

The Michigan FFA Creed

March/April 2005

Leadership is American...
Celebrate It!



The Michigan FFA Creed

Issue 2, Volume 3

the Creed Staff

Managing Editors: Dustin Petty
Scott Smalley
Writers: Nathan Baker
Jill Corrin
Ryan Kramer
Dustin Petty
Aaron Preston
Jake Riske
Melissa Smith

State FFA Officers

President: Ryan Kramer
Vice President: Matt Jakubik
Secretary: Nathan Baker
Treasurer: Aaron Preston
Reporter: Doug Albright
Region I VP: Jeff Peterson
Region II VP: Jake Riske
Region III VP: Nicole Welchner
Region IV VP: David Wise
Region V VP: Melissa Smith
Region VI VP: Dustin Petty

The State FFA Office

108 Natural Resources
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.michiganffa.com
association@michiganffa.com
517.353.9221
517.432.5632 (fax)

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I believe in...



An American Organization

Aaron Preston

State Treasurer

SAE: Dairy Beef and Swine Production

Majoring in Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University

Nicole Welchner

Region III State Vice President

SAE: Food Service and Technology

Majoring in Pre-Ag Education at Saginaw State University

officer profiler

The FFA is an American organization. This is not so merely because we hold a Congressional Charter or even because our leaders have been received by the American presidents since the time of Eisenhower. The FFA is an American organization because the values and ideals that our members hold in such high esteem are the same that our country was founded on so many years ago.

We believe in hard work. Our Creed describes "achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturalists; in the promise of better days

through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years." Our country, too, has faced hardships throughout its life. Yet through sweat, toil and blood spilt on soils foreign and domestic we have persevered as we will continue to persevere.

We hold true to the concept of doing for others. Nationwide, FFA members are contributing to their schools, communities and fellow man. Through Food for America we teach America's youth about wonders of agriculture. PALS, a mentoring program that teams an FFA member with

a special-needs elementary student, allows members to help students build trust and develop positive self-images.

Each of these programs and the countless others like them give FFA members an exposure to community service and what it can do to affect the lives of others. Just as our country donated millions of dollars to those world citizens who's lives were forever left changed because of the tsunami of months past, the young are preparing to take over the helm of America through hard work and the concept of doing for others. Yes, the FFA is an American organization. ♡

Did you know...

- Since 1929, 875 individuals have been elected to serve as Michigan State Officers.
- Michigan ranks first in the nation in the production of Geraniums and Easter Lilies.
- Michigan's first female state officer was Lynn Whiting from Ovid-Elsie, who served 1972-73.



77th Michigan FFA State Convention



Ready, Set, Go!

Retiring Addresses Sneak Peek

By: Michigan FFA
State Officer Team

As members come to the 77th Michigan FFA State Convention, they will be done putting the finishing touches on their leadership contests, be ready to receive their hard earned awards and be prepared to elect the next team of state officers.

But before it's all said and done, the current team will be delivering six retiring addresses in a format never before seen with the express purpose of presenting six unique messages to the Michigan FFA members.

Kicking off the series of retiring addresses, State Reporter

Doug Albright will speak on the subject of focus and its relevance in the successfulness of ones life.

To round out the first day of convention, State Vice President Matt Jakubik and Region V State Vice President will speak of one thing that every FFA should possess: pride. Through hard work and pride, they will explain, greatness comes in the famous and the simple alike. Melissa remarks, "When putting on the FFA jacket you get a supernatural feeling, almost invincible. You become a member of this country's most powerful youth organization. You not only represent your school, but the Michigan FFA Association and the entire FFA organization. Take pride

in your jacket, because when you wear it, you are learning the skills that it takes to be the best you can."

Speaking on the types of human faith, State Secretary Nathan Baker and Region I State Vice President Jeff Peterson focus on faith in God and faith in oneself. They will dare the Michigan FFA membership to have faith in themselves, for as Nathan puts it, "The more faith that you have and the more that you believe the more goals that you will set and the more you will achieve. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible."

Issuing a challenge of passion, State Treasurer Aaron

Preston and Region VI State Vice President Dustin Petty will share stories of the strength and courage of one particular FFA member and a lesson about making the most out of your "dash." The message is summed up by Dustin: "Our challenge isn't overwhelmed with a lot of big words or complex concepts. We just present you with one word: live. We want you to live and let your inner light shine."

As the third day of convention begins, we will hear from Region II State Vice President Jake Riske and Region III State Vice President Nicole Welchner as they introduce the concept of "Everyday Honor," a type of honor that does not necessarily occur on the battlefields or in the nation's capital, but in everyday life and its situations. Jake says, "Honor, luckily comes in many forms, Private First Class Oscar Austin gave his life for others, but in a lesser form maybe it means giving money to those who need it, or some other type of service to others. That would be an example of what we like to call 'Everyday Honor.' This can motivate you to give more than maybe you need to.

As convention comes to a close, the members will pack up their belongings and memories to prepare for the long ride home. But before they depart, President Ryan Kramer will deliver an address on characteristics of leadership. While remembering the important



attributes that his fellow officers spoke of in prior sessions. In his retiring message to the Michigan FFA congregation, Ryan will invoke the memories of those who in the past have inspired him to greatness.

An example of one of these moving testimonials is when Ryan speaks of his former Harbor Beach FFA chapter advisor, Ms. Suzanne Kilbourn. When Ms. Kilbourn was made to resign her position, she shared a special moment with Ryan before she left. He says, "She embraced me and through her tears she said, 'Ryan, in life there are two different kinds of leaders: the ones who don't care about their people and only care about money and power and then there are the kind that lead because they love their people and they want the best for them. Ryan, you must always be the second kind

of leader.' I think about that moment from time to time and I will always remember how much passion Ms. Kilbourn had and how she cared about leading each one of her students and being a positive role model in their lives."

When everything is said and done and the convention is empty and our terms of office eventually comes to a close, we, the seventy-seventh Michigan FFA State Officer team, thank you for your service and dedication throughout the year. When times got tough for us and our spirits lagged, you reminded us of our reason for being here and we became strong again and even more committed to you and the ideals you elected us to serve. Thank you for helping us Kick It Up a Notch and for giving all you could give. 2



ALUMNI in Action

The Michigan FFA Alumni announces that the Scholarship Program in Cooperation has been approved by the Alumni Board of Directors. Jeffery Armstrong, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University has committed \$5,000.00 for funds that will match FFA Alumni scholarship awards to successful applicants that have been accepted into and attend the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at MSU as freshmen. The Michigan FFA Alumni has already accumulated pledges from the Homer and Marshall FFA Alumni's and Greenstone Inc. of Michigan. Alumni Affiliates, individuals and businesses are encouraged to join us in sponsoring this new project as awards to FFA members will be matched by MSU dollar for dollar up to the \$5,000.00 cap. There is potential that 10 FFA members attending the CANR as freshmen could receive up to \$1,000.00 apiece. For more information and application forms visit the Michigan FFA Alumni Website as details will soon be posted. The FFA Alumni is committed to helping FFA Members achieve their goals in education and career development. 2



Our Motto in Motion

Supported by the State of Michigan
Office of Career and Technical Preparation

Learning to Do

By: Melissa Smith
Region VI State
Vice President

As the only chapter in the Upper Peninsula, the Stephenson FFA is unique to say the least. Not only is the FFA chapter nearest to them in Wisconsin (it would take six hours driving time to reach the nearest Michigan one), but the chapter also exhibits an internal bond that is rarely matched. A bond that is fully supported by the strong Stephenson FFA Alumni

Chapter and the surrounding community as a whole. Pat Wehner, chapter advisor for nearly two decades, gives much of the credit for the successful chapter to their incredible alumni.

Composed of approximately thirty people, the alumni's biggest yearly function is the annual Spring Consignment Auction. The auction, which usually attracts upwards of one thousand people, is a highlight for the entire community, as the items to be auctioned are owned by individuals and businesses from all over the Upper Peninsula and neighboring Wisconsin. The items, which range from four-wheelers to tractors to trucks, are sold to the highest bidder and a portion of the proceeds, no more than \$500 per item, go to the alumni.



The money the alumni makes from these annual auctions, which sometimes goes as high as \$10,000 contributes quite a lot to the success of the chapter. In fact, the alumni helped fund a new agriscience classroom for the school and are currently working on providing a greenhouse for the classes and the chapter's use.

Anne Nuttall, the chapter vice president says, "We would not be anywhere near as successful as we are without our alumni chapter. They supply us with a financial and supportive backing that allows us to be active. Without them, we would be unable to participate in the amount of things that we do."

The chapter members, themselves, become involved in the community in countless ways. In a program called "Breakfast on the Farm," the chapter takes part in educating their fellow citizens about what goes into a dairy farm. Drawing hundreds of people, the event is put on by the local Farm Bureau. The members of the Stephenson FFA volunteer their time to show their lambs at the breakfast and also set up a booth explaining the FFA to the community members who may not know the value of the organization. But through their constant dedication, the word will soon be out to all.



Marine Scientist

Marine scientists address problems facing marine life, interpreting and evaluating the data they collect to write scientific reports for clients and supervisors. Sometimes they deal with problems of great economic and political importance.

communications. You should have an interest in conservation and coastal and marine resources.

In high school, take biology, chemistry, advanced mathematics physics and computer science.

For more information, check out: <http://zoology.msu.edu/academics/marinebio.html>



Doing to Learn

Building Skills for Life

By Nathan Baker
State Secretary

Kristy Carpenter is a junior at Bronson High School and has a uniquely interesting SAE in the area of fruit production. Kristy and her family raise apples, pears, plums, peaches and cherries, as well as patches of strawberries and raspberries. Last summer Kristy personally grew watermelon, muskmelon, and pumpkins. Kristy cans most of the fruit so her family can enjoy it all year round. The

berries are made into jam and jelly and the apples are pressed into cider.

Kristy's favorite part of her SAE is making the apple cider. Kristy and her family pick all the apples, then pressing the apples into gallons of fresh apple cider that can be enjoyed all year.

In addition to fruit production Kristy also has numerous different animals. She has horses, chickens, ducks, pheasants, and rabbits. Kristy helps her dad around their farm and has learned a lot about farming, machinery, animals, and gardening.

Kristy has been very active in the FFA participating in various leadership and service activities. She has competed in the Creed Speaking contest and has been the chapter's top salesman in the citrus sale for the last three years.



4-H has also been a very important part of Kristy's life. She is currently the president of the Bronson Pioneers 4-H club. 4-H is what led Kristy to the FFA. Her older siblings were involved in both and convinced her to join too. Kristy was a bit skeptical at first but once she got involved and found out all the leadership and service opportunities, she was hooked.

Outside of the FFA Kristy is a member of Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), the National Honors Society, and Quiz Bowl. Kristy enjoys arts including literature, music, and design. She is currently undecided about her future plan however she would like to do something that involves these arts.



Fun Fruit Facts...

Originating in China, kiwi is mainly cultivated in New Zealand and also in California, western France and Israel. The vines in New Zealand were imported from China in 1910.

Michigan has more than 35,000 acres of tart cherry trees and grows almost 75% of the tart cherries produced in the United States. Traverse City is called the Cherry Capital of the World.

America's longest-lived apple tree was reportedly planted in 1647 by Peter Stuyvesant in his Manhattan orchard and was still bearing fruit when a derailed train struck it in 1866.

Soil scientists conduct research on soil degradation or erosion, or on movement of substances such as nutrients and pesticides through the soil profile. They can also identify problems like wetness and erosion.

Universities, USDA agencies, chemical companies, governments and environmental consulting firms all hire soil scientists.

To be a soil scientist you need a college degree in soil science or a related earth science. In high school take college prep courses in physics, biology, mathematics and chemistry. Earth science and environmental sciences and agriculture classes are helpful as well.

For more information, check out:
www.css.msu.edu

Soil Scientist



Earning to Live

By: Aaron Preston
State Treasurer

If it is the mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success, then Floyd Beneker can report "mission accomplished."

Mr. Beneker served as the advisor of the Marshall FFA chapter for thirty seven years, from 1964 to 2001. But even then, when he retired from this post at Marshall, his work with the FFA was not finished as he continues to serve the Michigan FFA organization as the president of the Michigan FFA Alumni and as

a member of the Michigan FFA Board of Directors.

This year the Marshall FFA chapter, now under the direction of advisor Jason Griffith and one of the oldest active chapters in our state today, is celebrating their 75th year of existence. The Marshall Alumni chapter, which Mr. Beneker served as secretary and treasurer of after his retirement from teaching, is also celebrating their 30th year of service.

While at Marshall, he truly lived out his work and set an example for all of his members to follow that inspired each of them to find their passion for life and the FFA as is evident through his long history of success in his members at both the state and national level.

Through their rich heritage, the Marshall FFA Chapter has proudly sported countless state and American Degrees and has even given our



state a national officer back in 1963, many of these under the direction of Mr. Floyd Beneker. Other advisors in our state have commented, "Mr. Beneker set an example of excellence for his members, but also for many of the younger advisors at the time that they have followed as they work to shape their chapters. He did not just strive to assist his members that were winning contest and awards, but labored to inspire every one of his students to achieve excellence. He has a passion for life and his students that is very real to everyone he meets."

Now with the state FFA Alumni Mr. Beneker works hard behind the scenes to raise money for scholarships, grants, and award sponsors. He also works to plan many of the events and activities in the FFA and alumni associations. Mr. Beneker works closely with many of the administrators of high schools around the state to encourage their continued support of the FFA and plan the administrators'

trip to national convention.

Mr. Beneker has been a great influence in the lives of thousands of FFA members at both the local and state level and has continually dedicated himself to the Michigan FFA Association. The Michigan FFA thanks Mr. Beneker for the way he has helped to mold the Marshall FFA, State FFA, and most importantly the lives of each of his members and all those he meets today. Thank you for living a life that truly allows you to say "mission accomplished."



Toxicologists study the effects of potentially harmful chemicals on people, animals and the environment and then devise strategies to reduce or control exposure to these chemicals.

To be a toxicologist you need at least two years of study beyond a bachelors of science or medical degree - some earning undergraduate degrees in biology, chemistry or environmental science.

In high school, you should take as much biology, chemistry, mathematics and environmental science as possible. Also, you should develop strong writing, communication and computer skills.

For more information, check out:
www.iet.msu.edu

Toxicologist

HAZARD

ETHYLENE OXIDE

TOXIC GAS

Living to Serve

By: Dustin Petty
Region VI State
Vice President

"I do not like them in a house. I do not like them with a mouse. I do not like them here or there, I do not like them anywhere. I do not like green eggs and ham. I do not like them, Sam-I-Am."

To high school students, the phrase "March is Reading Month" doesn't mean much except to conjure up memories of elementary school days when they would be given a few precious moments each day one month out of the year for some quiet reading time,

during which they could put aside the grammar lessons and arithmetic problems and curl up with a copy of the Boxcar Children, the Babysitters Club or the classic Dr. Seuss. But while those days are long gone for most high school students, members of the Breckenridge FFA Chapter are helping to instill a love of reading into the students of a local elementary school.

Starting in the fall of 2004, 24 members of the Breckenridge FFA, each taking part in an Ag Leadership Class, would visit with two groups of kindergartners once a week for the new "FFA Reading Program." On these visits, the members and young children pair up and read an age appropriate book together. After they finish the story has been read, the two will then discuss the plot and themes of the book, thus increasing the reading comprehension of the child.

Breckenridge chapter advisor Gerard Reaume said, "We were looking for a



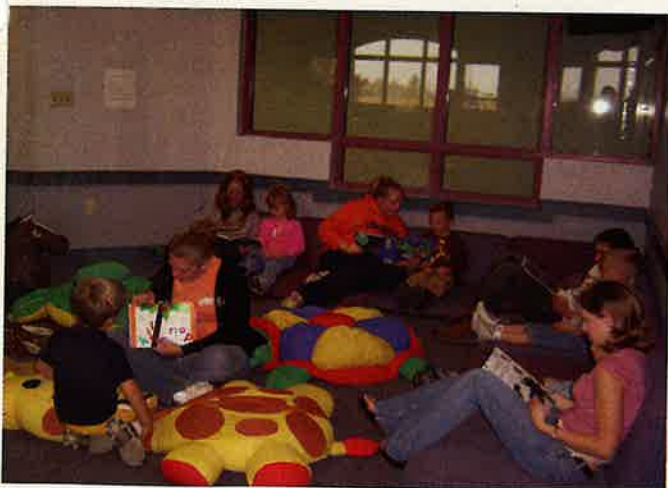
community service project and an opportunity to get the public more acquainted with the FFA. We also aimed to make an impact at the same time. The feedback we have gotten has been extraordinary. It's turned out to be a good thing for the young students, the teachers and our chapter members."

The effects of the program have been felt throughout the entire community. The elementary school students have found young adults to look up to who give of themselves to secure a sound future for their young minds. The participating chapter members, meanwhile, have become more aware of their surroundings and the difference they can make in the lives of others. Reaume remarked that the members feel like they are contributing something to society and have gained a real sense of self because of it.

"It is awesome seeing the kids that we read to outside of the school setting," chapter

chaplain Claire Varner remarked. "They are excited to see us and it's a great feeling because they look up to us like adults."

In Breckenridge, every month is reading month because of a few dozen FFA members, an idea and the ideals of dedication and service that have long been the cornerstone of our organization.



Ready, Set, Go!



Biometrician

Biometricians advise researchers who are planning experiments or they sometimes forecast future conditions in research and operations management.

In high school, take algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus and computer science, along with biology,

physics, chemistry and economics. Develop communication skills by writing and speaking courses.

For more information, go to:
www.agriculture.purdue.edu/USDA/careers/biometrician.html

Member Highlights

By: Dustin Petty
Region VI State Vice President



Amanda Segar
Marshall

Region 1: Amanda Segar Marshall

FFA is a family event in the Segar household. Amanda, a senior at Marshall High School and the third member of her family to serve as her chapter's president. Also serving as her regional secretary, Amanda became involved because she witnessed her brother and sister thriving in the organization and she desired to do the same.

Amanda has the SAEs of landscaping and goat management. She says, "One day when I was wandering around my county fair, I stumbled into the goat barn and fell in love with lamancha goats. As for landscaping, I have always enjoyed working with my mother and grandmother in their gardens... so it felt only natural to develop it into an SAE as well."

Amanda has been showing her goats at the Calhoun County Fair since the age of nine. She says, "My SAE has taught me responsibility, a sense of professionalism and leadership and it has instilled upon me a sense of pride as a result of hard work."

When not busy with the FFA and her SAEs, Amanda participates in the 4-H and is a senior representative on the student council.

After graduating, Amanda plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture with the hopes of owning her own landscaping business in the future. (2)



Stephanie Baker
Waldron

Region 2: Stephanie Baker Waldron

A junior at Waldron High School, Stephanie Baker has become a familiar face at countless horse shows in her area. The treasurer of her FFA chapter, she has been riding in these horse shows, known as "Gymkhana" since her freshman year. The shows include events like speed shows, barrel races and pole bending. When asked what her SAE has taught her, Stephanie replies, "I have learned how to increase the value of my assets. By training my horse to compete in gymkhana I have made her market value go up."

Through the FFA, Stephanie has traveled twice to National Convention and earned many degrees and awards. She says, "FFA has encouraged me to try new things. My advisor is always pushing me to be involved in new contests and activities. By challenging me to do things I wouldn't normally try, I am now unafraid to take risks in everyday life."

During her free time outside of the FFA and her SAE, Stephanie enjoys participating in volleyball, softball, cheerleading, the National Honor Society and Student Council.

After she graduates, Stephanie would like to attend Michigan State University, majoring in biological science. (2)

Region 3: Stephanie Hopkins Capac

When Stephanie Hopkins first took and Animal Science class at Capac High School, she probably didn't know that it would lead to her intense involvement with the FFA. In that class, she helped raise chickens which helped lead her into a placement SAE of Wild Game and Meat Processing and works in a butcher shop.

Through this job Stephanie has learned the valuable lessons of money and time management, more about food safety and sanitation and has honed her business and people skills. Her duties include stocking shelves and coolers, weighing and wrapping the meat, packaging the smoked meats and insuring that sanitary working conditions are upheld.

At her high school, Stephanie is very active, participating in varsity cheerleading, PALS, Students Against Drunk Driving and her school's science and Spanish clubs.

In the fall, Stephanie will be attending Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in chemistry. (2)



Stephanie Hopkins
Capac

Region 4: Michelle Cole

Durand

Michelle Cole of the Durand FFA Chapter maintains close ties to the roots of American agriculture. Her family works 2800 acres of corn, hay and soybeans while also milking 500 cows.

Michelle became interested in her eventual SAE when she was quite young and would help her dad and grandpa on the farm. However, it didn't officially become her SAE until she joined the FFA in her freshman year.

During summertime, Michelle's major responsibility is fieldwork. She is responsible for cutting hay three to four times a year along with deep tilling, pushing silage, merging and raking hay, driving the grain cart, chisel plowing and round baling.

Through the FFA, Michelle learned a valuable lesson. She says, "FFA has taught me that there is more to agriculture than just farming. I never knew how many different areas there were that I could get involved in."

Outside of the FFA, Michelle plays varsity basketball and soccer and participates in student government as her junior class vice president.

She is unsure as to where she would like to attend college but is considering Michigan State University to do something related to agriculture. 12

Region 5: Matt Smith

Lakewood

From the Lakewood FFA Chapter, Matt Smith has had an interest in dairy since a very young age when he would work with his grandfather on his eighty head dairy farm. His other interest His other interest includes sheep production and shearing. Each of these things (along with horse production) has become Matt's SAEs since the seventh grade.

A day in the life of Matt's SAE consists of feeding his sheep dry hay and grain, then looking them over to ensure that they are healthy. He feeds the horses a round bale of hay and then the heifers. In the end, he feeds the calves that are still drinking milk.

From these SAEs, Matt has learned how to keep good records, the sale of livestock, how to manage a successful business and good people skills.

In the FFA, Matt has earned countless awards, including his Greenhand and Outstanding Junior Degrees. He thanks his family for always support his pursuits in the FFA and life in general.

Matt plans to attend Michigan State University upon graduation to pursue a degree in dairy management. 12

Region 6: Derek Quick

Alcona

With an SAE of Forest Management and Wood Products, Alcona High School senior Derek Quick is quite the entrepreneur. This past summer, he began a lumbering business in their hometown of Harrisville.

Derek became interest in working in the forest as a child when he would help his dad cut firewood. Eventually, he began operating chainsaws and working with local loggers. And then Derek began selling firewood to local businesses and individuals, being guaranteed a customer base with the nearby Harrisville State Park. They are now called the "Hardwood Haulers."

Besides his business, Derek also has shown steers at his county fair and works at a local dairy farm. He is the vice president of his chapter and is the Region VI Sentinel.

Outside of the FFA, Derek is also kept busy as his student council class president and another job at a local dairy farm where he milks and manages the calf barn. He also volunteers his time to run the lights and soundboard in his school auditorium.

After graduation, Derek will be attending Western Michigan University to become a professional pilot, joining the ROTC program there. Upon completion there, he would like to become an officer with the United States Air Force. 12



Michelle Cook
Durand



Matt Smith
Lakewood



Derek Quick
Alcona

Say what?

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

Regional Responses to Current Issues

The question:

In one word, what does leadership mean to you?



Region 1



Stephanie Cambell
Van Buren Tech Center

Courage. It takes courage to take charge of a situation and to ensure that a fair deal is given to all those involved. It also takes courage to make decisions for the good of your group even if they aren't the most popular decisions. ☺

Region 2



Tom Cook
Camden Frontier

Influence. The only way to lead is by example. Leaders constantly have people watching what they are doing and should act in a proper way because they are influencing others. ☺

Region 3



Megan Heldt
Port Hope

Service. You always need to lead by committing acts of service to help others in your schools and communities. Words are not always enough. ☺

Region 4



Julia Koziara
Oakland Tech Center SE

Cooperativeness. I don't know if it's a word or not, but when you are a leader of with people of leadership, you seem to get along better with people. ☺

Region 5



Shuan Hladki
Montague

Future. All leadership and teamwork skills gained throughout a member's time in the FFA are meant to be used for the good of the future. ☺

Region 6



Lacy Rosenberry
Wexford-Missaukee

Trust. You have to learn to trust not only the people you work with but also the people who lead you. If one cannot trust their leader then he or she cannot effectively lead people. ☺

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 Region II State Vice President, Jake Riske at riskej@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!



Leadership is a Song... Sing It!

A picture is worth a thousand words. If this is accepted as truth, then a song, with its harmonious lyrics and gentle melody, must speak volumes to the listening ear and the human spirit.

Here we give you six songs that present positive messages to their listeners; a message that provides an ideal to live by. The ideals set forth in these songs are also found deep within our organization and within the hearts of each and every FFA member in our state.

The messages that these songs portray are simple at best. They are:

- Never allow opportunities to pass you by
- Remain openminded toward others
- Don't take your hometowns for granted
- Never back down from your own ideals and values
- Always strive hard for what you truly want
- Keep a positive attitude through it all

I Hope You Dance

Life is short. Weather you live one year or one hundred years, it won't be long enough. Too often in life we let important opportunities pass us by, claiming that we're either too busy or too afraid of the necessary risk. Lee Ann Womack sings, "I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance; never settle for the path of least resistance. Living might mean taking chances, but they're worth taking...and when you get the chance to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance." Michigan FFA, never be afraid of taking the chances that often lead to greatness and fulfillment, because in the grand scheme of life, it will be the opportunities we didn't take that we regret most. ♪

A Front Porch

"If the world had a front porch like we did back then, we'd still have our problems but we'd all be friends..."

No matter where we come from and no matter the people we find ourselves surrounded by, we must remember that we all share the common traits of belonging to one human race and sharing one planet. As leaders in the FFA organization, it is important that we each remain openminded to the fact that we will encounter many different people from varying walks of life. I encourage you, Michigan FFA to "treat my neighbor like he's your next of

Small Town

In the words of John Cougar Mellencamp, "Got nothing against a big town, but my bed is in a small town. Oh, and that's good enough for me." Since there are so many farming communities in Michigan, I'm sure that many FFA members can relate to this song. But as more and more FFA chapters pop up in larger cities, some members may not understand the appeal of the small town. But for numerous generations of past and present members, it is hear where the roots of leadership took hold. It is in these small towns where the formation of our values systems takes place and we learn right from wrong. It is also here that we become comfortable in our own skin and with being ourselves. "Yeah, I can be myself here in this small town, and people let me be just what I want to be." I would never give up my small town experiences. ♪

Won't Back Down

I know what I believe and I know what I value and nobody is going to tell me any different. While many of us may feel this way, it can be hard to emphatically state our values and beliefs in the presence of others and we often succumb to peer pressure. But Tom Petty tells us differently and inspires bold actions. He sings, "Well I know what's right. I got just one life in a world that keeps on pushing me around, but I'll stand my ground and I won't back down." ♪

Outside the Fire

The Michigan FFA is home to so many outstanding members. These members display the kind of qualities that not many students their age have yet acquired. The song "Standing Outside the Fire" can describe the countless Michigan FFA members that don't let the ordinary or the possibility of liking something that's not that popular get in the way of doing what they love. The lyrics "There's this love that is burning deep in my soul, constantly yearning to get out of control, wanting to fly higher and higher. I can't abide standing outside the fire" puts to music the passion that many of our members feel - never wanting to quit and always wanting to strive harder. ♪

The Sunny Side

There's an old bluegrass song called "Keep on the Sunny Side." While many would dismiss the song within ten seconds of its beginning due to its heavy twang, I listened to the message that it portrays. The lyrics say, "The storm and its fury broke today, crushing hopes that we cherished today. But clouds and storms will in time pass away. The sun again will shine bright and clear." In other words, when things are at their worst and you don't think you can make it through, you must pledge to stay the course because things will inevitably grow better. I challenge you not to be taken down by inferior

The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation News

By: Jill Corrin,
Michigan Farm Bureau

Thanks to successful partnerships between participating FFA chapters and Chevrolet dealerships, the FFA Chevrolet Scholarship Program raised \$44,880 in Michigan to help FFA members across the state attend FFA leadership conferences and pursue their college education.

"We're grateful to the participating FFA chapters and Chevrolet dealerships who worked hard to make this program a huge success in Michigan," said director of the Michigan FFA Foundation, Kate Powers. "Like most things in life, there's a cost to high school students attending leadership conferences and pursuing college educations. This program helps us ease that burden for FFA students who are committed to bettering themselves and their communities."

The fund-raiser was part of the nationwide FFA Chevrolet Scholarship Program, held August 23 to October 22, 2004.

Participating FFA chapters in 29 states requested \$5 donations in support of the program, and with each donation, individuals were registered to win a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado LS Half Ton Crew Cab. One Chevrolet Silverado was given away for donations collected in Michigan and Ohio, and the lucky winner was a donor from Oxford, Ohio.

"While it would have been nice to announce a Michigan truck winner, we are thrilled with the program's overall outcome, especially since so much of the money raised stays with the local FFA chapter," said Powers.

Of the total money raised, 80 percent of each donation was directed to the

participating local FFA chapter, and 20 percent was split between the state and national FFA Foundations. According to program organizers, FFA chapters in Michigan raised an average of \$1,795 per chapter. The state campaign earned the Michigan FFA Foundation \$6,732, and the National FFA Foundation \$2,244.

In partnership with Young Chevrolet Oldsmobile Cadillac of Owosso, the New Lothrop High School FFA Chapter collected the most donations in Michigan, raising nearly \$4,000.

The funding will come in handy to help cover registration fees and lodging expenses associated with annually sending about 40 to 50 students to the FFA state convention in East Lansing to earn FFA degrees and compete in FFA skills contests, said Margaret Bandkau, chapter adviser.

"The program has given us the opportunity to continue to send a significant number of students to state and national FFA conventions to learn more about FFA opportunities," she said.

And thanks to the program, the New Lothrop FFA Chapter can devote its other fund-raising activities to costs associated with the school's new \$50,000 28-by-36 greenhouse. Built as a year-round facility complete with floor heating, students are currently in the process of conducting various plant experiments, such as studying the effects of fertilizer on pineapple plants, said Bandkau.

In addition to boosting FFA coffers, Bandkau said the partnership with the local Chevrolet dealership also proved valuable in providing students with an opportunity to learn sales skills from local business people. To show their appreciation, the chapter's officer team presented the Young dealership with a "Star Supporter Award" following the fund-raiser.

The Young dealership was happy to oblige, said general sales manager Lori Young-Rowlison. In addition to the New Lothrop High School FFA Chapter, the dealership also partnered with FFA chapters at Corunna and Laingsburg high schools.

"I can't say enough nice things about this program," said Young-Rowlison. "Those are good kids and those kids worked awfully hard ... and our salespeople had a fun time working with them ... It's all about the community



and I'm glad we embraced it too."

The fund-raiser also yielded positive results for the dealership, which only recently added the Chevrolet line. "It helped us with our presence as a local Chevrolet dealer," said Young-Rowlison. On top of that, the FFA Chevrolet T-shirts redeemed at the dealership by donors were so popular that the dealership ran out of stock initially and had to order more, she said.

The Unionville-Sebewaing Area (USA) High School FFA Chapter was also pleased with the program's results.

"The program was a great opportunity for students to get out and work with the community," said Carl Kieser, USA agriscience teacher and chapter adviser.

USA FFA Chapter President Sarah Bernia agreed. "It was a win-win situation," said the 17-year-old senior.

The USA FFA Chapter is responsible for costs to travel to leadership events, so the chapter plans to use the more than \$2,500 it raised to finance transportation to upcoming events such as the Feb. 2 FFA Leadership Contest in Capac. There, Bernia will chair a team competing in a parliamentary procedure contest. Other students will compete in various other public speaking skills contests.

Bernia is grateful for the opportunity to attend such events, noting that the leadership contests have honed her organization and presentation skills while trips to the FFA state convention at Michigan State University have helped ease her nerves about applying for college.

The Mason High School FFA Chapter also raised more than \$2,500 and is appreciative of the "commitment to agriscience education and the young people in the community" shown through the program, said Pete Barnum, agriscience teacher

Participating Chapters and Dealerships

Akron-Fairgrove High School FFA - Jim Schafer Motors, Sebewaing

Blissfield High School FFA - Knapp Motors, Blissfield

Branch Area Career Center FFA - Royal Chevrolet, Coldwater

Byron High School FFA - Graft Chevrolet, Durand

Camden Frontier High School FFA - Frank Beck Chevrolet, Hillsdale

Cedar Springs High School FFA - John Decker Chevrolet, Rockford

Coopersville High School FFA - Lemmen-Grand Chevrolet Pontiac Buick, Coopersville

Corunna High School FFA - Young Chevrolet, Owosso

Dansville High School FFA - Andrews Chevrolet, Mason

Durand High School FFA - Graft Chevrolet, Durand

Hopkins High School FFA - Wayland Chevrolet, Wayland

Jonasville High School FFA - Frank Beck Chevrolet, Hillsdale

Laingsburg High School FFA - Young Chevrolet, Owosso

Lenawee Vocational-Technical Center FFA - Greg Bell Chevrolet, Adrian

Mason High School FFA - Andrews Chevrolet, Mason

Montague High School FFA - Dan Rymoo Chevrolet, Whitehall

New Lothrop High School FFA - Young Chevrolet, Owosso

North Huron FFA - Bukaski Sales & Service, Ubly

Ovid Elsie High School FFA - Bees Motors, St. Johns

Perry High School FFA - Pres Kool Chevrolet, Okemos

Ravenna High School FFA - Betten Chevrolet, Muskegon

Sand Creek High School FFA - Greg Bell Chevrolet

Unionville-Sebewaing Area FFA - Jim Schafer Motors, Sebewaing

Wadron High School FFA - Frank Beck Chevrolet, Hillsdale

Webberville High School FFA - Waldecker Chevrolet, Fowlerville

The chapter plans to divide the funding, with a third devoted to scholarships for leadership conferences and two-thirds invested in a fund to support "lasting, long-term" projects such as building a greenhouse or upgrading the school's maple syrup production facility.

The FFA/Chevrolet Scholarship

pilot program in North Carolina and South Carolina in 2003 before being expanded nationwide for the first time last year. Barnum is hopeful the program will be offered again.

"We look forward to the program continuing and increasing the collection," he said.



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