

Vision of Virginia

SPRING 2021



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UPCOMING events

- JUNE**
21-24: State FFA Convention
- SEPTEMBER**
16-19: Big E
- SEPTEMBER**
23-OCT 3: State Fair of Virginia
- OCTOBER**
25-30: National FFA Convention



THANK A Farmer CAMPAIGN

by Faith Dellinger – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Reporter

“You might have a plan for the day, but every day’s an adventure.”
- Benjamin Waitman

During the month of November, Virginia FFA highlighted various farmers from across the state. From poultry to dairy and hemp to beef, Virginia farmers grow a diverse range of products and contribute to the number one industry in the state, agriculture. After interviewing each farmer, the state officer team posted some of the individuals’ memories and achievements within FFA on social media. One farmer that the State Officer Team interviewed was Benjamin Waitman. The Waitmin’s have a farm in Mechanicsville and produce beef, corn, soybean and straw, as well as custom farming!

so thankful to have so many unique and dedicated farmers from our area. We were able to speak with past FFA members from across the state and see how FFA has transformed their life, and gave them insight on what they wanted to do in their future. These former members were able to give current FFA members advice on how to get involved and what activities have helped them in their current career. We learned history from different chapters from across the state, as well as built relationships with past members!

We enjoy celebrating and showing our thanks to the people around us and the blessings we have. Virginia FFA is

Thank you to everyone who participated in this campaign, and remember you don’t need a campaign to thank those farmers who work tirelessly for us daily!

“Take advantage of all the FFA events you can do, judging contests to leadership conference. If you want to farm, get advice from teachers and other farmers. Find someone who doesn’t have anyone to take over, work for them with the intention of taking it over, you may not get paid a lot, but in the long haul it will come to your benefit.”

- David Hughes, Broadway



VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

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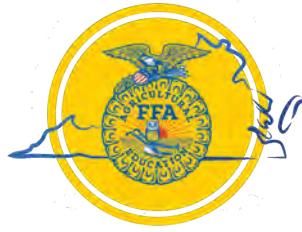
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Get Published Here!

VIRGINIA FFA STATE-WIDE Meal Packing

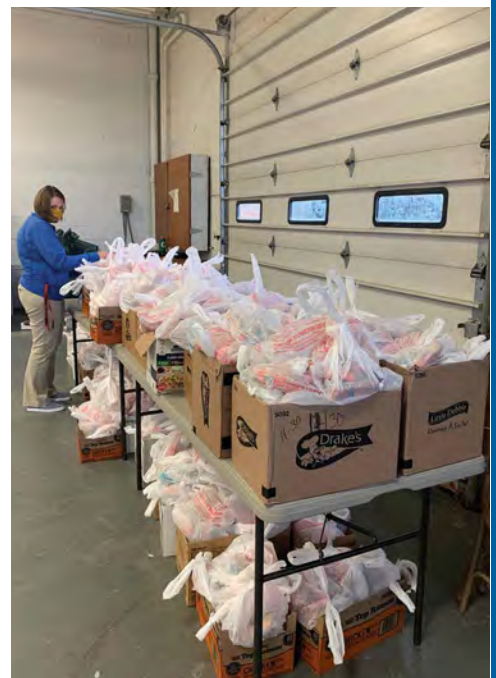


by Andrew Seibel – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Secretary



In November, we found a way to innovate our usual state-wide day of service that is usually carried out in July at FFA Leadership Camp. The idea was pretty simple, but it took help from seven chapters to pull it off. The plan was to have one central hub where all the items would be held and then have our nine State Officers distribute the items to chapters across the commonwealth. Lord Botetourt FFA and Mr. Stuart Byrd were able to hold all 44,000 individual food items prior to distribution. From Lord Botetourt, the items were distributed to James Wood Middle, Chatham High, Central, Fort Defiance, Carroll

County High, and Eastern View. At each school, members worked together in a large group effort to pack meal bags for their community containing about 12 individually wrapped food items per bag. It was a true team effort to accomplish, but we were able to get 3,500 meals packed and spread to areas of need throughout the communities of the previously mentioned chapters. This event proved what many of us already know; Virginia FFA is strong and we can accomplish a goal regardless of any circumstance. Thank you to all those who participated in the State-Wide Meal Packing last November.



Thank You to the Schools Packing the Meals!

NOVEMBER 2020



Speak Up FOR CTE!

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

During National FFA Week, Megan Day and Andrew Seibel had the opportunity to join a meeting with members of Senator Mark Warner's support staff. This meeting was centered around the importance of Career and Technical Education within the state of Virginia and had representatives from both inside and outside of FFA and Agricultural Education present. Megan and Andrew had the opportunity to share how Career and Technical Education helped develop them into officers, as well as provide some of the future education and career opportunities they plan to pursue after their term as state officers is concluded. This opportunity was thanks in large part to Mrs. Teresa Lindberg, agriculture teacher from E.W. Wyatt Middle, who was able to arrange for the officers to serve as student representatives for the meeting. It was a great learning experience and opportunity to advocate for CTE at the statewide level.



AGRICULTURE: A “Growing” INDUSTRY

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

On December 10, 2020 I was fortunate enough to meet with Governor Ralph Northam at the Catawba Sustainability Center. Governor Northam was accompanied by Secretary of Agriculture, Bettina Ring. While at the Catawba Center, I was able to speak with Governor Northam in regards to the unthinkable year we’ve had and how it has affected agriculture students across the state of Virginia. Governor Northam and his constituents were in attendance to debut a substantial grant to fund a medicinal herb movement at the center. \$20,000 of the grant came directly from an Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development grant and the additional funding was from a match through Roanoke County. Mr. Adam Taylor serves as the current manager of the Virginia Tech Catawba Sustainability Center. Mr. Taylor emphasized the importance of the conservation efforts that the center is implementing in order to remain sustainable. A special thank you to Secretary Ring for the invitation and to all staff in attendance!



Pictured above is Mr. Adam Taylor, highlighting some of the conscious environmental efforts made by the researchers at Catawba.



Pictured above: Governor Ralph Northam and Virginia FFA President Megan Day discuss the FFA’s contribution to the growing agricultural workforce in Virginia.



Andy Seibel

Lawrence Cox

APPALACHIAN AREA Leadership Workshop

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

Over the past year, holding in-person leadership workshops and FFA activities has been a challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, virtual workshops have been a safe and successful alternative. Virginia FFA was thrilled that the Appalachian FFA Area was able to host a Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT) on a virtual platform for their members. On March 6, FFA members from about 10 schools worked together to determine how to better serve their local FFA chapters and develop their own leadership potential. Members worked together to discuss what leadership is and

also how the FFA can help members grow skills to use in and outside of FFA. During the workshop, members also explored why it is vitally important to any team or project for leaders to remain adaptable.

Ultimately, through a variety of discussion and activities the Virginia FFA state officers assisted members in identifying their own unique talents and strengths. Although ideally the Appalachian Area COLT would have been able to safely occur in-person, the event was still a fun and impactful experience.

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



by Ryan Altis – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Sentinel

Above: State officers enjoy a few moments of downtime with members between workshops.

On December 7th, the entire State Officer team led chapter officer leadership training for Central Area Chapter Officers. The state officers were split into three groups, each group giving a different workshop. The workshops focused on leadership, service, empowering others, and building

relationships as a team. This was one of the largest events we have had so far this year in terms of the number of students in attendance. We were excited to meet these great leaders from the Central Area!



4H Teen Summit

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

After weeks of planning, the Virginia 4-H Leadership Team developed the 2020 Virginia 4-H Teen Summit during the month of November. This year's teen summit was based on social justice and teen advocacy and represented individuals of many ages and backgrounds with amazing insights and personal stories. A Youth Discussion Panel was even included to provide a perspective into social justice, equality, and equity, as well as to keep

Equality



Equity



Justice



the discussion going about these important topics. The best part about it - this whole conference was made for teens by teens! All nine of the Virginia State FFA officers attended the four sessions.



“Both Virginia FFA and Virginia 4-H are amazing organizations for young people to take part in. Having been a member of both for many years, I truly can't say enough about the skills that I've learned. After attending the Virginia 4-H Teen Summit, I feel as though I have a much better understanding of the distinct differences between equity, equality, and justice. I think that attending a conference with such a knowledgeable panel and driven young people really helped attendees, like myself, to absorb the information that was presented! I am so grateful for opportunities like this one to help make us all more conscious of the world around us.”

- Megan Day, Virginia FFA President



“The 4-H Teen Summit was a very engaging educational experience. Having grown up being an active member not only in the FFA, but also 4-H, it was a great crossover experience! I really enjoyed hearing not only from professional speakers, but also students our age, if not younger, speaking about issues they were passionate about, and that play a crucial role in the lives of many students across the country. These topics covered everything from mental health, childhood trauma, racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and Food Insecurity. The experience as a whole was eye opening and exposed me to a new perspective on social justice.”

- Hunter Carson, Virginia FFA Vice President

2020 NAAE awards

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

Each year, the National Association of Agricultural Educators presents their awards program to acknowledge the many amazing accomplishments of talented and devoted agricultural educators across the country. Virginia FFA is proud to recognize these five outstanding individuals who were recognized on the national stage at this year's NAAE Convention.

Congratulations

to these Virginia educators who were recognized during the 2020 NAAE Virtual Convention!



Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship Region VI Winner: Cole Ramsey, Nelson County High School Agriculture Teacher



Riverheads Young Farmers Association was recognized with the Outstanding Post Secondary Agriculture Program. To be qualified for this contest, over 50% of teaching time must be dedicated to the postsecondary, young farmer, and adult agricultural education program. Congratulations to Agriculture Teachers, Ms. Kaitlyn Sonifrank and Ms. Elizabeth Eastep on this achievement.



Mrs. Elizabeth Duncan, FFA Advisor for Appomattox County High School, was recognized in the Ideas Unlimited Contest. In this contest, members can exchange ideas for leadership, SAE, classroom, and teaching techniques.



Mrs. Teresa Lindberg, FFA Advisor at E.W. Wyatt Middle was awarded for the Outstanding Service Citation Award. This award recognizes current and retired NAAE members who have made significant contributions to agriculture education at the state, regional and national level.



Delegate Robert "Bobby" Orrock was recognized for the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award goes to retired NAAE member who made significant contributions to agriculture education at the state, regional, and national levels.



CHECKPOINT THREE TRAINING

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

February 3rd-5th, the State Officer Team met up in Blacksburg to have our checkpoint three training. Part of this training was preparing speeches for the up and coming banquet seasons. Our training started at 8 a.m. on February the 4th, we started off with preparing the beginning of our banquet and retiring address speeches. We worked throughout the day finessing our speeches and rehearsing them to both our facilitator, Zach, and the rest of the team. A lot of our training was learning on how to do storytelling and getting comfortable on stage, with an audience. We worked on our final drafts on the 4th and wrapped up our training by reading our finished speeches! Be sure to catch us reading them during our hopeful banquet season. Along with this, we spent some time preparing for FFA Week. As a team, we decided on our 95th FFA Convention theme and the logo.

FROM THE OFFICERS VIEW...



“It was very exciting to get to participate. Being that I always competed in prepared, it was nice to make a prepared speech and turn it into extemporaneous!”

- *Austin Funk, Virginia FFA Vice President*



“This training allowed us to have the opportunity to connect a personal experience and make a bridge between us and FFA Members!”

- *Maddie Moore, Virginia FFA Vice President*

Q&A

WITH DR. CLAFLIN

Dr. Kellie Claflin is a collegiate assistant professor in the Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education department at Virginia Tech. She started in her role in July 2020 and is focused on teaching and learning, especially preparing future agriculture teachers!

! **What do you do in your role?**

A: As a professor, I spend my time doing lots of different things, which is fun. I teach undergraduate and graduate students about teaching and learning in agricultural sciences and advise students in our department on the courses they should take to graduate and be successful in their careers. I also spend time researching and writing to understand how we can better train and support middle and high school agriculture teachers. I'm also very fortunate to work with agriculture teachers across the state with the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators through presenting workshops to help them in their classrooms.

! **What advice do you have for students who are interested in teaching agriculture?**

A: Teaching agriculture is a great career choice. If teaching is something that you are interested in, talk to your agriculture teacher to see if there is a way that you can help, whether it's planning a lesson or helping to train a CDE team. You can also get a feel for what the profession is like through an agricultural education SAE.



! **How did you get to where you are today?**

A: My journey started as an agriculture student and FFA member in Wisconsin, where I learned that I was interested in communicating about agriculture. That led me to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where I realized I love to teach and earned a degree in Agricultural Education. After graduating, I taught middle and high school agriculture in northeast Wisconsin for five years. I loved working with students, teaching them about agriculture, and preparing them for careers, but I enjoyed helping teachers, too. That led me to pursue graduate school at Oregon State University, where I received my master's degree and Ph. D. in Agricultural Education and prepared to teach in the university setting.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an agriculture teacher and earning a degree at Virginia Tech, reach out to Dr. Claflin at kclaflin@vt.edu.



Microphone TRAINING

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

On Friday, December 4th, the Virginia FFA State Officer team had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Jordan Harmon of the Music Lab at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke, Virginia. The team spent some time learning about the differences between dynamic and condenser microphones and how they can be used for the best quality sound. Mr. Harmon also covered very unique and creative ways to secure “lav” or lavalier microphones when recording in the field. Some of the ways that were investigated included: creating an adhesive tape triangular envelope to secure the mic and also prevent the wind noise that can sometimes ruin an audio recording, and attaching

the lavalier microphone to an interior article of clothing to further protect the sound quality. While comparing the strengths and weaknesses of condenser and dynamic microphones, Mr. Harmon covered the various attributes of each type of microphone and which situations they would be best suited for use. Virginia FFA State Vice President, Madeline Moore said, “Mr. Harmon provided us real life scenarios and instances when we could possibly need different variations of microphones. It was super interesting and I never would have thought about such details needed to have a great performance!” Thank you to Mr. Harmon and the Jefferson Center for this amazing experience!



Madeline Moore, Virginia FFA State Vice President. Madeline is from the Holston FFA Chapter at Holston High School in Damascus, VA.



The Virginia FFA State Officer team also got to travel to the Roanoke star on the 4th, before meeting with Mr. Harmon at the Jefferson Center!





The state officer team meeting with Delegate Roslyn Tyler.

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

On January 14th, the Virginia FFA State Officers, state staff, and Virginia FFA Foundation Board were invited to attend the Virginia Agribusiness Council Vision 2021 Celebration. Due to Covid, this was the first year the event was held in a virtual format. The event celebrates the success in the past year of Virginia agriculture. Attendees were joined by dignitaries from across the state including Governor Ralph Northam, Virginia Senate members, and Virginia Delegates.

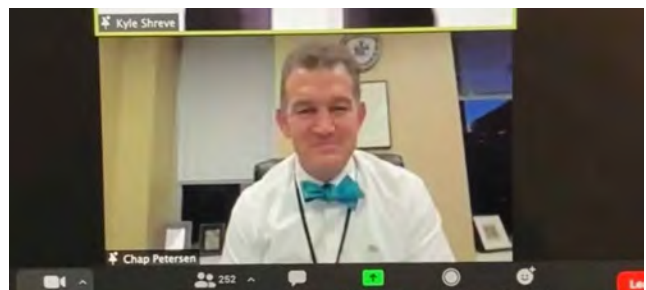
As the evening progressed, attendees had the opportunity to join breakout rooms on subjects relating to agriculture including agritourism, the Chesapeake Bay, and rural broadband among other topics. After attending the breakout room on the Chesapeake Bay, Megan Day said, “The representatives from the various soil and water conservation

districts spoke about the awareness that is being raised for management and conservation practices across the state. It was so interesting to hear similar stories from each and every corner of the state in regards to their efforts to protect the Chesapeake Bay.”

Later in the evening, the state officers joined the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators in speaking to Delegate Roslyn Tyler of the 75th district in Southside Virginia. Delegate Tyler sponsored HB 1680, requiring the Board of Education to review and revise the Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide to include Supervised Agricultural Experiences as a work-based learning experience after speaking with state officers at the 2020 Agribusiness Council Celebration.



Governor Ralph Northam giving remarks to the Virginia Agribusiness Council.



Distinguished Friend of Agribusiness Award winner, Senator Chap Petersen.



FFA Week

FEBRUARY 20-27, 2021



by Faith Dellinger – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Reporter

The Virginia FFA State Officers were able to visit over 35 schools during National FFA Week! We are thankful for the opportunity to do this and are grateful for all of the members that we were able to meet! Thank you Virginia FFA for making this year's National FFA Week unforgettable!

We saw unique ways that leadership thrives in schools from all across the state, interacted with members and their advisors, and got to see different aspects of agriculture throughout the different regions in Virginia!

National FFA week is a great opportunity for members to engage in activities and inform others about all of the opportunities that Virginia FFA has to offer. If you have any questions about any events or opportunities, please reach out to Virginia FFA on social media or contact one of your advisors!





Chapters, Thank you for hosting the State Officer Team during the 2021 Tour of Virginia!

Pulaski County
Read Mountain Middle
Lord Botetourt
James River
Appomattox
Appomattox Middle
Stuarts Draft
Riverheads
Nelson County
Nelson County Middle
Valley Career and Technical Center
Stuarts Draft Middle
SG Stewart Middle

Wilson Middle
Wilson Memorial
Fort Defiance
Buffalo Gap
Stonewall Jackson
Eastern View
Culpeper County
Rappahannock County
James Wood
James Wood Middle
Central High
Strasburg
Signal Knob

RE Aylor
Spotswood
Elkton Middle
East Rockingham
Montevideo
Wilbur S. Pence
Turner Ashby
J. Frank Hillyard
Broadway
Abingdon
Holston
Carroll County
Carroll County Middle



VIRTUAL ILSSO *experience*



Bifu Nakatani, founder of Bifu's tea ceremony school, speaking with state officers live from Japan.

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

The International Leadership Seminar for State Officers took place virtually in March 2021. “The vision and objectives of this virtual program mirror that of an in-person experience, which are: to inspire a global mindset in state FFA officers through a virtual learning experience”, said Jason Wetzler, program facilitator.

Throughout the five day course, the Virginia State Officers joined alongside state officers from across the country for this virtual experience. Participants heard from an array of

guest speakers from around the globe. Speakers included stateside leaders like Mara Downing- Vice President, Global Brand Management & Corporate Communications at John Deere, global leaders including Ashley Davidson and Dr. Lauren Phillips from the United Nations, students from the African Leadership Academy of Johannesburg,

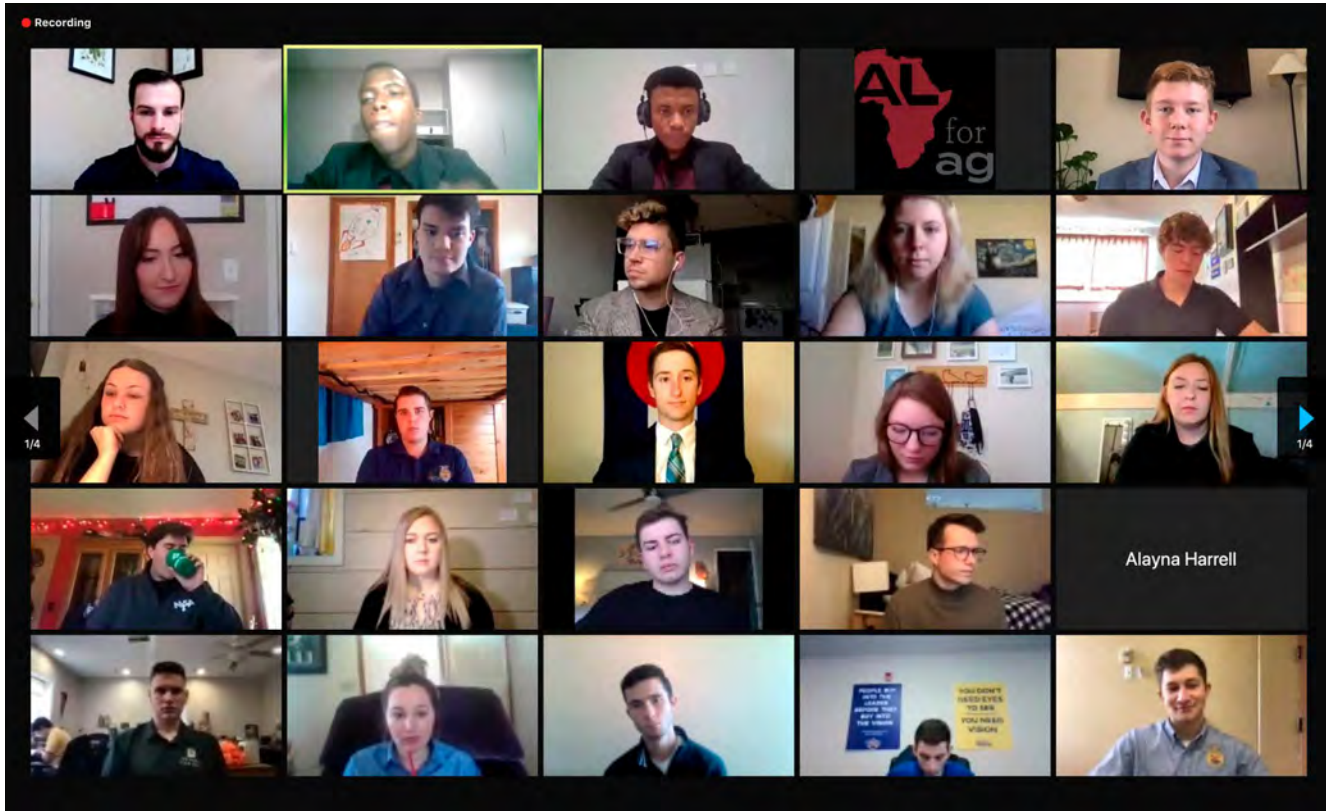
South Africa, and a favorite, Bifu Nakatani, founder of Bifu's tea ceremony school in the Taisho period.

Participants also had exciting, hands-on, cultural experiences like a Zoom Italian cooking night with a guest chef, a game night featuring games from around the globe, and a virtual salsa dancing lesson.

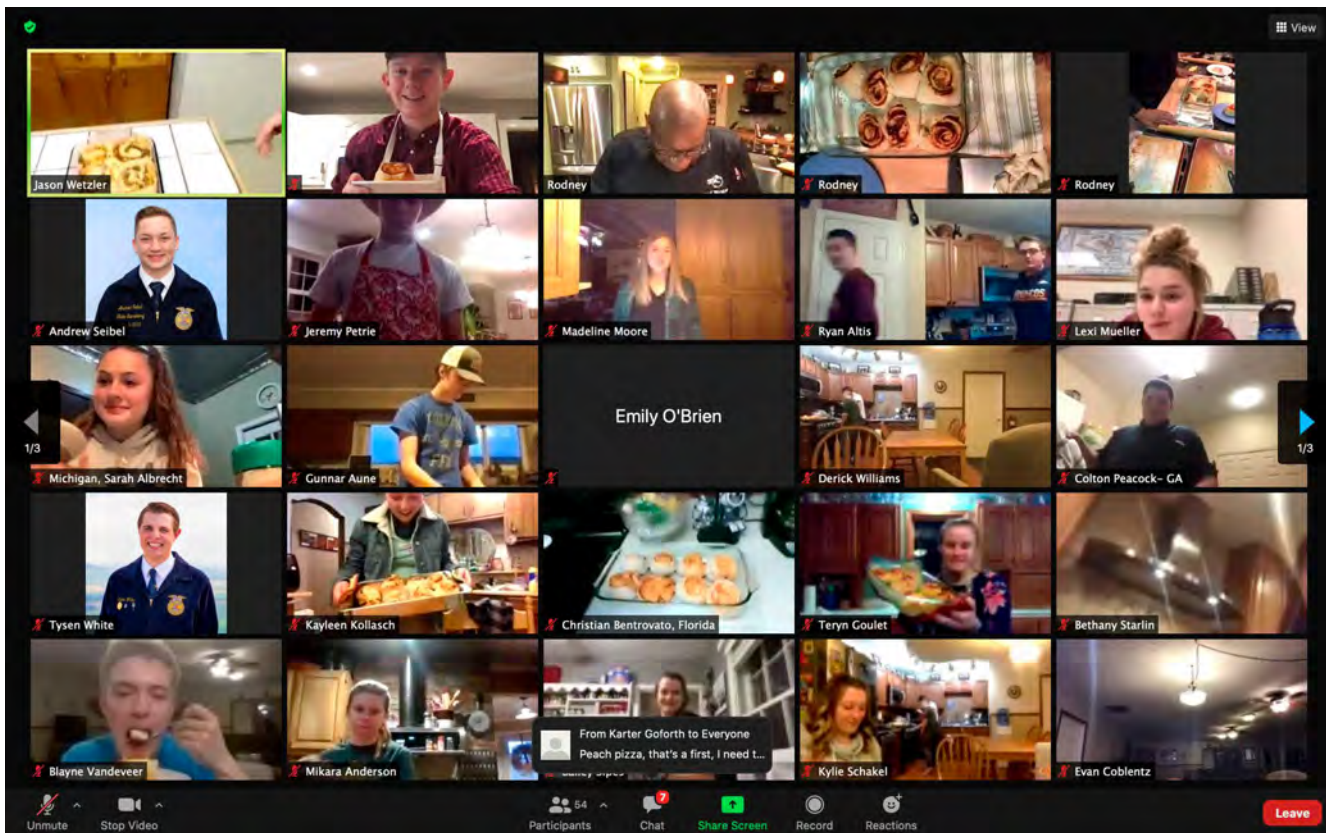


State officers Ryan Altis and Josh Powers “bus” group. Each state officer was assigned a small group to learn with State Secretary, Andrew Seibel said, “The coolest part of the experience for me was finally getting another chance to meet other state officers from around the nation.”





ILSSO participants listening to students from the African Leadership Academy of Johannesburg, South Africa.



ILSSO participants having a Zoom cooking night with a guest chef. "My favorite part of ILSSO this year was cooking homemade pizza rolls at home. It was a fun, hands on activity that allowed us to gain some cooking skills and enjoy something we created," said State Treasurer Jeremy Petrie.

2021 VIRGINIA TECH Block & Bridle



HORSE AND LIVESTOCK CONTESTS

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

The 2021 Virginia Tech Block and Bridle Horse and Livestock Contests were virtually held March 3rd through 7th, with over 1,000 students in 4-H and FFA competing. Block and Bridle was organized by Ms. Katherine Carter, Dr. Brian Wilson and the Block and Bridle Club at Virginia Tech. The award ceremony was held on March 16th and was hosted by Ms. Shelby Kohn, Block and Bridle Vice President and Horse Committee Chair.

The contests for this year's Block and Bridle included Horse Judging, Hippology, Stockmans, Livestock Judging, and Meats Judging. This year, there were no separate contests for 4-H and FFA, and reasons and non-reasons categories were added for both the junior and senior divisions.

Virginia FFA congratulates each 4-H and FFA member who competed and our many winners who represented the Commonwealth! Virginia FFA would like to say a huge thank you to the many dedicated and willing individuals who planned, judged, and volunteered with their time and resources to make the 2021 Block and Bridle and success!

WINNER spotlight!

SENIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING TOP TEAM

1st in Cattle, Swine, Sheep/Goats,
Reasons and Overall

Team members include:

Charlie Moser, Danielle Tuck, Emma Jackson, and Clay Jackson

Bedford County 4-H

SENIOR STOCKMANS TOP TEAM

1st in Quiz and ID, Judging and Questions, and Overall

Team members include:

Charlie Moser, Danielle Tuck, Emma Jackson, and Clay Jackson

Bedford County 4-H

JUNIOR OVERALL TEAM WITH REASONS

1st Place

Team members include:

Emma Wiley, Marybeth Martin, and Emma ?

Country Kids 4-H

“This year, I competed through the FFA. It was a completely different experience and definitely not the same as in years past. Don't get me wrong, it was a neat experience this year seeing it all done virtually, but there's just something about doing it in person and getting to see everyone else in the state getting to judge the different classes in person! Even with a few technical difficulties, it all worked out for the better!”

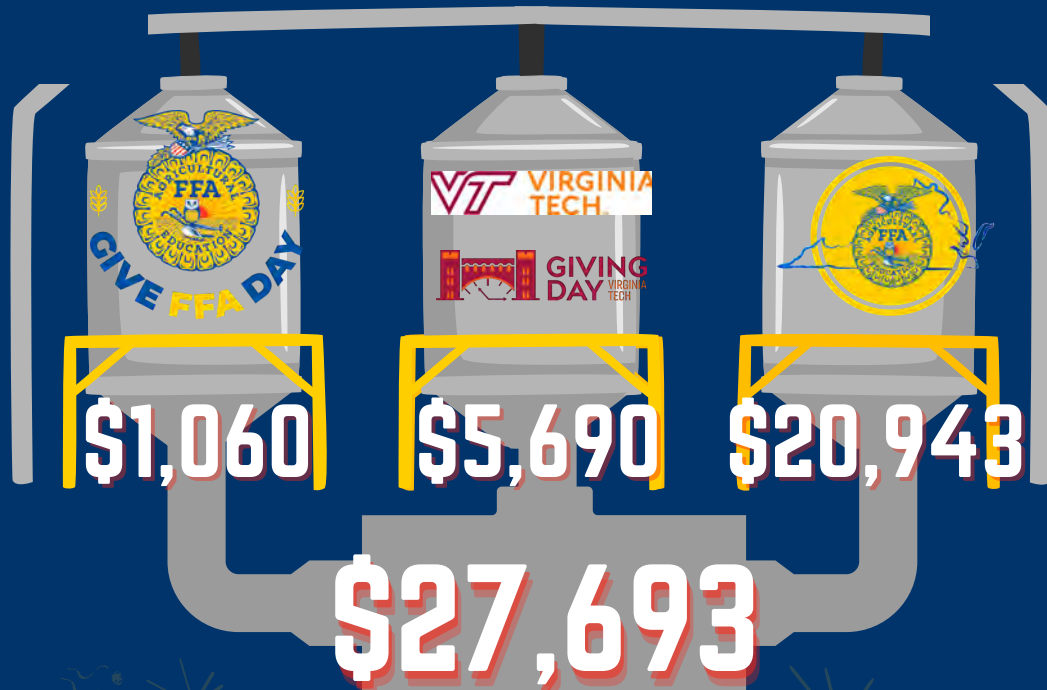
- Meredith Day, C.L. Payne FFA

“This contest was different than past years because we had to judge classes online and missed out on the in-person aspect of livestock judging. As a senior this year, it's been hard missing out on a “normal” year. I've been competing in livestock judging for over 9 years through 4-H and I was very grateful Block and Bridle still happened. I went into the contest with high expectations for my team and myself and after the results came out, I am very appreciative of everyone's hard work to make these events happen! Winning this contest during my senior year in high school is something I'll never forget!”

- Charlie Moser, Bedford County 4-H & Liberty FFA

THANK YOU!

GIVE FFA DAY WAS A HUGE SUCCESS



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FFA JACKETS