

# Vision of Virginia

SPRING 2019



# CONTENTS

- B** AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL BANQUET
- C** MEMBER HIGHLIGHT AND STATE SOILS
- D** 2018 VA FFA NATIONAL CONVENTION
- H** INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR STATE OFFICERS (ILSSO)
- J** THROUGH THE LENS OF A STATE OFFICER
- L** THEN & NOW
- N** CHAPTER CHATS
- O** CHAPTER OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING (C.O.L.T)

## UPCOMING events

### FEBRUARY

16-24: National FFA Week

### MARCH

16: State Meats Contest (VT, Blacksburg, VA)

### APRIL

18: State Tractor Operators/Stockmen's (Rockingham County Fairgrounds)

26: State Poultry Evaluation CDE (Rockingham County Fairgrounds)

### JUNE

17-20: State FFA Convention (Blacksburg, VA)

# 48TH ANNUAL Agribusiness COUNCIL BANQUET

by Tess Seibel  
VA FFA 2017-2018 Past President

On January 10th, Virginia FFA State Officers attended the 48th Annual Agribusiness Council Banquet in Richmond, Virginia. The state officers were joined by members of the Virginia FFA Foundation, Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators, and other supporters of FFA and agriculture.

The Virginia Agribusiness Council acts as a voice of Virginia agriculture, our state's number one industry. At the annual banquet, over 1,000 agriculture industry leaders and over 100 elected officials were in attendance. Special guests in attendance included Senator Emmett Hanger, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Bettina Ring, and Governor Ralph Northam. The state officers had the opportunity to speak directly with these VIPs and share about FFA and the experiences of members. During

his address to the attendees, Governor Northam specifically mentioned FFA and said, "We need to continue to support what FFA and 4-H are doing."

Virginia FFA sponsored Senator Hanger at their table and would like to share a special thanks to the senator for his continued support of Virginia FFA. Senator Hanger cosponsored the bill with Delegate Steve Landes that allowed Virginia to create a Virginia FFA license plate.



Bailey Carpenter, Senator Hanger, Melissa Ruhlman, Jennifer Armstrong (FFA Foundation Director), and Tess Seibel



Bettina Ring (Secretary of Ag), Governor Ralph Northam, and Tess Seibel

## VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

115 Hutcheson Hall  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 540-231-3823

www.VaFFA.org  
Email: association@vaffa.org

Ethan Jackson  
President

Kendall Knicely  
Secretary

Nathan McDonald  
Vice President

Claire Seibel  
Vice President

Matthew Meyers  
Vice President

Ruth Fitzgerald  
Treasurer

Newlin Humphrey  
Reporter

Katherine Thompson  
Sentinel

## Get Published Here!



Submit articles and photos of your chapter to [magazine@vaffa.org](mailto:magazine@vaffa.org).

# member HIGHLIGHT

by Katherine Thompson  
VA FFA 2018-2019 Sentinel

## EMILY NEWLIN JAMES WOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Virginia FFA, meet Emily Newlin, a senior at James Wood High School in Frederick County where she is a very active member in her FFA chapter. Emily has no trouble finding something to keep her busy; whether that is taking both high school and college level classes or putting in the study hours in preparation for competing in the National Veterinary Science CDE, she always strives to go that extra mile. Emily loves spending

her free time with her friends, family, and of course all her animals! As part of her SAE, she pet-sits, peer-tutors, and does many other acts of service for others who need her help. Her career goal is to go into the field of veterinary medicine and specialize in being an Equine Surgeon. Everyone who meets Emily will be better for it, as she always leaves you with a smile on your face and feeling that much better about the day. Virginia FFA, it has been our pleasure to have introduced you all to one of our many AMAZING members from around our state!



## STATE soils

by Nathan McDonald  
VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

Soil is one of the most important natural resources that we rely on daily, and often we overlook its importance. That was not the case on November 5, 2018, when 19 FFA and 4-H teams gathered for the State Soils Career Development Event at Woodbine Farm in Strasburg, VA. After months of preparation and learning about the unique characteristics of soil, students had the opportunity to put their skills to the test while texturing different soils, determining erosion, and evaluating the land for different uses.

The top three junior teams were Broadway (third), Strasburg (second), and Powhatan Middle (state champion). For the overall teams, Holston took third, Strasburg placed second, and James River was the state winning team in the senior competition. The top five teams have the opportunity to represent Virginia at the National Soil and Range competition in Oklahoma in May!



**TOP JUNIOR TEAM**



**TOP SENIOR TEAM**

### TOP FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN THE JUNIOR

- 1st - Kayla Cole, Powhatan Middle
- 2nd - Ava Tucker, Powhatan Middle
- 3rd - Eli Monson, Powhatan Middle
- 4th - Audrey Fleming, James River
- 5th - Shalyn Keeler, Strasburg

### TOP FIVE INDIVIDUALS IN THE SENIOR

- 1st - Ellie Holter, James River
- 2nd - Colby Lowery, Powhatan
- 3rd - Cameron Frommel, Strasburg
- 4th - Emma Hockman, Central
- 5th - Baylee Toothman, Holston

# 2018 VIRGINIA FFA

# National Convention



by **Ethan Jackson** - VA FFA 2018-2019 President, **Ruth Fitzgerald** - VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer, and **Kendall Knicely** - VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary

The 91st National FFA Convention & Expo registered a record-breaking attendance of 69,944 members, advisors, exhibitors, and supporters from around the country. Members traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to celebrate their accomplishments over the year and find inspiration for the year ahead.

## RECAP OF SESSIONS

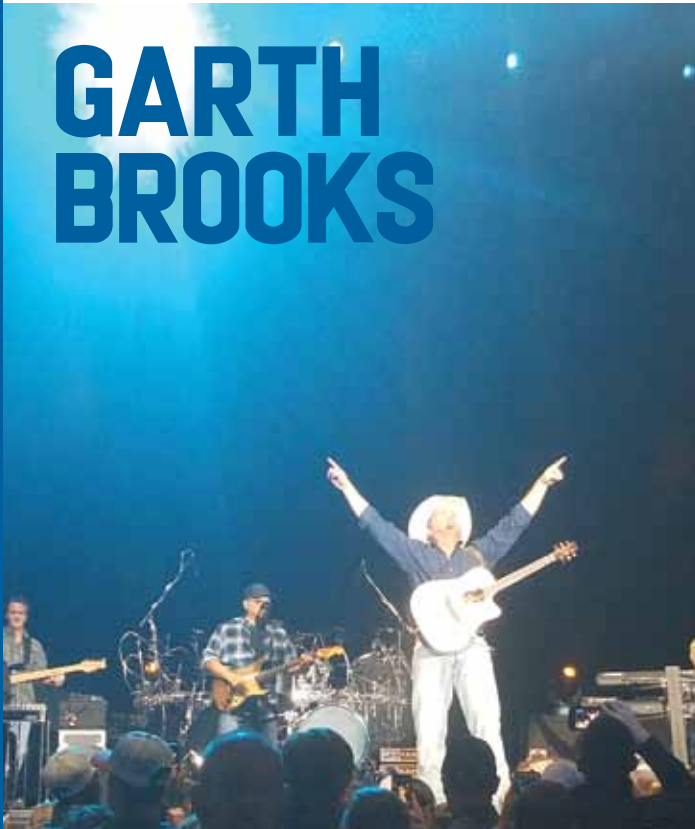
Even though the National FFA Convention & Expo is jam-packed with all sorts of awesome opportunities, among the most exciting things are the sessions held throughout the week. As members walk through the doors of Bankers Life Fieldhouse Stadium to the sessions, there is always fog, music, and laser light shows to meet them there. During sessions throughout the week, members had the opportunity to hear from keynote speakers, such as cardboarder Kyle Scheele and Microsoft Corporate Vice President Mary Snapp; find out the results of National FFA CDEs, LDEs, proficiency awards and stars; enjoy some tunes from the National Band and Chorus, and hear from the National FFA Officers themselves. This year we even had the unique opportunity to hear from the President of the United States!

## PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP SPEAKS

At the ninth and final session of the 2018 National FFA Convention and Expo, attendees had the honor to hear from President Donald J. Trump. President Trump talked about the importance of agriculture and how he aims to aid farmers in the United States. He also noted the importance of FFA and how successful young people in the blue jackets will be. President Trump ended his speech with, "Your time in the FFA, in the field, in the farm, in the land and in the classroom has not only prepared you for a stellar, great career in something you love, it's taught you essential truths about life and about the world in which we live." What an honor it was to see and hear from a current United States President!



# GARTH BROOKS



FFA members were treated to a special performance at the 91st Annual National FFA Convention. In his own words Garth Brooks said, "This isn't a concert, it's a ... party!" The country music legend made sure FFA members from around the country felt like they were all VIPs at the party on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. From the original announcement, it was clear that this concert was going to be something special, but I'm not sure anyone could have anticipated the impact Garth Brooks would make on the National FFA Convention. As a former FFA member himself, it was clear he had a distinct appreciation for the organization. That fact was solidified when he announced that he was donating all the money he was paid to perform at National Convention back to the National FFA Organization. The National FFA officer team also presented Brooks with a lifetime membership to the National FFA Alumni and his very own FFA jacket. The entire night was filled with special moments and high energy performances of Garth's hits. Tens of thousands of FFA members belted out the lyrics to song after song together. Although there were thousands in the room, the atmosphere was electric, and it seemed all attendees were old friends enjoying good music. Garth Brooks made his mark on National FFA and provided a lot of FFA members with a memory that will last a lifetime.



VA FFA State Officers with Garth Brooks' guitar

## DELEGATE ISSUES

Held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention & Expo is the National FFA Delegate Experience, which brings together 475 students leaders from the 52 state associations across the country. During this experience, members are able to share their ideas and perspectives to ensure that our organization continues to grow and progress. This year, there were six different committees relating to degree requirements; opportunities, inclusivity, and access within FFA programs, activities, CDEs, and LDEs; improvement and relevancy of National FFA Alumni & Supporters, and expansion of partnerships within Agricultural Leadership Organizations. These committees worked hard throughout the week to collaborate and create committee reports that were presented to the entire delegate body and voted on. The amendments and delegate reports that the delegates passed were presented during the 9th general session by the six committee chairmen. What an exciting opportunity for members' voices to be heard and to be involved with the change and progression within our organization!



# 2018 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION CDE/LDE Award Recipients



VIRGINIA  
FFA ASSOCIATION

Virginia FFA was well represented at the 2018 National FFA Convention and Expo!  
Contest results are as follows:

## AGRICULTURAL ISSUES FORUM

Central FFA - Sierra Miller, Makayla Hoffman, and Ashley Bushong  
Team Bronze

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR ANIMAL SYSTEMS

Cumberland FFA - Jordan Newman  
Team Silver

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR SOCIAL SYSTEMS

R.E. Aylor FFA - Adeline Wallin  
Team Gold

## CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETING

Carroll County Middle FFA - Hannah Marullo, Lucas Hawks, Jade Schaeffer, Landan Frazier, Tucker Beamer, Jady Smith, and Aiden Hash  
Team Bronze

## DAIRY CATTLE HANDLERS

Spotswood FFA - Emma Seekford  
Team Gold

## EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Turner Ashby FFA - Kendall Knicely  
Team Silver

## FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Turner Ashby FFA - Paul Craun *8th High Individual* (Gold), Jacob Craun (Gold), Shelvin Arey (Silver), and Krystalyn Hassett (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

Massanutten Technical Center FFA - Carly Carpenter (Gold), Hunter Campbell (Silver), Hunter May (Silver), and Felicity Zimmerman (Silver)  
Team Gold

## MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS

Sherando FFA - Mallory Painter (Gold), Mason Beall (Silver), Erin Orgen (Bronze), and Logan Hartley (Bronze)  
Team Gold

## POULTRY EVALUATION

East Rockingham FFA - Nathan Hensley (Gold), Colton Allison (Silver), Dwight May (Silver), and Nicholas Dellinger (Silver)  
Team Silver

## AGRICULTURAL SALES

Central FFA - Walker Bowman (Silver), Jacob Coffey (Silver), Kaitlin Mantz (Bronze), and Olivia Gochenour (Bronze)  
Team Bronze

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR ANIMAL SYSTEMS

Broadway FFA - Jackson Lohr and Heidi Messerly  
Team Silver

## AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Appomattox FFA - Joshua Walker (Silver), Cody Mewborn (Silver), Jacob Inge (Bronze), and Jared Morgan (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## CREED

Lord Botetourt FFA  
Reagan Hall  
Team Bronze

## EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

James River FFA - Bailey Marshall  
6th High Individual Overall  
Team Gold

## FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Culpeper FFA - Cassandra Patton (Silver), Jacob Hardaway (Silver), Hunter Graham (Bronze), and Jacob Riddle (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## FORESTRY

Magna Vista FFA - Logan Thacker (Silver), Tanner Roach (Gold), Lane Ashworth (Gold), and Andy Perry (Gold)  
Team Gold 6th Overall

## MARKETING PLAN

Magna Vista FFA - Haley Warren, Juan Gonzalez, and Alex Pearson  
Team Silver

## NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE

John S. Battle FFA - Morgan Short (Gold), Adrianna Nelson (Gold), Miranda Owens (Silver), and Caleb Sisk (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Tunstall FFA - Megan Pollok  
Team Silver

## AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Turner Ashby FFA - Melanie Lewis, Emily Daggett, Hope Showalter, and Loren Satterwhite  
Team Silver

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR ANIMAL SYSTEMS

J. Frank Hillyard FFA - Ella Warns and Jesse Haviland  
Team Gold

## AGRISCIENCE FAIR PLANT SYSTEMS

Appomattox FFA - Cody Mewburn  
Team Silver

## AGRONOMY

Randolph-Henry FFA - Nathan Michaelson (Gold), Hannah Goldman (Silver), Austin Geesaman (Bronze), and Layton Payne (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## DAIRY CATTLE EVALUATION

Clarke County FFA - Maeve Davis (Silver), Mikayla St. Clair (Silver), Kaitlyn Spitler (Bronze), and Mya Creswell (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Spotswood FFA - Harleigh Cupp (Gold), Kelsie Rhodes (Gold), Amy Castro (Silver), and Daniel Castro (Bronze)  
Team Silver

## FLORICULTURE

Magna Vista FFA - Hannah Moxley (Gold), Emily Bray (Gold), Erica Stanley (Silver), and Sydney Cruise (Silver)  
Team Silver

## HORSE EVALUATION

Powhatan FFA - Lexie Akins (Gold), Darcie Doshier (Silver), Jordan Winall (Silver), and Emily Eanes (Silver)  
Team Silver

## MEATS EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Stonewall Jackson FFA - Mindi Freed (Silver), Faith Dellinger (Bronze), and Lindsay Zirkle (Bronze)  
Team Bronze

## PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Holston FFA - Logan Blanco, Allie Collins, Trayton McVey, Maddie Moore, Baylee Toothman, and Rylee Toothman  
Team Silver

## VETERINARY SCIENCE

James Wood FFA - Sierra Miller (Gold), Emmy Thompson (Gold), Emily Newlin (Silver), and Cheyenne Roderick (Silver)  
Team Silver

# NATIONAL *Proficiency* WINNERS



VIRGINIA  
FFA ASSOCIATION



**AGRICULTURE SALES PLACEMENT**  
James River FFA - Mason Sowers  
National Winner



**AGRISCIENCE RESEARCH**  
Berryville FFA - Ryleigh Travers  
Gold Rating



**SMALL ANIMAL CARE**  
Strasburg FFA - Makenzie Kline  
Gold Rating



**DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION**  
Lord Botetourt FFA - Claire Seibel  
National Winner



**DIVERSIFIED HORTICULTURE**  
Magna Vista FFA - Juan Gonzalez  
Gold Rating



**VEGETABLE PRODUCTION**  
Nelson FFA - Ruth Fitzgerald  
Gold Rating

## *Honorary* AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS



Alan Webb



Bruce Cumbie



LaVeta Nutter



Wendell Terry

Rhonda Bowman Not Pictured



Tess Seibel - National Officer Candidate

# INTERNATIONAL *Leadership Seminar* FOR STATE OFFICERS (ILSSO)

by Claire Seibel - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

Agriculture and the world are staring into the face of incredible challenges: feeding a growing population, environmental conservation, disease control, pest management, water accessibility, and much more. While each of us has potential to solve these worldwide problems, we will need a global perspective. FFA empowers students with this way of thinking through the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO), and we hope to pass along its lessons so we are all better prepared to be leaders for positive change.

Like the three-circle model of agricultural education, ILSSO utilizes a mixture of formal and experiential learning. The formal component of ILSSO begins in September with an online class covering the perception of the United States abroad, the seven elements of culture, South African history, and cultural values. From unit one, we learn to show respect in other nations by making ourselves

aware of the perceptions of our own and noting our biases in order to remain open-minded. We then sought to better understand South Africa by investigating the seven elements of culture, as defined as “a way of describing how and why people do what they do,” and we discovered the variety of governments, languages, religions, artistic expression, social organization, economic systems, and customs and traditions across our world. South Africa’s government and economic structure have many similarities to other democracies but are uniquely incorporated in the tribal history of the nation and the prevailing cultures with customary law, many art forms and customs, and 11 official languages. In addition to tribal cultures, South Africa has a vast array of European influences as lands were colonized and annexed by different nations for trade and resources. Integral to the nation’s history, the apartheid (“apartness”) was the systematic racial discrimination



from 1948 to the 1990s. Nelson Mandela was a key figure in fighting for equal rights throughout this time, and with his election as president in 1994, South Africa worked to end racial injustice and adopted a new constitution. Finally, cultural values training enables us to better understand society’s ideas about what is good, right, fair, and just with dimensions including power distance, context, uncertainty avoidance, individualism/collectivism, cooperative/competitive, time orientation, being/doing.

How do we show respect, understanding, and empathy? ILSSO participants sought an answer over their orientation in New York where they investigated cultural intelligence composed of drive, knowledge, strategy, and action. Moreover, they learned the attitude of living to serve abroad. All too often, people fall into the trap of looking for exciting adventures with readily solvable problems, but this is an extreme oversimplification of the cultures and prevailing situations in those communities. To live to serve, we must seek understanding and empathize.

As we went to South Africa, we realized the importance of legacy, embracing discomfort, breaking a mold of stereotypes, and going with the flow. The unique opportunity of visiting this nation was experiencing a culture with a blend of continuity and differences from the U.S. that allows us to maximize our understanding of cooperation in the face of multicultural differences. With that said, we can all fulfill these standards whether in the halls of our school or in another nation.



**VIRGINIA FFA  
FOUNDATION**

# Blue Jackets for New Members

[supportffa.org](http://supportffa.org)

**(866) 568-3332**



*Photo Courtesy of  
Keri Knott  
Photography*



## What did your first jacket mean to you?

Help us kick-start a new member's FFA experience with a new Blue Jacket at [supportffa.org](http://supportffa.org). Give as much or as little as you like. You can also dedicate your gift with our easy online forms.

# THROUGH THE *Lens* OF A STATE OFFICER



## Claire Seibel

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President*

What if you could look into the world and alter a condition, behavior, or system? What would your impact look like?

Most of us do not think we can make those changes. We are taught to accept mediocrity and brush aside our passion, and we let those comments alter our thinking. This is why a child knows they can be anything when they grow up but also why so many teenagers do not believe they can fulfill their dreams. Eventually, we even stop vocalizing our hopes and ambitions; yet we need not take this path. We have the power to create any change we wish to see in the world. Change will start with you. By learning, reaching, trying to grow, owning mistakes along the way, and staying dedicated to your vision of the future, you will make that change. It will not happen alone; it will take that small group, that team, united by a vision, but you can create it. People who changed the world were just like you, so you can change the world too.

What if we believed in our own abilities? What if we follow our passions?



## Ethan Jackson

*VA FFA 2018-2019 President*

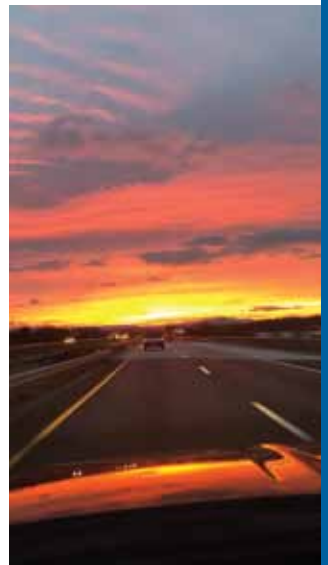
Each year on the last day of December, we eagerly wait by the TV to watch the ball drop. As the countdown reaches "Happy New Year!" the celebration commences and the confetti flies, friends are hugged, and resolutions begin. As I began to reflect on the past year, I thought about the time-honored tradition of New Year's resolutions and personal attempts at them. I thought to myself and asked, what if I actually believed 2019 was going to be the best year yet?

What if I didn't just hope for a good year but made a commitment to use each day as a new opportunity to serve, love, and learn? Too often, New Year's leads us to believe we need to be a new or changed person. It's always been easy for me to get caught in the trap of comparison. However I'm learning, as I travel this year, that each of us was made to be uniquely ourselves. Every FFA member I've had the opportunity to meet has had their own personality, strengths, and unique story. That diversity is what makes our organization so strong. Virginia FFA, what if we made a resolution to spend the next year striving to be the best version of ourselves? Let's make 2019 the best year yet!

## Kendall Knicely

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary*

While on the way to a chapter visit one morning, I had the chance to watch this beautiful sunrise! Reflecting back on this picture and moment, it had me thinking: the process of a sunrise is often similar to our journey of growth as individuals. It starts off dark, maybe unclear. Maybe we don't want to have that uncertainty of not knowing what will happen in the end, the growing pains, or awkwardness. But if we continue to pursue our personal growth and push ourselves outside our comfort zone, the beautiful results far outweigh the uncertainty! I encourage everyone to stop and take the time to watch and reflect during a sunrise; it's pretty powerful stuff.



## Nathan McDonald

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President*

Our lives are defined by the choices we make and how we continue to move forward after we face obstacles in our journey. Everything may be going smoothly and life is happening just the way we like, but then something may come along and we face a drop-off. We can either stop where we are on that rock or move forward with our journey--just like a waterfall. But the choice that we make next is the most important. We can choose to let ourselves stay on the rock, or we can continue to move downstream. But the drop-off in our lives doesn't need to define who we are. Something that is a result of years' worth of erosion by a river can form a beautiful creation if we make the right decisions.



### Ruth Fitzgerald

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer*

As I looked up at the big screen during National FFA Vice President Bryce Cluff's retiring address, his words hit me in the heart. The screen read, "The most important work to be done will always be in loving and understanding others." When I heard these words, they reminded me of a chapter in my favorite book. In that book, it says if we do anything without love, what we do is meaningless. The most impactful and meaningful thing we can do for others is to love and understand them! Even the smallest acts of love, kindness, and understanding can have a huge impact on others that we might not ever even see. Virginia FFA, if we want to lead lives full of meaning and purpose, we need to live with love!



### Katherine Thompson

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Sentinel*

Pictures. They capture exact moments in time during our lives; looking back at them takes you to exactly where you were, what you felt, and even what your life was like when in that very moment in time. Captured here was an unforgettable experience that I look back on quite often and remember fondly. When looking at the spray of the ocean and the bright sun here in the Florida Keys, I remember just how vast the open water seemed and that there was no land horizon in sight, just the ocean until it met the sky. During that week, one experience I had was to snorkel out on one of the largest reefs on this side of the planet in the open ocean. We were nowhere near close to a shore and the sea was a little feisty from the storm the night before, but once all of us got off our boat and into the water, time seemed to just stop. Looking down into the ocean it was as if I was looking at a whole new world; schools of fish swam, anemones swayed back and forth like trees in the wind, even a turtle glided through the water as if we weren't even there. I was reminded that sometimes looking at things from a whole new perspective can open up entire new worlds of possibilities. What if we chose to open our minds to more than just what we want to see and start seeing the world through different lenses?

### Matthew Myers

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President*

Tranquility. A word that is not often used in everyday conversation. Life is too hectic, too busy, too engrossed for tranquility to be achieved. We get so caught up in the motions of living everyday life we forget about the "small stuff," and this "small stuff" is what makes life, well, life. Whether it be college applications, finals, trying out for varsity soccer, homework, or the job interview we have tomorrow. After a while these things start to wear and tear at our bodies and our minds. Constantly doing is a good thing, but there is a reason for rest. Let's take time to replenish our bodies and our soul and put down the cell phones and enjoy life as it comes. This picture was snapped on a warm June morning at the cascades of Virginia Tech, and it was this moment that I realized the importance of tranquility and rest. Consistency is a great thing, but let us not forget to allow peace and rest for ourselves.



### Newlin Humphrey

*VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter*

What if we took the time to gain a new perspective? What if we adjusted our focus? Had I taken this photo while standing up, the camera would have been focusing on the mountains in the distance. I decided that lying down in the grass would allow me to capture a unique angle, and when I did that, the focus of the image was altered. There might be some times where we need to step back in order to focus on what is out in the distance. Sometimes we may need to take a deeper look at a single aspect of our lives to see how it contributes to the greater landscape.

# then & now

Future farmers meet under the trees on the banks of the James River at Morgart's Beach. Tammy Quill, a state officer, addresses the group. Staff photo by



FFA - FFA Camp, Smithfield, Virginia



FFA - FFA Camp, Smithfield, Virginia

## THEN

by Newlin Humphrey - VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

Virginia FFA Leadership Camp began in Smithfield in 1972. At that time, the camp property at Morgart's Beach was owned by the Virginia Associations of the Future Farmers of America and the Future Homemakers of America. While camp was located at Smithfield, there were 7 weeks of recreation camps for FFA and FHA members. The leadership camps were added in 1972 as a separate week. In following years, there were two FFA leadership camps in addition to the recreation camps: one week for middle school members and one week for high school members. During this time, attendance was limited to just a few members from each chapter.

Leadership Camp is made possible by the work of Mr. Turner Trice who began working as a camp counselor in 1966 while in college. He later became camp director in 1970 and has spent 53 years working with the camp program. Mr. Trice says,

**"I have certainly enjoyed my association with the Camp over the years. It has been a huge part of my life. As someone who has no background in agriculture, I have made many contacts and broadened my experiences in so many ways. In fact, I am still in contact with some of the camp staff that I worked with in 1966! My camp experience has given me satisfaction in seeing how campers grow and progress, not just during the week at camp, but also from year to year. I have been able to work with some of the best state officers and leaders. I feel very fortunate to have had this experience in my life."**





# NOW

The location of the Virginia FFA Leadership Camp has since changed as the property in Smithfield was sold in 2007 and the camp moved the following year to Graves Mountain Lodge, which is nestled in the mountains of Madison County. As the camp has progressed from the early days to the last decade, the organization of camp week has changed. Campers now get to experience tons of fun activities such as the fishing tournament, variety show, swimming olympics, various contests, community service projects, a dance, bonfire, and banquet. FFA members are joined by the recently retired state officers who serve as camp staff. The newly elected state officers also join the members during the week of camp. This gives the members a very meaningful experience of interacting with both sets of officers teams on a more informal level.

Leadership camp is jammed packed with opportunities for middle school and high school members of all ages and experience in FFA. Though the location, itinerary, and hair and clothing trends may have changed throughout the years of Leadership Camp, one thing remains the same: FFA members from across the state gathering to grow, cultivate friendships, and make memories that will last a lifetime.



## 2019 Camp Information

When: July 8-12, 2019

Where: Graves Mountain Lodge,  
Syria VA.

Registration Deadline: June 8th

To register go to

[www.vaffa.org/leadership-camp](http://www.vaffa.org/leadership-camp)



# CHAPTER chats

by Newlin Humphrey - VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

## RANDOLPH HENRY

The Randolph Henry FFA chapter located in Charlotte County utilizes their chapter farm to serve and educate the community as well as provide entertainment. The farm consists of 165 acres that are home to breeds of beef cattle, horses, bee hives, a catfish pond, and 2 greenhouses. During the month of October, Randolph Henry hosts an event known as Fright Farm in which the school farm is transformed into a haunted trail. Members dress up in spooky costumes and walk middle school students around the decorated farm. The fields are a little less scary for younger members of the community come spring when the chapter hosts Farm Day! On this day, 150 kindergartners travel to the agriculture department and learn about the different aspects of the industry.



## JAMES RIVER

When it comes to service, the James River FFA chapter goes above and beyond. This year, the chapter hosted a schoolwide day of service to make a positive impact on their community. 312 students, 47 teachers, 1 school board member, and 1 county administrator all covered 15 service sites this past fall. Service activities included everything from landscaping to working with elementary school students. James River has also found a great way to incorporate service into fundraising through their Feed a Family Project. On their fruit sale order form is a sheet that allows individuals to donate money to the project with the purchase of their fruit. Boxes of fruit are purchased with those funds and then delivered to local food pantries so that members of the community have access to fresh produce.



# CHAPTER OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

## C.O.L.T.

by Matthew Myers  
 VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

Chapter Officer Leadership Training kicked off this year, bringing Virginia FFA chapters closer to start off the year. With the new school year looking bright for all chapters across the state, we were able to come together before schoolwork hit hard. We were able to dive deep into learning the importance of servant leadership and building and keeping relationships. Chapter officers from across the state were able to not only experience this journey with each other but also mingle with others and catch up with old friends. The State Officer team was able to attend South Ridge, Appalachia, Northern, Southeast, and Central leadership conferences.



Members learn more about relationships at the Appalachia C.O.L.T.



Claire and Kendall talk about the importance of maintaining strong relationships with friends, coworkers, and mentors.





# BUILD A CAREER THAT MATTERS.

One you can take to the bank.

More than just a job; Enduring success.

COLLABORATE WITH THE BEST  
DO MEANINGFUL WORK | CREATE VALUE  
BE EMPOWERED & INSPIRED



[caterpillar.com/dealertech](https://caterpillar.com/dealertech)

**ALBAN** 

Maryland, DC, Northern Virginia, and Delaware  
[albanhiring.com](https://albanhiring.com)

**Carter** 

Virginia and Southern West Virginia  
[cartermachinery.com/careers](https://cartermachinery.com/careers)