come to mind when thinking of the agriculture and natural resources industry. Nutritionists, scientists, animal behaviorists and geographers—these careers opportunities may or may not enter one's mind when agriculture and natural resources are mentioned.

One past Michigan FFA member, Morris Thomas, recognizes the career opportunities available within agriculture and natural resources. Currently, Thomas serves as a visiting professor of the Geography Department at Michigan State University.

Thomas attended the Mason County Eastern High School in Custer, Michigan where he became a member of the Mason County Eastern FFA Chapter.

## How did you become involved with the FFA?

I grew up on an 80-acre farm owned by my grandparents, with whom I lived. I became involved in

the local FFA chapter as a freshman when the chapter advisor, Mr. Rueben Gomez, approached me about joining.

## What FFA activities were you involved in?

I served as a member between 1959 and 1961. I was on the Farm Forum contest team, now referred to as the Agricultural Issues Leadership Contest. My team made it to the state level competition at MSU. Coming from a small town, it was very exciting to visit a large university.

I was greatly impressed by the competition at the state level. I especially remember a professional public speaker from Chesaning, as well as a keynote address from Governor G. Mennen Williams in Shaw Hall.

## How were you involved in the agricultural industry as a student?

During my senior year, Mr. Gomez took me to meet the local banker where I received a loan for \$200.00 to buy two steers. At the time, I thought that was a lot of money, and it almost ran away from me. As soon as I got the steers home, they jumped the fence and ran off through the woods for two miles before I could round

them up. As I chased them, all I could think of was my money was running away.

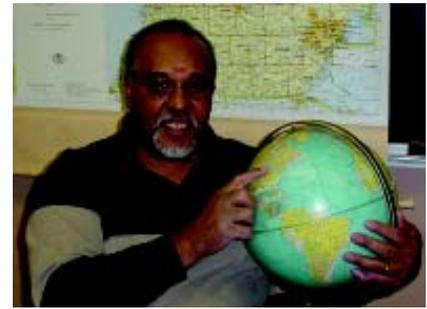
The steers turned out to be an excellent project because I was able to sell them and make some money. When I started my college education, my experience raising cattle was very valuable. I was able to finance most of my college education by buying day-old bull calves from the local dairy farmers and then raising them to meet market weight for sale.

## What did you learn from your FFA involvement?

Through my FFA involvement, I learned how to work and communicate with people. My grandfather used to say, "If you don't work, bad things will happen to you." I learned how to work hard at an early age and truly believe that if you develop a strong work ethic, good things can happen. I use these same skills today as a professor of geography.

## How did you become involved with geography?

When I graduated from high school, I enrolled at MSU to major in crop and soil science because I was very interested in learning more about soils. In 1966, I began working for the John Deere Company in Moline, IL. After nine months, I was transferred back to Lansing,



Michigan to work in the parts warehouse.

During that time, I earned my Master's Degree in Geography at MSU. I taught geography full time for 31 years at Lansing Community College. When I retired from LCC, I became a visiting professor in the MSU geography department.

## How does geography relate to agriculture?

Geography is definitely related to agriculture and natural resources. As agriculturalists, it is important to understand the geographic point of view, such as climate, landforms and vegetation.

## What do you remember most about your FFA experience?

Interacting with other FFA members and traveling around the state was very enlightening. I also remember my FFA jacket. In our community, our jackets were a status symbol.

## Laker FFA Crop Drive

By:

For 32 years, the Laker FFA has conducted its CROP Drive the Monday & Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Members are allowed to be out of school for 3-hr blocks during both days, and then man phones each evening.

The Huron County's Meals-on-Wheels programs receives 25 percent of the proceeds to assist the elderly. The remaining funds aid disaster relief victims in both the United States and around the world.

Since 1980, the Laker FFA has conducted its CROP campaign by telephone, using a 'telethon' format.

The business community has supported our efforts 150 percent. Pigeon Telephone Company graciously donates telephone service, including ten phones and the cost of long distance calls. Pigeon River Wool & Mercantile opens its



Winsor Quilt Gallery and facilities to house our telethon, and HomeTown Directories donates county phone books.

The Laker High School administration also supports of our CROP drive efforts. FFA members are transport to and from the Quilt Gallery by bus.

The tremendous support of both the community and school staff is the reason that our chapter now raises over \$7000 each year, and has a 32 year total of over \$150,000 that has been contributed to CROP.

Laker FFA advertises and promotes CROP through news releases to both county newspapers, purchasing radio spots on the local radio station and placing an ad on the local cable TV station.

Through the years, a

calling list of over 900 business & residential numbers has evolved and an efficient bookkeeping system has developed that allows FFA members to receive a donor pledge and have an envelope addressed, stuffed, sealed and ready to stamp and send within minutes.

The 2003 CROP Drive took

place on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The Laker FFA reached an all time high of \$7,670 in pledges.

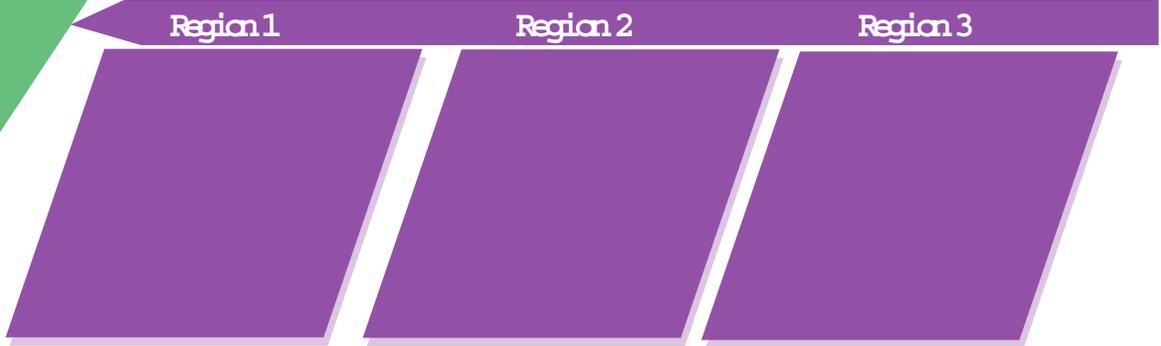


# Say what?

Want to see someone you know or yourself on this page? See details below.

## Regional Responses to Current Issues

**The question:**  
What steps do producers take to help advance conservation?



**Adam Gaulke**  
Allegan Area Tech Center

Organic farming is a natural, environmental friendly way to produce food. Yet, with today's increasing population, it will not meet the world-wide food requirements and is not a practice that many farmers could implement. ○

**Jacob Goetz**  
Blissfield FFA

Organic farming will become more popular in the future because it is healthier. Most people are willing to buy organic products, even if it costs more, to ensure that their food does not contain any pesticides or herbicides. ○

**Janelle Swartzenduber**  
Laker FFA

Organic farming is a good option for farmers to earn more by selling organic crops and for consumers that want to buy natural foods. However, there are a few drawbacks, in that crops grown without the use of chemicals may be more susceptible to weeds and lower yields. ○

### Region 4

### Region 5

### Region 6



**Dave Drake**  
Laingsburg FFA

Organic products are good for people who are sensitive to non-organic substances. ○

**Ben Grabill**  
Grant FFA

Currently, organic foods have a different taste because people are use to eating non-organic foods. Eating organic foods may require people to adjust their tastes. ○

**Jack Renwick**  
Treverse Bay Area Tech Center FFA

I live next to an organic farm and support organic farming because it is cheaper to produce, safer to consume and is better for our environment. ○

## Share & Win!

We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on urban sprawl, please contact Michigan's FFA State Reporter, Amanda Lee at MickeyAL531@hotmail.com. So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.



# Impact Opportunities

## VP's Impact Challenge

Xtreme Impact through  
Community Service



### Making an Xtreme Impact through Community Service

John Wesley once said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Keep these words in mind, as you learn how to strengthen your chapter's community service projects. Community service is one of the greatest gifts you can give, and service is one of the things we value as an organization. Not only will your service benefit others, but it will also help you to grow as an individual and as a chapter.



### Katy's Kaleidoscope

Community service projects are very rewarding and make an impact on the lives of others. There are many options when choosing a community service project. To choose a project that best fits your community, ask these questions.

- Is there anything our community is lacking?
- Who in our community will benefit?
- What groups, clubs or organizations will help with this project?

By asking these questions, you will be able to decide what projects will best serve your community.

### Katie's Kindle

Being an advocate is a great way to give back to the FFA.

As State Officers, we are advocates by promoting and communicating the mission and goals of the FFA Association. As members, you too can be an advocate to the organization.

Getting involved with community education events or simply spreading the word throughout your school about the FFA and what you do are just a few examples of how you can be a great help to this organization.

### Ryan's Report

"What's my job?" is the question you will hear from a volunteer who is eager to volunteer for a community service project.

Take the time to meet with your volunteers to discuss the project's purpose, what the project will be like, what their role will be and address any questions they may have.

Not only will this prepare them, but it will also make them feel more engaged, needed and appreciated.

Good luck!

### Nicole's Notes

The more the merrier? Absolutely! When organizing community service projects in your FFA Chapter, involve other student organizations such as the National Honor Society, student government, sports teams or the art club. The list goes on and on.

Collaborating with these groups will not only strengthen the impact of the community service project, it will also allow you to learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses while meeting new people. Expand your horizons, and the possibilities will be endless.

### Bryan's Bounty

So, you're looking to do some good in the community? How are you going to get people to help you with your community service project? Well, look no further because the answer is right in front of you.

When looking for help with a community service project outside of your own chapters there are great sources at your disposal. Look to people who are part of your local FFA Alumni as well as FFA member's families. These individuals are always looking for ways to help and love to help.

### Julia's Jewels

Starting a community service project is an awesome idea, so make sure you get started on the right foot. With different projects, you will have a different audience. Make sure you understand your audience and know how to get them excited.

Having energy and enthusiasm will spark interest and convince others to help. Positive forms of community action in your home town can be started at any time. Check out who you are going to be working with and start planning today!

# The Cornerstone

~ Michigan FFA Foundation News



Corey Flournoy

Foundation Director

**Whose Job is It  
Anyway?**



FFA NEW HORIZONS

For more information

Michigan FFA Foundation  
P.O. Box 26111  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: (517) 323-6569  
Fax: (517) 323-6541  
E-Mail: [foundation@michiganffa.com](mailto:foundation@michiganffa.com)



# ALUMNI

## *in Action*

By: Ryan Kramer  
ANR  
Communications  
Freshmen

### Michigan FFA Alumni Officers

President: Keith Smith  
15371 Carr Road  
Posen, MI 49776

Vice President: Floyd Beneker  
9551 15 1/2 Mile Road  
Marshall, MI 49068

Secretary: Leslie Donovan  
519 Greenwich Apt. L  
Howell, MI 48843

Region I VP: Larry Martz  
14500 G Drive South  
Marshall, MI 49068

Region II VP: Brent Leininger  
14391 Pittsford Road  
Waldron, MI 49288

Region III VP: Dave Armbruster  
204 Berne Street  
Pigeon, MI 48755

Region IV VP: Bryan Droscha  
4490 Toles Road  
Mason, MI 48854

Region V VP: Jim May  
7737 Fruit Ridge Avenue NW  
Sparta, MI 49345

Region VI VP: Charles Snyder  
4270 Pheasant Road  
Lincoln, MI 48742

At Large: Jeremy Glaspie  
12112 Clinton Road  
Springport, MI 49284

Administrative Director:  
Matt Smego  
7373 W. Saginaw Highway  
Lansing, MI 48917

Past President:  
Darron Birchmeier  
15051 Hanses Road  
Pewamo, MI 48873

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association  
7373 West Saginaw Highway  
East Lansing, MI 48917  
(517) 323-3234  
[www.michiganffaalumni.com](http://www.michiganffaalumni.com)

### Administrator's Trip

On October 30, ten high school administrators from across the state embarked on a trip to the National FFA Convention to participate in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual FFA Administrators' Field Trip. The trip was sponsored by the Michigan FFA Alumni, Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan State University and the Michigan Association of FFA.

Administrators had the opportunity to view core elements of agriscience education, SAE programs and the FFA. As a way for the administrators to gain a better understanding of these elements the program included a trip to Branch Area Careers Center. While at the careers center, administrators viewed first hand, the land lab and classroom facilities. In addition, they also visited with the careers center principal, Mr. Michael Hoffner, to learn how to better support their own local programs from an administrator's perspective.

Once in Louisville, participants of the trip focused their attention on the national convention sessions and events. Administrators were able to see the announcement of the national star candidates and winners.

Some of the other items covered with administrators were a report from the Michigan FFA Association State Officers, an overview of

the Michigan FFA Foundation, a review of the Agriscience & Natural Resources Education programs in Michigan by Dr. Eddie Moore, and finally, an overview of agriscience education from a teacher's perspective by Robert Sollman.

Of course, the entire group of administrator's felt the highlight of the program was the opportunity to spend time with their students.

For further information on the FFA Administrator's Field Trip, please contact Matt Smego at (517) 323-7000 ext 3234.

### Alumni Annual Meeting

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association holds an annual meeting each year during February. Local affiliates from across the state gather for an evening of enjoyment as they get to know each other better.

At the annual meeting, outstanding affiliates are recognized for their efforts and work throughout the year. In addition, a silent auction and live auction are held to raise funds for the Made for Excellence; Advanced Leadership Development; and Experiencing Discovery, Growth, and Learning conferences as well as the Washington Leadership Conference scholarships.

The 2004 annual meeting is going to be held February 7, 2004 at the Ingham

County Fairgrounds in Mason.

### WLC Scholarships

Each year one full scholarship (\$500) is awarded by the Michigan FFA Alumni to a student planning to attend this conference in Washington, DC. Additional partial scholarships are awarded dependent on the revenue generated at the silent auction during the Michigan FFA Alumni annual meeting. These scholarships are generally awarded on a regional basis. All of the above scholarships require the students' FFA Alumni is active. (The Past State Officer Alumni affiliate also awards one full scholarship and the Jack L. Schut Memorial awards on half scholarship during this same time. These scholarships are open to all FFA students in the state.)

Students interested in attending the Washington Leadership Conference should apply for this scholarship. Applications are due January 15 of each year. Students will be presented the scholarship during the State FFA Convention in March. Only one application per chapter, please.