

# Vision of Virginia

FALL 2020



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Matt Lohr, Chief of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, gives the keynote speech of Session 3.



Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Bettina Ring, speaking at virtual Session 2.



Members heard from Dr. Oskar Schickel, Superintendent of Rockingham County Schools who spoke about the importance of working hard and working together during challenging times.

# VIRTUAL session

by Hunter Carson – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President

For many FFA members, the highlight of their summer is marked by heading down to Blacksburg for the annual, Virginia FFA State Convention. One of the most memorable aspects of convention are the sessions. Traditionally, thousands of Virginia FFA members flood into the auditorium of Burruss hall and await a night of laughter, dancing, singing, and an all around good time.

With Covid-19 forcing the cancelation of an in-person state convention, Virginia FFA worked diligently to provide a virtual alternative for our members. Sessions became pre recorded and live streamed. Sessions included special guest speakers, CDE & LDE results, state officer retiring addresses, State & Honorary degrees, FFA Scholarship results, and much more! We had the honor of hearing from special guests: Oskar Scheikel, Bettina Ring, Matt Lohr, Tess Seibel and Dr. James Woodard. With the virtual format of sessions, Virginia FFA was able to reach more people than ever, and allow all FFA members the opportunity to participate in State FFA Convention at no cost!



National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, and Virginia FFA Alumni, gives the keynote speech of Session 2.

This year however, looked a little different: our seats in Burruss were instead swapped for the sofas in our own homes, our official dress swapped for a comfy pair of pajamas, and the blessing of air conditioning.

Scan me to watch any of our virtual sessions!



# UPCOMING events

## SEPTEMBER

25-OCT. 6: State Fair of VA

## NOVEMBER

30-DEC. 4: Virtual NAAE Convention (Nashville, TN)

30-DEC. 3: Farm Bureau Convention

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# THE FIRST ANNUAL 2020 VIRGINIA VIRTUAL STATE CONVENTION WORKSHOPS



by Madeline Moore – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President

## SEE YA ON ZOOM!

Due to the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic, the 2020 Virginia State Convention was held online for the first time! Although we were disappointed that we did not get to see each other in person at Virginia Tech, *Zoom* played a huge role in how we came together. For many members, workshops are their favorite way to make new friends across the state. Fortunately, we were able to make that possible via *Zoom*. Let's hear from some of our workshop leaders!

## Connecting through Zoom

Each day of the State Convention a State Officer or special guest speaker would host a workshop. These workshops covered topics such as *Advocacy in Agriculture*, *Staying Positive*, *Moments that Connect Us*, *Building an SAE* and many more. Our guest speakers were 2019-2020 past Minnesota State Officers, Nic Potthoff and Britton Fuglseth and the Farm Credit Knowledge Center.

seeing the members is a highlight of the State Officers during this time. Shelby explained, "My favorite part about the workshop was getting to see the members smiling faces and learning together how to engage in a different way."

Past 2019-2020 State Secretary, Carly Carpenter hosted a workshop titled, "Get It Done." Carly helped FFA members explore ways to accomplish their goals and stay motivated to finish what they started! Carly's favorite part of the workshop was getting to see members again. "With the new regulations in place, we did not get to see members as much during the end of our state officer year. Seeing members and watching them engage in the workshop was really refreshing, even though it was in a different format than we are used to."

## WHAT DID MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY?

I took advantage of Instagram and asked FFA members who participated in workshops, "What was your favorite part about the virtual workshops?" Here's what they said.

"Being able to see other FFA members from all around the state!"

- Rebekah S. from the Randolph-Henry Chapter

"Being able to still learn quality skills, like goal setting and communication virtually."

- Macie B. from the Lee-Davis Chapter

"Getting to say goodbye to [the] retiring officers and getting life advice."

- Taylor W. from the Goochland Chapter

"Getting closer with our Past State Officers! It felt like [FFA] leadership camp."

- Makenna G. from the Liberty Chapter



Picture from past State Secretary, Carly Carpenter's Zoom workshop entitled, "Get It Done."

Do you ever find yourself feeling the pressure of work, school and even spending time with those we love? Past 2019-2020 State Sentinel, Shelby Stevens helped FFA members focus on themselves to learn tips and tricks to balance our busy lives with her workshop, "Clocking In and Out." It's no doubt

Make sure to keep up with Virginia FFA on social media for upcoming events and workshops that may be held on platforms such as *Zoom*. **The 2020-2021 State Officer team can not wait to meet you, whether we are in person or through screens!**

# MEET THIS YEAR'S VA FFA *State Stars*

by Austin Funk – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President



## **AGRISCIENCE - JORDAN NEWMAN**

**Chapter:** Cumberland FFA

**Favorite FFA Contest:** Livestock Judging

**SAE:** My SAE is Agriscience Research. This revolves around studying my sheep flock and studying growth factors such as age, sex, birth type, and deworming the dam.



## **AGRIBUSINESS - TANNER LIPSCOMB**

**Chapter:** King William FFA

**Favorite FFA Contest:** AG Mechanics

**SAE:** My SAE is crabbing in the Tappahannock River. Twice a week we go out, and whatever product we catch, we sell.



## **FARMER - BAILEY WATSON**

**Chapter:** Fort Chiswell FFA

**Favorite FFA Contest:** VA Cattle Working

**SAE:** My SAE is Diversified Livestock E & P. I was gifted a cow by my parents in 2012. Taking an FSA loan, I've worked up to 15 head of cow. We also have a small Suffolk shep flock.



## **PLACEMENT - MINDI FREED**

**Chapter:** Stonewall Jackson FFA

**Favorite FFA Contest:** Meats

**SAE:** My SAE is working on a dairy farm and pork processing facility. These experiences led me to attend VT in the Fall to major in Dairy Science and Food Tech. I hope to be VA Sec. of AG!

# FFA

## SCHOLARSHIPS

by Ryan Altis – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Sentinel

Every year, Virginia FFA gives out thousands of dollars in scholarships. This year Virginia FFA gave out \$10,750 to members. Virginia FFA Members also received \$20,000 in scholarships from National FFA.

### Virginia FFA Scholarships

VAAE Ag Ed Scholarship - Kendall Knicely  
 Andrew Farrar Legacy - Jordan Newman  
 James Clouse Legacy - **Hope Showalter**  
 Lohr Legacy - Dylan Irby  
 Lynwood L Lowery Jr Legacy - Tucker Kiracofe  
 George Seibel Memorial Legacy - Wade Reiter  
 Shelia Lilly Legacy - Claire Seibel  
 Shenandoah Farm Bureau - Emma Hockman  
 New Kent/James City/York Farm Bureau - Lucy Adamson  
 New Kent/James City/York Farm Bureau - Brianna Rawls  
 Virginia Farm Bureau - Megan Pollock

### National FFA Scholarships

Domino's Pizza LLC Scholarship - Bryse Vrolijk  
 Paul Obaugh Ford Lincoln - Sam Hadacek  
 Georgia M Hellberg Memorial Scholarship - **Kloe Rife**  
 Arthur and Nell Lewis Memorial Scholarship - **Kloe Rife**  
 Arthur and Nell Lewis Memorial Scholarship - Hunter Howard  
 Arthur and Nell Lewis Memorial Scholarship - Trayton McVey  
 Charlie Obaugh Chevrolet Buick GMC - Ashlyn Clemmer  
 Charlie Obaugh Chevrolet Buick GMC - Bailey Hadacek  
 Arthur and Nell Lewis Memorial Scholarship - Bailey Watson  
 John Deere Dealer Scholarship (Meade Tractor) - Autumn Moore  
 America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders Scholarship - Felicity Zimmerman  
 John Deere Dealer Scholarship (Meade Tractor) - Karlynn Goforth  
 Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa Scholarship - **Tylik Elam**



**Tylik Elam** will be attending Radford University.



**Hope Showalter** will be attending Virginia Tech.



**Kloe Rife** will be attending Virginia Tech.

# 2020 VIRGINIA FFA STATE Degree Recipients

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Abingdon FFA</b><br>Hunter C Atkins<br>Kayla Leigh Asbury  | <b>Central FFA</b><br>Melanie Ann Campbell<br>Emma Elizabeth Scott<br>Hockman<br>Lindsey M Hamrick                  | <b>Highland FFA</b><br>Daniel Joseph Judy<br>Morgan Lake Adams   | <b>Massanutten Technical FFA</b><br>Bryse J Vrolijk<br>Evan Carr<br>Kimberly Grace Ketterman<br>Jared William Yankey<br>Jessica Lynn Harrison |
| <b>Appomattox FFA</b><br>Carley Nelson<br>Jacob Johnson<br>Jenna StJohn<br>John Conner<br>Kelly Price<br>Caylan Moore                                     | <b>Chancellor FFA</b><br>Carolyn R Brown  | <b>Holston FFA</b><br>Hunter Dakota Trent<br>Levi James Price<br>Logan Blanco<br>Jordan Keith<br>Baylee Toothman<br>Madeline Moore   | <b>Massaponax FFA</b><br>Laura Dorrian<br>Niamh K Connell<br>Isaac Hamm   |
| <b>Atlee FFA</b><br>Lauren Annabelle Lamb<br>Jade Leigh Bowers<br>Spencer Newcombe<br>Nicole Elise Sutton<br>Emily Sutton                                 | <b>Clarke County FFA</b><br>Sam Brumback<br>Mackenzie Cather<br>Luke Brumback                                       | <b>James River FFA</b><br>Andrew Newcomb   | <b>Millbrook FFA</b><br>Charles Shepley   |
| <b>Blacksburg FFA</b><br>Sarah Marie Rosario  | <b>Courtland FFA</b><br>Destiny Sealy   | <b>James Wood FFA</b><br>Alexandra Charrier<br>Bradley Sions<br>Tyler Shell<br>Chase McCubbin<br>Christina Webber<br>Cyle DeHaven<br>Laycee Baker-McGee<br>Olivia Shick<br>Patricia Long | <b>Nelson County FFA</b><br>Sarah Harvey<br>Desirae Niccole Morris  |
| <b>Bluestone FFA</b><br>Joseph Walker   | <b>Culpeper FFA</b><br>Cira Jean Fowler<br>Chase James Fowler<br>Jonathan Abimael Azenon                            | <b>Lee County FFA</b><br>Caleb D Belcher<br>Hunter Chase Howard  | <b>Powhatan Senior FFA</b><br>Kaylynn Noel Lipford<br>Willam Russell Cumbea<br>Alex Aeryn Holliday  |
| <b>Broadway FFA</b><br>Elizabeth Loving<br>Jake Petit<br>Marissa Williams<br>Austin Funk<br>Jacob Elliott<br>Jesse Earhart                                | <b>Cumberland FFA</b><br>Jordan Alexander Newman  | <b>King William FFA</b><br>Madelyn Anne Watkins<br>Leah L Pennington<br>Will Reed<br>Tanner Lane Lipscomb  | <b>Pulaski County FFA</b><br>Camielle MacKenzie Eller<br>Jadyn Rene Fryor   |
| <b>Buckingham Senior FFA</b><br>April Michelle Sage<br>Dylan Thomas Price   | <b>Dinwiddie FFA</b><br>Allison Reiter  | <b>Liberty FFA</b><br>Zane Foster Shepherd<br>Joshua Leamy<br>Hanna Odat   | <b>Randolph Henry FFA</b><br>Blair Jillian Cisco<br>Joseph Layne<br>Kalie Virginia Greene   |
| <b>Buffalo Gap FFA</b><br>Sam Hadacek<br>Troy Payne<br>Kelsi Puffenbarger<br>MacKenzie Blackwell<br>Tucker Kiracofe<br>Ashley McCutcheon<br>Hannah Harris | <b>East Rockingham FFA</b><br>Giulianna Terrell<br>Dwight Kevin May II  | <b>Lord Botetourt FFA</b><br>Faith Settle<br>Madelyn Badgley<br>Andrew Harrington Seibel<br>Ethan Ruble  | <b>Ridgeview FFA</b><br>Hannah Daryl Thacker<br>Kloe DelRae Rife  |
| <b>C.L. Payne FFA</b><br>Kayci Mae Martin<br>Jonathan Ryan Kuhler<br>Megan Ashleigh Day<br>Mackenzie Morgan Butler<br>Cathryn Ashley Wolfe                | <b>Eastern View FFA</b><br>Savannah Dawn Smith<br>Sarah Elizabeth Southard  | <b>Liberty FFA</b><br>Zane Foster Shepherd<br>Joshua Leamy<br>Hanna Odat   | <b>Riverbend FFA</b><br>Shelbi N Shelton  |
| <b>Carroll County FFA</b><br>John Cassell Banks<br>Ashlyn Grace Griffin<br>Kaitlyn Grace Edwards<br>Erin Elizabeth Bowman                                 | <b>Fort Chiswell FFA</b><br>Bailey Rein Watson<br>Karlynn Elizabeth Goforth<br>Katy Elisabeth Musick                | <b>Lord Botetourt FFA</b><br>Faith Settle<br>Madelyn Badgley<br>Andrew Harrington Seibel<br>Ethan Ruble  | <b>Rural Retreat FFA</b><br>Levi Arnold<br>Houstice Cregger<br>Lauren Stuart  |
|   | <b>Fort Defiance FFA</b><br>Mackenzie Sierra Shull<br>Heather Rawley<br>Sara Rawley                                 | <b>Liberty FFA</b><br>Zane Foster Shepherd<br>Joshua Leamy<br>Hanna Odat   | <b>Sherando FFA</b><br>Jessica Fransen<br>Hannah Burton<br>Matthew Hartley<br>Emily Blanton<br>Brady McKnight                                 |
|   | <b>Goochland FFA</b><br>Katherine S Clement<br>Emiley Rachel Carol Stout<br>Emily Roberts                           | <b>Louisa FFA</b><br>Tyler Gibson<br>Jared Hall  | <b>Smith Mountain FFA</b><br>Samantha Holdren<br>Breanna Walker<br>Carrie Akers   |
|   | <b>Halifax County FFA</b><br>Natalia Zamia Howell<br>Dylan Thomas Irby<br>Tylik Jayveon Elam<br>Michael Satterfield | <b>Marion FFA</b><br>Magie E Hendrickson<br>Maseyn Kiana Johnson<br>Russell Gerard Schleife<br>Jordan Lee Salter   | <b>Spotswood FFA</b><br>Jeremiah Van Huss   |

**Stonewall Jackson FFA**

Faith Louise Dellinger  
Mindi M Freed

**Strasburg FFA**

Amber Nicole Gessner  
Anna Rankin  
Aidan Keller

**Stuarts Draft FFA**

Ryan Altis

**Tazewell FFA**

Alexa Nichole Compton

**Tunstall FFA**

Jacob Nathaniel Bowden  
Malik Rashad Thornton  
Casey Edward Toney  
Megan Nicole Pollok  
Allison Paige Snead  
Amber Nichole Jones  
Davin McKay Keller  
Kristen Emily Moss

**Turner Ashby FFA**

Jacob Harvey, Craun  
Madison Swope  
Matthew Williams  
Bonita Rhodes

# 2020 HONORARY FFA STATE DEGREE Recipients



**BRIAN CARPENTER  
STEPHANIE CARPENTER  
REBECCA CRAIG  
WILLIAM CRAIG  
MARK DEVERS  
CHRISTINE DINTERMAN  
JONATHAN DINTERMAN  
PATRICIA DINTERMAN  
RICHARD DINTERMAN  
JULIE GOBBLE  
RICK GOBBLE**

**SUSAN HARRISON  
FRANK KIRKS  
SCOTT KLINE  
SUZANNE KLINE  
KIMBERLEY KOEPPEN  
LARRY LANDIS  
DAN LONCE  
JOYCE MILLSAP  
EILEEN ORGEN  
PATRICK ORGEN  
TIMOTHY J. SHOWALTER**

**TINA SHOWALTER  
ROSEMARY SIFFORD  
STEPHEN SIFFORD  
GLENN STEVENS  
LORI STEVENS  
LESLIE STEVENS  
LONNIE TUTHILL  
SANDRA TUTHILL  
ROSLYN TYLER**

## STATE FFA Degrees

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

Each and every year, FFA members from across Virginia have the opportunity to complete an application for their State FFA Degrees. These members have often worked for four years or more in order to achieve this accomplishment. This year at our first ever virtual state convention, 157 members were awarded their State Degrees. Receiving this honor truly helps the members to realize that every ounce of their hardwork has paid off.



Daniel J.  
Highland FFA Chapter

“For me, along with many others, receiving their State Degree is a feeling of accomplishment. Since the seventh grade, I have always admired the work of the hundreds of members that have gotten to walk across the stage and received their degrees, and now, I am honored to be a part of the thousands before me, and looking forward to seeing the thousands ahead of me.”

## Honorary FFA DEGREES

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

Virginia FFA is so incredibly thankful for the people who work behind the scenes to make the organization so successful. As an organization, we provide those people with Honorary Degrees! This year at our virtual convention, we were very excited to provide 33 individuals with Honorary Degrees.



Pictured is Makayla Craig, Virginia FFA State President 2019 - 2020, alongside her parents who were chosen as Honorary FFA Degree recipients.

# STATE PUBLIC *speaking*

by Joshua Powers – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President

When most people think of public speaking, they think about podiums, a big stage and a crowd full of people listening. However, the Virginia FFA Public Speaking Leadership Development Events (LDEs) looked very differently this year. Instead of a podium there was a webcam, instead of a big crowd there were computer screens and instead of a big stage for most participants they competed in the comfort of their own homes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic a lot of things in life and FFA had to change and the state public speaking contests were no exceptions. Unprecedented times call for unprecedented measures and for the first time all contests were held virtually this year. Although the contest may look different participants

still felt fortunate to get to compete at all. Megan Day, an FFA member from C. L. Payne FFA, who completed in and won the Extemporaneous Public Speaking contest explained, “When everything began getting cancelled, I was really worried that all FFA competitions would also be cancelled. However, thankfully Virginia FFA found a way to still provide a great opportunity for members to still compete in their Leadership Development Events.”

In both area competitions and state competitions, participants were required to deliver their speeches on a virtual platform to a committee of judges. For members competing in the Creed Speaking LDE they had to recite EM Tiffany’s famous words and then answer

a series of questions. For junior and senior members competing in the Prepared Public Speaking LDE they spent months researching, writing and practicing delivering their speeches. The senior members who competed in extemporaneous public speaking LDE had a short amount of time to draw an agricultural topic, prepare a speech and be prepared to answer questions on that topic. In fact, many advisors and individuals worked hard to facilitate the contests in a way that preserved the tradition and integrity of those contests. Smith Mountain FFA Advisor Anne Jones stated, “I was extremely impressed with how the association was able to provide these opportunities to students and I was also encouraged by the resiliency of the students and how they stepped up and looked at the virtual competitions as an opportunity.”

Although the LDE’s may have looked a little different this year the members who participated are an excellent example of the adaptability and positive spirit that has come to represent the FFA organization.



**CREED SPEAKING**  
J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA  
Jackie Diaz  
1st Place

Chatham FFA  
Rebecca Shields  
2nd Place  
R.E. Aylor FFA  
Rebecca Stout  
3rd Place



**JUNIOR PREPARED  
PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
Chatham Middle FFA  
Grace Stowe  
1st Place

Carroll County Middle FFA  
Amanda Everheart  
2nd Place  
R.E. Aylor FFA  
MaKenna Blair  
3rd Place



**SENIOR PREPARED  
PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
Lee FFA  
Tatum Harvel  
1st Place

Amelia FFA  
Katie Stang  
2nd Place  
Nelson FFA  
Abigail Foley  
3rd Place



**EXTEMPORANEOUS  
PUBLIC SPEAKING**  
C.L. Payne FFA  
Megan Day  
1st Place

Smith Mountain FFA  
Samantha Holdren  
2nd Place  
Fort Chiswell FFA  
Bailee Watson  
3rd Place

# 2020/2021 VIRGINIA FFA State Officers



**FUN FACT      EVENT/ CONTEST      FAV FOOD      EXCITED FOR:**



*Megan Day*

VIRGINIA FFA PRESIDENT

I know the words to every Luke Bryan Song.

Creed Speaking

Tacos

I'm really excited to meet as many members as possible and to travel around the state advocating for agriculture.



*Andrew Seibel*

VIRGINIA FFA SECRETARY

I played the guitar for quite a few years while in school.

State Leadership Camp

Sushi

I am most excited for our first event or visit with members present as a team.



*Hunter Carson*

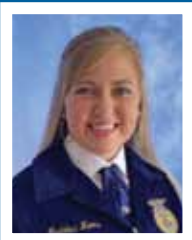
VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

I love to cook and experiment with new recipes to find new dishes to cook!

Employment Skills

Classic Cheeseburger

I am excited to work with my teammate and face the unique challenges we have ahead of us during the current pandemic - as well as meeting members.



*Madeline Moore*

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

I've never seen Friends or The Office. I have also never watched the movie, High School Musical! People look at my funny when they find that out!

Parliamentary Procedure

Shrimp Tempura Sushi

I am so excited to meet all of the members! This year may look different from the past but it will bring us so many opportunities of excitement and new experiences! I can't wait to see a larger vision of Virginia FFA.

**FUN FACT      EVENT/CONTEST      FAV FOOD      EXCITED FOR:**



*Austin Funk*

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

I love showing sheep!

Poultry Judging

Steak

I'm very excited to travel across the state and work with students during workshops!



*Joshua Powers*

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

I participated every year in the talent show at my elementary school for hula hooping.

Tractor Operators

Sushi

I'm excited to make memories with members that I will remember forever.



*Jeremy Petrie*

VIRGINIA FFA TREASURER

I was the captain of my high school debate team junior and senior year.

Parliamentary Procedure

Sushi

I am excited most about serving fellow FFA members, meeting new people, and making a positive impact.



*Faith Dellinger*

VIRGINIA FFA REPORTER

I've played the piano for nine years and I absolutely love it!

Meats Judging

Crab Legs

I can't wait to travel to different chapters and see how different they are, even though they all share the same love for FFA. I'm so excited to come meet all of you all and hear your story!



*Ryan Altis*

VIRGINIA FFA SENTINEL

I was the first person in my family to join FFA.

Forestry

Steak

I am excited to meet members from all across the state.

# 2019/2020 OFFICER Farewell INTERVIEWS

Throughout the last year these 9 individuals have served the Virginia members with passion and dedication. On behalf of the Virginia Association, we would like to **thank you** for your year of service!

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT THIS PAST YEAR?



My favorite experience about this past year was traveling to the many chapters and learning about what makes their chapter special! Virginia's agriculture is incredibly diverse and it shows through each and every chapter. From traveling to urban chapters in the middle of cities to visiting chapters in towns with only one stoplight. Seeing the diversity of Virginia's FFA chapters was absolutely amazing. Virginia FFA thank you for this experience!

- **MaKayla Craig** VA FFA 2019-20 State President

This year was filled with so many great experiences and memories! My favorite thing about this year was traveling and meeting so many different people from unique backgrounds and hearing their stories. From Spain to small counties in Virginia, hearing each person's journey to FFA and agriculture was life changing.

- **Hope Showalter**

VA FFA 2019-20 State Reporter



My favorite part of the year was getting to connect and meet members. Whether it was with chapter visits or zoom calls, I enjoyed getting to meet students through our commonality - the FFA. Every member has their own story and background, and it was enjoyable to get to see that and learn from them. Plus, visits were always a fun time no matter the experience!

- **Kenzie Kline** VA FFA 2019-20 State Treasurer

My favorite part of the year was being able to facilitate. It was always incredible to see students participating in the activities my teammates and I planned and it was always exciting when they responded in a way we knew our workshops were connecting with them.

- **Jacob Dinterman**

VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President



My favorite part of the year was going to Spain and Portugal for the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers. Having the opportunity to explore those beautiful countries, learn about their agricultural industries, and bonding with State Officers from all over the U.S. created memories that will last a lifetime. I was so thankful to have the opportunity to go on this adventure with all 8 of my awesome teammates by my side.

- **Erin Orgen** VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President

This past year was truly remarkable, packed full of adventure and memories! I loved traveling the state, getting the opportunity to visit a variety of chapters and meet so many awesome people. This year was truly one that I will never forget!

- **Ryan Gobble** VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President

My favorite thing from my year as a State Officer would have to be getting to witness members "light bulb" moments. It was so encouraging to me to see something click with a member. It was definitely reassuring knowing that they will be the future leaders in this world.

- **Shelby Stevens** VA FFA 2019-20 State Sentinel

My favorite thing about this year was being able to meet new people and learn more about Virginia and Virginia agriculture.

- **Madison Sifford** VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President

My favorite part of this past year was definitely National FFA Week! It was a crazy week, but we had the opportunity to meet and connect with FFA members from all across the state. I had so much fun meeting new people and seeing how other chapters differ from what I was used to seeing at my home chapter in Rockingham County!

- **Carly Carpenter** VA FFA 2019-20 State Secretary



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?

This year I will be attending Virginia Tech and majoring in Agriculture Sciences. My plan is to become an ag teacher and FFA advisor! I don't know what the future holds for me, but I am excited to start this new journey and will cherish the memories from this past year.

- **Hope Showalter** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Reporter*



I plan to attend Virginia Tech to study Agriculture Sciences. I want to either become an ag teacher or go into some part of the agriculture industry. FFA has taught me alot, so I want to give back in the way the industry has done for me.

- **Kenzie Kline** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Treasurer*



I plan to begin in the fall at Virginia Tech where I will be majoring in dairy sciences. I'm not sure which pathway I will be taking yet but I really would like to work with children and teach them about agriculture.

- **Madison Sifford** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President*

This fall, I plan to attend Louisiana State University to study Environmental Policy and Agribusiness. I hope to eventually work in policy, whether that's with the USDA, as a lobbyist, or as a lawyer.

- **Carly Carpenter** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Secretary*

In the fall I will be attending Lord Fairfax Community College to finish up my associates degree. This will allow me to travel for the next year and experience the world around me even more!

After that, I will transfer to a four year university and will be pursuing a degree in Marketing and Journalism. I hope to work as a Broadcast Journalist.

- **MaKayla Craig**  
*VA FFA 2019-20 State President*

I will be attending Virginia Tech this fall majoring in Agriculture Economics. I will also be going into the Corps Of Cadets to further my leadership skills. After college I hope to get into public service at the local level and work my way up to the federal level.

- **Shelby Stevens** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Sentinel*



This fall I will be attending Ferrum College, majoring in Agriculture Education. After graduation I hope to become an Ag teacher and FFA Advisor and would one day like to help develop curriculum for agriculture classes.

- **Ryan Gobble**  
*VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President*



My plans for the future include getting a degree in Environmental Science/Studies from George Mason University, continuing my education by going to law school, and becoming an Environmental Lawyer. I am really passionate about Environmental Policy. I hope one day I can help make a difference for future generations. We have the power to take the necessary steps to make the world a better place.

- **Erin Orgen**  
*VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President*

My future plans are currently to attend Virginia Tech for Agriculture Business and hopefully work my way into being a farm manager or extension agent.

- **Jacob Dinterman** *VA FFA 2019-20 State Vice President*



# Base Camp 2020



by Megan Day  
VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

Every year, newly elected state officers from across the country participate in a training commonly referred to as 'Base Camp'. Usually for Virginia FFA State Officers, Base Camp is held at Virginia Tech and is a time for the officers to bond and learn some new skills that will prepare them for their year of service. This year looked very different but the actual content of Base Camp was no different! The Virginia FFA State Officer Team met with Mr. Evan Davis from June 30th - July 2nd to begin working on sharpening their skills as a team.



Jeremy Petrie Virginia FFA State Treasurer

“Base Camp was a fun experience that the state officers took part in. We worked on our leadership skills, learned more about each other, and learned about how we can support the members.”

During Base Camp, the officer team took time to learn the importance of reflection and well thought out planning. Although it was virtual, the team was still able to bond and work together on all of the scenarios they were presented with.

“Base camp taught me that everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, and by working together, we can combine our strengths to get the best result. The thing that resonated with me most from base camp is that we have to know yourself before you grow your self.”



Ryan Altis Virginia FFA State Sentinel

# STATE OFFICERS Summit

by Andrew Seibel – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Secretary

July 19 through July 22, 2020 our team attended the very first virtual State Officer Summit hosted by National FFA. During the conference, the officers were split into small groups filled with other State Officers from around the nation and US Territories. The group leaders were this year's National FFA Officers as well as a few National FFA Officers from past years. Throughout the entire week, the team learned about how to advocate for what they believe in as well as how to convey their wishes in a professional and respectful manner. During the week, the team met with members of

Senator Mark Warner's team to discuss a 3-million-dollar grant for National FFA and how it would positively impact Virginia's membership in particular. The officers learned about how people develop their beliefs and how to respect that all viewpoints come from a place and cannot necessarily be looked upon as being wrong. After the training during the State Officer Summit, the team made personalized advocacy plans to work towards during this year. Listed below are two of the personalized advocacy plans written by members of the State Officer Team.

**"I am advocating for kindness and compassion when sharing information about the agriculture industry and the opportunities within the FFA"**

**"My advocacy plan is to convert FFA curriculum to a hard copy format for students without internet access. As a team, we would need to work with elected officials to seek resources and permission to meet with out members in person. A primary focus of this plan would be making the record keeping through AET made accessible in a paper format so students can still earn scholarships and degrees without internet connection. We must serve all our members, not only those with an internet connection."**

State Officer Summit gave our officers the best opportunity to plan how they want to advocate for the upcoming year.



Summit is managed and led by present and past National FFA Officers and National FFA Staff.



Small group leaders made the virtual experience more engaging by having themes each night. In this photo, State Vice President, Hunter Carson is gearing up for Hawaiian Night.



The National Officer team worked diligently to provide a meaningful State Officer Summit experience.



State officers heard from Past Virginia FFA State Officer and Past National FFA Officer, Matt Lohr who currently serves as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



State officers were honored to hear a special address from the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue.

## MEET YOUR NATIONAL OFFICER

# Candidate RYAN GOBBLE

*Best of Luck  
Ryan!*

We are so proud of you, and  
can't wait to see you shine!



by Faith Dellinger – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Reporter

**Home Chapter:** Abingdon High School

**State Officer Position Held:**  
State Vice President

**My SAE:**  
Equine Entrepreneurship  
Diversified Livestock  
Community Development

**When did you join FFA?**  
Freshman Year

**Fun Fact:**  
I am legally blind. I have an eye disease  
which affects my central vision called  
Stargardt's.

**Best advice you have been given:**  
Always remember who you are and stay  
true to that person.

“If elected to serve as a National Officer, there are several things that I hope to accomplish. First, I want to show members that no matter the situations that we are presented with in life, we can accomplish anything that we set our minds to, especially when we are being our authentic self. I would also like to encourage members to step up to become leaders within their communities and develop aspirations to become a leader for our industry, country, and world.”

– Ryan Gobble

**What made you want to run for national office?**

I wanted to run for a National Office to show members no matter our different abilities or differences you are exactly who you are supposed to be.

**What do you hope to accomplish by being a national officer?**

If elected to serve as a National Officer, there are several things that I hope to accomplish. First, I want to show members that no matter the situations that we are presented with in life, we can each accomplish anything that we set our minds to especially when we are being our authentic self. I would also like to encourage members to step up to become leaders within their communities and develop aspirations to become a leader for our industry, country, and world.

# 2020 VAAE awards

by Hope Showalter – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter

This past June, the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators released their Virginia's professional Organizational Awards for the 2019-2020 year, as well as the VAAE Executive Officer Election Results for the 2020-2021 year. Virginia FFA is proud to recognize these outstanding leaders and award winners in the VAAE.



The Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award recognizes a VAAE member who is conducting the highest quality agricultural education programs. This award focuses on leadership in civic, community, agriculture/agribusiness and professional activities. These individuals are innovators and catalysts for student success in agricultural education. *Congratulations, Shirley Kaufman!*



The Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award recognizes a member who exceeds in effective classroom and laboratory instruction, experiential learning, and leadership development. This award encourages young teachers to remain in the profession and to encourage and recognize participation in professional activities through the VAAE. These individuals are vital in the success of their agricultural programs. *Congratulations, Blair Hoffman!*



The Outstanding Middle/Secondary School Ag Ed Program Award promotes outstanding programs in agricultural education and effectively communicates success stories. *Congratulations on an outstanding program, Broadway High School!*



The Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program Award recognizes exemplary postsecondary institutions and full-time young farmer and adult ag ed programs. Qualifying young farmer and/or adult ag ed program staff must devote at least 50 percent of their teaching time to this level of instruction. *Congratulations, Riverheads Young Farmers!*

The Teachers Turn the Key Award recognizes the importance of positive relationships between beginning and experienced teachers by creating formal organizational structures to connect them. This award provides additional incentives for experienced teachers to become mentors for beginning teachers, and it will provide beginning teachers a way to say thank you to the experienced teachers who have influenced them. ***Congratulations, Cole Ramsey, for building positive relationships!***

The Ideas Unlimited award is awarded to a member who shares a classroom, SAE, leadership, and other teaching idea. These ideas are intended to help others in their journey through teaching. ***Congratulations, Elizabeth Duncan!***

The Outstanding Service Citation Award recognizes current and retired VAAE members who have made significant contributions to agricultural education at the state level. ***Congratulations and thank you for your contributions and support, Teresa Lindberg!***

The Outstanding Cooperation Award recognizes organizations, agribusiness companies, and others who have given outstanding support to agricultural education within Virginia. ***Congratulations, Dr. Edwin Jones!***



The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes **retired VAAE members** who have made significant contributions to agricultural education at the state level. ***Congratulations and thank you, Robert "Bobby" Orrock!***

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# VIRTUAL *Livestock* SHOWS

by Hunter Carson – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President

For many FFA members across the state and country, showing livestock is a way of life. Members put countless hours into each of their projects; from getting up early on those cold mornings to load the trailer, making sure each hair is in the right place while fitting, working with their animals into the night with the barn lights on, or even spending hours shining up the show ring boots. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, social gathering came to a grinding halt; and with that, so did livestock shows. The teams of people behind our livestock show circuits know just as well as anyone that these students hard work and dedication deserves to be recognized.

Many shows quickly transitioned into a virtual format, allowing exhibitors to still be able to show their livestock. Instead of a show ring, exhibitors used their yard; instead of judging in person, exhibitors sent in pictures and videos. “The students and parents were grateful that we didn’t give up on them. Even though it was a lot of work the show and sale ended up a huge success,” said Buffalo Gap agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Shirley Kaufman. The quick action by livestock shows allowed exhibitors to still be recognized for their hard work and dedication, even through these tough circumstances.



Megan Day prepares for the virtual Fauquier County Show & Sale.

## Did you like showing livestock virtually?



“For me, showing livestock is the best part of FFA and has been the highlight of my high school career. Given the circumstances, showing virtually was the best we could do, even though it wasn’t all that we had hoped for when we bought our projects, we still got a chance to show off all the hours of hard work and got acknowledgement for a job well done.”

- **Kate Shifflett** *Luray FFA*



“Well, I will say that showing virtually is a lot cheaper. I didn’t even need to pay an entry fee or gas! The only side that I didn’t like were the increased amount of mistakes/ technical difficulties; they put my market wether in a doe class.”

- **Bryson Funk** *Broadway FFA*



“Virtual livestock shows, in my opinion, are a good way for youth members like myself to still be able to participate in shows even though we can’t be together in person. My first experience with the virtual shows went really well, I liked being able to still show while keeping everyone safe. They give each participant a chance to display their hard work throughout the past few months, which is something I know each member takes pride in.”

- **Meredith Day** *C.L. Payne FFA*

# VA FARM BUREAU'S *Outstanding Young Agriculturalist* AWARD

by Madeline Moore – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Vice President

## A Background into Virginia Farm Bureau & Young Farmers

Virginia Farm Bureau is made up of members all across the state that work hard together to support Virginia's farmers ensuring that the lives of Virginians can improve through farming and agriculture. Within the Farm Bureau are Young Farmer Committees made up of members 18-35 years old that work together to recruit Young Farmers, conduct statewide contests, work on local issues and help county Farm Bureau boards with agriculture education and public outreach.

## So, what is the Outstanding Young Agriculturalist Award?

The Outstanding Young Agriculturalist Award recognizes a junior or senior in high school who has achieved outstanding academic, community and agribusiness achievements. But this award also helps students assess their career goals and progress while also striving for leadership opportunities and being involved in the agribusiness sector.

## The 2020 Outstanding Young Agriculturalist Award Winner

This year there were 17 finalists for the Outstanding Young Agriculturalist Award. The award winners were broadcasted live from the Dinwiddie location during the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers Summer Expo on August 1st, 2020.



### THE 3 JUDGES AWARD WINNERS ARE:

Andrew Seibel, Lord Botetourt FFA

Kloe Rife, Ridgeview FFA

Kimberly Laue, Frederick County 4-H

### THE 2020 OUTSTANDING YOUNG AGRICULTURALIST WINNERS ARE:

3rd Place - Megan Day, C.L. Payne FFA

2nd Place - Bailey Watson, Fort Chiswell FFA

1st Place - Megan Pollock, Tunstall FFA

(pictured ABOVE)

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# Name a State Plaque

Virginia FFA has a  
number of State Plaques  
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**HONOR SOMEONE WHO  
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- 5 Years: \$500
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