

Vision of Virginia

SPRING 2020



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2019 VIRGINIA FFA National Convention



VA FFA State Officers at the 92nd National Convention and Expo.

UPCOMING events

FEBRUARY 2020

21-23: Farm Bureau Young Farmers Conference

22-29: National FFA Week

MARCH 2020

7: State Meats Contest (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA)

27-29: Virginia Institute on Cooperative Education (Syria, VA)

APRIL 2020

16-19: Virginia Beef Expo

by Erin Orgen – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

This year, FFA members from all over the country traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the 92nd Annual National FFA Convention and Expo. Virginia FFA members were among tens of thousands of Blue Jackets from all over the country. Members attended sessions to listen to guest speakers, the retiring addresses of the national officers, and much more! Throughout the week, there were several shows to attend, including the talent competitions, concerts by Brett Young and Old Dominion, and performances by the National FFA Chorus and Band. There were also many opportunities for members to explore the College and Career Expo. Members could check out the career fairs, booths, and workshops stationed throughout

the center. To end the week, members receiving their American FFA Degree were honored for their achievements. At the final session, Virginia's National Officer Candidate and Past State President, Tess Seibel, was elected to serve as the 2019-2020 National FFA Eastern Region Vice President.

This week was filled with excitement, laughter, friendships, and new opportunities. The National FFA Convention and Expo is always a great opportunity for members to find their passion for the agriculture industry. There is nothing more breathtaking than FFA jackets filling up Lucas Oil Stadium for the National FFA Organization.

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2019 NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION CDE/LDE *Award Recipients*



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

Virginia FFA was well represented at the 2019 National FFA Convention and Expo!
Contest results are as follows:



AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Lord Botetourt FFA — James Whorley (Gold Individual), James Grimshaw, Brian Watts, Ethan Ruble
Silver Team



AGRONOMY

Sherando FFA — Jonathan Ames (Gold Individual), Matthew Hartley, Jeremy Petrie, Jacob Neff
Silver Team



CREED

Wilbur S. Pence FFA
Audrey Garrison
Silver Individual



DAIRY CATTLE HANDLERS

C.L. Payne FFA
Salem Sifford
Gold Individual



FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Nelson FFA — Katherine Powell (Gold Individual), Brittany Hall, Kelsy Fitzgerald, Sarah Harvey (Gold Individual)
Silver Team



FORESTRY

Nelson FFA — Jack Rodgers (Gold Individual), Robert Morris (Gold Individual, 7th Overall), Lydia Staton, Colt Mauer
Gold Team (7th Overall)



HORSE JUDGING

John S. Battle FFA — Morgan Short (Gold Individual, 6th Overall), Josie Short, Levi Phipps, Kylie Bowman
Gold Team (9th Overall)



LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Buffalo Gap FFA — Makayla Talley (Gold Individual), Samuel Hadacek (Gold Individual), Troy Payne, Madison Wheeler
Silver Team



MEATS JUDGING

Central FFA — Emma Hockman (Gold Individual, 9th Overall), Shyann Jordan, Ashley Bushong
Silver Team



NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE

Magna Vista FFA — Tanner Roach (Gold Individual), Zachary Wilson (Gold Individual), Emily Bray, Caleb Brannock
Gold Team



POULTRY JUDGING

Broadway FFA — Jared Hoover (Gold Individual), Heidi Messerly, Shaina Beach, Megan Conley
Silver Team

2020 Camp Information

When: July 13–17, 2020

Where: Graves Mountain Lodge,
Syria VA.

Registration Deadline: June 8th

To register go to

www.vaffa.org/leadership-camp

2019 NATIONAL Proficiency WINNERS



OUTDOOR RECREATION – COMBINED
Appomattox FFA — Jacob Johnson
National Finalist



**AG MECHANICS REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE – PLACEMENT**
Buckingham FFA — Trevor Agee
National Finalist



**HOME AND/OR COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT – COMBINED**
Appomattox FFA — Kelly Price
National Finalist
National Winner

Congratulations TO OUR 2019 AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS



HONORARY AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS

by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

Virginia was well represented at National Convention; forty-seven members received their American Degree, which was the final step in many members' FFA journey. This is a huge accomplishment that has taken many hours and years of hard work and dedication while also working on and improving their Supervised Agricultural Experience. Not only were they working hard by having an active SAE, they were also great leaders in their community and throughout the state. These forty-seven members will move on to be great leaders in their respective career fields! **Congratulations!**

Katherine E. Amirault - Highland FFA
Lindsey Weeks Anderson - Louisa FFA
Clayton Jared Armstrong - Turner Ashby FFA
Amber Beasley - Massaponax FFA
Chelsea E. Bickley - Louisa FFA
Amanda Lynn Bryan - Buckingham Senior FFA
Colton S. Buchanan - Fort Defiance FFA
Rachel Virginia Burton - Eastern View FFA
Kaitlyn Campbell - James Wood FFA
Lily Gwendolyn Carnahan - Powhatan Sr. FFA
Olivia Christian - James Wood FFA
Carissa Cline - Buffalo Gap FFA
Tyler Clore - Eastern View FFA
Jordan Allen Cooper - Central FFA
Dominic Cox - James Wood FFA
Hannah Grace Craun - Turner Ashby FFA
Taegen D. Cross - Eastern View High School FFA
Garrett Cummins - Central FFA
Wesley Colton Cupp - Turner Ashby FFA
Mikayla J. DeAtley - Eastern View High School FFA
Ruth Dawna Fitzgerald - Nelson County FFA
Will Fleming - Dinwiddie FFA
Bailey Hadacek - Buffalo Gap FFA

William Tanner Hurst - Gloucester High FFA
Ethan Jackson - Smith Mountain FFA
Wesleigh Elizabeth Kimlick - Randolph-Henry FFA
Kendall Elaine Knicely - Turner Ashby FFA
Courtlend Knight - Turner Ashby FFA
Simon Liggett - Buffalo Gap High School FFA
Evan Lineweaver - James Wood FFA
Wyatt Lotts - Buffalo Gap FFA
Brandon McDonald - James Wood FFA
Trayton McVey - Holston FFA
Chaney C. Merritt - Patrick County
Sierra Miller - James Wood FFA
Zack Morris - Sherando FFA
Edward Matthew Myers, II - Culpeper FFA
Kelsie Oliver - Liberty FFA
Justin Petrie - Sherando FFA
Cole Evan Reeves - Buffalo Gap FFA
Wade Reiter - Dinwiddie FFA
Morgan Strickler - Sherando FFA
Kevin Wanger - East Rockingham FFA
Caleb C. Webb - Carroll County FFA
Camden Whitacre - James Wood FFA
Ben Whitlow - Randolph-Henry FFA

Seven Virginians received their Honorary American Degrees. These seven individuals have gone above and beyond by supporting agriculture, agricultural education, and FFA on the national level. These individuals have helped by supporting members and educators. We are thankful for these seven supporters for everything they have done and continue to do for Virginia FFA and National FFA!



Brian Alexander



Kyle Bryan



Rebecca Carter



Edwin Jones



Jeannie Layton-Dudding



Howard Hill

(Not Pictured)
Elizabeth Williams

FROM VIRGINIA Tess Seibel!



by Alison Jones – VA FFA

“The committee nominates the following slate of candidates...” In that moment, the lights drop, hands clench and the anticipation can be cut with a knife. This is the moment that everyone has been waiting to hear. Up front, a small group of dedicated, passionate, and outstanding FFA members reflect on the countless months and even years of preparation that would lead to this moment. Around 45 of them stand together, but only six will run on stage. And then, after the longest pause imaginable, you hear, “From Virginia, Tess Seibel!” Oh the excitement that buzzed from those who were there,

those still in Virginia, and those who were stopped on the side of the road. Tess made it to the stage.

On November 2nd, 2019 Tess Seibel (2017-18 State President) was elected to serve as National FFA’s Eastern Region Vice President for the upcoming year. Tess is the 12th National Officer from Virginia and only the 2nd female (Melanie Burgess, 1981–82). We look forward to following her journey and wish her luck in her travels. Want to know more about Tess and what she’s up to? **Check out this Q&A!**



NATIONAL OFFICER **Q&A** with Tess Seibel

by Stephanie Blankenship – VA FFA

! Tess Seibel, you have just become a National FFA Officer. What are you going to do now?

A: Sleep! In all seriousness, the days and weeks immediately after election are really busy. National Convention ends on a Saturday, and we stay in Indianapolis until the following Thursday. The first couple of days help prepare us for everything we’re required to do the next month and allow us to bond as a team. We are then sent home and have two weeks to finish school and move out of college before Thanksgiving.

! Can you describe the moments before and after you heard that you’d been elected?

A: The few moments right before the election are full of lots of emotions. For me, as strange as it sounds, I felt at peace as the election was beginning because I knew that everything was going to work out exactly as it should, regardless of who was called. The moments after your hearing your state called are completely surreal. It feels like a dream.



2019/2020 National FFA Officers: Lyle Logemann — Vice President, Kolesen McCoy — President, Kourtney Lehman — Secretary, Yomar Roman — Vice President, Tess Seibel — Vice President, Mamie Hertel — Vice President

! Please tell us about the road to becoming a National Officer. What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

A: This was the second year that I ran for office, so the decision to run again was challenging. I can attest that we are exactly where we are meant to be, and our attitudes about challenges determine what we learn. There have been other personal challenges for me along the way, but the reason why I ran for office has pushed me to continue despite any challenges.

NATIONAL OFFICER SPECS



Name: Tess Seibel

Current Office: Eastern Region Vice President 2019-2020

Chapter: Lord Botetourt FFA

Offices Held: State President, South Ridge Area President, Chapter President, Chapter Vice President, Chapter Secretary

CDEs/LDEs: Agriscience Fair, Parliamentary Procedure, Creed Speaking, Prepared Public Speaking, Soils Judging, Forestry Judging, Employment Skills

Number of Jackets Worn: 4

! What are you most looking forward to throughout your year of service as a National Officer?

A: One of my favorite things about state office was meeting FFA members everywhere I went. The year as an officer is truly a year of service, and it's a year to serve FFA members. Everyone we meet has something to teach us, and I know that this year I'll continue to meet FFA members who will change my life.

! What are some of your roles and responsibilities for the coming year?

A: The main responsibility of a National FFA Officer is to serve FFA in a way that helps our organization and its members achieve its goals and mission. For me, this looks like meeting with business and industry leaders and stakeholders to continue to develop relationships with their business and FFA, traveling to state conventions to meet FFA members and advisors, delivering keynote addresses at conventions and events, and supporting FFA in my daily life however possible.

! Can you tell us more about your new teammates?

A: My teammates are great! Five out of the six of us grew up in production agriculture, and all of us are extremely passionate about FFA, agriculture, and agricultural education. We all believe in living authentically, and I feel so grateful to serve alongside them this year.

! What tips would you give to members wanting to run for office, whether it is at a local, state, or national level?

A: I think that the reason why we do things is really important. We have to be mindful of our motivations because the reason why we do something underlies everything else. Take some time to reflect on why you want to be an officer. For this, think about specific interactions that you have had with others, moments in FFA or your life that have shaped you into the person that you are, or something else that encourages you to serve a bigger purpose. Once you discover your why, everything else goes from there.



2019/2020 National FFA Vice President Tess Seibel speaks with Governor Ralph Northam.



Left to Right: Jennifer Armstrong (VA FFA Foundation Executive Secretary), Brad Copenhaver (Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry), Tess Seibel, Governor Northam, and Andy Seibel (VA FFA Executive Secretary).

STATE soils

by Kenzie Kline – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Treasurer

The Virginia FFA State Soil Judging Competition was held on November 5th, 2019. This competition tests students' knowledge on soil and land evaluation skills used within the soils career field. Participants visit three sites where they measure soil erosion, identify soil texture, determine land slope, and decide land capability classes.

The National Land and Range Competition will be held this May in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The top senior teams will have the opportunity to compete nationally.



1ST PLACE JUNIOR TEAM

Powhatan Middle FFA — Casey Grill, Jaquelline Hymel, Max Sparks, Nico Beenkovitz



1ST PLACE SENIOR TEAM

Holston FFA — Baylee Toothman, Stacy Doss, Hunter Trent, Levi Price

TOP JUNIOR TEAMS

1st — Powhatan Middle
2nd — J. Frank Hilyard Middle

TOP FIVE JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

1st — Casy Grell - Powhatan Middle
2nd — Jacquelline Hymel - Powhatan Middle
3rd — Max Sparks - Powhatan Middle
4th — Nico Beenkovitz - Powhatan Middle
5th — Thomas Lohr - J. Frank Hilyard Middle

TOP SENIOR TEAMS

1st — Holston
2nd — Strasburg
3rd — James River

TOP FIVE SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

1st — Baylee Toothman - Holston
2nd — Eli Munsen - Powhatan Middle
3rd — Ava Tucker - Powhatan Middle
4th — Amber Gessner - Strasburg
5th — Stacy Doss - Holston

SOUND CHECK 3-2-1

Microphone Training in Roanoke

by Hope Showalter

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter

On November 22, the State Officer team traveled to Roanoke, Virginia, to attend a microphone training at the Jefferson Center. During this training, they learned about three different types of microphones, as well as when and where to use each type. They also discovered new ways to record audio and edit voice-overs within videos. The team hopes that this will improve the experience at State Convention by avoiding microphone feedback, improving sound quality on stage and through recordings, and allowing State Officers to move more freely throughout the audience in Burruss Hall. State staff and the State Officer team look forward to making improvements on sessions and can't wait to use the new knowledge to make sessions more enjoyable!



2019/2020 VA FFA State Officers with Jordan Harman and Patrick Cavanaugh from the Jefferson Center.

After the training, the State Officers ventured over to The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center. First, they attended a lunch at the hotel. Afterward, they took headshots, holiday card photos, and team pictures.

Overall, this was an amazing day where many items were crossed off of their to-do list! We would like to

give a special thanks to Jordan Harman and Patrick Cavanaugh for conducting the microphone training, and to the Jefferson Center for hosting! Also, a big thank you to The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center for lunch, as well as allowing us to use their lobby and Christmas trees to take beautiful pictures!



START *Jumping!*

by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

START JUMPING Because Virginia Loves Agriculture.

On October 19, the state officer team traveled to Virginia Tech to help in Hokie Village at Virginia Farm Bureau’s booth. We were able to talk about the agriculture industry in Virginia, discuss Farm Bureau’s special program, Agriculture in the Classroom; we assisted with the Farm Life 360 and handed out various Farm Bureau branded giveaway items to the public. Farm Bureau’s Farm Life 360 is a virtual-reality experience that allows viewers to receive a real-life look at the different sectors of agriculture all across the Commonwealth. We had the opportunity to check out farms ranging from dairy, apple orchards, peanuts, and cotton. Check it out on Youtube at Farm Life 360. Virginia FFA is thankful for the positive partnership we have with Virginia Farm Bureau. Thank you to Virginia Farm Bureau, who provided game tickets to the officers. #VALovesAG



VA FFA State Reporter Hope Showalter at the Virginia Farm Bureau’s booth.





Carolyn and Dwight Houff.

OUR THANKS TO YOU, *Mr. Dwight Houff!*



by Alison Jones and Andy Seibel – VA FFA

Virginia FFA sends thanks and congratulations to Mr. Houff on his induction into the Virginia Tech Hall of Fame! Mr. Houff is a resident of Mount Sidney, Virginia, where he is the owner of Houff Transfer, Inc. and Holly Hill Farms.

Mr. Houff got his start in the industry as a vocational agriculture teacher at Cumberland County High School and later as a beef cattle producer, business owner, and community leader. He has served in countless leadership roles for Virginia's beef industry. He is credited with starting the Virginia Beef Expo and is an inductee of the Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame. *If you attend contests at Alphin-Stuart Arena at Virginia Tech, you will find his picture on the wall.*

Mr. Houff embodies this part of our motto – “Living to Serve.” Throughout his 60-year career, he has supported high school agriculture and FFA

programs, established undergraduate scholarships, and is the namesake for the Houff Student Center at Blue Ridge Community College. He also lends his support the VALOR (Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results) program and is a

Distinguished Benefactor of Virginia Tech's *Ut Prosim* society.

Thank you, Mr. Houff, for your support of Virginia FFA and Agriculture Education!



Mr. Houff on his induction into the Virginia Tech Hall of Fame.



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FARM BUREAU Convention

by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

At the beginning of December the state officer team traveled to Norfolk to attend the Virginia Farm Bureau Convention. During the convention the team mingled with Farm Bureau members, many of which shared their stories and experiences of when they wore the blue jacket. Many of the members were explaining how FFA helped them become the person they are today! The team also attended various activities held during the convention, such as the Expo where members

and attendees could visit with a variety of agriculture companies and organizations throughout the Commonwealth. The state officers were also able to help with the Virginia FFA Foundation booth at the Expo, where they met members as well as helped with the foundation's "Giving Tuesday" campaign. The Farm Bureau members also competed in competitions and the winners will move on to the National Farm Bureau Convention later this year. **We wish them the best of luck!**



VA FFA State Vice President, Ryan Gobble was interviewed for *Virginia Farming*, a televised program produced by Virginia Farm Bureau.



VA FFA State Officers with Virginia FFA State Staff: Alison Jones and Jennifer Armstrong.



2019 Agribusiness COUNCIL DINNER

by Alison Jones – VA FFA

The Virginia Agribusiness Council held their annual Legislative Appreciation Banquet on January 9th, 2020. The event was held at the Richmond Raceway in Richmond, Virginia. Virginia FFA was represented by 2018-19 Virginia State FFA Officers Kendall Knicley and Claire Seibel. Members of the Virginia FFA Foundation Board, Virginia FFA State Staff, VAAE leadership and members of the Virginia FFA Governing Board were also present for the occasion. During the evening, they had the opportunity to network with nearly 1,000 agribusiness industry members and elected officials including the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Attorney General, and around 100 members of the General Assembly. The banquet featured all Virginia-grown agricultural products and ended with the presentation of this year’s “Distinguished Friend of Agribusiness Award” to Delegate Mark Keam of Virginia’s 35th House District.



The officers pose with Bettina Ring, Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.



VAAE and FFA Foundation guests pose for a photo during dinner.



Past State Vice President, Claire Seibel speaking with Delegate Wampler of Abingdon about FFA, its impact and its importance.

“We have to be visible to really tell our story as FFA members. The blue jackets at the Agribusiness Council dinner reminded past members and informed others of the deep impact FFA has on our lives- helping us grow into leaders, advocates, and our best selves.”

*- Claire Seibel,
Past State Vice President*



Claire Seibel shaking hands with Governor Northam.



Past State Sentinel, Katherine Thompson pictured with Chief Workforce Advisor to the Governor, Megan Healy.



FFA Foundation Board Member, Andrew Smith stopped for a photo with Claire and Katherine.

INTERNATIONAL *Leadership Seminar* FOR STATE OFFICERS (ILSSO)

by Hope Showalter – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter



As nine teenagers from Virginia stepped off of the plane in Madrid, Spain, they encountered a world of different customs, culture, and scenery. On September 11, 2019, all nine State Officers received a notification that they had been accepted as a participant for the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO). On January 2, 2020, after months of prep work, online courses, and packing, the State Officer team set off for New York City to meet the rest of their traveling group.

The day after they arrived in New York City, they attended orientation, where they learned in more detail about how to be a courteous traveler and what their trip would entail. The following day, they finished up orientation and then headed to the airport to depart for Madrid, Spain, at 5:29 p.m.

At 6:30 a.m. on January 5, ILSSO participants arrived at their long-awaited first destination. Once off of the plane, the group of 75 participants split into

six small groups, and boarded motor coaches to head into the capital of Spain. Throughout the drive, participants viewed the many streets, squares, and monuments. Then, on foot, the group explored Puerta del Sol. After lunch, they headed to the Prado Museum, where the best collection of Spanish art is located.

The previous long day did not put a damper on the following days. Throughout the rest of their time in Spain, the State Officers visited Toledo, Málaga, Costa Del Sol, Antequera, Seville, and Jerez Province. Each of these unique Spanish towns and cities had so much to offer. The group had the opportunity to speak with Jennifer Clever, Agricultural Attaché from the U.S. Embassy in Madrid about “Growing Agricultural Market Opportunities in Spain and Portugal.” They went on many walking tours and explored the streets.

To focus on their objective of gaining knowledge on international agriculture, participants visited a beef cattle farm in Toledo that had 6,000 head of Charolais and Limousin cattle. They also visited the John Deere Ibérica Training Center in Madrid, where they learned about the farming activity within Spain and Portugal. Towards the end of their time in Spain, the group visited a few different produce based operations. The first one they traveled to was the most important co-op in Spain – Costa Tropical.





The 20,000 square meter production plant provided many avocados and mangos to neighboring European countries and the domestic market. They also toured greenhouses that used the most modern technology to create a highly intensive production system, and Oleoalgaidas, the main olive oil co-op in Spain. To finish up their time in Spain, participants visited Yeguada de la Cartuja stud farm, where they breed and train Jerezabo thoroughbred Andalusian horses, and then met with the Spanish Young Farmers' Association.

Once they had finished their itinerary for Spain, the two large motor coaches drove everyone to Portugal. In Portugal they visited Lagos, Almada, Evora, Coruche, Samora Correa, Lisbon, and Santarem. They had the opportunity to visit one of the Amorim Cork factories, of which Portugal is the number one producer. In Somora Correa, the participants visited Companhia das Lezírias, a state-run agricultural and forestry company. To finish up their time in Portugal, they visited the College of Agriculture at Santarém, the most important agricultural school in Portugal.

On January 15, the participants departed for London, and then met their connecting flight back to New York City. The State Officer team arrived home safely, with new friends and a knowledge of international agriculture. A big **thank you** to everyone who supported the team in going on this once-in-a-lifetime experience!



VAAE ATTENDS NAAE Convention

by Teresa Lindberg – VAFEA

The Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (VAAE) attended the ACTE's Career Tech VISION and National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention in Anaheim, CA, on December 3-7, 2019.



Mr. Lawrence Cox, representing Holston High School, was selected to participate in the XLR8 program. XLR8 is a year-long professional development that targets agriculture teachers in their 7th to 15th year of teaching. The program requires participation in intensive professional development during the national convention, recurring virtual learning experiences, and online collaboration using the NAAE professional learning community, Communities of Practice, as well as other social media tools.



Sarah Jo Jones, from Pulaski County High School, was selected and received the NAAE "Turn the Key" Scholarship. This scholarship is offered to NAAE members who are in their second, third, or fourth year of teaching as a way of encouraging young teachers to remain in the profession. During the national convention, the recipients participate in a "Turn the Key" program. The program includes

professional development activities, networking with agricultural educators across the United States and filling their toolbox with a variety of resources that they can use in their classrooms.

Daniella Hodges, who is a National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador and an agriscience teacher at Appomattox Middle School, presented a workshop entitled "Survey Say! The Public's Perception of Agriculture-NAAE Learning Lab." In this workshop, teachers learn about setting up surveys, how to conduct surveys, and then dealing with today's public misconceptions about their food and agriculture."

Marc Moran, an agriculture teacher at Atlee High School, presented his workshop called "Developing a Turfgrass Science Program for your Agriculture/Horticulture Department." The workshop showed participants the curriculum to implement turfgrass science, increase awareness of job opportunities, and provide an appreciation of the science and skills necessary to care for turf grass surfaces.

Appomattox High School was recognized and awarded the Region VI Outstanding Middle School/Secondary School Program. The high school Agricultural

Education program is composed of three teachers: Ed McCann Jr, Elizabeth Duncan, and Hannah Simpson. When asked how they each felt about winning the award they said:

"I am grateful to have our Ag program recognized at the national level. We have a large network of supporters at home that help make our program rigorous and relevant to our students." - *Mr. McCann*

"The Outstanding Middle/Secondary Award is an exciting honor to highlight our whole Ag Department. We have an outstanding community that supports our students. Our students are the reason I continue to teach. I am always proud of their success, and this award is for them." - *Mrs. Duncan*

"Representing Appomattox is such an honor! I am so grateful for coworkers, students, and a community that loves agriculture and continues to help us be successful." - *Ms. Simpson*

The NAAE convention offered over 60 innovative professional development learning sessions that motivated and provided ideas to take back to the classroom. The NAAE Convention is held in conjunction with the ACTE's CareerTech VISION Convention and Expo, so we had the opportunity to access both conventions. VAAE members also attended and participated in regional meetings, committee meetings, general sessions, and business sessions.



Third from the left: Appomattox High School teachers Ed McCann Jr, Hannah Simpson, and Elizabeth Duncan.

VACTE Leadership Seminar

by Kenzie Kline – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Treasurer

The 21st Annual Virginia ACTE Professional Development Leadership Seminar for Virginia Educators was held on January 9th and 10th in Richmond, Virginia. VACTE (Virginia Association for Career and Technical Educators) is a professional organization that advocates and supports career and technical education in Virginia. This conference allows for members to network, attend break-out sessions, and attend workshops. The seminar was led by VACTE President Laura Smith.



Past VACTE President and Agriculture Teacher at Tunstall High School, Dr. Jessica Jones was honored for her service to the organization.



Fauquier FFA Chapter President, Mackenzie Hurley pictured with Governor Northam. Mackenzie had the opportunity to meet with several government officials to advocate for Career and Technical Education.



Mackenzie spent her day with representatives of other CTSO (Career and Technical Student Organizations) leaders advocating for CTE programs across the state. Here the group is meeting with Delegate Rosalyn Tyler of Virginia's 75th District.

C.O.L.T. CHAPTER OFFICER LEADERSHIP TRAINING

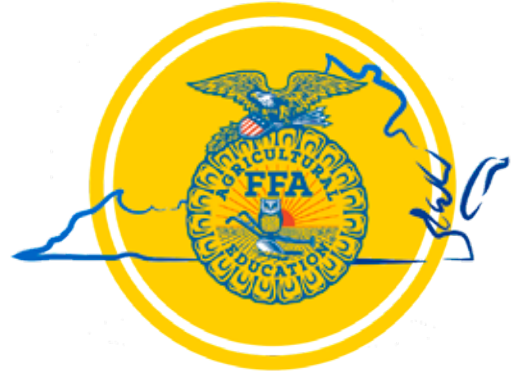
by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

On October 15th, the Central Area COLT was held at Courtland High School in Spotsylvania Courthouse, Virginia. The members were excited to learn about how they can help grow their home chapters. Through these workshops, members learned that growing a chapter starts when members do the little things, such as sharing experiences, being open to new ones, and being inclusive of others. Members also learned how to compromise within their officer teams. Compromising is an important skill when trying to accomplish goals within chapters. There were about 75 members in attendance.



NATIONAL AG WEEK BUSINESS & INDUSTRY TOUR

MARCH 22-26



Follow the state officer team and state staff as we tour business and industry and connect with supporters across the state.

Presented by



There's still time to become a sponsor - contact Jennifer Armstrong at jennifer.armstrong@supportvaffa.org or call (540) 810-6954