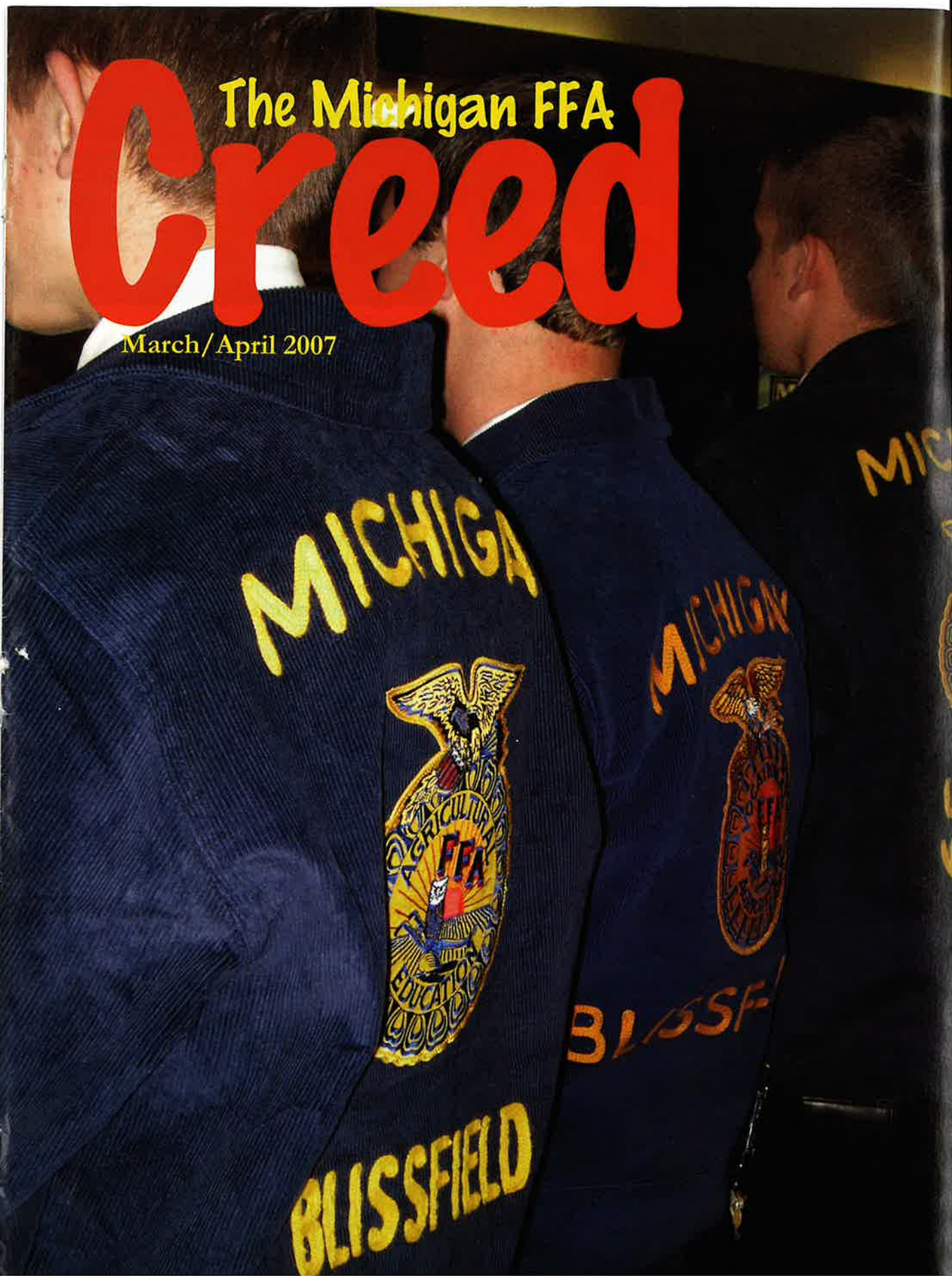


The Michigan FFA Creed

March/April 2007



The Michigan FFA Creed



Issue 4 Volume 5

The State FFA Office
108 Natural Resources
East Lansing, MI 48824
www.michiganffa.com
association@michiganffa.com
(517) 353-9221
(517) 432-5632 (fax)

D- Tag! You're It!

The new mandatory tagging of cattle in Michigan is explored.

F- Chapter Chatter

State officers report on what six Michigan FFA chapters have been working on.

H- American Indian Agriculture

Danielle Martinez investigates the agricultural roots of her ancestry.

J- Michigan FFA Fun

Take a break and dive into these games and puzzles!

K- The Rest of the Story...

Learn more about those who are serving as your state officers.

L- The Power of the FFA

State President Alyn Kiel speaks on the prestige that comes with the blue corduroy jacket.

N- Alumni in Action

Read up on the events of the Michigan FFA Alumni.

O- The Cornerstone

The Michigan FFA Foundation highlights the Ag Heritage license plate.

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.

Creed Staff

Managing Editor Dustin Petty
Staff Editors Andrea Kerbuski
Emily Ries
Writers Michelle Dawes
Katie Eldred
Alyn Kiel
Emily Ries
Danielle Martinez

President Alyn Kiel
Vice President Katie Eldred
Secretary Gabe Holdwick
Treasurer Anna Timmerman
Reporter Emily Ries
Sentinel Henry Reinart

State Officers

Region I State VP Nicole Schaendorf
Region II State VP Danielle Martinez
Region III State VP Kirk Yackle
Region IV State VP Brooke Rockentine
Region V State VP Ashley Orlowski
Region VI State VP Hannah Carruthers



I believe in...

March and April are perhaps the two busiest months for the Michigan FFA Association and its amazing membership.

At our 79th State FFA Convention, there will be a host of members competing in leadership contests and showing off the skills they have been practicing for months, and in some cases, years. Chapters will compete in the spirit of brotherhood (and sisterhood) and win awards for National Chapter, Food for America and countless other activities that demonstrate the best of the best.

In April, a different set of skills will be on display. The FFA Spring Skills Contest has been taking place for nearly 90 years now but the contests have grown with the times. Originally, livestock judging was pretty much the extent of the skills practiced but today, you'll see members compete in Farm Business Management, Forestry, Ag Communications and numerous others.

During these busy months that lie ahead, we challenge you to always portray all the good that FFA has to offer – we challenge you to be role

models and to never give anyone reason to look down upon the FFA or its members.

Millions and millions of young men and women have come before us and have fought for the image that we today hold. They spent time building our organization from the ground up, shaping it into the premier leadership organization of the country. From Leslie Applegate to Jimmy Carter, they left us with a legacy and we must ensure that that same legacy, only more brilliant, is left for the generations of FFA members to come.

President George H. W. Bush once said, "We know what to call the FFA. We call it America at her best, America at her most generous, an America embodied by your motto: learning to do, doing to learn; earning to live, and then living to serve."

We challenge you to ensure that we always live up to that ideal. Remember, when you slip on your blue corduroy jacket, you are representing nearly half a million current and countless past FFA members. Live the Legacy. Break the Mold.

Dates to Remember...

March

7-9	Michigan FFA State Convention
30	Marketing Plan Papers Due

April

6	Ag Skills Registration Due
20	Meats Contest
20	Ag Skills Contests
21	Horse Judging



TAG! YOU'RE IT!

By: Michelle Dawes
MSU Animal Science Major

As the March 1 deadline approached, the Michigan Department of Agriculture was busy reminding producers of mandatory radio frequency identification device (RFID) tagging of cattle in Michigan. This new procedure means that both dairy and beef cattle must be identified with RFID tags prior to movement off of their current premises.

The Michigan Agricultural Commission, which is a part of the MDA, has decided to implement this proposal as a part of the Tuberculosis (TB) Eradication Program. After the March 1 deadline, the current metal tags used to identify TB free cattle will not be sufficient forms of identification. The official RFID tags will allow for better disease supervision. This also means quicker and more accurate tracking of animals both within the state and around the world assuring cattle producers in other states of the safety of Michigan cattle. It is hoped that this program will also move Michigan TB zones up to higher TB status.

Contrary to common belief, this RFID tagging program is not being made mandatory because of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Participation in the NAIS is currently voluntary. Rather, Michigan's RFID program, as previously stated, is being implemented primarily for TB eradication efforts. By requiring tagging now, Michigan will have an upper hand by protecting access to markets, since its cattle will have a creditable audit trail to prove their place of origin and health records. Traceability continues to be a pressing issue, since consumers and large food suppliers are more and more concerned about the safety of their food. This concern has increased in the past few years with findings of bovine

spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as mad cow, and other contagious diseases. With a creditable trace back system, the infected animal could be traced back to its origin within hours instead of days or weeks. In this way, RFID tagging acts as insurance for cattle producers.

There are three components to the Michigan RFID tagging system. First, a premise number is required for each production site, regardless of size or type of cattle. It is suggested that more than one premise number be used if a producer has more than one herd of cattle that do not come in contact and are in separate locations.

Second, the actual tag itself includes a 15 character identification



Button tags, much like the one shown above will be the norm for all cattle in Michigan.

that begins with 840, which recognizes cattle as originating from the U.S. This number acts like a social security number for the animal. It is only to be removed at the processing facility and then destroyed. That number will not be used again for at least 20 years.

And finally, the trace back ability as it moves through the system is essential.

This mandatory cattle identification program is similar to Michigan's current TB tagging program. For the past six years, Michigan has already had a mandatory tagging program in place to control TB; the only real difference with the new program is the ability to trace back each individual animal in an accurate, timely fashion. These electronic tags can also be used to verify the age of cattle.

Although all cattle in Michigan are covered under this program, regardless of size or type of operation, there are a few exceptions. Cattle that are being sent to slaughter and are to be used for personal consumption do not need to be identified with the RFID tags. Feeder cattle imported out of state that are not in contact with other Michigan cattle and are being shipped directly to slaughter also do not have to be tagged.

Producers will be responsible for purchasing the tags, which are \$2 each, and the applicator, for \$20. It is the producer's

choice to buy the equipment that electronically reads the tags, which costs between \$300 and \$1500. Otherwise, the tags are easily readable manually. The use of the RFID tags can help producers, especially those with large herds, keep better, more accurate records.

In addition, most producers agree that the benefits of this program outweigh the costs.

Amanda Powell, a producer of Angus beef in Ionia County said, "source verified cattle are a good consumer friendly tool for Michigan beef producers."

However, she disagrees with producers having to purchase their own tags and applicator. "I have a problem with the unfunded mandate. I believe producers should be reimbursed for those tags, but in the long run, I believe that producers will still benefit."

Although there may be a "few kinks" in the system, mandatory RFID tagging of cattle in Michigan will provide benefits in all aspects of the cattle industry. Ultimately, this program will prove to be a creditable trace back source for finding and eliminating TB from our state. It will also serve as protection and yield access to out-of-state markets. Michigan's RFID tagging program will also serve as a model for the NAIS and other states.



Chapter Chatter

By: **Katie Eldred and Emily Ries**
State Vice President and State Reporter



Region I

Allegan FFA - Cindy Walker, advisor

"This is one of our chapter's favorite winter activities. Each year, the Graphics Arts program which is our next door neighbor in the building and the Allegan Tech Center FFA team up to bring Christmas to a needy family. The FFA members save change and take up a collection for the month of December in order to present the family with a gift certificate to a local grocery store that they can use to buy supplies for Christmas dinner. Actually, we try to make sure they are fed for the week, and not just the day. This year, the family received a \$100 gift certificate."

Region II

Sand Creek FFA - Jennifer Wheeler, advisor

"The Sand Creek FFA chapter hosted its 3rd annual Toy Tractor Show in early December. During the day, visitors had the opportunity to shop from a wide variety of toy tractor dealers, view a micro-mini tractor pull and even milk a cow. Members of the chapter held a tractor pull for children as well as a remote control tractor competition. FFA salsa was on sale and members passed out chips and salsa to those who attended."



Region III

Saginaw FFA - Nadene Blakeley, advisor

"This fall the Saginaw FFA Chapter participated in the FFA Broiler Project where the students raised broiler chickens, from two day chicks to processing weight, and took them to competition in Fowlerville, MI. Six teams selected and entered their five best chickens for processing and judging. The birds were judged in areas of weight, finish, conformation, uniformity and defects. After completing the six-week project and after all the chickens had been processed, the chapter then sold them as a fundraiser. After all of the birds were sold with not one left over, the students had





Region IV

Dansville FFA - Amanda Johnson, advisor

"This year our chapter created gift bags for the local Angel House program. The Angel House provides a safe place for area children who are removed from their home. We made the gift bags to give them something that could be theirs when they get to the house. First we picked out back packs to put our gifts into. Then we asked for donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste from a local dentist office. Then we purchased washcloths, gloves and small toys to put in each bag. In all we created 24 bags to give to the program. We also received a donation of 15 quilts from a member's grandmother that we then donated to an area nursing home. The last two years we held donkey ball tournaments and raised \$2000 for Saint Jude's research hospital and \$3000 for muscular dystrophy."

Region V

Grant FFA - Katie Courtade, advisor

"The Grant FFA chapter held their annual fall bonfire in October at Mike Simcoe's house. The new FFA members and any interested students were invited to the bonfire to help the rest of the members get to know them. The members provided food, went on a hayride, and had a bonfire. The junior high FFA members were also invited. This helps the chapter recruit new members into the FFA, and everyone has a great time. The members enjoy this event as it provides good camaraderie and kicks off the year ahead of them."



Region VI

Traverse Bay FFA - Anna Blight, advisor

"In late October, our chapter helped core, peel, and store over 1600 pounds of locally-grown organic apples, which was the main ingredient in Get Jammin' Apple Jam. We processed the apples at Food for Thought, a small canning operation in Honor, in cooperation with the Fresh Food Partnership, an organization that works to provide fresh local food to people in need. We sold the product through Christmas and received part of the proceeds as an FFA fundraiser."



Advisors and students: do you want to see YOUR chapter highlighted here? It's easy! Email State Reporter Emily Ries at riesemil@carrs.msu.edu for more information.

AMERICAN INDIAN AGRICULTURE



By: **Danielle Martinez**
MSU Agriscience Education Major

Growing up, my dad would always tell me stories that he had heard from his dad and grandfather. He would tell me of our ancestors – the Navajo – and of the reservation back west. Every facet of their lives was interesting to me. And when I joined the FFA, I began to think about their agriculture.

When one thinks of farming, they often think of a tractor plowing a field or harvesting corn, but what about the time before tractors and GPS? There once was a time when the land was held in the highest regard. The Adena and Navajo Indians are two tribes of Native Americans that continue on the farming traditions of their ancestors.

These two tribes are from separate parts of the country, yet have many similarities when it comes to farming. They each had a wide variety of crops such as beans and different fruits. The two crops they had in common were corn and squash. These tribes also were hunters and gatherers. They would gather a variety of berries and other edible forages.

The tribes may have similarities, but they also have some differences. The Navajo Indians have become known as master shepherds. Navajo children are each given a lamb to raise as part of their education. While in Ohio, the Adena tribe became skilled with different hand tools, such as stone hatchets and bone shovels. They would use these tools to cultivate the land and skin animals and fish. Instead of raising livestock, the Adena became avid fishers.

Something that is near and dear to an FFA member is corn and as before mentioned, corn was a major crop for both of these tribes even though each had its own way of growing this crop. The Navajo would divert streams to irrigate their cornfields.

The Navajo held celebrations around the planting and harvesting season in order to promote a good crop season. The Adena, on the other hand would first soak the seeds in water before planting because they believed this would help the corn prosper. They would then plant the seed in May. The seeds would be placed three to four feet apart to promote growth.

American Indian tribes, in general, would often abandon their land every five to ten years, despite the difficulty of clearing the land because they believed that overusing the land would ruin the soil. This is one of the earliest forms of rotational farming.

The days and ways of the ancestors may be gone but will never be forgotten. The beat of mother earth lies within us all, we simply need to take the time to stop and listen to it. Native Americans believe that if you listen to the earth it will listen to you and provide you with all that you need.



American Indians picking hops.
(Photo courtesy of the University of Washington)

Michigan FFA Fun!

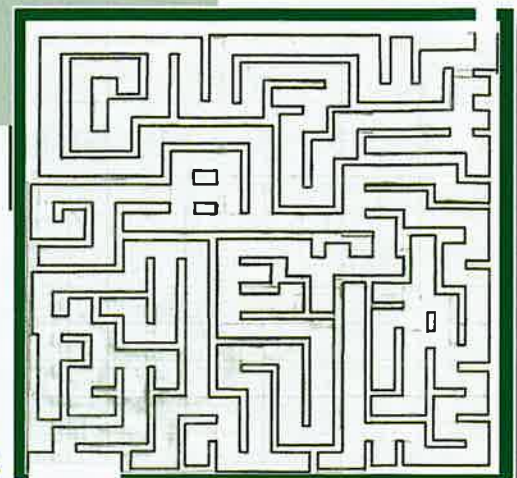


Spring Skills Word Search!

AG MECHANICS	HANNAH
AG SALES	HORSE JUDGING
AG SKILLS	KIRK
ANNA	LEADERSHIP
BREAK THE MOLD	MARKETING
CROPS	MEATS
DAIRY JUDGING	MILK QUALITY
FLORICULTURE	POULTRY CONTEST
FORESTRY	TRACTOR DRIVING
GREENHOUSE	TURF

Help Sparty Get to State Convention!

START



FINISH



The Rest of the Story...



Anna Timmerman **State Treasurer**

Her hard work earned her the title of Michigan's Star in Agribusiness in 2005. Meet your state Treasurer, the one and only Ms. Anna Timmerman.

Anna is into her second semester at Michigan State University with a Crop and Soil Science major. Her passion for agriculture and the FFA is evident as you look at her long list of accomplishments.

In high school, Anna was an active member of 4-H, the National Junior Horticulture Association as well as the American Rabbit Breeder's Association. As a committed member of all of these organizations in addition to her work with the Michigan FFA, Anna accomplishes anything that she puts her mind to.

Kirk Yackle **Region III State Vice President**

Meet your Region III State Vice President, Mr. Kirk Yackle.

Kirk has had a wonderful experience being part of the Michigan FFA. Reflecting on his high school career in the FFA, Kirk says, "My favorite activity was practicing for competitions, everyone is having fun and there isn't a lot of stress." Kirk adds an amazing amount of fun to everything he's involved in. Some of his high school activities included the National Honor Society and soccer.

Kirk's goal in life is to become a published fiction writer. One of Kirk's many favorite quotes can be attributed to James Joyce who said, "And I will try to express myself in some mode of life or art as freely as I can and as wholly as I can, using for my defense the only arms I allow myself to use, silence, exile and cunning."



Hannah Carruthers **Region VI State Vice President**

Currently at Michigan State University studying Animal Science and pre-veterinary science, meet your Region VI State Vice President, Ms. Hannah Carruthers.

Hannah is currently employed by a local veterinarian located in Standish where she is learning the "tricks of the trade." Once she graduates, Hannah plans to be a small and large animal veterinarian. Her SAE has proved to be the determining factor in her career choice as she raised rabbits, dairy heifers and beef.

She recalls Food for America as her favorite FFA activity because she likes animals and enjoys teaching children about agriculture. In high school, Hannah enjoyed power lifting, the National Honor Society as well as serving as the rabbit club leader for Arenac County.

The POWER of the FFA

By: Alyn Kiel
MSU ANR Communications Major



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and U.S. Senator Sam Brownback were. Entertainers Willie Nelson and Tim McGraw were. Former Michigan Governor John Engler and Garfield creator Jim Davis were too.

FFA members. Highly successful FFA members, to boot.

Yet, have you ever wondered what makes FFA members so successful, whether as speakers, researchers, fundraisers or leaders?

The answer lies with the leadership and career skills that the FFA develops through agricultural education opportunities—creating the proverbial well-rounded young person so desired by colleges, scholarships and future employers. The FFA maintains a special culture for members, including a unique uniform, the FFA official dress, and specific professional behaviors, such as those taught through workshops and leadership contests. The style of dress and professional mannerisms supported by the FFA have a persuasive impact on the perceptions of adult professionals, whom FFA members rely upon for sponsorship, advising, judging, and more.

Certain attributes, such as appropriate dress, language and mannerisms, are crucial for professional success. When hiring, employers often look for individuals described as well-turned out or well-spoken, having good manners, character or presence. FFA members are trained to effectively communicate the FFA key messages to professional groups. This training includes: maintaining appropriate body language and attitude,

correct grammar and word usage, and remaining professional, passionate and respectful.

Studies have shown that those who describe themselves as properly dressed believe that they seem more responsible, competent, professional, etc. than when not properly dressed. The FFA official dress is a uniform which consists of: a white top, blue bottoms and a blue corduroy jacket. FFA members generally interact with politicians, businessmen and agriculturalists, whose dress is generally conservative; FFA official dress is also of a conservative style. Members may choose to dress in other styles outside of FFA activities, but, when representing the FFA, they adapt their apparel to the norms of professional culture.

The conservative style of the FFA official dress represents a non-verbal signal, which demonstrates that FFA and the professional group possess similar values and removes a potential barrier to communication. Businesses choose to sponsor FFA based upon the correlation between business and FFA values.

Communicating with professionals is often on a limited basis, a short visit, with only partial knowledge of agricultural education and the FFA, is what members usually expect. The ability to communicate concisely helps to gain and keep the attention of a professional group. Consequently, professional groups are more likely to understand and support the FFA message and goals. Demonstrating the skills seen as essential to success allows members to showcase the skills that the FFA has helped them to develop and encourages adult professionals' further involvement with the organization.

Win This Tractor

This 1948 Ford 8N will be raffled off at the State FFA Convention, March 8, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in East Lansing, Mich. at the Wharton Center.

Tickets: \$5

Available now at your local New Holland dealer.
You do not need to be present to win! Proceeds to support the Michigan FFA Foundation.



**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY**
**COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Special thanks to these companies for making this project possible:

Burnips Equipment Company

Steiner Tractor Parts, Inc.

Corbin Radiator

J&B Tire

Michigan New Holland dealers

Jerry's Tire

TNT Equipment, Inc.

Lloyd Miller & Sons

AC & E Rentals

Young Bros. & Daley

Tractor restored by:

Alan Awalt, Tim Rogers, Matt Jakubik, and Nathan Baker



Tractor Donated By:



Alumni in Action

Laker FFA Alumni Assists with chapter's Toy Tractor Show

The Laker FFA Alumni was proud to support our chapter in the annual Toy Tractor Show held this past January. During this event, the alumni had three main objectives that we chose to accomplish. The first was to raise money for the Laker FFA Scholarship Fund. We did this by hosting a silent auction with items donated by vendors and alumni members. Our second objective was to bring people from our community for this event that will also visit and do business with our local merchants. Finally, we hoped to promote FFA to younger students while also allowing past FFA members to reunite.

Sixteen years ago, one of our members had an interest in model tractors and talked our advisor into having a toy tractor show. Now, with the help of that same student, who is now an alumni officer, our alumni chapter helps to keep this event running. One of our duties is to contact and secure contracts with our over 75 vendors to exhibit at our toy tractor show. Our alumni group also supervises the show set up, advertising and running the silent auction. This project starts in September and runs through show time in January. The show is held at Laker High

School the first Saturday in January and there were approximately 20 alumni that took part in the activity.

This year over 900 people attended the toy tractor show. The Laker FFA Chapter raised over \$4,000 and our alumni collected another \$450. Through this activity, our alumni has received many positive comments from members of the community who see an increased amount of business at local businesses and hotels. Our Toy Tractor Show over the years has become a social event where old friendships are renewed because of similar interests in toys.



Montague Scrapbook Social

The Family and Friends of the Montague FFA, formerly the Montague FFA Alumni, recently held their second annual Scrapbook Social. The social, which featured curb service carry-in, door prizes, soup and snacks, and a grand prize worth \$150, was held at Montague High School on January 20, 2007.

Although it served as a "workday" and a chance to interact with other scrap-bookers, the social also offered other opportunities. Participants entered scrapbook page contests, with awards going to the best baby, vacation, unique action and pet pages. They were also able to purchase gift certificates and items from local vendors.

Montague FFA members assisted with set-up, take down, cleaning, food serving and games. Jan Gowell, a vendor from "Stampin' Up", also instructed the chapter members in card making; at the end of the night, the members gave cards to all attendees and sponsors as a thank-you gift. With over 70 participants attending, the event was considered a huge success!

All proceeds from the event will go toward supplementing chapter functions, travel, and other activities.

WLC Scholarship Recipients

The State FFA Alumni Council named the following recipients of the 2007 Washington Leadership Conference scholarships.

Receiving a full scholarship:

*Randolf Lee, Cassopolis
Marco Verhaar, Laker*

Receiving a partial scholarship:

*Kaitlyn Hard, Branch Area Career Center
Hannah Wenzlick, New Lothrop
Kayla Aube, Alpena*

Receiving the Past State Officer Scholarship:

Jonathan Milliman, Bronson

Receiving the Jack L. Schut Memorial Scholarship

Clint Steketee, Caledonia



The Cornerstone

Michigan FFA Foundation

Ag Heritage license plate cruises along for FFA, Agriscience Education

As you prepare to register your car, think of the FFA. The classic Great Lakes blue-and white license plate is no longer available in Michigan (as of 2007). So why not support a cause with a beautiful Agricultural Heritage Plate?

A portion, of every sale, of an Agricultural Heritage license plate supports the Glassbrook Endowment. Administered by the Michigan FFA Foundation, this endowment funds agriculture and natural resources education and leadership initiatives for K-12 students across the state.

The specialty plate, which features a red barn, silo and rolling green fields crowned with the sun, is one of the biggest revenue generators for the endowment. It raised nearly \$250,000 since its introduction in April 2001.

"The Michigan FFA Foundation is proud to see our legislative leaders stand behind this valuable program, and we are grateful to the people of Michigan for supporting it," said Jim Bosserd, president and chief executive officer of ChoiceOne Bank. He also serves as chairman of the Michigan FFA Foundation Board of Directors.

"Revenue generated by the Agricultural Heritage plate helps the FFA continue to provide leadership programs for youth and assists in the continuation of agriscience education in Michigan schools," said Bosserd.

The Agricultural Heritage plate costs \$35, and each sale contributes \$25 to the Glassbrook Endowment. The Glassbrook Endowment also collects \$10 each time the specialty plate is renewed.

"FFA members and parents can help support agriscience programs in Michigan and show their agricultural pride with this plate," said Michigan FFA Foundation Annual Fund Director



Megan Hirschman. "FFA members can encourage their family members and friends to help support this great program, through the purchase of an Agricultural Heritage license plate."

Current state law does not allow specialty fund-raising plates to be used as official license plates on vehicles that use farm and log license plates.

Farm vehicles such as pickup trucks used strictly for business are covered by a separate license plate system that charges farmers a reduced fee and helps law enforcement officers more easily differentiate farm vehicles from passenger vehicles. For these vehicles, owners can purchase an Agricultural Heritage collector's plate that can be affixed to either a window or the front end of the farm vehicle. The collector plate also costs \$35, with \$25 benefiting the Glassbrook Endowment.

The Agricultural Heritage license plate can be ordered by mail, fax or in person at a Secretary of State branch office. Order forms are included with registration renewal notices and also can be obtained online at www.michigan.gov/sos.

More information about the Glassbrook Endowment is available from the Michigan FFA Foundation Web site at www.michiganffa.com/foundation.

If you are interested in supporting the Michigan FFA Foundation please feel free to contact the FFA Foundation Annual Fund Director at (517) 432-2482 for more information.

Find your fit in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources!

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

You're already part of it!

From the food you eat to the home you live in; from the water you drink to the recreational activities you enjoy, professionals educated in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources make your life better every day.

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University offers Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degrees, certificate programs, and graduate programs leading to the master's degree and Ph.D.



We're more than you imagine...

www.canr.msu.edu | 1.800.810.0MSU