



SALUTING OUR FUTURE FARMERS

FEBRUARY 18-25

NATIONAL FFA WEEK



The Warrenton FFA chapter gathered its full membership for a photo at Warrenton High School earlier this year.



Pictured, from left, are Wright City FFA members Madiline Knopfel, Corbin Schone, Anahi Hernandez, Danielle Freund, Miley Sosa, Kye Schnarre, Joseph Wasser, Ella Haynes, and sponsor Kelsey Kemry.

FFA members attend national convention

Wright City FFA members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, Oct. 26-29. These members attended several leadership sessions, learned about careers in agriculture, listened to motivational speakers, talked with several college recruiters, and met FFA members from across America.

Along with enjoying the convention, members toured the Louisville Slugger Factory, Churchill Downs, Indianapolis Speedway, attended the World's Tough-est Rodeo, and more.

Miley Sosa, a freshmen FFA member who attended the convention, said "I thought the trip was a great experience. Danielle and I met FFA members from 36 different states! My favorite part of the trip was going to Churchill Downs. The race track was really big and they taught us about different race horses like Secretariat. I had so much fun and I cannot wait to attend more FFA conventions!"

Barnwarming tradition returns

After 20 years, the Wright City FFA Barnwarming returned this school year! The officer team planned a dance with a "Dear Rodeo" theme, which is a country song by Cody Johnson.

The night was filled with dancing, dummy roping, and cornhole. At the end of the night the court was announced.

King candidates were Corbin Schone and Draiden Edwards. Prince candidates were Kye Schnarre and Quinn Schnarre. Queen candidates were Emma Thomas and Charleigh Ferrell. Princess candidates were Alyvia Mikus and Miley Sosa.

After votes were tallied, the 2022 Barnwarming king and queen were Corbin Schone and Emma Thomas, and the prince and princess were Kye Schnarre and Alyvia Mikus.



Corbin Schone and Emma Thomas, Wright City Barnwarming king and queen.

My FFA Jacket

By Taylor Frye, 9th grade

I can recall the first time I put on my blue corduroy FFA jacket. Something about having the jacket on made me feel a part of something. Every time I put that jacket on to this day, I still have that feeling of purpose. Throughout my year as a greenhand, FFA has taught me more than just how valuable our agriculture industry is. I have learned countless things spanning from

leadership to public speaking skills that will carry me through the rest of my life. I have made lasting friendships that would have never been possible without FFA. I encourage students of not just Warrenton, but any school with an FFA, to join when the option is open to them. FFA has truly changed my life for the positive in countless ways and I know that when the feeling of having on my FFA jacket is just a memory to me, it will always be a cherished one.



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Members of the Wright City FFA chapter gather for a full group photo at Wright City High School.



Wright City FFA Officers

The 2022-2023 Wright City FFA officer team are responsible individuals who meet weekly to plan events and work on their duties. Each officer has a list of responsibilities depending on the office, some of which include preparing agendas, creating a scrapbook to showcase the club's successes, writing newspaper articles, keeping track of financial records, planning events, recruiting younger members, and more!

Pictured above, from left, are reporter Lane Graves, President Corbin Schone, secretary Emma Thomas, historian Bailey Love, treasurer Alyssa Shulte, sentinel Charleigh Ferrell, First Vice President Reagan Vehige, Second Vice President Kye Schnarre.

Living to serve

By Kelsey Miller, 12th grade

This past year I was selected to serve as the Area V FFA 2nd Vice President. As an area officer, I am responsible for serving 19 chapters within the Area V Association. Being an area officer has given me the opportunity to not only network with other FFA members, but to also advocate for agriculture and learn more about our industry.

While serving as an area officer, I have helped plan events and workshops alongside my teammates, such as the Area V Battle of the Chapters where FFA Chapters compete for the traveling Area V trophy in events such as volleyball, balloon races, FFA trivia, and a super-farmer station; and Area V Leadership Conference where members are lead through workshops pertaining to leadership, career success, and personal growth.

Along with these events, we had the opportunity to assist with the state officer workshops during the Greenhand Motivational Conference where first year FFA members are invited to learn more about FFA and what the organization can provide them.

Over the course of this past year, my fellow officers and I have learned to use each other's strengths and have worked



Kelsey Miller receives awards for her leadership skills and dedication to her SAE project at the 2022 Warrenton FFA Chapter Banquet.

toward making Area V FFA the best Area Association it can be. As a team, we strive to show our members what being a part of the National FFA Organization really means. I truly feel that serving the Area V FFA Association and its members has helped me find my true passion within the agriculture industry.

Why Did I Join FFA

By Allison Polston, 9th grade

I remember all through my eighth grade year my friends and family would ask me what my plans were for high school. I would always tell them the one thing I knew for sure, that I wanted to be in FFA. I thought FFA was just a bunch of farm kids who learned more about agriculture and helped out their community. It was something I hoped would help teach me to do what I love, which is caring and working with large animal livestock, but it taught me so much more. It really gave me a whole new perspective of FFA.

When I first walked into the ag shop at school I was terrified and I do not even

remember why. The first thing the teacher told us was that our first unit was on public speaking. That was a really big thing for me because it was hard for me to talk in front of big crowds. Every week we were assigned to memorize a paragraph of the FFA creed and share it in front of class. The first paragraph was a struggle. I would rush through my words so I could be done quicker, but the weeks got easier and you could tell I was slower and more confident in the words I was saying. When October came around I had already signed up to recite the whole FFA creed on stage in front of dozens of people and I nailed it. I am so glad I joined FFA and the amazing impact it made on my life.

“Being a FFA officer has taught me how to deal with responsibility and manage my time wisely.” — Lane Graves, Wright City FFA



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Visit to Bradford Research Facility

Members of the Wright City FFA Chapter visited the University of Missouri's Bradford Research Facility this year to learn about agriculture. Some topics included chemical safety, effects of drought, meat processing, animal digestion, careers in agriculture, Co2 levels in corn, and much more.

The Bradford Research Center has the highest concentration of research plots, soils, and related topics in Missouri. As both a research laboratory and outdoor classroom, faculty and students at the Bradford Center investigate horticultural crops, native plants, wildlife habitat management, wastewater management, entomology, pest and weed control, and alternative crops.

Ag Construction has been amazing

By Dalton Williams, 12th grade

I have had an amazing experience in agriculture construction class. My advisor, Mr. Burkemper, has been a phenomenal instructor in this course. He stays watch around the class and makes sure everyone is being safe and smart. If he notices someone struggling or something they can improve on, he will gain their full attention and give them advice on how to improve their practice or project.

I have had many questions and Mr. Burkemper has answered them in a way I can understand and improve from. Mr. Burkemper is only one of the factors that

makes my class amazing.

Another factor that makes this class amazing is the environment itself. I have made great friends. The friends I have made are always engaged in their projects and when you ask them for anything, they will answer with great detail and will explain their reasoning for an idea.

In this class we are allowed to bring in our own projects or have a chance to work on a class project. I have made a few projects for myself as well as helped work on the trailers for the class project. I believe that this class has made a better future for me, and has made me a better person as a whole.



Kelsey Miller, 12th grade Warrenton FFA member, earned first place at the area level in the Agriculture Processing Proficiency Award for describing the skills she has learned from her work experience and logging her hours she works at a local meat processor into her supervised agricultural experience record book.

“While being in the FFA, I’ve made many friends, learned how to be a confident leader, and enjoy exploring outside of my comfort zone.”

— Bailey Love, Wright City FFA

The perfect way to say ‘Thank you’

By Doralynn Lee, 11th grade

We all have someone special we think of when we hear a certain song. For me, the song is “You Raise Me Up” by Josh Groban. I’ve wanted to use these words to my advisors and family so often. I was finally granted that opportunity on the biggest stage I have ever performed at the time. Playing my saxophone, I performed the song in music, but my heart sang the lyrics to everyone that ever lifted me thus far.

I had the amazing opportunity to audition for State FFA Talent, and perform at the Missouri FFA Convention. I submitted an audition tape of my performance, not expecting to get accepted, and waited for a response.

While at another FFA event, my advisors were so happy to tell me that I would be performing at the State FFA Convention in April! Needless to say, I cried — a lot! I thought, “There is no way that I, a little girl with a big dream, would be able to perform at the biggest venue I have ever seen.”

I never allowed myself to believe that I was talented enough for this. When the time came for the State Convention, I was literally hopping in my shoes with excitement. Reality hit me in the face as soon as we arrived at Hearn Center in Columbia, Missouri — it was actually happening!

My excitement trumped everything and I found myself numb to fear, despite



Doralynn Lee performs on her saxophone at the 2022 Missouri State FFA Convention.

the thousands of people that would be watching. The only issue I could face, at that point, was how I was going to play my saxophone with a permanent “smile” that even a dentist would envy. Somehow, I peeled my grin off long enough to play.

“You raise me up/ So I can stand on mountains” — The melody and unsung lyrics resonated and, I hoped, connected to the unsung heroes that had led me to that moment. And to those that make an impact on any FFA kid, may you remember the lives you impact: “You raise [us] up/ To more Than [we] can be.”



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More than just a tradition

By Maddie Dent, 11th grade

This week marks such a celebratory week in the FFA world. It's FFA Week! In honor of this week, FFA members all around the nation will spend this week participating in numerous activities including community service, spirit days at their school, and celebrating being a part of one of the greatest high school organizations in the world.

Some of you may be wondering why FFA is so influential and celebrated in our community. You might be thinking all FFA does is teach farm kids about different field crops and grades of meat. However, even though those skills are taught, FFA is so much more than cows and plows.

FFA provides the next generation of leaders who will change the world. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of members by developing their potential premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

I personally believe in this. I joined

FFA my eighth grade year of junior high, fully expecting to just increase my knowledge in the ethics of farming and the many other careers offered in agriculture. I could not believe the depth of the lessons that FFA taught students. I have since learned how to advocate for the agriculture industry, how to become an effective leader in school and my community, and gained the confidence to speak publicly.

These specific skills are forming me into the person I want to be in the future, and I am forever grateful for this amazing opportunity.

This organization is more than just farm animals, tractors, and corn. FFA is an organization that is for anyone. You can come from five generations of agriculturists or you can come from the heart of Las Vegas and still experience the opportunities FFA offers. This is the reason we celebrate FFA Week. We do not celebrate for the reason of the organization itself, we celebrate the amazing members and alumni that have made FFA what it is today!



Wright City FFA students attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the American Foods Group beef harvesting plant under construction in Warren County. With them are school board President Austin Jones and Superintendent Chris Berger.

Ag classes opened my eyes

By Morgan Marschel, 10th Grade

Agriculture education classes were brought to my attention when I was in middle school. I decided to take the class knowing about agriculture, but not the extended benefits that the class could teach me. I was nervous about taking a class knowing little knowledge, but it ended up being the best decision I have made. Taking agriculture classes opened my eyes to leadership skills, opportunities, a better sense of public speaking, and learning how agriculture is involved with everyday life. Being involved with FFA can allow you to learn and develop skills that you will forever use now and

in the future.

Agriculture classes have already helped me prepare for my future. It opens up great networking skills that I will need to acquire for one day wanting to own my own business. FFA has encouraged me to broaden my horizon skills and sign up for a contest team. I know these aspects later on will help me take on new chances to be successful. All in all, these opportunities FFA has given me, opened up my eyes when I first got into the class. I didn't see how much agriculture is involved and the opportunities that come with it. I will continue to widen my eyes as I see the chances I have from being in agriculture education classes.

My favorite FFA memory

By Ayla Weeks, 10th grade

My favorite FFA memory by far is FFA camp; it is an experience I will never forget. On the first day arriving at camp I was very nervous about meeting new people. However, I was immediately greeted by so many friendly people. I made tons of friends that I am still in contact with and talk to almost every day. I was presented with plenty of great opportunities to share my interests and hobbies with new people and learn about theirs as well. I was able to hear about lots of common and uncommon interests people could have and I am so glad I

have that experience.

During FFA camp we did lots of instructional activities and I learned how to work with all sorts of people, which is a great quality to have in life. We also got to talk with people who are working in the ag industry and were able to make connections in that area. Along with instructional activities we also had lots of time to go swimming in the lake, which was so much fun. At the lake we could go kayaking, tubing, go on boat rides, and also just swim in the water. FFA camp provided so many opportunities to learn and have fun that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else.

A green four-leaf clover logo with the text "McRoberts MOTORS" in black and "SUPPORTS OUR FFA!" in green below it.

A man in a blue plaid shirt and jeans standing next to a black utility vehicle loaded with hay bales in a field.

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A close-up photo of a white cow's head in a barn.

A photo of a golden wheat field under a blue sky.

The official FFA logo, featuring an eagle with wings spread, perched on a shield with "FFA" in the center, surrounded by the words "FARM", "AGRICULTURE", "EDUCATION", and "LEADERSHIP".

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A photo of two pink piglets resting in straw.

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