



Hailey Cary
Submitted photo



Lindsey Engelage
Submitted photo



Isabella Miller
Submitted photo

Warrenton FFA members apply for Missouri State FFA degree

Congratulations to Warrenton FFA Chapter members Isabella Miller, Lindsey Engelage and Hailey Cary for applying to earn the Missouri State FFA degree. The degree is the highest honor that the state association can bestow upon its members. They earn points towards this degree by having a quality supervised agricultural experience project over the past three years, and attend-

ing and serving as a leader in FFA and in their community. Their applications advanced with honors from the area to state level and are currently being evaluated by the State FFA Association. State FFA degrees will be presented at the Missouri State FFA Convention in Columbia in April of this year. Miller also earned first place in the Area 5 Goat Production Proficien-

cy Area and Engelage earned first place in the Agricultural Sales Proficiency Area. Proficiencies are evaluated based on the FFA members supervised agricultural experience projects. Members must document the financial expenditures, income, skills they learned, growth of their SAE and FFA leadership activities in their record books from freshman year to today.



Why I joined FFA

By Julianne Kinney
Warrenton Freshman

I joined FFA in eighth grade through an agriculture class my brother had taken the year before, but I didn't think much of it. I did not know back then what great things it would do for me in the future. FFA pushes kids outside of their comfort zones. It gives students

a place to come together to experience and learn many new things. Just this year I have taken part in community service, out-of-state trips, leadership meetings and other chapter activities. When putting on that blue FFA jacket, you are expected to represent a certain image: someone confident, generous, kind, willing to lend a hand, a hard worker and, above all, a leader. The things FFA has introduced me to in the past two years have all

brought me one step closer to fitting that image. Learning the FFA Creed in front of the class or competing in opening ceremonies for judges has forced me to be more confident. Picking up trash along the highway or singing Christmas carols at nursing homes gave me a chance to help the community. FFA has pushed me to become the best person I can be, and I know it will continue to push me throughout the rest of my high school career.



Mya MacCormick
Submitted photo

From Europe to the USA

By Mya MacCormick
Wright City FFA

Coming from the small country of Scotland and joining FFA in Missouri has opened my eyes to so much. From having opportunities to meet new people to help me

become more confident and learning to share my voice. Back in Scotland, we do not have our own version of FFA, so coming to the USA and joining this organization has given me so much more than anything back home. So far, I have competed in public speaking and came in first in the Area 5 competition and I even moved on to districts.

I went to the 2024 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and met even more people there too. I also experienced much more of the American culture that I never knew about. FFA has not just helped me socially, but also educated me. I learned about agriculture that I was never taught about back home. FFA has taught me so much

about different crops, plants, animals and farm life that I would never have known if I did not join such a great organization. Overall, FFA has made me a more brave, optimistic and determined individual. I know for certain that everything I have learned and experienced through the FFA are things that I will carry for the rest of my life.





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Outside my comfort zone

By Kerrigan Miller

FFA has really made me step outside my comfort zone. I have gone on trips and met other people that have the same interests as me. When we went to our first meet-

ing they had us do all of these different activities and talked with people that did some of the same things. There was also the FFA National Convention that was really fun. There we had time to get to know others' interests as well as teaching them about ours. Even just the bus rides to meetings and the convention

really made me talk to others in my group that I had never spoken to before. The competitions that we are involved in are pushing me to step outside my comfort zone and start doing things that I will want to do for a living. The events that are coming up are really going to push me outside my comfort zone, like

the week-long trips that we will be taking. Those are going to get me out of the house and away from family and help me learn that I won't always have my parents around to help me with things. I am going to have to start to figure it out on my own. When we go on these trips I will have to make new friends and have to talk to other people and I

am not very good at that but I am going to have to put myself out there and meet new people. They might become some of my closest friends. I am so happy that I joined FFA because it has helped me be a better person, help others and get to know people instead of judging them before I even get to know them.



This photo is one of my favorites. This is my horse Achilles and I in the show ring. He came into my life at the most perfect time and brought back my confidence in riding. We have grown as a team over the last year and I look forward to our years to come. Submitted photo

Blue Jackets, Gold Stands

By Katelin Doggett
Warrenton Freshman

On Oct. 10, 2024, I was officially became a greenhand member of the Warrenton FFA Chapter. Greenhand initiation was one of my biggest accomplishments. Finally putting on the jacket felt amazing! I was able to become a part of a community, while serving the community. FFA is more than an activity, it's a family, ignoring race, gen-

ders, and social classes. FFA accepts everyone, from the state of Maine to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. While there are hundreds of things we do in FFA, one activity is contests. I partake in an FFA contest, called "FFA knowledge." FFA knowledge is a 100 question paper test with questions over the entire manual of the FFA. We study for weeks on end with hopes of scoring the highest. But why? It not only creates a bond throughout the FFA, but there are awards for the top teams. There is a certain euphoria that comes with being able to travel around the state to compete in knowledge competitions.

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Thank you for helping 6 of our members go on a National Parks tour in Utah and Arizona. We saw the Grand Canyon, hiked Bryce Canyon, had a float trip through Horseshoe Bend and more!



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Wright City FFA has first Area Star Farmer in 41 years

By Kelsey Kemry,
Wright City FFA Advisor

Reagan Vehige is a senior in the Wright City FFA at Wright City High School. Reagan is the daughter of Chuck and Eileen Vehige of Wright City, Missouri and her FFA Advisors are Kelsey Kemry and Dustin Elledge. Reagan is extremely involved in FFA and is currently serving as the Wright City FFA Vice President.

The Area Star Farmer is awarded to the FFA member that demonstrates the top agricultural production in their supervised agricultural experience project. The Area V FFA consists of over 18 school districts. The member must demonstrate outstanding achievement, active FFA participation and an exemplary scholastic record. On Thursday,

Feb. 13, Reagan Vehige was informed that she was selected as the Area V Star Farmer.

She is the first Area Star Farmer from Wright City High School since Tim Dunakey in 1983, according to previous agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor David Cook. After talking with Cook about the Wright City FFA Chapter's success, he said "Well this phone call really made this old man smile. Congratulations!"

Reagan earned this prestigious award not only by being extremely involved in FFA but also with her supervised agricultural experience project. Reagan is a successful entrepreneur who owns a show stock business, Vehige Club Lambs, and she raises and shows cattle.

Vehige Club Lambs began six years ago

with buying 5 bred ewes. Since Vehige Club Lambs began, Reagan has continued to grow her herd in quality and quantity. Reagan's overall goals for her company are to produce high quality show lambs for both herself and to sell to customers. Some responsibilities with this business include feeding and caring for her sheep, maintaining barn cleanliness, staying up to date with vaccinations, helping the ewes and lambs during lambing season, advertising and customer service. The quality of her herd is evidenced by Reagan winning Grand and Reserve Champion at the Warren County Fair the past several years. She not only shows her lambs at the county fair but also at the district, state and national levels. Within these higher lev-

el shows, Reagan's high quality genetics have proven to earn top spots even nationally.

Along with Vehige Club Lambs, Reagan has shown cattle for eleven years. Owning cattle comes with a lot of responsibility such as feeding and watering, staying up to date with deworming and vaccinations, keeping the stalls clean, breaking and washing calves and more. In the last two years, Reagan has grown tremendously in her knowledge and quality of show cattle. She has done extremely well with her show cattle at both the Warren County Fair and Missouri State Fair.

Moving forward with the Area Star Farmer award, Reagan is now competing for Missouri Star Farmer. They select the Missouri Star Farm-



Reagan Vehige. Submitted photo

er out of the winners from all 16 FFA Areas in the State of Missouri. Reagan's application and SAE financials will be sent to the state committee for judging, along with an inter-

view that Reagan will do this upcoming April. The Wright City FFA Chapter is very proud of Reagan for her accomplishment and wishes her luck this upcoming April.

Wright City FFA attend Bradford Career Day

By Miley Sosa,
Wright City FFA Reporter

The Wright City FFA Chapter had the privilege of attending Bradford Career Day at the University of Missouri's Research Farm this past fall. The event provided a valuable opportunity for our members to engage with a variety of educational stations, each offering insightful and interactive presentations.

Throughout the day, FFA members learned about several important agricultural topics. The sessions covered a range of subjects including grassland management, ultrasound pregnancy

tests in beef cows, biosecurity and waste management. Students even took turns putting their hand into a fistulated cow, which is a cow that has a surgically created opening in its stomach to allow researchers to study the digestive system.

"I found Bradford Day to be an inspiring experience, filled with valuable knowledge to share with others who have not been before," said Wright City FFA Reporter Miley Sosa.

This was a great experience that not only taught the students about agriculture but also inspired our members as they considered future career paths within the agricultural industry.

Wright City FFA earns first place at Battle of the Chapters event

By Miley Sosa,
Wright City
FFA Reporter

This summer, the Wright City FFA chapter participated in an exciting event known as the "Battle of the Chapters." The event was held at the Pike County Fairgrounds and was hosted by the Area 5 FFA Officers. FFA chapters within Area 5 came together to compete in a variety of activities and all chapters hoped to claim the title of 1st place.

Throughout the event, FFA members engaged in a series of competitive games that tested their skills and teamwork. They played mud volleyball, agricultural trivia, completed farmer-style obstacle courses, table surfing, a donut eating contest and more.

These fun challenges emphasized partnership,



Back row left: Tanner Pace, Grant Stockmann, Bailey Love, Erica Johnson; Front row left: Anahi Hernandez, Kaylee Mikus, Kaitlyn Mikus, Danielle Freund, Miley Sosa, Reagan Vehige, Kaylene Sosa. Submitted photo

teamwork and problem-solving. The experience not only strengthened the bonds of Wright City FFA members, but also allowed them to

showcase their abilities and represent their chapter with pride. The Wright City FFA Chapter proudly came home with the 1st place trophy!

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Outside my comfort zone

By Natylie Rodak,
Warrenton Sophomore

My name is Natylie Rodak, when I first joined FFA I did not know what I was doing and all I had were my friends. I was scared of talking in front of everyone, but one day I had done prepared public speaking for LDES and that had helped me out so much with my fear of public speaking. If I had not done that I probably would have been in the same spot I have been in, and would be way too scared to talk in front of people. This has helped me learn so much about talking in front of people, I now use the knowledge from that every day when I'm talking to people I don't know.

I am so glad I have done this, everyone should give prepared public speaking a shot.

When you give it a chance you are opening up so many doors for your future and opportunities and yourself. You don't have to keep doing public speaking but I would say that if you give yourself a chance with new opportunities and more.

If you are not in FFA I would highly recommend joining and giving it a chance because it is way more than just giving speeches to judges.

What FFA means to me

By Jedidian Giere,
Warrenton Freshman

I haven't been in FFA long but I have already learned some valuable lessons. I believe FFA is going to, and has, helped me step out of my comfort zone, meet new

people and make new friends. I also believe that FFA can help you learn what you want to do in life. For me, FFA is more than an emblem on your jacket. It is a lifestyle and a way to conduct yourself. With the support of FFA the opportunities you have are endless. My time in FFA has been amazing and if you can, I recommend you join FFA!

More than just a jacket

By Ava Schneider,
Warrenton Freshman

FFA is so much more to me than a blue corduroy jacket. It is an opportunity. FFA is full

of experiences and opportunities that I am going to carry with me into my future career.

I have not been in FFA for long, but the experiences I have already had have been amazing. I have already made so many friends and learned so much, like how to get out of my comfort zone and try new things.

I was selected as the Warrenton FFA 2025 creed speaker, and this was a huge opportunity for me to get on stage and use my voice as an advocate for agriculture. FFA taught me how to be a voice for agriculture and to not be afraid of using my platform for a

purpose.

FFA is not just for "farm kids." When I tried to convince my friends to join FFA they would tell me "I'm not a farm kid."

This really made me want to look more into what FFA is, so I could show them that FFA has so many opportunities for every single person. FFA is an experience that no kid will ever forget.

I was able to attend the National FFA Convention this year, and that was the coolest experience I have ever been a part of. Seeing the sea of blue jackets was so inspiring, and knowing so many people around the world have the same passion for agriculture that I do.

FFA is more than just sows, cows and plows. It's about making lifelong friends and connections, it's about becoming the person you always dreamed of being.

FFA is about accomplishing goals you never thought you could achieve.

How FFA has impacted me

By Ryleigh Kohler,
Warrenton Freshman

Being involved in FFA has been so good for me. It gave me a boost of confidence and also helped me learn to talk to new people. Most people think that FFA is just about farming but it's more than that.

FFA involves a variety of different things, from learning about animals to learning about the traditions that the FFA community has done over the years. FFA allows you to join different teams for competitions and gives us opportunities to try doing things on our own. FFA also gives members many opportunities to earn awards.

FFA has a lot of different classes that you can take. There is food science, agriculture, animal science and more. In FFA you also get to take so many trips and there are opportunities where you can fundraise to go to a convention.

My time in FFA has been so much fun and very helpful for my non-existent social skills.

Why I decide to enroll in agriculture education classes

By Erin Klasing, Warrenton Senior

I chose to take an agriculture class because I

wanted to understand where I get most of my food and how the world gives back to us. I've been in two different agriculture classes in my senior year and both have become some of my favorite classes. Floriculture has taught me more than I originally thought it would, I picked this class because I grew up helping my grandma and mom plant flowers for as long as I can remember.

Most of the women in my family have a green thumb, because of this I have grown to love the difference in every plant and flower.

Mrs. Miederhoff, the floriculture teacher, has made every project and bookwork assignments relate to real world situations. The content learned can easily be applied and used outside of the school classroom walls.

Now I can construct various fresh flower arrangements, identify different types of plants, determine if they have nutritional or pests issues and I know how to keep them healthy.

The other agriculture class that I am taking this semester is food science.

In that class we have learned where and how America's most popular foods are made.

After learning about all the health codes and regulations that the FDA has put out for Americans safety, I can truly say I know more now than I have been able to understand for the past 18 years.

Before this class I knew some things about food products and where they came from, but now I know more than I would have if I never took this class. Later in the year students will work together to process a hog carcass into primal and retail pork meat cuts. This is truly a learning experience that I would not get in any other class at Warrenton High School. This is why I think agriculture education classes are so important and useful to all students.

Teaching kids where their food comes from and how it's made is vital for the next generation to be educated consumers.

Plus, the real bonus to agriculture education classes is that you get to learn and complete these fun activities by using your hands and your mind.

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