



Michigan FFA Association

108 Natural Resources Building • East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone (517) 353-9221 • Fax (517) 432-5632
www.michiganffa.com/association

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Marie C. Hruby
Phone: (517) 353-9221

Alexandria Henry Named 2009-2010 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President

EAST LANSING, MI –Alexandria Henry is no stranger to the National FFA Organization. At the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis Indiana, Alex was elected to office. This Alma High School Chapter member from Elwell, Michigan was among six individuals selected from a field of 39 to hold a national office. In addition to being selected as a national officer, Alex was elected on the 40th anniversary of women being allowed into the National FFA Organization. She is also the sixth member and first female from Michigan to hold a national office. Henry is the daughter of Burton and Cheryl Henry, and her father is her FFA advisor.

Fulfilling her position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles, meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience in Japan. Her responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by students running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining why they desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval of convention delegates.

Alex currently attends Michigan State University, with a double major in agricultural communications and agriculture education. While at school, she is a member

of the Leaders in Environmental and Agricultural Fields (LEAF) Club, serves as the Vice President of External Relations on the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Student Senate and participates in her campus Relay for Life event. In 2007, she also served as the President of the Michigan FFA Association.

Throughout her FFA career, Henry has had a variety of supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs. She has raised chickens, lambs and goats; worked in her schools greenhouse and has had internships at the Dow Chemical Company and Michigan Farm Bureau. She also has an extensive list of awards and honors, including being named a state winner and national semi-finalist in the prepared public speaking and extemporaneous speaking career development events (CDE), a state winner in the agricultural communications CDE and being named a National FFA Risk Management Essay Contest Winner.

“Being a national officer isn’t about me. It’s about the students who wear the blue and gold jackets,” said Henry. “My vision is to serve FFA members by helping them discover the courage and confidence to pursue dreams beyond their boundaries.”

The National FFA Organization, formally known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members-all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.-as a part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference of in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of the public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set the direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit [www. ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

###