

NATIONAL
FFA WEEK

FFA



NATIONAL FFA WEEK | FEBRUARY 18-25, 2023

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FFA Organization

When most people think of the FFA organization, their mind most likely goes toward the agriculture portion. While agriculture is a big part of the organization that is not the only thing that can be a benefit of the group. Members can be future chemists, veterinarians, government officials, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers and premier professionals in many career fields.

FFA teaches the students in the local school chapters valuable life lessons that can be taken into any walk of life. FFA helps develop interpersonal skills in teamwork, communications, human relations and social interaction, builds character and promotes citizenship, volunteerism and patriotism, promotes cooperation and cooperative attitudes among all people and promotes healthy lifestyles.

Those things are the backbone of the FFA motto which is 12 short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Throughout this section, the students of Perryville, St. Vincent, and Saxony Lutheran high schools illustrates those lessons that they have learned throughout their time in their local school chapters, as well as takes a look back at those members who came before them and helped pave the way for the members today. It's impossible to get where we are going until we know where we've been.



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PLANTING THE SEED of Agriculture Education

By Jasmine Muench Chapter President & Destiny Mudge Chapter Reporter
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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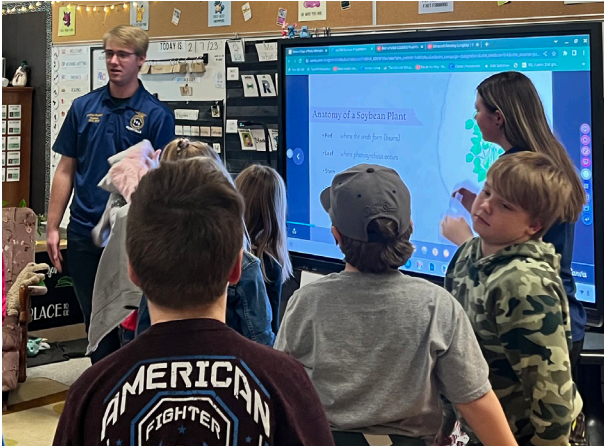
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GROWING LEADERS Everyday



By Destiny Mudge Chapter Reporter
Perryville High School FFA

Good leaders are not born, they are made. Every year FFA members around the country achieve numerous awards and degrees for all the work they have accomplished. Along the way, this hard work has shown what great leaders have been made in this country due to the

National FFA Organization. Jonathan Kluender is a senior at Perryville High School who is involved in band and NHS. This is his fourth year as an FFA member. He spends his days at his family farm after school and on the weekends. Jonathan is dedicated to his family's crops, always ensuring never to miss that harvest time. Along, with working on all the machinery brought to him. During his second year as a member, Jonathan received the Chapter Star Farmer award for being the outstanding farmer that he is.

This year Jonathan will be going to the 95th State FFA Convention for placing 1st at Area in the Agriculture Mechanics Proficiency Award. Jonathan does so much for the Perryville FFA Chapter. Providing us with supplies and knowledge for our chapter activities. He was our Assistant Secretary his second year and now our Chaplin for his fourth year. He is always open to helping others when it is needed. The Greenhand, Chapter, and State Degree are all things he has received. Along with a bunch of chapter pins and his State Leadership pin from

State FFA Camp. All of this goes to show that Jonathan is the definition of a growing leader.

The National and State FFA Conventions are both amazing events to showcase all these unique FFA members who have become leaders involved in agriculture. Through SAE's and Chapter FFA activities and meetings, members have the amazing opportunity to grow personally and physically, becoming the generous and outstanding leaders of agriculture that we have today. The National FFA Organization offers numerous opportunities to promote leadership. These opportunities help members come out of their comfort zones and become great leaders. This is one of the many ways the National FFA Organization grows leaders. While you are in your agriculture class take the time to get to know everyone because in the future you could be looking at future leaders who you knew years back. Believe in yourself and never give up on any opportunity that is presented to you because one day you could also be the definition of a growing leader.

“I believe in the future of agriculture”

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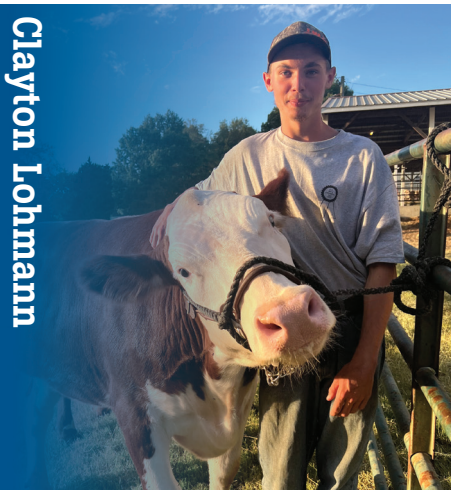
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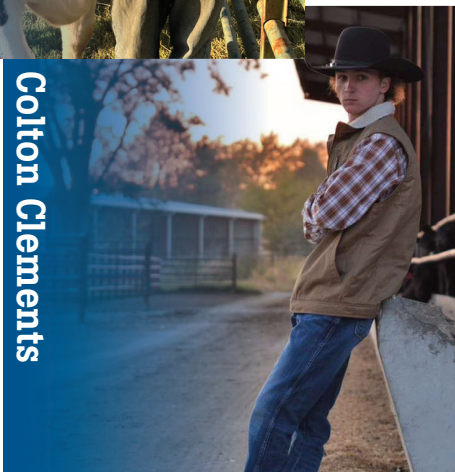


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CATTLE Corner

By McKenna McClure, Perryville FFA Treasurer
Perryville High School FFA

Did you know that there are about 3,800,000 cattle in the state of Missouri? Our little town of Perry County is ranked 24th in Missouri for the most cattle and calves. In the Perryville FFA chapter there are two individuals that go above and beyond when it comes to their Supervised Agricultural Experience with different sectors of the cattle industry.

Senior Colton Clements, is a 4th generation beef farmer who has been farming since the day he was born. Colton works for a feedlot and raises beef cattle with his family. On his family farm the main goal is animal welfare. When I asked him about a day in the life he told me "I feed dry feed in the morning, check the calves for sickness, and if any are sick they get treated immediately, I also clean and bed the barns often." Colton plans to one day run his family farm.

Another one of our FFA chapter's cattle producers is senior Clayton Lohmann, he is a third

generation dairy farmer. I asked him the same question I asked Colton, "What does a regular day look like for you?" Clayton responded with "I milk the cows, and feed the dry cattle as well. I also feed the heifers and bottle feed the calves. One thing we keep up with is bedding the barns, and scrapping the alleys in order to make sure all the animals are kept healthy." Clayton plans to continue working on his family farm once he graduates and hopes to eventually expand his family's herd size. Clayton recently won an area proficiency award in dairy entrepreneurship and will be competing against other applicants for the state award.

Cattle farming and animal welfare means a lot to these FFA members and it's shown in the work that they do. These two individuals put their heart and soul into their farms, and plan to continue maintaining family traditions and ensuring the future of animal agriculture for years to come.

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IMPACTING the Future



carried with me once I graduate. FFA has been a major part of my high school career, but I am not the only one. Some of the seniors here at Perryville have been impacted in areas of leadership, public speaking skills, and communication.

Our senior Hallee Wengert has demonstrated that she has learned some of these skills, especially public speaking skills and leadership. She placed 1st at Area Fall Speaking on the topic of Missouri Institute of Cooperatives. While speaking on this topic she increased her knowledge of Missouri agriculture and was advocating through her speech. Missouri Institute of Cooperatives is a topic that is in place to promote a better understanding of the advantages and the cooperative way of doing business. Hallee plans on pursuing a degree in animal science and has a goal of becoming a veterinarian, something that her equine supervised agricultural experience will help her with in the future.



Another senior here at Perryville in FFA is Johnathan Klunder; his daily life consists of his tasks on his family farm and agriculture mechanics. Agriculture has been a big part of Johnathan's life for such a long time that joining FFA was just a no-brainer. Being in FFA he has learned so many qualities of leadership from holding several officer positions and showing up at our big leadership events like our annual Fall Harvests. Jonathan has been impacted by FFA and agriculture his whole life so it's only fair to believe that he will continue to be impacted especially with how agriculture is improving. With the mentioning of these two seniors it's easy to say that FFA is impacting all of us seniors by hosting events that teach us qualities to live and serve.



By Lexiss Geile, Vice President
Perryville High School FFA

Perryville's FFA club is impacting the future of our senior members here in Perryville, Mo. FFA has impacted me in many ways throughout my four years of high school. I know the things that I have learned and experienced through FFA will be

THE FIRST Year



By Ashtyn Balsman, Assistant Historian
Perryville High School FFA

I had no idea what to expect when I walked into Mrs. Miller's Ag 1 classroom on my first day of freshman year. I remember the first day we were going around and introducing each other, and finding out all about what we were going to learn. She also mentioned FFA, a student organization that was all about agriculture. She made it sound like the coolest club in the world and I immediately wanted to join. FFA impacted my first year of high school more than I ever dreamed.

One event from my first year in FFA that sticks out is Fall Harvest. Fall Harvest is where we teach elementary students about the different parts of agriculture. Students bring animals and we talk about them and what is the purpose of the animal. We also had the greenhouse and some of our equipment to show the kids. That year I was working with Addison and Katie, they are two of my fellow FFA members. Fall Harvest was very educational not just to the children but to me also it was the first big event that we had in our chapter and our officers worked hard to make it successful. I know the kids learned a variety of stuff about agriculture, and so did I.

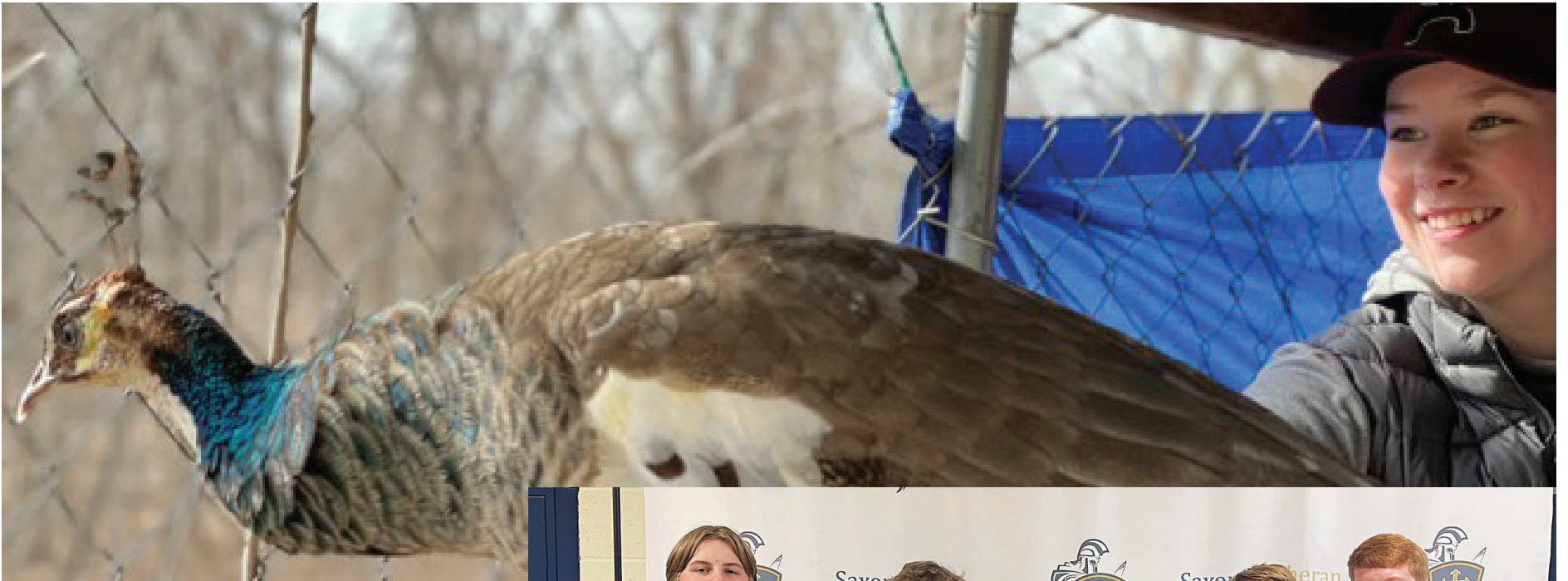
Another part of my first year that stands out is all the meetings

and adopt-a-highway events. They were around an hour long and it was great to see the officers perform opening and closing ceremonies. Before our meeting, we would have adopt-a-highway and that is where we went out to the road right next to our school and picked up the trash that was out there. We did this almost every meeting we had and we had them once a month. This taught me that FFA cares about our community and helped me bond with other FFA members.

When the year started to come to an end, I didn't know if I wanted to be an officer or not. My teacher, Mrs. Miller said I should try to become one and I ran for historian. I received assistant historian and I was so excited. FFA has helped me work on my public speaking and talking to new people. The greenhand conference for our chapter was really helpful to talk to different FFA members and learn what they have done in their FFA chapter and what their SAE is.

Becoming an FFA member last year was really beneficial to me with my public speaking and talking to new people, I was and still am a quiet kid but before FFA I wouldn't talk to anyone new but now I have new friends that encourage me to speak out. My FFA advisors have been a big part of my life these past two years and I know they will be for years to come.

BEYOND GRADUATION FFA foundations



By Amelia Wilson
Saxony Lutheran High School FFA

Being a part of FFA through high school can provide a basis in many areas of development. In my experience, it has helped me with career plans through hands-on interactions, as well as goal setting and social skills. Another benefit of being in FFA includes community service and involvement, which ultimately help build leadership skills.

Beyond graduation, FFA foundations such as team building and leadership, as well as using resources and utilizing networking opportunities, will be beneficial for college education and beyond. Having this basis can lead to one of many careers available in the agricultural field.



GROWING UP FFA

By Abagayle Britton

Saxony Lutheran High School FFA

Growing up in the agricultural industry since birth, FFA provides numerous ways for kids to become more involved. I feel that in today's society, FFA helps students prepare for their future careers in the many diverse fields of agriculture. A pro to being involved with FFA while in school is that it helps provide educational opportunities, builds character, and promotes citizenship for life outside of school. Post Graduation records of past members show that students who have been involved in FFA excel in leadership roles and responsibilities.

While being involved in the FFA environment during my past four years

at Saxony, we have grown a stronger foundation over the years. I participate in showing cattle locally and nationally, which has built me lifelong friendships and opportunities. I am grateful for everything my chapter and this organization have brought to me!



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**LEARNING TO DO
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By Aubrey Jung, Missouri FFA State Vice President & Perryville FFA Alumni
Perryville High School FFA

Thirty people. Thirty people gathered on November 20, 1928, at the Baltimore Hotel, in Kansas City, Missouri. This is the day that the Future Farmers of America was founded. A group that is a little bigger than the average class size in Missouri. While Kansas City is across the state from Perryville, the city I called home for my FFA chapter, the two cities have many similarities. One of the similarities that sticks out to me, is the deep tradition that both towns hold.

For example, a few of the traditions that Kansas City is known for is the amazing barbecue that can be found downtown, soothing jazz music that connects people from across the nation, and the beautiful fountains found in the city's architecture. While on the other hand, Perryville has just as many great traditions that I remember from my time in high school. These are the 4 am wake up calls to go hunting for the medallion, a night full of basketball as St. Vincent's High School and Perryville High School took to the court to settle cross-town rivalries at the Mayor's Cup, and the town square shutting down while a festival flooded the streets during Mayfest. While most of these traditions are unique to the respective cities the one thing that binds these two vastly different

places is tradition.

Not only does tradition bind cities that are across the state from each other, but tradition connects all of us as people. Tradition is a huge factor in the National FFA Association and even here at the Missouri FFA Association. Tradition runs deep from the threads of the blue corduroy jacket to the wood grain of the gavel being used during ceremonies, to the familiar echo of members across the nation answering the common call of, "FFA members why are we here?" All these traditions have been a part of our association from the time it was still a young organization. Tradition is what connects the 26, 262 members of Missouri, and the 850, 823 members of the nation. While tradition, is the piece of our organization that unites us, innovation is the piece that allowed our organization to grow from its founding 30 members to the 850, 823 members it serves today.

Often, when innovation is occurring it is viewed as change. However, innovation and change are both tools that allowed our organization to grow. Whether this be expanding membership, growing associations across the nation, moving conventions to adapt to the ever-growing membership, to the name of the very organization innovating from Future Farmers of America to the National FFA Organization to include members

RESPECTING TRADITION, Influencing Innovation

that shared agriculture roots or beliefs but would be more than farmers in their futures. Innovation has been a part of the National FFA Organization from the very beginning. The traditions of the organization stand strong 95 years later, while also encouraging growth and innovation.

While running for State Office, I knew that being the only candidate from the Southeast District gave me both an advantage and disadvantage. My advantage was that my chapter, community, agriculture commodities, and beliefs all grounded with traditions of the Missouri FFA Association. However, my disadvantage was the lack of innovation happening within my chapter and chapters near me. All the kids I had agriculture education courses with went home after school to feed the cattle or

work in the field. I had no idea what urban agriculture looked like. This quickly changed once I became a State Officer and got to see what innovation had been made across the state.

Innovation and tradition run strong through Missouri. Whether this be in the small city of Perryville or the metropolis of Kansas City. Tradition connects us even though the cities are on opposite borders of the state. Like the National FFA Association, tradition is honored but growth has also been embraced. While Perryville is slow to change, and the National FFA Association strives for growth, I have been able to call both place's home during my FFA experience. This FFA week, I hope that FFA members, agriculturalists, FFA members, and citizens of Perryville all respect tradition while influencing innovation.

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SAXONY FFA plays important part at school

By Justin Hotop
jhotop@perryvillemews.com

The FFA motto gives members 12 short words to live by as they experience the opportunities in the organization. Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve. More than that Saxony Lutheran FFA president Abagayle Britton said that FFA, and that week in particular brings the school together.

"I think it's special for all the kids in the high school to come together and learn more about FFA and what it is," she said. "I like to see the kids who aren't usually around that kind of environment and introducing it to them is my favorite part."

Saxony celebrates FFA week, along with the national week in March, with activities, a pep assembly.

FFA members are in grades

seven through 12 and college. FFA members embrace concepts taught in agricultural science classrooms nationwide, build valuable skills through hands-on experiential learning and each year demonstrate their proficiency in competitions based on real-world agricultural skills.

Britton said that Saxony's FFA doesn't just celebrate the organization one time per year.

"We have a year-end banquet, but throughout the year we will have contest teams and we go to all the district competitions and do the 'drive a tractor to school' day. This year we should have nine contest teams and hopefully make it to the state competition and possibly the national competition."

Saxony Lutheran Administrative Assistant Dawn Ozark said that FFA plays an important part at the high school.

"They are constantly one of the first clubs and organizations to step up when we need assistance and help," Ozark said. "They help out with the Back-to-School Bash each year and help grill hamburgers and other things. It doesn't really matter what it is. It could be anything."

The Saxony FFA has also helped with several projects around the school, such as building a hanger under which the bus sits and helped construct a ticket booth for all outdoor events. As an organization, the FFA looks for ways to leave its mark on Saxony.



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