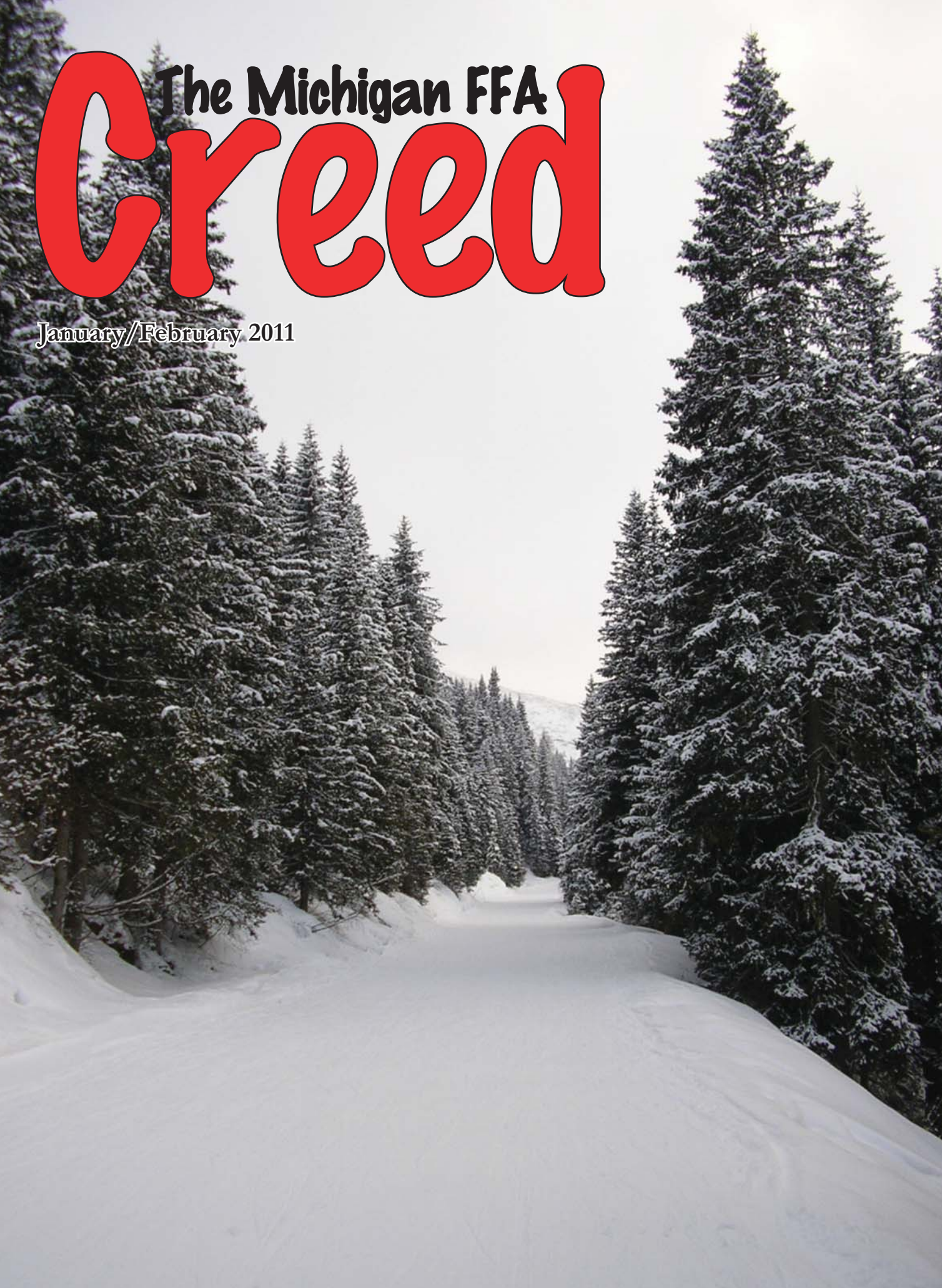


The Michigan FFA Creed

January/February 2011



The Michigan FFA Creed



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C I Believe In...

Read some words of insight about the importance of being optimistic from your State Reporter

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The Michigan FFA will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, marital status, weight, sexual orientation or disability. Any student requiring an accommodation as a result of a disability should contact the chapter advisor to arrange such accommodation.

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I believe in...

The Power of our Actions.

“Actions speak louder than words.” This simple phrase is well known and widely used. The idiom means that what people actually do is more important than what they say.

As FFA members, we are called upon to be servant leaders. This means our natural feeling is to want to serve and to serve first. We must choose to lead at a conscious level. One can say that they want to serve their community, but do they actually take the steps and actions to do so?

Sarah Skinner, the mother of Hopkins FFA Alumni member Comer Skinner, positively influenced the community around her through her actions. Sarah was never an FFA member herself, but was awarded honorary membership for her continuous support of the Hopkins program. Born in Georgia, she brought southern charm to her Michigan neighborhood. Hopkins advisor, Jessica Couch, recounts Sarah opening her home for meetings and activities, donating to the fair booth, baking cookies for FFA trips and attending every banquet. Her love and support for the students and alumni was expressed through her actions. Her home was always open to the members and her presence was never missed at a Hopkins FFA event. Sarah often said that the most important thing of all was to do your best and learn from it.

Hopkins FFA acted on the opportunity to pay tribute to Sarah when she passed away on September 13, 2010. 22 members, clad in official dress, lined the path from the funeral service to the hearse. Once at the cemetery, the members followed the carriage to the gravesite in procession.

“It was truly moving to see her carried through a sea of blue and gold jackets,” says Couch.

To insure that Sarah’s memory and legacy lives on, Hopkins FFA also set up a scholarship in her honor. The scholarship will go to students who exemplify the attitudes and actions of a servant leader in FFA.

The power of Sarah’s actions affected all those who came into contact with her. Her kindness showed through the way she interacted with people and her unending support was illustrated through her generosity to the Hopkins FFA chapter. FFA members chose to use their actions positively when it came time to give back to the woman who had impacted their lives.

FFA members are viewed as servant leaders through their willingness to serve and the actions they take to do so. I believe our actions affect the world around us, and that is power. How will you use this power? What actions will you take to positively impact the community around you?

Dates to Remember...

January

- 5 Star Candidate Interviews
- 8 Regional Update - Please bring the following to the Scoring: State FFA Degree Applications, Outstanding Junior Applications, Agriculture Proficiency Award Applications (Proficiency Award Applications received after this date will not be considered), Agri-Entrepreneurship Award Applications, State Officer Applications, Delegate and Courtesy Corps Certification Form, Talent Practice Session Applications, and State FFA Band & Choir Applications
- 21 District Leadership Contest entries due to chairs
- 24 The following items are due to the State FFA Office: National Chapter Award Applications Form I and II (must be in the state office by this date as late applications will not be considered), and Agriscience Student Recognition Application.

February

- 1 The following items are due to the State FFA Office: FFA Scholarship Recognition Applications, Food For America Applications, BOMC Applications
- 2-3 District Leadership Contests
- 10 FFA State Officer Interviews-Regional Level
- 16-17 Regional Leadership Contest
- 18 State Convention Registrations Due
- 18-20 State Officer Interviews-State Level

MEMBER HI

Region 1

ERIC SCOTT

Chapter: Maple Valley FFA
Advisor: Mr. Aaron Saari

Eric Scott, a senior this year at Maple Valley High School, is the 2010-2011 Chapter President of the Maple Valley FFA Chapter. Eric has been involved in many different FFA contests from Job Interview to Tractor Driving. Eric's main SAE is Vegetable Production, where he works on his family's large vegetable garden where they grow pumpkins, squash, raspberries, sweet corn, tomatoes and several other vegetables. Additionally, he raises hogs for the Eaton County Fair and works on his family farm, raising corn, wheat and soybeans. At the 2010 State Convention, Eric received his Outstanding Junior Degree and a Silver Proficiency award in Fruit and Vegetable Production. Within his chapter, Eric has also served as the Chapter Vice President and Treasurer. He has also received the Chapter Star Farmer and Star in Agricultural Placement award. His advisor, Mr. Saari, says, "He is a very dedicated FFA member who serves as a role model for others in his chapter, school and community." Eric plans to pursue a career in the mechanical field.

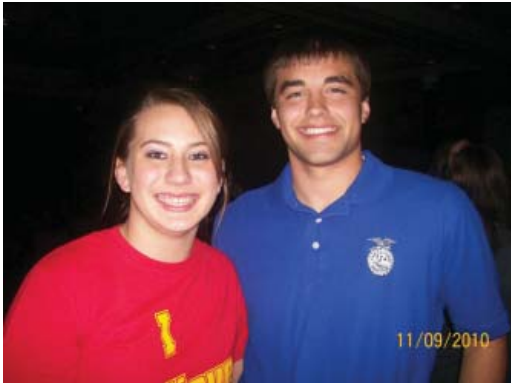


Region 2

KATELYNN BENNETT

Chapter: Camden-Frontier FFA
Advisor: Mr. Nate Gust

Katelynn Bennett is currently a junior at Camden-Frontier High School and has big plans for her school's greenhouse and the small garden at her house. The school greenhouse serves as a source of revenue for the Camden FFA Chapter where they raise and sell marigolds, durniums, and coleus in the spring. Katelynn sees the operation growing this year and has future plans of expansion and hopes for the installation of a hydroponics system that will enable the chapter to grow more plants for their sales. When Katelynn is not in the greenhouse she is busy cheering on the Camden's boys teams and she also participates in volleyball and track. Even after all her time put into sports and her SAE, she is a member of the NHS and she has given continued support to fundraisers in her community.



Region 3

ANDREA SCHUTTE

Chapter: Laker FFA
Advisor: Mr. Don Wheeler

Andrea Schuette is a senior at Laker High School. She has been in the FFA since the 7th grade and has really taken every opportunity the FFA has to offer. She has participated in public speaking, agricultural issues, greenhand conduct of meetings, agricultural communications, environmental, and land conservation. She has also attended various conventions which include the Washington Leadership Conference, MFE/ALD Fall conferences, Region III leadership camp, and MFB/FFA Career and Leadership conference. Andrea is the Laker Chapter President and the Region III Secretary. To Andrea, the FFA is a lot more than all the contests she has been a part of. She states "the FFA challenges me to reach excellence and sets no limits. I have had opportunities to meet extraordinary people, participate in different competitions, be an officer, and build skills that will last a lifetime." Besides the FFA, Andrea is also a member of the Laker Varsity Soccer team and the 4-H.



HIGHLIGHT



Region 4

BEN BURTCH

Chapter: New Lothrop
Advisor: Mrs. Nadene Blakeley

A senior at New Lothrop High School, Ben Burtch has a strong SAE in swine production. Ben started showing hogs at age nine at the county fair and the Green and White Show at Michigan State. By seventh grade his operation expanded to include his first sow. Ben now has fifteen sows that he farrows twice a year and sells the offspring around the state to compete at county and state level shows. In addition to taking care of his own animals, Ben has a strong connection with 4-H members. When his own feed dealer left the state, Ben became a Hubbard Feed Dealer as a freshman in high school. He sells to area cattle, pig, chicken, lamb, horse, rabbit and dog showman. Most recently, Ben hosted an educational seminar for 4-H members on the feeding and how to make a wise selection for their upcoming hog project.

Ben is also actively involved in various FFA activities within his chapter, Caledonia Livestock 4-H Club, Shiawassee County Pork Producers Association and Shiawassee County Pheasants Forever Club. In the future Ben plans to attend Black Hawk University East, in Kewanee, Illinois to major in Agri-Business Management.

Region 5

REBECCA WORKMAN

Chapter: Caledonia FFA
Advisor: Mr. John Schut

Rebecca Workman is an exceptional FFA member and is very valuable to the Caledonia FFA Chapter. Since her involvement in the Caledonia FFA Chapter began, she has taken advantage of all opportunities offered. Rebecca participates in the chapter's hog roast, annual toy show, fundraising, Blue & Gold Show, showing chapter livestock at the Kent County Youth Fair, and much more. In addition, she has competed in Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, Parliamentary Procedure, Dairy Foods & Milk Quality, and Landscaping. Rebecca has also served as chapter president, along with being Region V President currently.

In her spare time, she works on her Supervised Agricultural Experience, Home and Community Development. Rebecca takes time out of her busy schedule to babysit for numerous different families. She has also worked alongside her mom when she operated her own daycare business.

Through the FFA, Rebecca continues to acquire new leadership and life skills, all of which will help her in her future. When she graduates, she hopes to attend Michigan State University to major in education to some day teach math and science courses.



Region 6

HANNAH FALLOWFIELD

Chapter: Benzie Central FFA
Advisor: Mr. Jerry Block

Raising rabbits, lambs, pigs, chickens, a dairy feeder calf, a steer and honeybees just breaks the ice for what Hannah Fallowfield has done in the FFA. Hannah is a senior at Benzie Central High School and the 2010-2011 Region VI President. Hannah joined the Benzie FFA chapter her freshman year of high school, due to a recommendation from a friend and immediately fell in love with the organization. Since then, she has competed in many regional and state competitions including Greenhand Public Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, demonstration and Region VI Decathlon. In Hannah's spare time, she enjoys running cross country, skiing, playing soccer, and working at her mother's ice cream shop. Hannah plans on attending Michigan State University to become an Agriscience teacher and also is looking forward to running for state office this year. Hannah shows a true passion for our organization and is proud to be an FFA member.



Our Motto in Motion



Learning to Do

By: Kyle Miller
MSU Crop and Soil Science Major
&
Karice Hard
MSU Elementary Education Major

We learn throughout our lives. Learn to walk, learn to talk, learn to ride a bike, learn to drive a car, and when it comes too learning about agriculture and where our food comes from, you can never start too early. The Cassopolis FFA officer team truly believes this and put it into action by holding their first farm day for the youth of Cassopolis, which consisted of over 405 students in grades K-4 coming to learn about agriculture.

On October 8, 2010, Cassopolis FFA members gathered at the county fairgrounds in downtown Cassopolis and waited as the elementary students walked a few blocks to farm day. The chapter officers had worked hard to make sure that the kids saw as much diversity as possible. Sheep, goats, pigs, cattle, poultry, rabbits, horses (owned by FFA members and alumni), farm equipment, and field crops common to Southwest Michigan were all present at Farm Day. Along with seeing and learning about agriculture, the kids played Ag Olympics games and were provided with snacks that were grown in Michigan.

As the students entered the fairgrounds they broke into smaller groups. Led by chapter officers, each group got a chance to visit



every commodity that was present. Students in Mrs. George's zoology class provided information at each station. "We tried to emphasize a few points", said Ashley Rogers, Cassopolis FFA Vice President and Farm Day chair. "The first was that our food is grown or raised by farmers who care and that our food is safe to eat. The second message was that these animals are going to be used for food, and are not pets."

In a time where the average American is four generations removed from agriculture, it is important to inform everyone how their food is grown and that farmers care for the environment. This is something that Michigan Farm Bureau firmly believes in. Sarah Peterson, a Cassopolis County Farm Bureau representative, partnered with the Cassopolis FFA Chapter to bring in some of the animals and the farm equipment. Farm Bureau also provided the snacks and coloring books for the students to get more information on animal agriculture. The last gift the kids received was a sticker proudly stating "I Met a Farmer Today."

As FFA members, we all have gained knowledge of agriculture. We have learned the controversial issues and know how farmers properly care for animals and are stewards of the land. Now it is time to become "Ag"vocates and share with the nation what agriculture has to offer. "The goal of Farm Day was to allow younger kids to associate agriculture with being positive," said Rogers. "So when they grow up and have to face legislation on agriculture, they can make an educated decision." With animal rights groups putting more and more pressure on agriculture, it is not out of the question that in a few years, we may face a piece of legislation like the one Ashley mentioned. With more informed citizens we can continue to make our industry strong through sound agricultural practices.

The Cassopolis FFA Chapter plans to make Farm Day an annual event in their community. Good job to the Cassopolis FFA Chapter and all the other chapters across the state that make a difference in the future of agriculture by informing the youth today. Keep up the good work.



Doing to Learn

By: Jordan Punches
Grand Valley State University Pre-Medicine Major
&
Kelsey Steketee
MSU Animal Science Major

Emily Swift is currently a senior at Bronson Junior/Senior High School and is a part of the Branch Area Career Center FFA Chapter. Her Supervised Agricultural Experiences include Diversified Crop Production and Diversified Livestock Production. Now, at age 17, she has noticed that her entrepreneurship skills have grown greatly since her involvement in the FFA organization. Her work with her family pumpkin patch as well as her livestock has made her an exemplary model of the “Doing to Learn” portion of the FFA motto.

Swift took her first steps in the FFA in seventh grade, when she joined the Bronson FFA chapter. She slowly became more and more interested in what the FFA had to offer as she grew up. With Swift’s interest, she began to get more involved in the organization and found that she has grown as an individual from her experiences. After her junior year, the Bronson FFA chapter was unfortunately cut from the Bronson curriculum, however, Swift wanted to remain a dedicated member of the FFA so she began looking for a new chapter that she could join. Now in her senior year, Emily calls the Branch Area Career Center FFA chapter home.

Emily’s primary supervised agricultural experience project is the pumpkin patch that her family owns. Emily explains how she got her start in her SAE as a coincidental but rewarding process. “My father had planted a handful of pumpkin seeds in the pasture and by fall he had put all of the pumpkins by the road and every pumpkin had sold! So, over the years our family business has grown from the side of the road, to the yard, to even having to turn an old field into a patch,” explains Swift. Since the beginning, the one acre plot of land with a handful of pumpkins has



grown immensely. Now, Emily and her family harvest multiple acres of not only pumpkins but also ornamental gourds, bird house gourds, mums, Indian corn, squash and other fall based crops and decorative plants. The business has not only grown in diversity and size but also in the market. Since starting out selling in the front yard the family has broadened their horizons and at this point also sells some crops in wholesale to Battle Creek, as well as participates in the Little River Railroad train in Coldwater. Swift and her family also sell to some companies and donate to local schools and charities. The family pumpkin business has served as a great gateway to Emily’s further interest in other supervised agricultural experiences.

Over the years, Swift searched for more chances to get involved in the FFA. She didn’t have to wait too long to find that her other niche was with animals. As she grew, so did her love and passion for the animals she owned. Her interest in the diversified livestock production SAE started when she got her first show steer. Swift says that purchasing a steer has allowed her to find her passion for a variety of species which include swine, rabbits and other beef cattle. She has also noticed growth in this SAE. Emily states, “My diversified livestock production SAE has grown by first starting out with a steer and then expanded by the addition of exhibiting rabbits, swine, dairy starter calves, as well as showing beef heifers.” Emily truly enjoys working with her animals. She says one of her favorite parts is getting to show her animals and to actually get to see that hard work pays off! The skills Swift has learned from her animals and her crop production have really helped to prepare her for her future.

After graduation Emily’s future plans include going on to study Kinesiology and Agribusiness Management. She would like to work with sports but also be able to live on a farm where she can produce and raise show cattle. This year Swift would like to apply for proficiencies in the categories of diversified crop production and diversified livestock production. Swift’s past accomplishments include winning Star Farmer for her chapter last year in Bronson and receiving the award for Region 1 Star Farmer in Production.

Emily’s future is bright and she is ready to take it on. She has learned many new people skills and has also grown as an individual. Her SAEs have taught her a lot about responsibility, time management and hard work along with countless other life skills. As she has moved up and learned more about the FFA, Emily has truly become a model citizen and is always working to further her education. Through her efforts Emily has made it a priority to make sure that in anything she does she is always “Doing to Learn!”



Earning to Live

By: Andrew Kellenberger
MSU Mechanical Engineering Major
&
Jordan Henry
Lansing Community College Physical Therapy Major

Mr. Verchereau attended Chelsea High School and grew up in the small rural town of Gregory, Michigan. Vic Verchereau was a State FFA Officer and ran for National Office. Mr. Verchereau received his job because he was asked to speak at Michigan Farm Bureau as the Michigan National Officer Candidate. After his speech, he received a letter about an open position as a Regional Manager and then applied for the position. Farm Bureau agreed that if Mr. Verchereau did not receive a National office then he would come back to the position at Farm Bureau. After not receiving the title of a National Officer, he was offered to work at Farm Bureau. Mr. Verchereau said, "I am reminded of the Country Western song, Thank God for Unanswered Prayers. I have been honored to serve Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan Agriculture ever since." This experience has allowed him to motivate others and to grow into the position that he currently holds.

Mr. Vic Verchereau is the Vice President of marketing for



Farm Bureau Insurance, which makes him the definition of "Earning to Live." Farm Bureau Insurance provides life, home, auto, farm, business, and retirement insurance for nearly 450,000 Michigan Policy holders. It is the largest insurance company in Michigan. His job allows him to be responsible for the sales and service activities of the

Farm Bureau Insurance Marketing Division serving more than 440 agents and 275 offices across Michigan. Mr. Verchereau started his Farm Bureau career in 1980 as a regional representative for the Michigan Farm Bureau being a liaison between the state's general farm organization and its member county Farm Bureaus. He then went on to manage Michigan Farm Bureau's Young Farmer Department before transferring to the insurance operation. The Young Farmer Department allows younger farmers from the age of 18-35 to be able to make contacts with other farmers and gain support throughout their area. This department has helped young farmers across the nation to make their name in the industry. This project allowed Vic to grow and for the young farmers of Michigan grow in return.

Mr. Verchereau then went on to serve 12 years as an agency manager in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties, helping out many farmers in the communities he served in. He then served two years as a Regional Director of Agencies for Farm Bureau Insurance and then was promoted to Vice President of marketing for Farm Bureau Insurance. Verchereau set a new standard by receiving the Distinguished Manager Award for five years in a row, which is more than any other agency manager in Farm Bureau Insurance history. He earned this award because of his amazing record of sales within the agency and his top of the line service that is unforgettable.

Besides being the Vice President of marketing, Verchereau is also a motivational speaker. This includes talking to the youth and inspiring them to achieve their dreams and never give up. You may have heard him at a FFA conference before. He believes in giving back to the organization that gave him the start in his career. He explains, "I am thankful for my chapter advisor who planted the idea of me running for state office. I am grateful for my FFA experience that led to Farm Bureau, but most of all I am grateful for the lifetime of opportunity that the FFA prepared me for. All that I have received in my life, I can trace back to that moment when my FFA advisor suggested that I consider running for state office. It's funny how we can waste away weeks and months on meaningless things in our lives...but in only brief moments we can define a lifetime."

Mr. Verchereau is a great example of what Earning to Live really means. He exemplifies agriculture and all it has to offer to the world around it. His work has and will touch the lives of FFA members, farmers, and everyone he comes into contact with. He is a good role model for the youth to look up to and learn from. Thank you Mr. Verchereau for your years of service to not only the FFA, but the Michigan Agricultural community.

Living to Serve

By: Becky Whaley
MSU Accounting Major
&
Ashley Sumerix
MSU Agriculture Industries Major

The desire of one person to change the world around us can and will have a strong impact. Taryn Wessels, a senior at Laker High School and an active member of the FFA chapter, understands this and that there is poverty and hunger surrounding us. Taryn knows that this presents opportunities to meet needs and care for the people around us. So now she is taking action and “Living to Serve” as she volunteers at her church’s community garden and involves the Laker FFA chapter in the community strengthening project along the way.



Taryn comes from a crop farming family, where she developed a love and passion for growing produce. This led to her being a part of the FFA as she knew there were opportunities to exceed. In 2008, Taryn established a community driven SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) through church because they asked for her assistance. The Elkton Missionary

Church is the site of a community garden and place where people can come and get food they need for free. The fresh produce is available to the whole community. It is not uncommon to have ten families frequently receiving food. Even the extra products are canned, then offered to the public so that nothing goes to waste. In addition to providing for the Laker Community, this is a great way to demonstrate “greening” in a rural community.

The garden has expanded over the years along with the number of people involved in making it a success. In 2008, the FFA chapter joined in serving the community. At first just the chapter officers helped in the planting of the garden, but now some Agriscience classes assist as well. The chapter has several

fundraisers to build the funds for the garden. With the help of her advisor, Mr. Don Wheeler, Taryn has been able to get support from local farmers and greenhouses in the area, truly allowing everyone the opportunity to help with the cause. Taryn coordinates the garden and helps the volunteers understand their part in the process because she knows the background and layout. Working with numerous volunteers has taught her how to accommodate different people and their personalities, helping her grow as an individual. Through the development of her SAE, she has received the Community and Home Service Proficiency Award within her chapter. As Taryn works in the community garden she says it gives her “a sense of accomplishment and helping others makes it worthwhile.” Taryn recognizes that without support she would not be as successful as she is now, nor would the garden. She truly appreciates the accountability and advice provided to her by her advisor, chapter officer team and family.

In addition to her work in the community garden, Taryn is a dynamic part of the Laker FFA chapter and school. She is currently serving as the chapter Reporter. Taryn also has Beef Production and Dairy Placement SAEs and has taken part in Agricultural Issues, Greenhand Conduct of Meetings, the Broiler Chicken and Agricultural Communications contests. Furthermore, Taryn has helped with Project RED, where she gave a presentation on chickens and tours of the local wind farm. All of her activities in FFA reflect her favorite part; making friends from competitions and trips. At school and in her community Taryn is the Student Council President, Autumn Fest Teen Queen and is a part of the soccer and dance team. When asked about being involved in so many activities she said, “I like to be involved...because it keeps me busy and improves my communication skills. It also helps me stay grounded and on the right track.”

In the future Taryn plans on attending Northwood University to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Advertising and Marketing/Public Relations. Then she would like to own her own photography business or work for a large company in their Public Relations or Advertising department, specifically Artisan Consulting or Precision Planting. For now, Taryn is going to continue helping families within her community through the garden which she believes is built on trust and respect.





Fighting an Unseen Battle

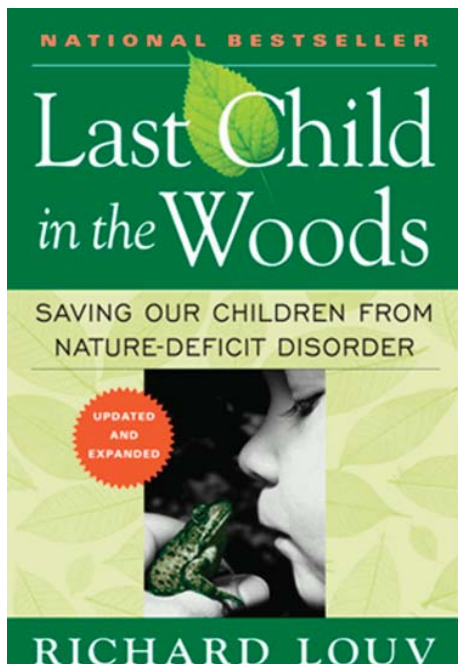
By: Laura Krhovsky
MSU Premedical Freshman

In this “new” generation, it seems as though media and technology are becoming part of our everyday lives. We wake up to the pop artist ringtone on our cell phone, go

to school where much of education is based on computerized learning and then come home to watch TV, check Facebook, or play video games. Today, teenagers and adults alike have worlds revolving around technology, causing a wall to be built

explains how society’s disconnect with nature is affecting children. Louv describes in his book how the lack of interaction between children and the environment is causing some of the most alarming trends, such as childhood obesity, attention disorders and depression. Not only has Louv created the term nature deficit disorder, but he has also completed research to back up his argument.

We are aware that childhood obesity is a problem on the rise. It is suggested that the children of this era may be the first generation at risk of having a shorter lifespan than their parents. According to the National Environmental Education Foundation, approximately 16% of US children aged 16-19 are overweight or obese. This means that childhood obesity has doubled for preschoolers and adolescents and has more than tripled for children aged 6-11. When it comes to these statistics, who is to be blamed? According to The Children’s Nature Institute, 91% of parents blamed TV, computers and video games for their children’s lack of interest in getting outdoors. The one thing that is entirely to blame is the sedentary lifestyles being practiced.



between the comforts inside our home and the great outdoors. This buildup of inadequate interaction with nature is being identified as nature deficit disorder. Although not an actual medical condition, nature deficit disorder describes the lack of interaction between humans and the environment.

The term nature deficit disorder was coined by the author of *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv, and it

Thirty years ago, children spent most of their time outside, playing games and staying active. Today, small, walking distance neighborhood parks are no longer being used because they are more expensive to keep up per acre compared to large, multiuse parks that can only be reached by driving. In areas where parks are available, most parents will not allow their children to go unsupervised. The Children’s Nature Institute states that



“while 56% of parents today were allowed to walk or bike to school alone when they were ten years old, only 36% of those parents would allow their own children to do the same”.

Pediatricians nowadays see fewer kids with broken bones from climbing trees and more children with longer lasting repetitive-stress injuries, which are related to playing video games and typing at keyboards. Indoors is in. Outdoors is out- as in out of favor with kids. Yet, research shows interaction with the natural environment plays an important role in children’s development, including building problem-solving and critical thinking skills, as well as fostering creativity.

Childhood and regular play in the outdoor natural world is no longer synonymous. This is very troublesome to many. They feel that this ‘extinction of experience,’ will breed apathy towards environmental concerns. John Burroughs cautioned that, “Knowledge without love will not stick. But if love comes first, knowledge is sure to follow.” Researchers feel that the problem with most environmental education programs is that they try to impart knowledge and responsibility before children have been allowed to develop a loving relationship with the earth (Sobel 1996). We need to allow children to develop their love for the Earth, before we ask them to save it. According to a citizen’s guide to Michigan’s Natural Resources and Environment, in many ways, Michigan is defined by its natural resources. Michigan’s boundaries, outlined by the Great Lakes, are clearly visible on a road atlas, world globe, or even satellite photographs of North America. Few states can boast such a recognizable “thumb print.” Our abundant resources also define our economic base and recreation traditions. Early industrial development in the furniture, steel, iron and chemical industries relied on abundant supplies of hardwoods, ores, and mineral salts. Farmers thrive on the state’s

fertile soils and temperate climate. Thanks to the many lakes, streams, forests, dunes, wetlands, and inviting landscapes, Michigan hosts a booming tourism industry.

Michigan legislators have long recognized the value of Michigan’s natural resources and environment. The Legislature plays a critical role in directing state policies in these areas by enacting legislation to establish state programs and approving funding. The children of today who have not truly bonded with the love of nature are our future legislators of tomorrow. It is imperative that we understand what is happening to our children and young adults by not developing a bond with nature. The future of Michigan’s irreplaceable natural resources depends on it.

According to a summary by Richard Louv a fifth-grader in a San Diego classroom gave his opinion as: “I like to play indoors better ‘cause that’s where all the electrical outlets are.” Our society is teaching children to be less active. Admit it or not, everywhere we go the “great indoors” is being promoted as the best place to be. Take for instance Great Wolf Lodge: an indoor water park spinning an outdoor atmosphere. Listening to a commercial on the radio gives the persona that Great Wolf Lodge is a resort consisting of cabins and outdoor activities; the name itself describes nature. But this “lodge” is actually nothing more than water slides in a wood cabin, giving children the impression that being indoors is more fun.

As FFA members, we are presented with an opportunity to speak against such troubling information. Every day we affect the lives of those around us in positive ways. Whether it is through PALS or walking down school hallways, we are obligated to make a difference and shed our knowledge onto other people. The next time you make a point to check Facebook or watch TV, consider taking a walk outside, playing a game of kickball or simply sitting outside in world full of beauty.



What's the word?

By: Emily Swartzendruber
MSU Communications Sophomore

Ceremonial Word Search

I	r	o	i	n	e	e	n	d	f	n	n	t
a	w	f	r	u	y	r	r	s	t	p	i	t
s	e	o	e	s	r	o	s	i	v	d	a	n
e	c	i	t	g	a	s	p	s	p	r	o	l
v	t	e	r	n	t	u	r	i	d	t	e	e
r	e	o	o	i	e	e	r	i	g	n	s	c
w	o	l	p	s	r	d	d	n	i	a	v	r
d	s	v	e	i	c	v	i	t	e	r	l	l
i	e	r	r	r	e	h	n	s	s	t	u	f
t	n	e	d	i	s	e	r	p	e	c	i	v
n	t	r	e	a	s	u	r	e	r	r	i	
w	t	g	w	n	e	e	s	t	o	h	p	l
i	r	p	n	i	r	c	p	l	o	e	p	e

President
Secretary
Reporter
VicePresident
Treasurer
Sentinel
Advisor
Plow
Rising Sun
Corn
Flag
Washington
Door
Owl

“I employ more
than **one million**
Michigan residents
—24% of our
work force.”

—Michigan Agriculture



Support Michigan... Support our youth!

Michigan agriculture plays a significant role in our economy. By purchasing an *Agricultural Heritage* license plate, you are making an investment in our future—Michigan's youth. And for just \$35 you can help support K-12 agricultural education programs.

Get your plate today, visit your local Secretary of State or call 517.432.2482

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The Rest of the Story...



EMILY KROLL
STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Chapter: Montague FFA

SAE: Equine Science

College: Muskegon Community College

Major: General Studies

Favorite Sport: Softball

Favorite Homemade Meal:
T-Bone Steak, mashed potatoes
and gravy, corn and ice cold milk

High School Activities: Character,
Service, Integrity (CSI), 4-H and
National Honors Society

Theme Song : "Change" by Taylor
Swift

Favorite thing to do with friends:
Watch Movies

Personal Hobby: Reading

Person looked to for strength and
guidance: Jesus Christ



JASPER CUNNINGHAM
STATE SECRETARY

Chapter: Ravenna FFA

SAE: Agribusiness
Entrepreneurship

College: Michigan State
University

Major: Agribusiness Management

Inspirational Message: Dreams
don't have to stay a dream. With
hard work and patience you can
accomplish anything!

Word used to describe self:
Genuine

Favorite Movie: Tommy Boy

Personal Hobby: Hunting and
Fishing

Favorite FFA Activity: State
Convention

Favorite Quote: "Only those who
attempt the absurd will achieve the
impossible."-MC Escher



JORDAN HENRY
REGION III STATE VP

Chapter: Alma FFA

SAE: Agriculture Education

College: Lansing Community
College

Major: Physical Therapy

Favorite thing to do with friends:
Make sidewalk chalk murals

Word used to describe self:
Enthusiastic

Message to members: Never let
any opportunity pass you by!

Personal Hobby: Singing to the
radio

Favorite Musican: Switchfoot

People looked to for strength and
guidance: Jesus Christ

Favorite Athletic Team: Michigan
State University

Theme Song: "Stand" by Rascal
Flatts

Community, Agriculture, Recreation & Resource Studies

-Education in Action for a Sustainable Future

A sustainable future requires change at all levels. If you think...

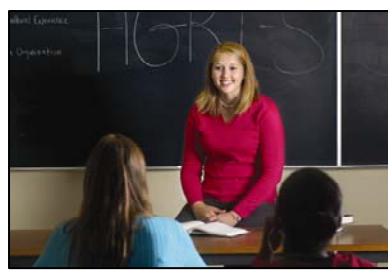
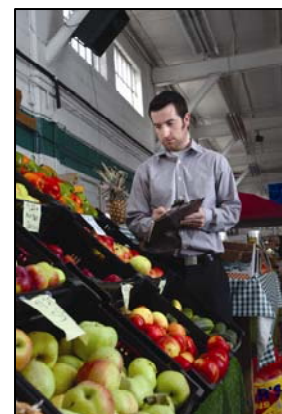
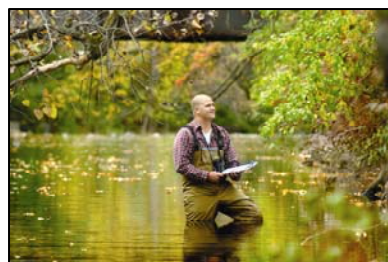
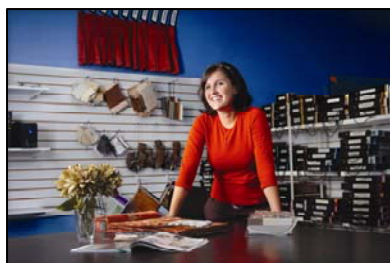
- Agriculture is key to Michigan's future
- We must conserve natural resources for future generations
- Working with others is important to solve society problems
- Teaching others about agriculture and natural resources is exciting
- You are interested in leading change to enhance Michigan's agriculture and natural resources

...then an undergraduate degree in one of the following CARRS majors at Michigan State University will assist you in pursuing a career addressing contemporary issues in agriculture, recreation, natural resources, and the environment

Environmental Studies and Agriscience
Natural Resource Recreation & Tourism

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a pink button-down shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a large, rectangular hay bale. He is looking down at a laptop computer on his lap, with his hands on the keyboard. The hay bale is made of dry, golden-brown straw. In the background, there is a green field of crops, possibly corn, under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds.

For More Information Contact:
Frances Kaneene (kaneene@msu.edu)
CARRS Undergraduate Academic Advisor



More than you imagined.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
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