



NATIONAL FFA WEEK | FEBRUARY 22-29, 2020



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GROWING Leaders

By Madison Moll
Perryville High School FFA President

In agriculture, we grow quite a few things like crops, plants, and animals, but one thing most don't think of when we talk about what we grow, is leaders.

Throughout the year through various events and leadership activities, FFA develops members' leadership qualities in many different ways.

Here at the Perryville FFA chapter, we strive to make sure that every member grows throughout the year in one way or another.

We encourage our members to participate in career development events and leadership development events throughout the year, and we always try to give our members chances to step outside their comfort zone and try something new.

We recognize that this chapter consists

of many different people with different backgrounds and ideas, so we do our best to allow members to share their opinions and ideas so that they truly feel apart of the chapter.

For me, FFA has helped me become a leader, not just in my chapter, but in many different aspects. Being apart of the Perryville FFA chapter enabled me to find my voice and realize that my ideas and opinions matter and are valued. Now I get to be apart of making sure that all of our members feel that way.

Without FFA continually striving to grow leaders I would not be where I am today or be going where I am going. Because of my chapter's efforts to grow leaders we have been able to make an impact on our community as well as the agriculture industry.

We hope that our members become successful leaders in whichever fields they choose to be apart of.



We will continue to do our part to help ourselves. We hope to continue the tradition of growing leaders for today and tomorrow.

“I believe in the future of agriculture”

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Developing SKILLS for the future

By Wade Weibrecht
Perryville High School FFA

In FFA, we are given the chance to develop an SAE which is a Supervised Agricultural Experience, which are our jobs that are agriculture related in some way, and we are encouraged to continuously develop them in any way we can.

SAE's help us develop skills for our future careers and for some help them find their future career.

We have many diverse SAE's. My SAE has two different parts.

I started mowing lawns for people at the age of 11. My mom would take me around town, and I passed out fliers the first summer of my SAE.

Every summer I would take care of about four to six lawns a week. I had a good little business going.

By mowing and taking care of these lawns, I saved up enough money to buy and maintain my own equipment — a lawn tractor, a push mower, a weed eater and a trailer to pull it around to different jobs.

By the time I was 15 years old, I had already bought two trucks of my own.

I don't take care of lawns anymore due to my job at Perryville Muffler and going to school.

I feel starting at this young age only made me more responsible, and I understand what hard work can do.

The other part of my SAE is working at Perryville Muffler & Automotive.



My duties involve organizing work areas, distributing stock and supplies to appropriate locations, offering help to technicians when needed, and just general clean up work.

I really like my job and look forward to learning and doing more there. I feel with taking Ag Mechanics, and what I am learning at Perryville Muffler & Automotive will give me a good start in this field of work.

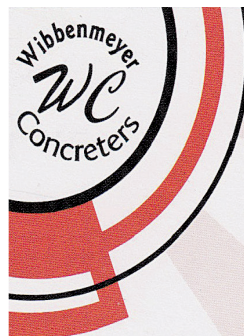
My SAE has helped me develop skills I can use in my future career, skills that I would not have gotten anywhere else.



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STRENGTHENING *Agriculture*

By Makayla Burns

Perryville High School FFA Treasurer

From production farming, agribusiness and forestry to biotechnology, marketing and food processing, FFA covers all aspects of agriculture.

The Perryville FFA chapter has been strengthening agriculture throughout our community since 1934 by having members participate in one of these areas through their Supervised Agricultural Experience's.

SAE's allow students to develop skills and hands-on experience in a career field of their choice guided by an FFA advisor.

Many members help with marketing and food processing by working at local restaurants and fast food places, such as McDonald's, Subway, or the American Legion.

Also, a few members help build production farming and agribusiness through working



on their family farms and by owning their own equipment or animals.

Other members have contributed to advocating for agriculture by writing articles or posts about agriculture in our community and posting them online, along with sharing posts from other websites that support agriculture popular current events.

By doing these activities, our members have been active in informing others about agriculture, which helps strengthen agriculture throughout our community.



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Building a COMMUNITY



By Madison Moll
Perryville High School FFA Assistant Reporter

Here in our FFA chapter we build a community by cleaning up the highways, host a food drive, work the pork producers stand, and working the alumni fish fry.

Our community has helped us out a lot to get our chapter where it is now, and one way that we can give back to them is by adopting a highway. This is where we go out and clean up the highway as a chapter together.

This is just one way that we give back to our community

because they have done a lot for us. Another way that our chapter can help out is by hosting a food drive, which we will be hosting during National FFA Week.

We will encourage everyone to participate in the food drive to give to our local food pantry.

Also, our chapter goes to the East Perry Fair, and we help out at the pork producers stand. We help sell and make the burgers to help out the pork producers, which is another way that we can encourage the younger generations, as well as the older ones, to just help support the pork producers.

Another big event that we do to help out our community is by helping serve at the annual Alumni Fish Fry. During this, we go around and interact with the public and to thank them for supporting the FFA alumni.

These are just some of the ways that we help our community, and we hope to continue this for many more years to come.



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KISSING *the bricks*

By Cailyne Sparkman

Perryville High School FFA Historian

On Oct. 30, 2018, hundreds of students from National FFA Chapters across the nation traveled to Indianapolis, Ind.

Of these chapters was the local chapter from Perryville. These students were all headed to The National FFA Convention and Exposition.

While in Indianapolis for the week, the Perryville members participated in three tours around the state.

First, they viewed a division of Bayer Crop Science. During this tour, members were taken around the establishment to learn how seeds are produced for planting.

The students also had the chance to tour the Indy 500 Racetrack. They took a bus ride around the track, and stopped to “kiss the bricks.”

From there the members migrated to the museum where they got to learn the history of the track. The third tour was to Sugar Creek Genetics where the members discovered how artificial insemination samples were collected, prepared, and utilized. Students also got the opportunity to listen to Bob Goff, an award-winning author.

At the end of the week, students sat in the seats of The Lucas Oil Stadium and watched as past FFA members, of not only their own chapter but chapters all across America, received the highest award a member can achieve, the American FFA Degree.

After the ceremony, the members all packed their bags for their travel home and hoped that one day they would get the chance to walk across the stage to receive their very own American FFA Degree.

WHY *join FFA?*

By Elizabeth Plunkett

Perryville High School FFA
Area 15 Vice-President

Joining FFA can be a major commitment for any high school student, but it is definitely worth it.

FFA gives students the opportunity to experience new things, meet new people, and develop their love for agriculture.

When I first joined FFA, I was a city kid with zero farm background and I had no intention of ever being involved in agriculture.

Then my friends invited me to join, and I started taking agriculture classes. Agricultural classes helped me develop many job skills that I still use to this day.

Now I'm a high school senior with a full time job at Voelker's Brown Swiss Dairy Farm who is going to Iowa State University to major in dairy science and this is all



thanks to FFA.

FFA gave me the chance to find my passion for agriculture and grow as a leader. I highly encourage any students to join FFA, whether you are from a farm background or a city kid, because FFA will mold you into a premier leader and help prepare you for life beyond the classroom.

1ST YEAR *in FFA*

By Lexiss Geile

Perryville High School FFA

My first year in FFA taught me so much and gave me so many opportunities to be who I am and to get to know more people. I have helped my community and I have helped myself grow. I have learned so much in the agricultural classroom and out of the classroom with the other FFA members. Some of the things I have learned in the classroom is the history of FFA, what FFA is, and what it stands for. The letters “FFA” stand for Future Farmers of America. FFA started in 1928. The original name was Future Farmers of America; however, the official name of the organization was changed in 1988 to the National FFA Organization. They changed their name because they didn't want people

to think that they had to be a farmer to be an FFA member.

I have helped my community and my FFA chapter at my school by selling fruit to the members of my community, and then the money that I get from selling the fruit goes toward my FFA chapter so that we can take more field trips. I have also helped my community by grape picking at a local winery so they didn't have to spend their summer picking grapes when we got it done in one day. I have been filling out applications to apply for HYMAX, which stands for Helping Youth Maximize their Agricultural experience. It is a summer academy for freshmen only, and to get into it you have to answer a couple of questions then you send it in. From there, it gets read, and then they choose the top

one hundred students.

Being in FFA has helped me put myself out there and be involved in things I never thought I would be involved with. I am also proud to say that I represent our FFA chapter by wearing official dress to some events. I am involved with the knowledge team and all the questions are mostly about the history of FFA. You can go to districts and state for the knowledge team also which sounds really fun. I have applied to go to the National Convention, but only one freshman went. I am currently filling out an application for HYMAX. I have been to a green hand motivational conference which is also for freshmen only and it was really fun. I have worked at the pork burger stand at a local fair. I have attended FFA monthly meetings.



There is so much more I have done but so much I could talk about but I would be here for days. You should join FFA. It keeps you involved in school and gives you real world situations to reference too. Therefore, FFA prepares you for the real world.

Perryville FFA PLANS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

By Cailyne Sparkman
Perryville High School FFA Reporter

“Living to Serve.” These words are part of the FFA motto that all FFA members live by, including the members of the Perryville FFA chapter. The group strives to achieve this by hosting various events throughout the year, including their annual Pancake Breakfast, traditionally held at the end of FFA Week in February.

This year’s breakfast will be held from 6-11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 29, in the Agriculture Department at the Career Center on the campus of Perry County School District 32 in Perryville.

On the morning of the annual breakfast, students arrive early to the Ag Department to mix up the batter and warm up the griddles to make homemade pancakes and seasoned sausage patties for the community.

Along with raising funds for the chapter to help pay for trips and activities through a free-will donation, the breakfast serves as a way for the FFA members to show their appreciation to the community by giving back in just a small way.

The breakfast is also a great way for students to get to know others in their community and to make a positive impact. For the community, the breakfast serves as a way to come together and show their support for the chapter, as well as visit with friends and family, not to mention enjoy a amazing pancake breakfast.

All the members and advisors of the Perryville FFA chapter hope that you come and enjoy this delicious, all-you-can-eat breakfast served by your local FFA chapter and the agriculture generation of today.

The Perryville FFA chapter has 70 members from all corners of Perry County and is part of the Missouri FFA



Association, which has 25,375 members, ranking fifth in state membership.

FFA strives to make a difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

What do you learn from FFA

By Kaylin Schuessler
Perryville High School FFA Secretary

I’ve learned through FFA that it’s okay to be who you are.

People will accept you for you. I’ve learned how to open up and share my thoughts. I’m a better public speaker and leader because of FFA.

Being in FFA taught me how to lead instead of command.

I’m better at time management and prioritizing.

Ever since I joined FFA my freshman year, I have gotten to be a part of so many more experiences than the rest of my classmates who aren’t members of

Perryville FFA. I have also been to state and national conventions every year where I get to listen to amazing speakers and even the president of the United States.

Throughout my experience, I’ve been able to meet hundreds of new people around the country. I still talk to a few of them to this day.

It’s crazy how much you can learn from being in FFA. I encourage everyone to join.

Even if you weren’t raised on a farm or even live in the country, you can still be a part of this amazing organization.

FFA is much more than farming. It’s growth; it’s learning; it’s leading.



SAXONY *Lutheran FFA*

FFA

*To me FFA is not just an organization,
It is a part of my life. It means that
I can get advice and help on how to
improve my farm and my daily life.*

*FFA is the greatest class and a
great part of my day every week.*

*It is a great way to show respect
to my fellow farmers,
and to my community.*

— Katelin Dryer, freshman



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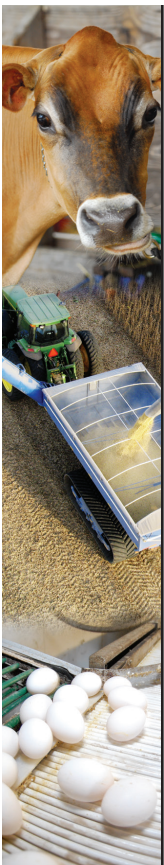
FFA to me means the ability to work with animals, and the ability to work with others. FFA also means that I can wear the jacket, and so I can compete with others, in the best way, with animals. My favorite thing about FFA is that we get to all be with each other, and we all go out to eat together, and that is really fun!

— Madison Dreyer, freshman



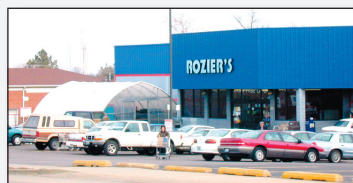

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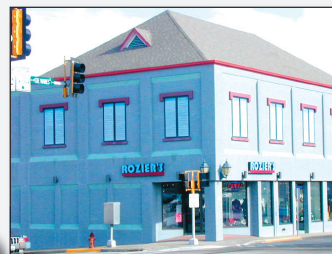
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ACHIEVEMENTS [won by the present & past generations of agriculturists;]
in the **PROMISE**
OF BETTER DAYS THROUGH BETTER WAYS.
even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.
1st Paragraph
FFA Creed



FINDING *Beauty*

By Emma Roth
Saxony FFA President

Growing up on a farm, I have always known that I wanted to have a career in agriculture. So, of course, I joined FFA as soon as I got to Saxony.

Through my high school career, I have worked my way up from chapter historian my sophomore year, to chapter president my senior year.

All of the competitions I have been in, and all of the activities I have been in charge of and went to have benefited me so much.

The things I have learned in FFA have helped me to improve what I can contribute to my family farm and how I can help others.

My continued involvement in FFA and Ag class has pushed me to fulfill my childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian through the University of Missouri-Columbia, with the goal of returning to Perryville to set up my practice.

Unfortunately, even with all the blessings that I have received through FFA, there has also been plenty of



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To me, FFA means there is a bright future for the young generation. It sheds light on the different opportunities and achievements available through this organization. We get to live out part of our history that will never change while accomplishing new goals along the way. It's an organization that welcomes anyone who aspires to better the world by leading, serving, and working.

— Elise Roth, Historian, sophomore

sadness.

Earlier this school year, we suffered the loss of our one-year-retired Ag teacher, Mr. Mark Berry, to cancer.

Our FFA Chapter was blessed to have Mr. Berry as our Ag teacher and FFA advisor and we are all very grateful for the things that he taught us.

However, despite our sorrow, we know that we will see him again one day and rejoice that he rests in Heaven where there is no more suffering.

So, at the beginning of this year, our chapter welcomed our new advisor and teacher, Mr. Micah Bristow.



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FINDING *Beauty* CONTINUED:

Saxony FFA means a lot to me. There are many things that I have gotten the chance to do throughout my years in FFA. Not only being with my friends but getting the chance to get involved in my community. Thanks to the FFA I have learned so many important life skills that will equip me for a successful future. We encourage all FFA members as well as community members to attend our events and help make a difference in our Saxony FFA and in our community.

— Skyler Davidson, senior



I can say that I have learned a great deal from him, which will benefit me immensely in my future vet career and our chapter is very lucky to have him.

An unknown author writes, "We aren't just cows and plows. We are leaders and achievers, learners and servers, teams with dreams. We are FFA."

You see, FFA is not just an organization that teaches us how to live on, work and manage a farm or an agribusiness.

It teaches us about life and death and sharing and serving, and the beauty we can find in all of it.



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