

# The Michigan FFA Creed

September/October 2004

LEADERSHIP



Leadership is a Journey...Complete It!

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# Inside Scoop

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## Important Dates

Sept	1	LEAD/ANF/STEP Conference Scholarship Due
	21	Start date for Broilers
	29-30	Fall PDI/LEAD/ANF/STEP Conferences
Oct	27-30	National FFA Convention - Louisville, Kentucky

# I believe in...



## Developing the Leader in YOU.

### Ryan Kramer

State President

SAE: Vegetable Production & Farm Placement

Majoring in AgriScience Education at Michigan State

### Doug Albright

State Reporter

SAE: Swine Production

Majoring in Agribusiness Management

officer profiler

As young children growing up, each of us has had an urge to take charge of a situation.

Perhaps the situation was with a sibling, playmate, or parent, but more often than not, we had wills that were perhaps stronger than they should have been.

In kindergarten our arms waved in the air to a teacher who would hopefully grant us the honor of being the line leader.

As we grew up, we always wanted to be the leader, whether as the captain of the team in gym class or as the president of your class.

At every age, we have either followed leaders or become leaders.

You may remember the teenage song from a few years ago, "The Leader of the Pack." The leader was a cool, self-appointed person who had other teens following him and acting like him because he was cool.

As we have matured, we hopefully no longer vie for a teacher to appoint us line leader or follow the lead of a fast-talking, stylish dresser to be a part of the "in group."

In all that we do, living our personal lives, directing our careers, serving in volunteer organizations, or caring for our families, we become leaders.

Many times we are oblivious to this leadership because it is a natural part of who we are. Only when we reflect on what we have done or the action we have taken do we realize that we have become leaders.

Fellow FFA members, we challenge you to **Kick it Up a Notch** by developing the leader in you. 

### Did you know...

- 1. One acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.
- 2. Michigan produces 75% of the red tart cherries in the United States.
- 3. Michigan has 32 registered turkey growers who produce over 8 million turkeys each year.



Sept/Oct 2004

# School Smart



# Global Wise

By: Megan Townsend

It's 12:53 a.m. on Sunday in Tokyo, Japan, when clocks read 4:53 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon in London, England. Back in Michigan on the same day, people just started craving lunch at 11:53 a.m. Why should you care? Because the decisions you make today could affect someone on the other side of the world.

Face it. The world is getting smaller—not physically, but agriculturally. The world's population continues to grow, but fewer people engage directly in agriculture. Many choose to relocate into cities, which leaves fewer farmers to provide a nutritious and safe food supply.

While the number of people involved in agriculture decreases, the policies made in each country begin to have a more global influence on farmers everywhere.

Dan Kiesling, the 2000-2001 state FFA president, witnessed the result of agricultural policies abroad during an international experience to Ireland and the United Kingdom in May.

"The United States isn't an isolated entity anymore," Kiesling said. "More and more, we have to pay attention to what is going on in other countries, so that American agriculture can stay competitive. Every nation's

actions have an impact on other parts of the world."

Kiesling explained that during his time in the European Union he discussed agricultural policies, such as the E.U.'s ban on U.S. beef and how it affects U.S. cattle producers, with agricultural leaders in each country.

He said that E.U. farmers also expressed their concern of South America, specifically Brazil, and how its ability to produce soybeans and beef cheaper than the European Union is destroying the E.U.'s market on such products.

"The United States is more vulnerable in many ways than before of not being able to market its product," Kiesling said. "And, just because it's an American product doesn't make it the best in many consumers' eyes."

It's important for students involved in agriculture to notice what takes place around the world, Kiesling said.

"Students always need to be aware of what's going on around them, whether it's in agriculture, politics or whatever," Kiesling explained. "Many of the problems we face agriculturally in the United States, like urban sprawl or young people not returning to the farm, other countries face as well."

Noelle Dunckel, the 2000-2001 state FFA secretary, traveled with Kiesling through Ireland and the U.K., and saw how

globalization, making something worldwide in scope or application, affects agriculture.

"Mad cow, foot-and-mouth and other infectious diseases have made everyone more aware of the food safety policies that need to be in place," Dunckel said. "As a global community, we can all learn from the situations other countries have faced."

Dunckel and Kiesling saw a cattle passport in Scotland that the USDA is learning in order to formulate a universal animal identification system in the U.S.

The passport, which allows for animal traceability, corresponds with the unique identification number on the ear tag of each head of cattle. Whenever the animal leaves the farm, the passport must receive a stamp from the Scottish government.

"From seeing the Highland cattle in Scotland, I now understand that different countries approach agriculture in different ways," Dunckel said. "We should be accepting of these ways, even if they are different from our own."

The international experience also taught Matt Jakubik, the 2004-2005 state vice president, the importance of keeping a "global mind" and thinking outside of your backyard. "It's not just about the United States," Jakubik said. "It's about how we all impact the world." 



Post State Officers Noelle Dunckel and Dan Kiesling take part in the 2004 study abroad to Ireland and the United Kingdom.



Former Michigan FFA members participate in the 2004 MSU College of Agriculture study abroad program to Ireland and the United Kingdom. Participants visit many businesses and receive tours of their facilities.

**Want to learn more about other countries? Want to go on an international experience?**

Here are a few resources you can explore to find out more about international study abroad opportunities and agriculture around the world.

- [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org)
- [www.msuglobalaccess.net](http://www.msuglobalaccess.net)
- [www.theglobalist.com](http://www.theglobalist.com)
- [www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook](http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook)
- [www.national4-headquarters.gov/4h\\_world.htm](http://www.national4-headquarters.gov/4h_world.htm)
- [www.semesteratsea.com](http://www.semesteratsea.com)
- [www.goinglobal.com](http://www.goinglobal.com)
- [www.globaled.org](http://www.globaled.org)
- [www.exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright](http://www.exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright)
- [www.cep.org.hu](http://www.cep.org.hu)
- [www.oxfamamerica.org](http://www.oxfamamerica.org)
- [www.soros.org](http://www.soros.org)
- [www.studyabroad.msu.edu](http://www.studyabroad.msu.edu)
- [www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com)



## Facts about Trade, Dependence, and the Global Market

U.S. Gross Domestic Product equaled \$34 trillion in 2003.

Worldwide production equaled \$57 trillion.

Market Demand for traded goods equaled \$23 trillion with world wide trade's share equal to 33% or \$7.5 trillions.

Out of a population of 5.6 billion approximately 2.4 billion are employed with the largest number in subsistence agriculture in mainly China and India.

Non-agricultural employment continues to increase as improvement in agricultural productivity in the poorest countries force rural poor to urban area. The share of non agricultural employment increases from 14% to over 20%.

The international trade share of employment worldwide is about 10% in 1995, it had increased to 15% by 2002 and will reach 17% by 2015.

Due to rapid recovery in Asia from the 1997-98 currency collapse, the US market growth remains the only real "engine" for the world economy. Growth in the US, on average is 1.5 to 2% higher than in the rest of the world.

The United States in growth have grown at a rate nearly twice that of the rest of the world leading to an imbalance in trade that likely cannot be sustained and is unhealthy for the world economy.

North America, Asia and Europe are three dominating regions in the country of regional distribution demand. Europe is about half as large as any other region due to its advanced state and large population size.

The 1990's boom led to a massive increase in world trade. The increase was fueled by a shift from domestic to foreign sourced products mainly in North America. Asia's surplus in 2002 accounted for 93% of North America's deficit with the world and the shift from labor intensive Asian production to labor conserving North American production to a net benefit in jobs created worldwide.

By 2002 the trade imbalance accounted for 2% of worldwide employment and just 1.2% of worldwide production.

Worldwide production of traded products- primary, food and manufactures- increased by 14% over the period of 1995-2002. The North American trade deficits increased when measured against the net increase in traded goods outside of North America accounted for 23% of the increase.

One quarter of the growth outside of North America is due entirely to the growing size of the American trade deficit.

The World Trade is unevenly distributed across the regions. Asia benefits from a growing trade surplus with North America.

The exports are increasingly important for Asia's regional trade where the inputs shipped between higher cost Asian manufactures with specialized production to assembly operations in China before being exported to the United States or Europe.

The US deficit with China alone is about 1/5th of the overall US deficit with the world of over \$500 billion.



World trade increases from just over \$4 trillion in 1995 US to over \$10 trillion by 2010 at an average rate of 6% per year in 15 years.

Technology products gain share as supply-chain economics shift production from advanced to emerging markets. Technology starts with a 16% share in 1995 and increase to 26% by 2010.

Consumer products share declines as technology goods replace light consumer products and capital equipment share hold constant in relationship to world trade.

Trade in primary products, food, and intermediates falls relative to the growth in the other sectors.

The US trade deficit with China increases from about \$15 billion in 1990 to over \$100 billion in 2002. If present trends continue it will reach over \$250 billion by 2015. As the trade deficit had increased US dependence on China as a source of supply had increased.

Consumer goods account for nearly 25% of world trade, but only 12% of North American exports; while North American exports are concentrated in technology goods (40%) compared to just 25% of world trade.

Facts provided by Dr. David L. Blond. For more information check out: [www.querinternational.com](http://www.querinternational.com)

# Our Motto in Motion

Supported by the Michigan Department of Career Development's Natural Resources and Agriscience Pathway

## Learning to Do

By: Megan Townsend  
Agricultural  
Communications

Megan Cooley, a 17-year-old junior at Mason High School and a member of the school's FFA chapter, is "running on fumes."

Cooley worked more than 85 hours during the spring at the Mason FFA Sugarbush helping to make this year the operation's most successful. The sugarbush is a student-run maple syrup production facility.

"We completely shattered our record this year," Cooley said as she changed a filter on the evaporator used to boil sap into syrup.

The students made more than 460 gallons of syrup, breaking the record set in 2001 of 292 gallons, according to Pete Barnum, the Mason agriscience teacher and FFA adviser.

Barnum attributes the record breaking season to the students' determination and a new, more environmentally sound design used to

increase efficiency in the 32-acre woodlot owned by Ingham County.

The students installed a new vacuum system that allowed them to utilize part of the woods they never reached before. They also reduced the trees' stress by using 33-percent smaller spiles, which provide a spout to draw sap from the trees. This reduced the total number of spiles used and more efficiently spread them throughout the woods.

The sugarbush means more than just boiling sap to make maple syrup," said Stephanie Kilpatrick, a junior at Mason High School and second-year FFA member. "I like working with different people," Kilpatrick said. "It teaches good personal and leadership skills."

The sugarbush work begins in early February, depending on the weather and typically ends the last week in March. The sap runs best when there are warm days and freezing nights, according to Cooley.

Students enrolled in Barnum's four agriscience classes, along with FFA members, spend time collecting buckets of sap, boiling the sap into syrup, marketing the syrup and giving tours of the facility to more than 400 people, including third grade students.

"I think it's an awesome opportunity for students," said

Barnum, who has taught at Mason for three and a half years. "The most beneficial part is learning responsibility."

Each year the students also organize an open house where they provide a petting zoo, pancake breakfast and guided tours of the operation for members of the Mason area and surrounding communities.

"This is an opportunity that most American high schoolers don't have," said 17-year-old Matthew Brady, a member of the Mason FFA.

Barnum said breaking their record will challenge the students because they now have to market 200 more

gallons of syrup than anticipated. The students have already started pushing their product. The Mason FFA Sugarbush syrup is available at the Mason Elevator Co., the Leslie Farm Center, Fair View Corners, craft shows held in Mason and the Mason High School.

"People can purchase syrup in multiple sizes or in a gift basket that includes pancake mix," Barnum said.

The Mason FFA Sugarbush started in 1964 at a woodlot by the Capital Area Career Center on Hagadorn Road and moved to its current location in 1970.



FFA NEW HORIZONS

## Agronomist

Agronomists deal with interactions among plants, soils and the environment. Agronomists research ways to produce crops and turf and ways to manage soils. Agronomists can be found teaching, conducting business, and doing research in food production and environmentally oriented industries around the world.

Agronomists work for banks; farm co-ops; seed, ag supply and lawn care companies; and government

agencies. Agronomists also are employed as weather forecasters, environmentalists, researchers and teachers.

To be an agronomist, you should have an interest in science and environmental issues. In college, you should enroll in agriculture, biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and statistics courses.

For more information, check out: [www.css.msu.edu/home](http://www.css.msu.edu/home)

## Doing to Learn

### Building Skills for Life

By Dustin Petty  
Region VI State Vice  
President

As county fairs statewide begin to wind down, one FFA member, Jeff Thomas of the Alpena FFA Chapter, is already looking forward to next year when he can again saddle up and enter the arena to participate in his unique SAE.

Jeff, the son of Mike and Peggy Thomas of Ossineke, began three years ago training his eleven-year-old thoroughbred horse Jason to participate in his county fair's horse speed shows.

"I became interested in barrel racing by accident really. We have a speed show on the last day of our fair and I had nothing to do so I entered in it just to keep from being bored. I had never done it before and neither had my horse.

We just went slow and had fun but I became hooked and started to train my horse to run barrels and we have become faster throughout these last few years. My horse is an ex-racehorse so I had to retrain him from making big wide



turns to small sharp turns and taking a long time to come to a stop," said Jeff.

The speed shows usually consist of seven events with names such as Cloverleaf and Keyhole, all of which involve obstacles like barrels and poles that the horses run around.

Jeff's favorite event has been one called Pole Bending that requires the horse to weave in and out of six eight-foot tall poles with a five-second penalty being given for each pole knocked over.

The most important aspect of preparing for a race, Jeff explains, is maintaining the safety of the rider and the horse by always remaining on focus. "Anything can happen in those quick eight to 27 second runs. I have witnessed people having their horses fall on them and people falling off because they became careless. I actually was one of them. I was doing a speed and action

run and my horse hesitated at the buckets and I was not thinking about what I was doing and he jumped sideways. I accidentally hit him with a spur and he jumped back the other way and I lost my balance and fell," he remembered.

For the events, there are usually prizes for the top three or four places, depending on the race. But Jeff adds, that he doesn't do it for the prizes or money, he just does it because he enjoys it.

While Jeff acknowledges that his speed shows are the most exciting part of his SAE's, other activities add to the diversity of his program.

Besides being employed at a local feed store, he is also heavily involved in the production of rabbits, chickens and sheep. Jeff, who is entering his junior year of high school, is also currently serving as the Region VI Vice President. [G](#)



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## Weed Scientist

Weed scientists teach, perform research and work at universities. Weed scientists also work for agricultural chemical firms in research, development, sales, marketing and regulation. Some work in research, development or regulation for private research firms. Others diagnose problems in the field or establish weed management systems for private crop management or consulting companies.

To work as a weed scientist in a greenhouse or in the field, you should be interested in weed science, soil science and agriculture. You will need a bachelor's degree in a field such as agronomy, horticulture, range science or soil science. For a laboratory research career you will need a degree in chemistry, biochemistry or plant physiology.

For more information, check out [www.css.msu.edu/home](http://www.css.msu.edu/home)



Sept/Oct 2004

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# Earning to Live

By: Kara Butters & Kendra Butters  
AgriScience Students

For half a century, Charlie Arensmeier has been associated with the National FFA Organization as a FFA member, an advisor at the chapter level and as staff at the state level. The Michigan FFA Association has been privileged to have Arensmeier's assistance and support for the past 34 years.

In 1954, Arensmeier joined the Higginsville FFA Chapter in Missouri as a freshman in high school. "At that time, my career goal was to become a farmer, and I wanted to be in vocational agriculture and the FFA to learn more about farming," said Arensmeier. As an active member of the local chapter,

Arensmeier served as senefinel during his junior year and president his senior year. He also participated in the public speaking contest, the only leadership contest offered, at the district and regional levels and the livestock and crops judging contests.

During his senior year, his SAE consisted of 200 laying hens, five Duroc sows, two Shorthorn beef cows and two acres of corn. Arensmeier stated, "I kept the sows and the beef cows while I was in college, and that paid for most of my college expenses."

After graduating from high school, Arensmeier attended the University of Missouri Columbia with a major in animal husbandry and the intent to become a farmer. However, as a junior, he changed his major to agricultural education and joined the Collegiate FFA Chapter.

Arensmeier decided that he would teach for a few years to earn money, which would allow him to start farming later.

Arensmeier served as an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Wellington-Napoleon Schools from 1962 to 1964 and at Lathrop Schools from 1964 to 1970. In 1967, he earned his Masters Degree in Education from the University of Missouri.

Agricultural education in Michigan was fortunate when Arensmeier and his wife Ann moved to Michigan in 1970, where he worked as a graduate assistant at Michigan State University for two years. From 1972 to 1974, Arensmeier served as the Michigan FFA Projects Consultant.

In 1974, Arensmeier was hired by the Michigan Department of Education to serve as the Vocational Student Organization Coordinator (FFA Executive Secretary). He fulfilled this role until his first retirement in 1997.

With his dedication to agricultural education and the FFA still strong after 43 years of involvement, Arensmeier agreed to serve as an Agriscience Program Consultant at Michigan State University. Seven years later, now in 2004, Arensmeier retired for the second time in July marking his 50<sup>th</sup> year being involved with the FFA.

Arensmeier attested that the most important skills he gained from the FFA were speaking and parliamentary procedure. "Through all of my jobs, I have had to communicate ideas, make decisions or work with others to plan an activity," said Arensmeier. "Without the



Mr. Charles Arensmeier retires after serving the Michigan FFA for the past 34 years.

background that the FFA provided me, my involvement in many activities during college and after would have been limited."

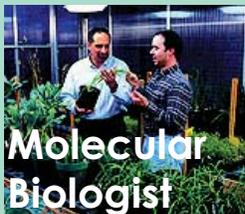
Having been involved with the FFA for many years, Arensmeier's favorite parts of the organization are the state and national conventions. "These activities provide an opportunity for many young people to travel and participate in programs that are once-in-a-life-time experiences," explained Arensmeier. "I still enjoy seeing the excitement of the participants."

While Arensmeier did not earn a living by farming as he once planned, he did earn to live by becoming an FFA member and continuing to be involved with agricultural education and the FFA with each of his career choices. Arensmeier positively impacted the lives of thousands of Michigan FFA members and youth while earning to live. 13



L-R Jerry Centers- FFA Project Consultant, Charlie Arensmeier- Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Ron Carlisle- 1974-75 State President, Denny Grabill- 1975-76 State President, Rich Karelse- State Advisor

FFA NEW HORIZONS



## Molecular Biologist

Molecular biologists study the molecular basis of the phenomena of living things. Molecular biologists can be researchers, technicians or teachers. Universities, companies and government agencies hire them.

To be a molecular biologist, you need a bachelor's degree in a life

science discipline like biochemistry, genetics or microbiology, with an emphasis on molecular biology. You should take courses in chemistry, biochemistry, mathematics and computer science.

For more information, check out <http://www.fw.msu.edu/>

ensmeier retires  
he Michigan FFA  
4 years.

## Living to Serve

### Cleaning up your Community?

By: Dustin Petty  
Region VI State  
Vice President

A generation ago, President Kennedy issued the challenge heard 'round the world, inspiring millions to not sit idly by but to stand up and serve in any capacity that they could. The FFA, however, has been promoting service since its 1928 creation.



Waldron FFA members clean up debris and garbage which line roads in their community.

For the past five years, the Waldron FFA Chapter has been giving of itself in an extraordinary way. Once a year every spring, members of the chapter take a day off from school and head to the streets of small town Waldron and its surrounding area.

"The local junkyard lets us dump all of the trash we pick up there for free," says Sarah Lockwood, secretary of the Waldron FFA Chapter and also Region II President. "We split up into groups and just hit the streets to start picking up," she adds.

But it's not just the chapter members who do the work, parents and members of the community give of their time too to see that when the day is over, the project has been successfully completed.

Chapter advisor for the past ten years, Margo



FFA and community members come together to make the Waldron area shine.

Fether has been the one keeping this act of duty going. Of the three townships involved in the cleanup, one actually volunteers to pay the chapter for the hard work they put into the project because they want them to stay on the job year after year. Despite this,

Mrs. Fether holds strong to the fact that the money doesn't matter. "That's not what it's about," she explains.

The kind of selflessness that the Waldron FFA shows is the kind that makes people in our communities across the nation look towards the FFA as a symbol of committed service and dedication to the betterment of their surrounded environments. ♪

#### Fast Facts

It takes more than 500,000 trees to make the newspapers Americans read on one Sunday

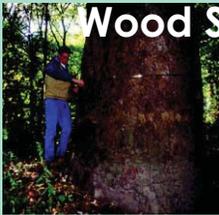
Producing a recycled aluminum can takes only 5% of the energy required to make a new one

A plastic cup can take 50-80 years to decompose

We throw away more than 160 million tons of solid waste each year in the United States

Special fleece-like fabric can be made out of recycled plastic bottles

like biochemis-  
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## Wood Scientist

Wood scientists and technologists expertly convert wood to wood products—a process that takes very little energy. Wood scientists can work in manufacturing, marketing, technical service or research.

Wood scientists and technologists in manufacturing can work in

product or process development, quality control, production control or management.

To be a wood scientist, you need a bachelor's degree in wood science and technology. In college, take courses in chemistry, physics, mathematics, economics, wood anatomy, wood structure, product manufacture, wood design, statistics, marketing and business administration.

For more education and career information, check out: [www.for.msu.edu/](http://www.for.msu.edu/)

# Member Highlights

By: Amanda Lee, Past State Officer



Sarah McCurley  
BACC

## Region 1: Sarah McCurley BACC

Raising beef, sheep and swine for the Branch County Fair is an activity that Sarah McCurley always looks forward to. Sarah currently serves as the chapter president and the 2004-2005 Region I President.

Sarah received her first calf in 1996. Both her father and mother raised cattle as kids, so they decided to buy a calf for her. Sarah said, "My SAE has taught me tons of responsibility and how to be prepared for anything. I am always willing to take on something new."

Sarah has a daily routine. "I am lucky my dad does chores for me in the mornings so I don't have to get up early. After I get home from school, I brush and walk the animals for exercise as well as feed and water them," said Sarah.

Sarah joined the FFA because her friend's sister is a former member. The first activity she participated in was Greenhand Conduct of Meetings.

Sarah received the Outstanding Junior Award, placed fifth in the state Agricultural Issues Career Development Event and was in the top ten for National Livestock Judging.

After graduation from high school, Sarah plans to attend a community college and then transfer to Michigan State University to study equine science. ☺



Jamie Buechele  
Blissfield

## Region 2: Jamie Buechele Blissfield

As a child Jamie Buechele remembers visiting her grandmother's village flower shop. After Jamie joined the FFA, she decided to make cut flower production part of her SAE. Jamie also raises dairy feeder calves, feeder hogs and chickens all of which she exhibits at the Lenawee County Fair.

Now Jamie's mother and aunt are in the contemporary flower business. They have a greenhouse in Jamie's backyard. During the summer, Jamie helps with planting, delivering and watering. Jamie said, "I have learned customer service skills. I have also learned to interact with and accept customers and no matter what put on a happy face."

Jamie joined the FFA her freshman year in high school. She said, "FFA has taught me many skills, such as team interacting, speech writing and talking to people. It has taught me to accept people for who they are." She currently serves as her chapter president.

After graduating from high school in 2005, Jamie plans to attend Western or California State University to study theater, music or performing arts. ☺

## Region 3: Jennifer Jacobs Chesaning

Since Jennifer Jacobs was seven years old, she has been showing Jersey Dairy Cattle. Jennifer shows her Jersey Cows at the Shiawassee County Fair and the Michigan State Fair. She also shows Hampshire cross market lambs at the Saginaw County Fair.

Jennifer said, "My SAE has taught me a lot of responsibility. I've learned that having market lambs takes a lot of patience because sometimes they just don't do what you want. I've learned that it takes a lot of hard work to raise animals."

"I began raising market lambs after I joined FFA. My grandparents always told me stories about the lambs they use to have, so I wanted to start a market lamb project," explained Jennifer.

Jennifer said, "The FFA has taught me that there is more to life than just going to college and getting a good job." It has shown Jamie that throughout life, there will always be a need for hard work and dedication.

Jennifer was chosen as her Chapter Star Greenhand. She has received a state proficiency award in dairy production. Jennifer has attended the national FFA convention and the state FFA convention.

After graduating from high school, Jennifer plans to join the Army. ☺

FFA NEW HORIZONS



Jennifer Jacobs  
Chesaning

## Region 4: Caite Lyon

Mason

Growing up on her family's horse farm, Caite Lyon began a SAE project in Equine. She currently has seven horses and enjoys showing them in gymecota (speed & action).

Caite participates in flag events, barrel racing and pole bending. She shows at the Ingham County Fair each summer.

Caite said, "I have learned many things from my SAE through hard work. I am responsible for feeding before and after school. I have learned the proper grooming techniques and how to handle an animal that is much larger than me! I have to manage my money with tack and show fees or else I can't afford my animals."

Caite's father showed horses, so ever since Caite can remember, there has been horses at her house.

Caite first became involved with the FFA because of her friends. She said, "I have learned how to run maple syrup lines and how to meet new people."

After graduation from high school in 2006, Caite hopes to attend Michigan State University to study Veterinary Medicine. ☺

## Region 5: Joel Arends

Ravenna

Joel Arends from the Ravenna FFA Chapter is no stranger to agriculture. Joel currently owns 13 breeding ewes of which he raises and sells their lambs in the spring as club lambs. Joel also has shown Angus/Simmental steers for three years.

Joel's father raised sheep when he was younger so naturally Joel started his flock at a young age. Joel explained, "My SAE has taught me how to manage a sheep flock efficiently. Between lambing and breeding seasons, it has taught me to choose the best rams to breed my flock to and how to choose the best lambs to be shown. It has also taught me that feed quality and quantity are very important items to know when raising sheep."

Joel joined FFA after enrolling in an exploration class in middle school, which was taught by his agriscience teacher, Mrs. Block. Mrs. Block said, "Joel is one of the finest FFA members I have worked with. He is a "star" in every sense of the word. His SAE is exemplary and his attitude is top-notch. You won't find a nicer young man."

"The FFA has taught me many useful techniques that help me with my SAE and provide me with knowledge on how to perform safe environmental agriculture practices," said Joel.

After graduating from high school Joel plans to attend Michigan State University and study animal science. ☺

## Region 6: Hannah Buechler

Stephenson

Hannah Buechler, a freshman at Stephenson High School, has been active in the FFA for the past two years. After her mom told her how fun the FFA was, Hannah decided to become a member of the Stephenson FFA Chapter.

Hannah has many SAE projects including raising sheep, horses and hogs and working on her parents' Christmas tree farm. However, her favorite project raising and showing market lambs at the county fair and the Upper Peninsula State Fair, which she has done for the past nine years. Her advisor, Mrs. Wehner, was the first to encourage her to start raising lambs. After winning Grand Champion at the county fair, Hannah was hooked.

Hannah said, "My SAE has taught me to work with others and to keep going and never give up no matter what happens. If you keep trying, something good will always happen."

Each morning Hannah feeds her animals before school. After school, she feeds, waters and walks them.

Hannah has received her Discovery Degree and attended the Michigan State FFA Convention. She served as the 2003-2004 Jr. Secretary and will serve as a junior officer for the up-coming year.

Besides being involved in FFA, Hannah plays basketball each fall. ☺



Caite Lyon  
Mason



Joel Arends  
Ravenna



Hannah Buechler  
Stephenson

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

Email Scott Smalley at [smalle16@msu.edu](mailto:smalle16@msu.edu)

# Say what?

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

Regional Responses to Current Issues

## The question:

What impact will the presidential election have on the agricultural industry?



### Region 1



**Logan Mastbergen**  
Coopersville

It is important to have a president with an agricultural background. This will help when agricultural related bills come forth because the president would have knowledge and be more sympathetic to the agricultural industry. [🔗](#)

### Region 2



**Julie Thelen**  
Saline

The presidential election could decide how much funding will go towards agriculture. The deeper the roots we have in agriculture, the more the United States is able to appreciate all aspects of life. [🔗](#)

### Region 3



**Rosemary Rice**  
North Huron

If the president has a better understanding of what the people in the agriculture industry go through, the industry will do better and prosper. If the president does not understand the problems we are currently facing, the industry may be harmed. [🔗](#)

### Region 4



**Helena VanGilder**  
Webberville

A president with a strong agricultural background will help the agriculture industry more than a president from a non-agriculture background. Someone having an agriculture background is more aware of problems in the industry. [🔗](#)

### Region 5



**Becky Stevens**  
Belding

By having a president without agriculture background, we can be assured that the individual will be aware of problems in the agriculture industry. They would have a personal feeling towards how to produce an action to solve a problem. [🔗](#)

### Region 6



**Katie Beecher**  
Stephenson

The presidential election will affect agriculture in many ways, such as increasing money to FFA chapters and helping agriculture grow in the Upper Peninsula. This would help with forming chapters in the Upper Peninsula. [🔗](#)

## Share & Win!

We appreciate the input students provide for this page. If you would like to submit your thoughts on agriculture, please contact Michigan's FFA State Reporter, Doug Albright at [albrightd@carrs.msu.edu](mailto:albrightd@carrs.msu.edu). So come on and speak your mind, so you can strut your stuff in this stylish FFA t-shirt.



# Kick It Up a Notch

Ready, Set, Go!



## Being a Leader

There are important aspects of being a leader. As a leader, people look up to you for guidance and you are the one who makes the decisions that affect the whole group.

Making sure not to abuse your role as a leader, you can make some great advances toward creating a better and more efficient club, office or group.

There are a few actions that need to be heeded in order to be a good leader.

These actions of leadership are not from Steven Covey, Peter Lowe nor Bill Gates; they are from member just like you.

These leadership actions are

- coordinate
- communicate
- direct
- listen
- challenge and
- mentor

Whether done consciously or unconsciously, we all go through these steps at one time or another in a decision making process.

When we work on developing leadership skills, we must take time to consider each one of these steps and focus on them.

Try using these ideas to implement each of these important steps to leadership. (2)

## Coordinate

Write down what must be done and a plan of action to accomplish it. Think through what the outcome may be and consider the choices. Make a list and examine your strengths and weaknesses.

How can you be an efficient leader by using your strengths? How can you change your weaknesses and turn them into a leadership quality?

By writing down your plans and ideas for the group, you can evaluate them and see how they will be most helpful. You will also be able to discover any problems that might occur with your plans.

Catching problems before you begin can make the execution of the plans much easier. Knowing what you want to do and how you want to do it, makes it much easier to accomplish. (2)

## Communicate

Talk over your ideas with others who may share similar experiences or give you sage advice. Don't forget to get the ideas and thoughts of those involved in your ideas or those whose welfare may be involved.

Input from all members will help to make decisions more beneficial for the whole. By communicating with all members involved, many issues will be addressed, and you will learn the concerns of the other members.

The input of others may be the gems of wisdom you need. (2)

## Direct

Do not confuse this with bossing. Directing is guiding towards positive change. It involves creating change and hopefully change towards positive results.

There are many ways in which you can direct. You need to find the style that best suits you and your group. You need to understand how your fellow members will react to your form of leading, and then find the best style for you and them.

As the leader, you need to encourage and support innovations for your group. Encourage people to act on ideas they are willing to commit to accomplishing themselves. (2)

## Listen

Listen impartially to the ideas and thoughts of others. Other people's thoughts may be very valuable. Once an idea is put into motion, there are many ways to reach the final result.

Delegate members who are closest to the issue at hand to implement decisions regarding the issue. Give those involved in the situation some flexibility to act the way they feel is most beneficial for the issue.

By allowing members to act on issues close to them, you give them a sense of respect, rather than degrading them for making mistakes or for doing things differently than you would do. It is also very important to give credit where it is deserved. (2)

## Challenge

Ask questions without showing immediate emotion. A challenge to an idea is more easily explained if immediate emotion is not evident.

In many cases others can discover something that you do not see and is very helpful to your issue. If you are impatient and jump past things and demand too much, you will miss small kinks that might develop.

It is very hard in the beginning to gain the trust and respect of your other members. By showing your support and encouragement, you will create the best atmosphere for productivity. (2)

## Mentor

Help others achieve their goals. By taking the time and energy to teach, help and encourage others, you leave an imprint on them.

You have helped them develop into a more efficient and knowledgeable person who will in turn improve the group. The best mark of a leader is the trail of those they have mentored.

As the leader in you develops and meets the leader in me, together we can grow, and follow our dreams.

Being a leader offers many challenging and rewarding experiences. By developing your leadership skills, you will grow into a more confident and self-assured person. (2)



# ALUMNI in Action

## National Convention Administrator Trip

The Michigan FFA Alumni Association will once again conduct a National FFA Convention school administrator's field trip.

The trip is targeted at high school administrators, school board members and counselors who could assist their local FFA programs after gaining a better understanding of the organization.

The trip provides participants the opportunity to visit with Michigan State Agricultural Education Staff,

FFA Alumni members, state FFA officers and students from their FFA chapters. In addition, they are able to participate firsthand in the National FFA Convention.

In the past, participants experience an overwhelming amount of excitement and gain an increased appreciation for agricultural education and FFA.

This year the trip will run from October 28 through October 30. Registration is due approximately one month

before the trip, and statewide participation is limited to about 20 people.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$500 per person. Registration information can be found on the Michigan FFA Alumni website at <http://www.michiganffa.com/>

**Wearing the blue and gold is not a requirement to be an Alumni Member!**

Are you a member of the FFA Alumni? If not, here's your

chance. Any person who supports the FFA organization is eligible for membership, whether you

were an FFA member 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 the FFA Alumni at (517) 323-7000, ext. 3234 ☎

## 2004 American Degree Recipients

The American FFA Degree is the highest level that can be achieved as an FFA member. This final step in the FFA Degree system encourages students to grow and achieve personally toward establishing themselves in an agricultural career. Attaining the American FFA Degree requires a solid commitment to agriculture and FFA.

### American Degree Recipients

Jerry Birchmeier, New Lothrop  
Amy Birkmeier, New Lothrop  
Kimberly Black, Montague  
Heather Blough, Lowell  
Dustin Boehmer, Olivet  
Becky Bossard, Lowell  
Jeremiah Buchanan, Breckenridge  
Katelyn Bush, Lowell  
Quint Butters, Homer  
Kathryn Campbell, Homer  
Mayla Campbell, Homer  
Nathaniel Canfield, Lowell  
Katie Clements, Lowell  
Angela DeWitt, Ravenna  
Elizabeth Eadie, Ravenna  
Seith Earl, BACC  
Lacey Emerick, Mason

Duke Fogle, Mason  
Kevin Forester, Webberville  
Aaron Foutain, Dansville  
Kristopher Fry, Mason  
Luke Gentz, Centreville  
Brandon Gessler, Lowell  
Jeremy Gaspie, Springport  
Lanore Green, Homer  
Cynthia Groenink, Coopersville  
Katie Grundemann, Homer  
Beth Hammond, Saline  
Bryan Heffron, Belding  
Robert Hulst, Breckenridge  
Raymond Hummel, Olivet  
Ryan Hutchinson, Perry-Marice  
Alysa Isley, Blissfield  
Jason Jaekel, Montague  
Natalie Kent, Lowell  
Leann Karoleski, North Huron  
Teresa Leasure, Lowell  
Amanda Lee, Laingsburg  
Lisa Leny, Bronson  
Mathew Lindsey, BACC  
Charity Little, Breckenridge  
Stevie Malone, Montague  
Katie Marchal, Blissfield  
Ryan McBride, Lakers  
Matthew McDonald, Ithaca  
Joel Merchant, Ithaca  
Randle Miller, Olivet  
Ryan Miller, Olivet  
Deanna Nelson, Montague  
Matthew Oesch, Lowell  
Ruthanne Oesch, Lowell

Phillip Oginsky, New Lothrop  
Tim Osantowski, Sanilac  
Brittany Owens, Marshall  
Courtney Perkins, Lowell  
Ryan Peterson, Cassopolis  
Scott Piepkow, Olivet  
Bryan Posthumus, Lowell  
Rebekah Preston, BACC  
Ryan Quaderer, New Lothrop  
Brian Rasch, Lowell  
Laura Rasch, Lowell  
Michael Redman, St. Louis  
Dustin Reetz, Ogemaw Heights  
Danyelle Rodgers, BACC  
Ike Rosebrough, Ogemaw Heights  
Jacob Roslund, St. Louis  
Kalin Roslund, Ithaca  
Joseph Sanchez, Perry-Marice  
Greg Sandford, Springport  
Caleb Schaeffer, Alma  
Ashley Schewe, BACC  
Pieter Seme, Lowell  
Michael Sheridan, Mason  
Crystal Shumaker, Olivet  
Mackenzie Smith, Montague  
Stephanie Smith, Camden-Frontier  
Deborah Streeter, Byron  
Deanne Sweeney, Ubly  
Scott Thomas, Sanilac  
Amber Tubergen, Ionia  
Benjamin Vainner, BACC  
Katelyn Van Camp, Byron  
Ryan Vigniski, North Huron  
Lyndsey Waller, Bronson

Michelle Warczinsky, Sanilac  
Matt Wilkins, Corunna  
Jim Williams, Byron  
Joe Zdunic, Corunna  
Jamie Zenker, Olivet  
Todd Zenker, Olivet  
Rodney Zick, Port Hope  
Brian Zook, Lowell  
Tim Zook, Lowell

### Honorary American Degree Recipients

Senator Ron Jelinek - Michigan State Senator & Former Agriscience Teacher

Dr. David Krueger, Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

Mr. Larry Meyer, Chairman & CEO, Michigan Retailers Association

Dr. Delbert Mokma, Professor Michigan State University

Mr. Comer Skinner, Perrigo Company Outlet Store Manager

Mr. Jack Warren, Retired, Senior Manager

# Michigan's National Finalists

The national FFA convention is by far the premier FFA event that celebrates the continued effort of FFA members from across the country to develop their potential for premiere leadership, personal growth and career success.

Seven Michigan FFA members and 20 FFA chapters have been selected as national finalists and will represent the state association at the 77th National FFA Convention, October 27-30th in Louisville, Kentucky. The following FFA members and chapters have been recognized for outstanding achievement on the national level.

## Star In Agriscience

*Jeremy Gaspie*, Springport  
(National Finalist)

## FFA Proficiency Awards

*Agricultural Mechanics*  
Tim Zook, Lowell

*Ag Sales - Entrepreneurship*  
Alicia Lauren First, Dowagiac

*Ag Sales - Placement*  
Caleb Schaeffer, Alma

*Agricultural Services*  
Braidie Butters, Homer  
(National Finalist)

*Aquaculture*  
Amanda Mengel, Dowagiac

*Beef Production*  
Evan Boehmer, Olivet

*Dairy Production - Entrep.*  
Mary TenBrink, Coopersville

*Dairy Production - Placement*  
Kristopher Fry, Mason

*Diversified Ag Production*  
C. Pete Bush, Saint Louis  
(National Finalist)

*Diversified Crop Production*  
Nathan Baker, Waldron  
(National Finalist)

*Diversified Horticulture*  
William Groenink, Coopersville

*Diversified Livestock -Entrep.*  
Anthony Karhoff, Corunna

*Diversified Livestock - Place.*  
Aaron Preston, BACC

*Equine Science - Entrep.*  
Jennifer Brorson, Sanilac

*Equine Science - Placement*  
Mackenzie Smith, Montague

*Forage Production*  
Jason Maust, Lakers

*Fruit Production*  
Laura Rasch, Lowell

*Grain Production - Entrep.*  
Jordan Pincik, Corunna

*Home/Community Development*  
Stacie Schultz, Montague

*Landscape Management*  
Carrie Umlauf,  
Oakland Tech-Southwest

*Nursery Operations*  
Kristopher Willis, Sanilac

*Outdoor Recreation*  
Levi Martindale, Corunna

*Sheep Production*  
Samantha Ross, Saint Louis

*Small Animal Production*  
Katie Licht, Laker

*Specialty Animal Production*  
Lindsey Harmon, Lapeer County

*Specialty Crop Production*  
Sara Stecker,  
Unionville-Sebewaing

*Swine Production-Entrep.*  
Doug Albright, BACC

*Turf Grass Management*  
Jacob Riske, Springport

*Vegetable Production*  
Rebecca Titus, Dansville  
(National Finalist)

## National Chapter Award

Byron, Corunna, Sanilac,  
Springport, Lapeer County  
Ed-Tech, Lowell, Olivet,  
Unionville-Sebewaing Area,  
Bronson and Montague.

The Byron and Corunna FFA Chapters have been selected to present in the National FFA Model of Innovation Program.

## Career Development Events

*Ag Communications*  
Fremont

*Ag Issues Forum*  
Breckenridge

*Ag Mechanics*  
Lapeer PM

*Ag Sales*  
Branch Area Career Center

*Agronomy*  
Laker

*Creed Speaking*  
CourtneyNeubauer, Montague

*Dairy Cattle Evaluation*  
Lowell

*Dairy Cattle Handler's*  
Greta Koebel, River Valley

*Dairy Foods*  
Corunna

*Environmental & Natural Resources*  
Laker

*Extemporaneous Public Speaking*  
Johnny Verhaar, Laker

*Farm Business Management*  
Perry-Morrice

*Floriculture*  
Lapeer AM

*Food Science & Technology*  
Perry-Morrice

*Forestry*  
Mason

*Horse Evaluation*  
Lowell

*Job Interview*  
Julie Thelen, Sanilac

*Livestock Evaluation*  
Sanilac

*Marketing Plan*  
Lowell

*Meats Evaluation/Technology*  
Bronson

*Nursery/Landscape*  
Lapeer AM

*Parliamentary Procedure*  
Centreville

*Poultry Evaluation*  
Laker

*Prepared Public Speaking*  
Aaron Preston, BACC

## National FFA Band

Caitlin Dickerson, Sand Creek  
Gabriel Holdwick, Harbor Beach  
Jennifer Johnston, Hastings  
Michael Koglin, Ubly  
April Mellgren, Stephenson  
Paul Mellgren, Stephenson  
Erika Schroeder, Hastings

## National Chorus

Caitlin Lorenc, Benzie Central  
Haley Smith, Bronson



Ready, Set, Go!

Congratulations and best of luck to Michigan FFA members as they Kick it Up A Notch for the national convention.

For more information regarding the 77th National Convention check out:  
<http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html>

## FFA members preparing for their future in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources



Miranda Smith, Horticulture • Mallory Koglin, Agribusiness Management  
Amanda Sloan, Agriscience Education • Ryan Peterson, Agricultural Engineering  
Ryan Kramer, ANR Communications • Robert Kirkpatrick, Agriscience Education • Rachel Dennis, ANR Communications

Whole new fields of expertise in agriculture and natural resources are emerging. Today, new career opportunities are available in areas as diverse as animal genetics, food packaging and marketing.

## The MSU College of Agriculture

A recent study forecasts that the number of job openings in the agriculture and natural resource industry will exceed the number of qualified graduates every year through 2005.

## and Natural Resources

Thus, the ANR industry is looking for skilled graduates to generate the value-added products that contribute to our country's growth. It needs trained professionals to take on the challenges of tomorrow.

## has its sights set on the future.

In return, the ANR industry offers an exceptional lineup of rewarding and challenging careers. In fact, dynamic new opportunities are emerging in all sectors of the industry.

## Your future.

Discover the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University, and acquire the tools you need to help make the best decisions for your future.



Interested in expanding your horizons, check out: <http://www.canr.msu.edu/dept.htm>