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# Inside Scoop

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## Important Dates

- |     |       |  |
|-----|-------|--|
| Nov | 3     | Weigh date for broilers/cornish hens             |
|     | 5-7   | Contest day for broilers/cornish hens            |
|     | 15    | FFA membership rosters due                       |
| Dec | 1     | Star Candidate, Band and Regional grant apps due |
|     | 17-18 | MFB/FFA ag career and leadership conference      |

# I believe in...



officer profile

## Jason Jaekel State Secretary

Montague FFA Chapter

SAE: Aquaculture and working for Wilbur-Ellis

Majoring in Lyman Briggs (No preference) at Michigan State University

## Michael Sheridan State Treasurer

Mason FFA Chapter

SAE: Beef and Swine Production

Majoring in ANR Communications and Animal Science at Michigan State University

**ffa** opens doors to new opportunities for hands on learning and real-life experiences. Flourish with FFA - keep active and stay healthy.

By being a part of FFA, you have taken the path toward personal and professional success. Take advantage of any

opportunities that come up that will help you grow and get you one step closer to achieving Gold Standards.

Get involved - seek out opportunities. To get ideas, talk to teachers, community leaders and elders. Community involvement and service learning opportunities will develop

and strengthen skills you will need down the road. These experiences will make you feel alive! Take the plunge and make a Xtreme Impact.

Look, inside this issue — we have helpful hints on how you can keep active and stay healthy.

## Did you know...

- One gallon of maple syrup takes 40-50 gallons of sap.
- Michigan has 32 registered turkey growers who produce over 8 million turkeys.



# Check this OUT!

By Michelle McMullean



The beginning of another school year, the changing colors of fall leaves, and the harvesting of bountiful crops mark the fast approach of the Thanksgiving feast.

Thanksgiving brings family, friends and communities together to celebrate everything that we are thankful for, over a home cooked meal traditionally featuring turkey, ham, vegetables, gravy, cranberries and pumpkin pie.

Millions of people across the United States share a delicious meal with the individuals they care most about - but many individuals celebrate Thanksgiving without all the fixings for dinner.

This is a real issue plaguing many families in both urban and rural areas of the United States.

As FFA members, there are a number of things that we can do in our own communities to help individuals in need. Together, our contributions

can make a positive difference - - big or small. Hunger and poverty issues are usually identified at the international level - - the underprivileged children in developing countries.

Food security in the United States is a real issue - - with over 32,000 million people living in poverty and the number of children living in

poverty have increased by 50 percent in the last 25 years.

It's hard to believe that the impact that hunger have on the United States - one in 10 Americans is affected by hunger, which is unique among the World's wealthy democratic countries.

Other wealthy countries fall into the category, but the United States is the only wealthy country where a high proportion of its citizens suffer from nutritional deprivation due to inadequate income - one in five children live below the federal poverty line of \$14,150 annually for a family of three.

A lack of food in the United States, especially in rural farming areas seems mismatched with the stereotypical image of American agriculture: fertile lands, bountiful crops and grazing livestock producing food for people around the world.

Myths and misconceptions about hunger and poverty the United States has kept the issue hidden and unsolved.

Hunger in the United States, commonly identified with poor nutrition, negatively affects personal performance and well-being. Economic hardships often result in many families being unable to buy enough food to feed everyone.

America has the ability to end hunger - we have the resources, effective programs that really make a difference when used, and enough food to end this serious problem. Dedicated and motivated Americans can work

together to end hunger. Are you ready to make a Xtreme Impact to eliminate hunger in your local community?

### Plant a Row (PAR) Program

[www.gwaa.org/Par/Campaign.html](http://www.gwaa.org/Par/Campaign.html)

This program shares bountiful produce with others in need. Harvest sharing can happen on many levels - individuals, community groups, churches and businesses. Plant extra produce, deliver your harvest to local food banks, facilitate community planting events or organize a PAR community network.

### Hunger Service Learning Program -

[www.kleinfoundatio.org/origade\\_hs.htm](http://www.kleinfoundatio.org/origade_hs.htm)

High school level program provides students hands-on experience and knowledge about hunger in their local community. The program strives to empower students in a classroom setting to increase their community involvement and commitment to ending hunger in the United States.

### Eat Healthy, Eat Breakfast-

[www.mnn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/EHEB.html](http://www.mnn.fcs.msue.msu.edu/EHEB.html)

Campaign launched by MSU Extension to promote kids ages 11 through 15 to eat breakfast. Get involved through community, school or media intervention programs.



### Oxfam Hunger Banquet -

[www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/art1104.html](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/publications/art1104.html)

A powerful tool that introduces participants to the uneven distribution of food and wealth in world. This program is an excellent opportunity to educate students, raise money to fight world hunger and poverty and recruit volunteers.

### Local Food Banks -

[www.secondharvest.org/site\\_content.asp?=101](http://www.secondharvest.org/site_content.asp?=101)

Plan a food drive in your local community - collect non-perishable or shelf-stable foods. Organizing a food drive is a fun and easy way to support your local food bank. Food drives are responsible for 1/3 of the food distributed by food banks.



Our

# Motto in Motion

Michigan students and alumni demonstrate the FFA motto.

## Learning to Do

The Biotechnology program at the Sanilac Career Center is one of the most diversified and hands on agri-science programs in Michigan. The curriculum design allows students to explore agriculture and natural resources in the areas of aquaculture, environmental science, animal science and plant science. Each curriculum area is supported by an extensive laboratory facility that allows students to put into practice the skills they need for future careers in the agriculture and natural resources



industry. The daily approach to the program demonstrates a strong belief in the FFA motto "Learning By Doing". Each day, students apply classroom instruction to the projects taking place in various laboratory facilities.

One of the most exciting projects involves a joint venture between plant and environmental science students. The Biotechnology Program was awarded a grant by the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services. The purpose of this grant was to allow students to construct a solar energy collection system. The system will heat water that will be circulated through a radiant floor. By providing heat at the floor, it is proposed that the hydroponic plants grown in the greenhouse will perform at higher levels. Additionally, students hope to reduce the cost of heating the greenhouse by fifty percent. This will save the Sanilac Career Center a significant amount of money.



The Solar Demonstration Project has allowed Sanilac FFA members the opportunity to form significant community partnerships. Members have worked closely with Jim Kneebone, MSU Extension Natural Resource Recovery Agent. With his help, students have completed research, design and much of the construction of the solar collector. Local heating and plumbing contractors have provided additional support.

After construction is completed, FFA members will be conducting community education programs to showcase the project. Students will educate the community about the feasibility of solar energy.

The Solar Demonstration Project is just one of many ventures currently being undertaken by Sanilac FFA members. Learning to Do is a part of every day. In Sanilac County, FFA members do much more than recite the motto - they live it! o

## Forestry A growing career choice!

As we enter the next century, we face our greatest challenge yet; our forests are being taken over with the increase of population. Although the responsibility for conserving forests belongs to each of us, the search for the optimal balance between preservation and

use demands forestry professionals. With an increased demand for forest products, concern for the environment, and rapidly changing technology, ensuring forests for our future requires forest specialists.



# Doing to Learn

## Building Skills for Life

By Jason Jaekel

Fall is a time when the leaves begin turning color. The air becomes crisp, and FFA members go back to school. Fall is also a time that the labors of summer, the many hours spent hard at work pay off. Travis McLouth, son of John and Karen McLouth an 11<sup>th</sup> grader at Montague, was busy this summer working at the Wilbur Ellis Company for his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). He has now been working at his job for two years, and

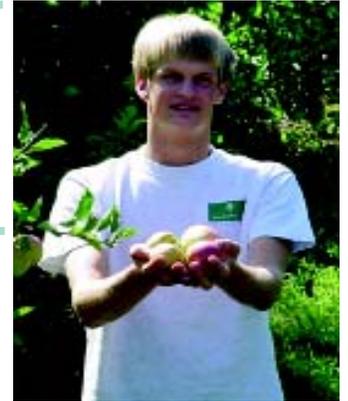


this year he is like many other FFA members across the state using his job, which requires him to crop scout and report back to the farmer about what is out in the field, as his SAE.

"I heard about the job opportunity, from Mr. Brian Wernstrom, who came and spoke to my FFA class on Integrated Pest Management," said McLouth. "He told us that he would be looking to hire a student and asked anyone interested to come to his office in Hart, Michigan for an interview." Travis got the job and for the past two years, he has been scouting, apples, peaches, carrots and many other crops.

"My SAE has helped me with being responsible

" I love my job, and hope that I can do something closely related to it."



and being able to talk to people since I have to make sure to meet with my customers once a week and let them know what is going on with their crop," claims McLouth.

Travis' SAE required him to know a variety of pest insects and plants. He learned how to identify insects and plants through training with his boss.

"The toughest part of my job was in the first month - - I went with my boss to many different fields that later would be my responsibility," said McLouth. "I started off looking at apples and had no idea what to look for but gradually working with my boss he showed me exactly what to look for and I now can go into any orchard and identify a majority of the pests." Travis is an active student - - he is the vice president of his FFA chapter and is involved with soccer, basketball and track. He looks forward to the

future, where he hopes to attend Michigan State University, to pursue a career related to agricultural business, or a career related to his present job.

" I love my job, and hope that I can do something closely related to it," says McLouth. ◦

### Apple Industry Facts...

- Michigan ranks #3 in apple production in the United States behind Washington and New York.
- Apple are Michigan's #1 fruit.
- Michigan's apple industry produces 75-100 million dollars at the point of sale by the grower.

## Bio-System Engineer



A bio-system engineer combines the basic science of biology. Imagine yourself involved in pollution control or waste management or developing renewable energy systems from solar sources or

helping to preserve wetlands by designing more efficient irrigation systems.



To learn more, check out:  
<http://www.egr.msu.edu/>

# Earning to Live

By Kara Butters &  
Kendra Butters



Nick Thompson, former Maple Valley FFA member, with his lawnmower he uses in his lawn care business.

Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) gives FFA members "real-life" job experiences - - and opportunities to strive toward career success through entrepreneurship or employment placements. FFA members, with help from their advisors, develop their SAE to maximize the development of marketable skills that will benefit a future career.

Nick Thompson, a former FFA member from the

Maple Valley FFA Chapter, is proud to admit that he uses the skills he gained through his SAE and FFA involvement every day. Thompson, a recent graduate from Michigan State University, with a degree in Agribusiness Management has started his own business - - "Thompson's Lawn Care."

### How did you become involved in the FFA?

I grew up in Vermontville and spent many hours working on my uncle and father's farms feeding cattle and raising sorghum. I first learned about FFA through a recruitment program from a presentation in my eighth grade English class. After hearing what FFA had to offer, I decided to become a member of the Maple Valley FFA in my high school.

### What skills did you gain from your SAE and FFA involvement?

My SAE consisted of raising show steers and feeder cattle for freezer beef on my uncle's farm. While my SAE does not directly relate to my lawn care business, I credit my entrepreneurial abilities to what I learned in

high school and during my SAE.

I was involved in greenhand conduct of meetings, public speaking, job interview, Food for America, Farm Bureau/FFA Leadership Conference and Made for Excellence. In addition, I had the opportunity to serve as the chapter reporter and president and became the Region I president in 1996. The leadership, speaking and decision-making skills I gained in FFA were valuable throughout college, and I continue to use many of them today in the running of my business.

### When did you start your business and what does it consist of?

During the summer after I graduated from high school, I worked for a commercial landscape maintenance business. Three years later, the owner left the lawn care business, and I bought his equipment while still being a college student.

Currently, I work in commercial lawn maintenance for businesses. I maintain about 25 lawns ranging in size from small city lots to five acres. I also complete landscaping projects each summer and snow removal during the winter.



Nick Thompson showing his beef steer at the county fair.

### How has your career helped you put the FFA motto in motion?

Making decisions every day relating to my business would be much more difficult without the skills I gained in FFA. I remember learning to do and doing to learn when I wore my blue jacket. The experience I gained in FFA has now allowed me to earn to live with my business.

Now that my business is underway, I have returned to Michigan State University to become an AgriScience teacher and FFA advisor. As a teacher, I hope that I will be able to bring the same skills and experiences to my students that I gained through FFA.

## AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST

### A career with vast opportunities.

Individuals trained in agricultural economics develop skills that prepare them for a vast array of careers. To be successful in an entry-level position as an agricultural economist, you need an interest in working with people and the ability to make business decisions.

You need to have strong communication and leadership skills. You will need an interest in sales, marketing, finance, management and the ability to use these skills to make analytical decisions.

To learn more, check out: <http://www.aec.msu.edu/agecon/>



# Living to Serve

## Greenthumbs revive urban community gardens

By: Mason Barker,  
2003-2004  
Byron Reporter  
Patrick Riley,  
2002-2003  
Byron Reporter

Gardens for community children got a helping hand from students in the Byron Agriscience Program.

This hands-on project — the final step in a yearlong program saw 18 students learn about horticulture and applying their

knowledge by growing 45 flats of plants for the Taylor Street Garden of Hope in Flint.

“The project also taught students about diversity and allowed them to see first hand how inner city kids live,” said Emily Opper, Bryon agriscience teacher.

Constance Cobley, Executive Director of the Flint Urban Gardens approached Opper about the unique opportunity for students to plant flowers and vegetables for a number of community gardens in the Flint area. The project began in the fall with the growing of plants in the greenhouse and the students were able to work onsite and experience the difference that the gardens make in the lives of inner city children.

“My students gained insight on how other people live,” said Opper. “Byron kids are very fortunate and it is important that they see the harsher side of life that they are often isolated from.”

The Taylor Street Garden attracts young children and has 14 members, most under the age of 10. The members play a direct role in nurturing and caring for the plants in the garden, while learning where their food their food comes from.

Students played an important role in reviving the gardens by helping clean the site, pruning trees, building fences, cultivating soil, and planting. Many of the gardens have poor soil quality, lack of water, and overgrown brush and weeds. The contributions of the students helped jump start the season by creating a nice spot for the children to work and gave the community pride, said Cobley.



“It was a really good learning experience for us,” said Sierra Sinelli, a junior at Byron. “It is nice to see that the children have a place to do their own thing and be a part of something.”



# Member Highlights

By Ryan McBride  
Amanda Lee



Braidie Butters  
Homer  
FFA Chapter

## Region 1: Braidie Butters

Braidie Butters, a senior president of the Homer FFA Chapter, has been active in the FFA since seventh grade.

Growing up on her family's farm, Braidie received her first ewe from her father at the age of five. Since then, Braidie has raised more than six ewes and over twenty lambs.

Braidie's involvement in sheep production caused her to realize her enjoyment for working with animals. As a result, she began volunteering at the Oakdale Large Animal Clinic when she was twelve years old.

Because of her hard work and dedication to the clinic, the main veterinarian, Dr. James Irvin, hired Braidie three years later, as a technician. Her main responsibilities at the clinic include conducting lab work, taking and developing x-rays and assisting three veterinarians.

"My experiences in FFA, such as participating in leadership conferences and attending conventions, have caused me to become the person that I am today," stated Braidie.

Braidie plans on attending Michigan State University to major in veterinary medicine. ○

## Region 2: Lacey Ferro

Lacey Ferro, Jonesville FFA senior love of the outdoors has been incorporated into her SAE in Outdoor Recreation.

For the past five summers, Lacey has been a camp counselor at Kimpball Camp YMCA Nature Center.

Lacey is responsible for a group of 10-13 kids where she teaches them leadership, teamwork games and about nature. Other responsibilities include cleaning cabins, doing dishes and helping ensure safety at the camps 40-foot high ropes course.

"The FFA has taught me a lot about myself and my love for teaching since I don't live on a farm or know a lot about production agriculture," said Lacey.

Lacey is proud to be involved in such a great organization and claims that she never would have gotten involved in without the help [encouragement] of her advisor, Mr. Fowler.

Lacey serves as the Region II Treasurer and in addition to FFA, Lacey is an officer in the National Honor Society. Following high school Lacey plans to study elementary education. ○

## Region 3: Melissa Pickvet

Bay Arenac senior, Melissa Pickvet, has a blossoming SAE in floriculture that she has been nurturing. Melissa's interest in agriculture was ignited at her grandfather's horse farm.

"Horses were the stepping stone that got me going (in agriculture)" says Melissa.

Melissa has always enjoyed floriculture. As a junior she joined FFA, which opened her up to many new experiences. Melissa works at a flower shop where she is in charge of making floral arrangements and taking care of customers.

"I have learned a lot about leadership and how to apply it in my job and everyday life," Melissa stated. She also said that the FFA has helped her to step out of her comfort zone and allowed her to explore career opportunities.

Melissa's likes to spend her free time gardening and riding horses. After graduation, Melissa plans to attend the University of Kentucky to study floriculture, agri-science or agricultural law. ○



Lacey Ferro  
Jonesville FFA Chapter



Melissa Pickvet  
Bay Arenac  
Career Center

## Region 4:

### Kevin Gadd

Showing and raising market hogs for the county fair are activities that Kevin Gadd, a senior at Corunna High School loves to do.

Kevin started showing hogs at the county fair three years ago, when he was 15 years old.

His advisor, Mr. Mark Forbush, asked him to first help a member show their hogs at Michigan State University. Ever since then Kevin has been hooked and has showed his own pigs.

"My experience with my SAE has taught me that any member can have the opportunity to show animals through the FFA."

"The co-op program in my chapter is what helped me to learn what it was like to show animals at the fair," Gadd stated.

Kevin is an active member of his FFA Chapter, where he is serving as Chapter Sentinel.

He is also a member of the Drama Club, F.C.A.S. and Band.

Kevin plans to attend Lansing Community College or Lake Superior State University next fall. ○

## Region 5:

### Megan Block

Megan Block, a senior at Beal City High School, enjoys working on her family's dairy farm for her SAE project.

Megan has been working on the farm for 12 years. She has managed the farm for the past three years.

Along with Megan's dairy project, she has become involved in forestry. For the past two summers she has helped care for the FFA Christmas trees for her chapter.

Although Megan does not plan to live on a farm after graduation, she has learned skills such as hard work and responsibility that will help her with any career that she chooses.

Megan is planning to attend Michigan State University and pursue a career in political science.

She hopes someday to be to attend law school somewhere on the Eastern coast of the United States.

Megan is currently serving as her chapter's president and served last year as the Regional District 1 Vice President. ○

## Region 6:

### Katy Gonyea

Katy Gonyea, a recent graduate from Alpena High School has enjoyed raising and showing hogs the past 9 years for her County Fair. Katy, with the help of her two brothers care for their fair animals - - setting a schedule for feeding and cleaning duties is necessary to avoid arguments.

The Gonyea family lives on a 40 head beef farm, where Katy helps with the administering of vaccinations, applications of ear tags, and the wrangling of any loose animals. This fall, Katy began her freshman year at Michigan State University — the money that she earned from her hog projects is now being used to fund her academic goals.

In FFA, Katy participated in greenhand public speaking, parliamentary procedure and served as region VI treasurer.

Katy plans to major in Physiology or Biology, and later attend medical school. Raising and working with animals on her family farm has helped to teach Katy compassion that will help her in her future career. ○



Kevin Gadd  
Corunna  
FFA



Megan Block  
Beal City  
FFA Chapter



Katy Gonyea  
Alpena  
FFA Chapter

Submit your SAE or one of your student's SAEs!

Email Scott Smalley at [smalley\\_scott@hotmail.com](mailto:smalley_scott@hotmail.com)

# Say what?

Regional Responses to Current Issues

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

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



## Region 1



**Adam Gaulke**  
Allegan Area Tech Center

Producers can continue to plant more crops to improve the habitat and provide cover for wildlife. Conservation can be simple if everyone helps and pitches in some way.

## Region 2



**Jacob Goetz**  
Blissfield FFA

The first critical step is education. It is essential for producers to be aware of conservation methods. The final step is action, which involves cooperation between state officials, producers, communities and the agricultural industry.

## Region 3



**Janelle Swartzenduber**  
Laker FFA

Consumers should be careful when applying pesticides and how they use their land. They should stay informed of new ways to protect their land.

## Region 4



**Kelsey Silsby & Lauren Wood**

Mason FFA  
Do not sell your farmland because land is disappearing. Become involved in your communities and tell/educate the public about the agriculture in your area.

## Region 5

**Baylee Drown**  
Ceder Springs FFA

I think there are two parts of conservation, prevention and treatment. Prevention encourages practices like using non-hazardous pesticides. Treatment can be as simple as rotating crops. Everyone can be a part of conservation.

## Region 6



**Hannah Chisholm**  
Standish Sterling FFA

Producers can use technology to control erosion. They can also try to not use products that can potentially poison the soil, water and other resources.

## 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  
Healthy Lifestyles/Recreation



Katy

Katie

Ryan

Nicole

Bryan

Julia

### Katy's Kaleidoscope

Michigan FFA officers make an Xtreme Impact through Healthy Lifestyles/Recreation!

With school well underway, members across the state are off to a busy and exciting year. It's important to make an effort to include recreation and healthy eating in your busy day! As a student and FFA member, it is important to balance your busy day with simple activities to keep your body healthy, your energy level up and your stress level down - how else are you going to be able to make a Xtreme Impact. Recreation is the key to helping you relax, have fun and escape the pressures of your hectic schedule. While, healthy eating gives you the energy you need to get everything done. To help you continue to run at peak performance we challenge you to follow these tips so that you can make a Xtreme Impact.



One way to stay active is to participate in community service activities. Volunteering can keep you physically and mentally healthy. There is nothing more rewarding than help someone in need your local community. It's a win-win situation! If you're unsure of how to get involved, ask a teacher, neighbor, grandparent or alumni about opportunities to get involved in your local community.

### Katie's Kindle

To have enough energy to participate in the opportunities FFA has to offer, you need an adequate amount of sleep.

What's an adequate amount of sleep?

According to Sleepnet.com, the average student needs 8 hours of sleep a night. So, get your 8 hours of sleep each night and you will be able to start each day off fresh and ready to make a Xtreme Impact.

### Ryan's Report

Water makes up more than half of your body weight. It plays a very important role in achieving a healthy lifestyle. It is so important that you cannot survive more than a few days without it.

To help achieve a healthy lifestyle drink at least eight glasses of water daily. This helps reduce headaches, irritability and tiredness. Challenge yourself to drink eight glasses of water everyday — boosting your energy level and helping you make a Xtreme Impact!

### Nicole's Notes

Oh the places you will go! Why take a car when you can strap on your boots and let your feet take you away?

Walking places, whether it is school, work, a friend's house or an FFA meeting, can be a great way to get exercise and enjoy the great outdoors. Getting enough exercise and staying healthy is essential to be able to give all you have to yourself and your FFA activities. Happy walking!

### Bryan's Bounty

A commonly overlooked way to make an Xtreme impact is improving your health and fitness level by lifting weights. Throughout high school, there are many opportunities for you to lift weights. You will have more energy throughout the day as a direct result of staying active after school and it will be easier to focus on the things you need to accomplish. Challenge yourself to pick up a dumbbell and add this to your daily routine — make a Xtreme Impact on yourself and you'll make a difference in FFA!

### Julia's Jewels

"Breakfast is the most important meal of day" - a saying that we've heard our parents say more than once. It's true! Start your day right by eating breakfast!

Eating breakfast is easy and it will keep you energized for the entire day.

Take the challenge - - eat a healthy breakfast everyday and don't forget to include fruits and grains and you'll be ready to make a Xtreme Impact.