

The Michigan FFA Creed



Winter 2014



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L to R: Gaige Tucker, Region II State Vice President; Brandon Borke, Region VI State Vice President; Ken VandenBout III, State Secretary; Lance Fowler, Region III State Vice President; Cameron Hayden, Region I State Vice President; 2nd row- Ethan Haywood, State Vice President; Sam Ellison Region V State Vice President; Kim Forbush, State Sentinel; Dalton Hard, State Treasurer, Front Row- Alexandria Schut, State President; Emma Blough, State Reporter; Emily House, Region IV State Vice President

104 Days of Summer

By: Lance Fowler
Region III Vice President

There are 104 days of summer vacation and the Michigan FFA Officer Team definitely found a good way to spend it. This summer our team set out on many different adventures to help prepare us for the upcoming year as state officers. These opportunities our team experienced showed us what our year of service is going to be all about.

Before we officially became officers we had to be trained and learned the duties of a state officer through two leadership conferences. The first conference was Blast Off, held in Lansing, MI. During this week it was just the 12 of us coming closer as a team and developing what our individual goals are over the next year. Two weeks after that the team, Mr. Dave Wyrick (Michigan FFA State Executive Secretary), and Michelle Sidel (Michigan FFA Project Assistant) traveled over 14 hours to Bismarck, Arkansas for the National Leadership Conference for State Officers with five other state officer teams. Throughout this conference our team's main focus was "how can we use our skills and our resources to make an impact in our state association." Then the team was put to the test by hosting the State Leadership Conference for Chapter Officers. This year we focused on



how to have a successful Program of Activities and how to fill out the National Chapter Award Application.



Our final adventure of the summer was the Business and Industry Tour sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Potato Industry Commission. This year we went to the region one area to explore

different parts of our very diverse state. Participating organizations included DeGrandchamp Farms of South Haven; High Acres Fruit of Hartford; Honee Bear Canning in Lawton; Berrybrook Farms of Dowagiac; Steve Rigoni of Paw Paw; Techmark of East Lansing; Victory Farms in Hudsonville; and Walther Farms in Three Rivers. The team also visited the Van Buren County Farm Bureau office and enjoyed dinner at Food Dance in Kalamazoo that was sponsored by Ag1 Source. At the end of this tour, our team saw how impacting, enlightening, and what huge opportunity it is to be involved in the agriculture industry.

These 104 days of summer vacation have boldly been a great way to start our year as state officers. We are all blessed and thrilled to see what this year has in store for us.

The Hope of Belize

Hope (n): *the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best*

Hope is the base of all things. We hope for many things throughout our lifetime. Hope for a quality education. Hope for a good job. Hope for a loving family. Hope to win our respective leadership contest. Hope to graduate in the top of our class. The list goes on and on- our hopes are what drive us to our dreams or even simply to be the best version of ourselves.

During my time at Michigan State University it was my hope to take part in a study abroad program, one that would allow me to utilize my passions and values. Upon being accepted into the Spartans Without Borders Program (SWOB) to Belize, a whole new set of hopes came up.

Hope there would be air conditioning, somewhere....

Hope to not have any encounters with the many bugs in Belize.

Hope to not forget my malaria medication.

Hope to get along with my fellow travelers.

Hope to embrace another culture and their people.

Hope to be fulfilled by service bigger than myself.

May 6, 2014 at 4:00 a.m. I arrived at Flint International Airport with my ten fellow travelers, only to have all my hopes, worries and apprehensions of this trip become nonexistent. Belize was my opportunity to

let life happen as it was meant to happen without restraints, hesitation or expectation.

My first three days were spent with a woman's resource center, Mary Open Doors, which offers technical trainings, empowerment and resources for women in Belize. While we had multiple groups represented at our training sessions, the Women Empowering Other Women group had the largest representation as well as organizational focus. While getting to know all the women, one in particular expressed how difficult it was to be in attendance because she had to leave her youngest daughter in the care of someone her daughter wasn't comfortable with, nor could her family afford. With great encouragement and support from the other ladies, Miss Leticia decided the following days she would bring her daughter along.

Meet LaShaun.

She is a three-year-old beauty, who loves copious amounts of watermelon, her mother, exploring, laughing and when she gets to know you- holding your hand. In order to fully understand why LaShaun serves

as a symbol of hope in Belize, let me recap a few things I learned while working with the Women Empowering Other Women. During our morning talks before sessions started the women shared with us that, women take



on a subservient role in society. Women traditionally stay home, take care of the children, do household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, caring for the children and grocery shopping. Women have very few social interactions with other women unless there is a town function such as a holiday. We were told that until about ten years ago, women weren't considered part of the workforce; however, were expected to contribute to the household income. Some found jobs while others developed skills in order to sell goods like soaps, cakes, cupcakes or jewelry or services such as decorating or cosmetology. In some families, women do not know their husband's income; only that they must accept that they got \$50 a week for groceries for a family of four or more, while her husband does as he pleases with the rest of the money, often spending it on his leisure activities that did not serve or benefit their family.

Upon learning about the daily roles of women in Belize and their social status, I reflected on my "hopes" which I found were really, fears.

Selfish. Petty. Miniscule.

In the grand scheme of life, my fears for this trip were unparalleled to the hopes that Belizean women have. While I was hoping to not forget my malaria medicine, some of these women are fighting life threatening diseases, only hoping God would bless them another day with their family. I feared to fit into a culture vastly different than mine, while these women hope to embrace anyone with open arms and hearts. I hoped to find service in something bigger than myself, while these women hope to enhance their skills to provide a hopeful future for their families.

I find myself being truly hopeful for the future of Belizean women, but more importantly the next generation of women, like LaShaun. My "hopes" stated previously are nothing compared to the new hope that I find in LaShaun. My biggest hope is that Miss LaShaun will realize her significance in the world. I hope her parents raise her to be strong willed, determined and fearless. That she receives an education that will allow her to see the world differently and make a difference in her home and community. That her companion respects her, loves her, cares for her and always has her best interests at heart and that she knows the difference if those general needs are not upheld. Lastly, that she will never settle because someone told her she can't because she's a woman or that she's not smart enough or even capable.

The only thing greater than fear is hope. Fear drives us to find excuses and be held back from living life without hesitation, but hope is the base of all things. For the women of Belize, LaShaun is hope.



Epidemic Explains Soaring

Bacon.

It's known as the conversation meat that makes vegetarians change their minds. Along with hot dogs, it's usually a toddler's first experience with meat protein. Bacon is one of the oldest processed meats in history and today it is added to almost everything whether it's pizza, a burger, a Cobb salad or even a bowl of vanilla ice cream. To say that Americans love bacon is an understatement, in fact the American Meat Institute calculated refrigerated bacon as a \$2.1 billion dollar industry. But if you've browsed the meat department



at your local grocery store lately, you may have noticed that pork prices, whether you're looking at bacon, pork chops or ham, have skyrocketed to astronomical prices over the past year. Basic economics shows us that an increase in the price of a food product is usually accredited to either a change in the supply of the product or a change in the demand of the product. So going back to the root question, why has the price of pork products, such as bacon, increased over the past year?

One possible answer is an existing virus that is currently impacting the swine industry; the porcine epidemic



diarrhea virus, or PEDv. PEDv is a production-based coronavirus that causes diarrhea, dehydration and vomiting in all ages of swine, but it is more destructive for young piglets. This contagious virus may be new to the United States' pork industry, but the virus has been found in swine herds around the world for more than thirty years. In fact, the National Pork Board says it was first recognized in England in 1971. Since its arrival to the United States in May 2013, the virus has effected more than 5,000 farms in 42 states.

So why is PEDv a big deal? How is this disease causing an increasing in the price of pork in our grocery stores? Livestock producers deal with viruses and diseases quite often, but in most cases, farmers are able to treat sick animals with antibiotics, or administer vaccines to stop the disease or virus from spreading to other animals. This is why PEDv has been receiving media attention within our industry over the past year. In most cases, this virus is terminal; in fact on a sow farm, there is a nearly 100 percent mortality rate for pigs less than

Swine Prices

By: Alan Green
Past State Officer

seven days old that contract the virus. With less piglets to raise, farmers aren't able to sell as many pigs on the market, leading to a lower supply of pork products for consumers to purchase. Because there is a smaller supply available, the price you pay for pork at the grocery store increases. The aftermath of PEDv isn't just affecting



consumers either. According to Dale Polson, a veterinarian for Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmics, seven million piglets have been killed because of this virus. If each piglet was valued as little as \$50 each, the total industry economic loss is at least \$350 million. For farmers, this can be the difference between continuing their operation or leaving the industry for good.

According to scientists and agricultural economists, there's no sign of this virus fading away anytime soon either. According to Dr. Bill Hollis, a veterinarian for Carthage Veterinary Services and Professional Swine Management,

approximately half of the industry has been exposed to this virus. The rate of new outbreaks has dropped considerably, but there is still activity and there is still risk. On a positive note, the industry is working hard to create and distribute a vaccine that will hopefully bring new hope to pork producers across the country. In September, the United States Department of Agriculture granted Zoetis, a company that creates livestock medicines and vaccines, a conditional license for a vaccine to fight the virus. The company's vaccine is given as a two-millimeter intramuscular injection to sows or gilts before farrowing. Neither the price nor the release date has been announced at this time.

If you live or work on a swine farm, the most important step to preventing PEDv from making an appearance in your herd is simply to practice proper biosecurity protocols at both the farm level and during transportation. Scientists suggest that producers and workers work closely with veterinarians to implement biosecurity measures and nutritional management programs to strengthen the pigs' immunity and disease defenses. Properly cleaning pens with disinfectants and then heating and drying helps to kill and prevent the disease. For more information on biosecurity and the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus, visit pork.org or contact your local veterinarian for more details.

Utilizing Farm Bureau

Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) is proud to support the premier leadership, personal growth and career success of the Michigan FFA Association's nearly 6,500 members. With a shared vision, MFB and FFA work together to strengthen the state's agriculture industry by helping young people acquire the skills necessary to become the next generation of ag leaders. You are the future of Michigan's agriculture industry. Along with fellow FFA members, you will one day lead the food and farm sector of our nation's economy. Are you prepared? Will you be ready?

Essential Skills for Success-

Cultivating the leadership skills necessary to lead agriculture into the future is at the heart the National FFA Organization.

Career Development Events help develop critical thinking, communication and job market skills to help you stand out among competitors for internships and jobs.

The FFA discussion meet allows you to converse over a preselected topic with constructive criticism and cooperation while exchanging ideas and information to solve a problem. Leadership contests will test your skills in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, agricultural issue presentations, job interview and agriculture industry knowledge either individually or as a team. Some contests also test improvisation and response skills. True to its agricultural heritage, the broiler contest gives you the opportunity to raise chickens in a competitive setting.

At the conclusion of the contest, competitors submit three birds for judging based on weight, uniformity and conformation. Participants are also judged on questions, flock photographs and a project write-up. The agriculture skills contests are related more to your supervised agricultural experience.



The contests focus on projects of interest, such as communications, mechanics, sales, crops, dairy, floriculture, crop production, tractor driving and more.

Resources-

Use your County Farm Bureau as a resource! Did you know your local county Farm Bureau is packed full of former FFA members? Not only do you have former, experienced members, you also have top-notch industry professionals waiting for you to reach out. As you prepare for the Career Development Events, remember to utilize you county Farm Bureau volunteers. Work with them to arrange practice and feedback sessions for you and fellow FFA members. The volunteers involved with your local county Farm Bureau are knowledgeable, experienced farmers and agribusiness professionals. They work hard every day to share the story of agriculture with the public and advocate for important issues facing the industry. They want to see you and your chapter succeed!

To learn more about how you and your FFA chapter can get involved with Farm Bureau, contact your county Farm Bureau office; click the "Counties" link on the MFB website, www.michfb.com, for contact information.



Deb Schmucker (left) of the Michigan Farm Bureau recognizes Alexandria Schut (r) as the state winner in the 2013 Michigan FFA Discussion Meet sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau Young Farmers Committee at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids.



***Contact your local
Michigan Farm
Bureau Agent!***

Michigan Wins the Gold

By: Alexandria Schut
State President

Recently being honored as the winner of American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) Agriculture in a Growing World essay contest was extremely exciting. Sponsored by AFBF's Foundation for Agriculture in partnership with the Nutrients for Life Foundation, the contest was based on Leon Hesser's biography of Dr. Norman Borlaug, The Man Who Fed the World. Hesser's book profiles the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, credited with saving hundreds of millions of lives from starvation. Essay contestants were challenged to parallel Borlaug's themes in addressing modern agricultural technologies and related social, political or environmental issues.



Provided is a snippet of my favorite part of the essay that calls each and every one of us to action: "Progressive agriculturists are faced with many decisions in order to promote their efforts. Perhaps the best summation of the opportunity for sustainable agriculture in the future can be described as "triple bottom line" agriculture in which conservation is stressed which includes being cooperative with neighbors while maintaining a profitable business. Farmers across the world need to adopt sustainable farming techniques that will increase production, the U.S. needs to heavily invest in sustainable agriculture research and most importantly to fight this invading epidemic, every country, agricultural scientist and farmer must come to the table.

Our belief, as agriculturists, in the future of agriculture needs to be evident through our actions. Individually, we have one life span to make a difference in the lives of hungry, dying people. If you are fortunate enough to go home with food in the pantry, ask yourself, how you will make your difference?" Caledonia, North Huron and Centreville High Schools received copies of Hesser's book and AFBF classroom curricula for use in the 2012-13 school year. Agriscience teachers applied for the grants and submitted their students' four page entries in the essay contest. As the first Michigan winner of this contest, I will have an expense paid trip to the AFBF Conference in early January where I will be honored during a flapjack breakfast. A video will be played displaying my agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor, Dr. John Schut, my inspiration and little sister, Lillian, as well as my perspective on the importance of the essay competition. Additionally, I have received scholarship awards. Other finalists included Haden Meagher of Montana and Kirsten Forester of Idaho.

I was intrigued that one man who set his mind to a task was able to change the face of production agriculture which precisely describes why I entered the contest. I was also able to write an essay that began with my favorite FFA line: I believe in the future of agriculture. This contest gives agriculture students inspiration by awarding them, yet challenging them to use skills to not only feed the world, but also feed the hearts and minds of those in their home, school and community with a knowledge of and passion for the agriculture industry. The AFBF recognizes the need for competent leaders to feed the future generations.

A Few of Michigan's Best

2014 National Chapter Awards

Alma H.S FFA Three Star
Breckenridge H.S FFA Two Star
Byron H.S FFA Three Star
Caledonia H.S FFA Three Star
Corunna H.S FFA Three Star
Dundee H.S FFA Two Star
Lapeer County FFA AM Three Star
Montague H.S FFA Three Star
Sanilac Career Center FFA Two Star
Springport H.S FFA Three Star
Webberville H.S FFA Three Star

2014 American Degree Recipients

Megan Abbott	Heather Koch
Timothy Abbott	Jason Krepps
Shelby Anderson	Nathan F. Krohn
Amber Ash	Darcy Lipskey
Laryssa C. Bates	Zach Martyn
Dan Beers	Patrick Merchant
Wynne Blackmer	Emily Middleton
Jennifer Booms	Elizabeth Miller
Nicole B. Booms	Elaine Minnard
Brandon E. Borke	AnnaBeth Musolf
Andrea Borup	Alicia K. Neveau
Jonathan C. Bulmon	Zachary Parent
Kalvin Canfield	Jessica J. Pell
Brad Cole	Jordan Phillips
Katie Collier	Amber N. Pickard
Mandie Collier	William Poet
Nate Curl	Taylor Elaine Potts
Ashley Deachin	Tyler Prater
Jacqueline DeClerg	Abigail Recker
Nathan Dohr	Hannah Reeves
Alycia Drwencke	Sam Reeves
Sara Dwyer	Aaron Schott Richard
Amber Eagling	Daniel J. Ringkvist
Martin Fabrik	Rebecca Ringle
Rebecca Flynn	Keeley Rosel
Lance A. Fowler	Jessica Sawvel
Nathan Frahm	Walter Schreiner III
Alyssa Gehring	Abigail Schreur
Alan Green	Jessica Sherwood
Erica Gremel	Michelle Smith
Jennifer Hagen	Danielle Marie Stewart
Nick Hagen	Melinda Sweeney
Juliann Handziak	Adam Thomas
Christina Hehl	Mark Trowbridge Jr.
Emily Helsen	Kenneth Dale VandenBout III
Lexa Hettinger	Nicholas D. Verbanic
Amanda Higbee	Nick Verhaar
Kathrine Houlihan	Melissa Vogel
Hunter Hrabal	Steven Weiss
Teasha Johnson	David Whaley
Ellie Karweik	Heather Wise
Laura Kelly	Carmen Zwemmer

2014 National Proficiency Awards

Emily House- Bronze
Emmalee Blough- Bronze
Kelly Elsass- Bronze
Wyatt Gordon- Bronze
Cameron Hayden- Bronze
Cameron McConnachie- Bronze
Heather Gentner- Bronze
Alex Payne- Bronze
Jacob Low- Bronze
Grace Shields- Bronze
Benjamin Thomas Hruby- Bronze

Katelyn Walters- Silver
Andrew Ropp- Silver
Teryan Block- Silver
Dalton Hard- Silver
Emily Erffmeyer- Silver

Courtney Souva- Gold
Ethan Haywood- Gold
Amber Pickard- Gold
Samantha Ludlam- Gold
Daniel Jacob Flynn- Gold

impact ^{advocate} service ^{youth}
le ^{community} mentoreducation ^{support}
e ^{agriculture} Invest F F A
o ^{volunteer} development
o ^{success}
A L U M N I



Michigan
FFA
Alumni

In communities across the state, FFA alumni members are coaching, mentoring, fundraising and preparing the next generation of leaders and agriculturalists.

Join them. No jacket required.

For more information on creating your own alumni affiliate or to join one already established, contact alumni@michiganffa.org.



Tell the Country why Michigan FFA and Agricultural Education is the world's Premier Agricultural Leadership Organization

Calling all FFA members! In an effort to spread awareness for FFA and Agricultural Education, the Michigan FFA Foundation is looking for any and all ideas for a public awareness campaign. Think back to the internet and social media challenges, slogan campaigns, or other creative awareness programs you have seen, and send an example of a way you or your chapter would help us promote our organization.

The chapter whose outstanding idea is selected by Michigan FFA leadership will receive an ice-cream social at your school compliments of the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Submit your ideas for an FFA and Agricultural Education awareness program to the Michigan FFA Foundation by February 20, 2015.



For more information contact the Michigan FFA Foundation.

Email your idea and example to:
foundation@michiganffa.org

State Officer Stats



Ethan Haywood

State Vice President

Chapter: Hastings

College: Michigan State University

SAE: Diversified Ag Production

Theme song: "Harvest Time"

Favorites:

Sport: Soccer and Wrestling

Musician: Jason Aldean

T.V. show: *Duck Dynasty*

Movie: *Step-Brother*

Candy: M&M's



Dalton Hard

State Treasurer

Chapter: Branch Area Career Center

College: Michigan State University

SAE: Diversified Crop Production

Theme song: "Amarillo Sky"

Favorites:

Sport: Football

Movie: *8 Seconds*

T.V. show: *Big Bang Theory*

Homemade meal: Steak and Potatoes

Candy: Mike and Ikes



Cameron Hayden

Region I State Vice President

Chapter: Cassopolis

College: Lansing Community College

SAE: Diversified Livestock
Production

Theme song: "Carolina"

Favorites:

Sport: Soccer

Musician: Eric Church

T.V. show: *The Voice*

Meal: Mash potatoes

Candy: Licorice



She wants to be a seed salesperson or crop scout.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Institute of
Agricultural Technology

He wants to be an electrical technician.

They'll both do it at Michigan State University's Institute of Agricultural Technology.

**Find out how at
www.iat.msu.edu**



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UNIVERSITY

**College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources**



In the classroom

and on the field



The MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) offers academic options that range from four-year bachelor degrees to two-year certificate programs.

Students apply their interests in the classroom and in the field to gain experience and education for rewarding careers.

Contact the CANR Office of Academic and Student Affairs at 517-355-0234 to schedule your visit to campus to learn what MSU has to offer.

Learn more by visiting www.canr.msu.edu.

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