

Vision of Virginia

SUMMER 2019



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UPCOMING events

JULY

10-14: FFA Leadership Camp (Syria, VA)

17-20: VAAE Conference (Roanoke, VA)

SEPTEMBER

27: Southeastern COLT Conference
(Dinwiddie High School)

OCTOBER

2-4: State Fair

23-27: National FFA Convention & Expo
(Indianapolis, IN)

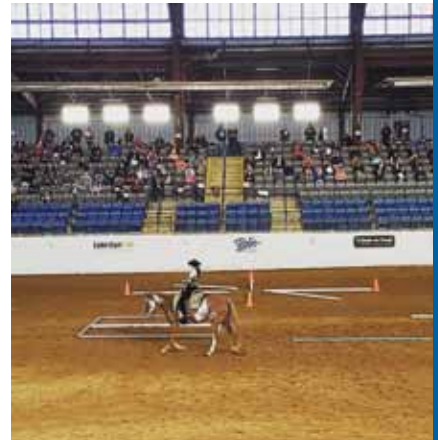
NOVEMBER

26-29: Virginia Farm Bureau Convention

Equismartz CONTEST

by Newlin Humphrey - VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

The annual Equismartz contest was held on March 24 at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. Equismartz is open to FFA and 4-H members and is a fantastic opportunity for FFA members to sharpen their horse judging skills before state convention. Out of six junior teams, Smith Mountain FFA took first place. Cali Levine from Smith Mountain FFA was the high junior individual out of 19 contestants. In the senior division, Smith Mountain FFA was the top team out of eight. Samuel Levine from Smith Mountain FFA took the top individual placing out of 27 contestants. Congratulations to all FFA members who competed!



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 Myers
Vice President

Ruth Fitzgerald
Treasurer

Newlin
Humphrey
Reporter

Katherine
Thompson
Sentinel

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STOCKMEN'S AND LIVESTOCK *Block & Bridle*

by Ruth Fitzgerald - VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer

On the weekend of March 1st and 2nd, 4-H and FFA members gathered at Virginia Tech to compete in the Stockmen's and Livestock Judging contests held by the Virginia Tech Block & Bridle club.

In the Stockmen's Contest, competitors were tested on their knowledge and skill relating to many aspects of the livestock industry. From judging livestock and hay, to identifying feeds, equipment, meat, and livestock breeds, to completing a written test and team problem, it was a valuable experience for all. Out of 71 teams, the top placing FFA team in the junior division was from Broadway FFA. The junior FFA individual was Ella Warns of Broadway FFA. In the senior division, Smith Mountain FFA was the top FFA team out of 95 teams. The top senior FFA individual was Robby Burchett of Lee County FFA.

In the Livestock Judging Contest, competitors were required to judge several classes of cattle, hogs, sheep, and

and goats answering questions about two of the eight judging classes. In the Regular Junior division, out of 39 teams, the top FFA team was J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA, and the high FFA individual was Julia Haviland of J. Frank Hilliard FFA. In the Regular Senior division, out of 46 teams, the top FFA team was Page County FFA and the high FFA individual was Grace Fravel of Broadway FFA. In the

advanced division, junior contestants had to give two sets of oral reasons and senior contestants had to give four sets of oral reasons on classes they judged earlier in the contest. Out of 20 teams in the Junior Advanced division, the top FFA team was Broadway FFA and the high FFA individual was Jesse Haviland of Broadway FFA. Out of 21 teams in the Senior Advanced division, the top FFA team was Liberty FFA and the high FFA individual was Paul Craun of Turner Ashby FFA.

Congratulations to all of those who competed in these events!



Block & Bridle HORSE EVALUATION AND HIPPOLOGY

by Newlin Humphrey - VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

FFA and 4-H members from across the Commonwealth of Virginia gathered in the Alphin-Stuart Livestock Arena on February 8 and 9 for the hippology and horse judging contest hosted by Virginia Tech Block and Bridle. For the hippology contest, members were able to sharpen their skills by completing a written exam, slides section, identification stations, and a team problem. Out of 20 teams, the top placing FFA team in the junior division was Stuarts Draft Middle Team A. The top junior FFA individual was Maddie Baska from Stuarts Draft Middle. In the senior division, Sherando FFA was the top team out of 32 teams. The top senior FFA member was Carrie Barker from Chatham High.

The next day, FFA members made sure to dress warmly

as they spent the day judging 8 classes of various breeds and disciplines as well as giving oral reasons. The title of first place junior FFA team was taken by Tunstall Middle Team A out of 16 teams. Molly Caldwell from Read Mountain Middle Team A took the top individual placing out of 51 contestants. In the senior division, Carroll County FFA was the first place team out of 16. Erin Tate from Carroll County FFA, was named the high senior individual out of 50.

Block and Bridle was an opportunity for FFA members to prepare for state convention, share in learning and laughter with teammates, catch up with friends, and make memories that will last a lifetime. **Congratulations to all FFA members who competed!**

AREA rallies



by Katherine Thompson - VA FFA 2018-2019 Sentinel

For many FFA members, spring marks a period of preparation for testing their skills in state-level awards programs. In this season of banquet run-throughs, CDE practice, and filling out applications, the six areas of Virginia offer students unique chances to expand their networks, fine-tune their skills, acquire leadership experience, and prepare for all that lies ahead.

During of March and April, all six areas across the Commonwealth hosted their respective rallies. At these events, several members competed in area contests for a variety of CDEs and LDEs, ranging from public speaking and discussion meets to Tractor Operator's. Some of these competitions give winning students an opportunity to represent their chapter and area at the state level at State FFA Convention in June, while others empower students with knowledge and experience and allow all teams to compete at the state level. Other members in attendance got the opportunity to create fellowship among other members in their area. They were also able to participate in a variety of career-oriented and leadership workshops, with topics including teamwork, building relationships, setting goals, and finding careers. Several areas also had members interview for and be elected into area office.

All members who attended took the initiative to seek personal growth and make the most out of their time in the blue jacket. **We are proud of all of our members' hard-work and dedication towards learning and their accomplishments.**



VA AG TRADE conference

by Newlin Humphrey - VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

The 11th annual Virginia Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade took place on March 5. This conference focuses on the challenges and opportunities for global agricultural and forestry exports in the current international trade environment. Topics of discussion included negotiation strategies, market demand drivers, workforce implications, and seeking agreements that will strengthen agriculture for the entire global population.

Ethan and Newlin, as well as two members from Smith Mountain FFA, had the opportunity to hear from the Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Ambassador to the United States from the People's Republic of China, U.S. Trade Representative Chief Agricultural Negotiator Ambassador, Richmond Federal Reserve President, and many more.

NATIONAL Ag Day

On March 14th, Kendall and Ethan spent the day advocating for agriculture and FFA in Washington D.C. with their representatives, Rep. Denver Riggleman and Rep. Ben Cline. They discussed issues and the importance of agriculture legislation and agriculture education. At the end of the day, the pair visited the USDA and heard from Central Region National FFA Vice President Ridge Hughbanks. What a great day to celebrate agriculture!



Newlin, Denver Riggleman (U.S. Representative for Virginia's 5th District), and Ethan



Newlin, Ben Cline (U.S. Representative for Virginia's 6th District), and Ethan



Ethan, Newlin, Bettina Ring (Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry), and two members from Smith Mountain FFA

Agri-Pulse SUMMIT

Just as we cannot separate swimming, humidity, lemonade, and lighting bugs from summer, we cannot separate politics, lobbying, technological development, and marketing from agriculture. Accordingly, Agri-Pulse exists to provide accurate information to farmers and keep them updated on events in the capital.

Six of our officers attended the Agri-Pulse Summit alongside producers, lobbyists, and industry leaders where they heard five panel discussions on the future of agriculture and learned the importance of collaborative and innovative thinking, sustainable food production, and the changing landscape of protein production.

Now, more than ever, we have the thrilling opportunity to shape the future and embrace advancements, but we must also continue to tell our story and emphasize our industry's relevance on the global stage.



2019 NATIONAL FFA Week

by Ethan Jackson - VA FFA 2018-2019 President and
Matthew Myers - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

The state officers hit the road on Sunday, February 17, at Fort Chiswell High School for the annual goodwill tour for National FFA Week. In total, the state officers were able to visit over 37 schools during the week. The state theme, "What If?" was focused on as we looked into our personal lives. Members looked back on decisions that they made in the past, and then ahead to think about how we can change our actions to help us get to where we want to go. We were able to analyze these four questions: "what if I had(n't) ...", "what if I ...", "what if I start to...", and "where we want to go..." We each answered these questions for ourselves to have a deeper look at our lives. Chapters from across the state opened their classrooms to host the state officers for food, fun, fellowship, and deep conversations. The state officers finished out FFA week at Powhatan High School before heading to the Young Farmers conference for the weekend.



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member HIGHLIGHT

by Ethan Jackson

VA FFA 2018-2019 President

JACOB DINTERMAN APPOMATTOX FFA SOUTHEAST AREA

The Virginia FFA Association had the opportunity to chat with Jacob Dinterman of the Appomattox FFA chapter in the Southeast Area.

VA FFA: Can you describe why you decided to join FFA and what the organization means to you?

Jacob: The FFA to me is an opportunity. I originally joined the William Campbell chapter because I wanted to follow in my dad's footsteps. However, when I moved to Appomattox, I saw the FFA as an opportunity to make friends while carving out my own path. It has directed me onto the path I'm on and has made me the person I am by challenging me to try new things outside my comfort zone. It has also given me many opportunities to meet amazing people and

make tons of new friends across Virginia.

VA FFA: Can you tell us a little about your SAE and how you feel it will impact your future?

Jacob: My Beef Production SAE reflects how I was raised on and around my grandparent's beef cattle farm. Although it's more of a small scale hobby farm, it gave me tons of experience that I'm able to use elsewhere. My current plan is to run for FFA state office in June. In the fall, I will be attending Virginia Tech, where I plan to major in Agricultural Science. I hope to one day be an agricultural teacher who will ignite a passion for agriculture in many students. I hope that one day I'll be able to inspire students and show them the amazing field of agriculture, just as my teachers do every day. My experiences with the FFA have changed my life, and I hope that one day the students that I teach will be able to have the same amazing experiences that I have had.

VA FFA: What has been your favorite memory inside the blue jacket?

Jacob: My favorite memory in my FFA jacket was going around Indianapolis with my awesome chapter at my first National Convention my junior year. National Convention was unlike anything I've ever experienced in my life, and I enjoyed every

of when I was going to have the opportunity to join. I remember even as young as 3 years old, I was automatically drawn to the colors of FFA. Since joining FFA, the organization has meant so much to me. Growing up on a small beef cattle operation, and my experience in FFA has shown me the values of the agricultural industry. I hope to be a part of the legacy of hard work, service, and agricultural excellency this organization has developed.

VA FFA: Can you tell us a little about your SAE and how you feel it will impact your future?

Robby: My SAE is Sheep Placement. I started this SAE about three years ago when I began working for Melissa Hubbard at Hubbard Club Lambs. The reason I chose this SAE was because Ms. Hubbard allowed me to learn, gain industry experience, and grow in my level of responsibility in a short amount of time due to her willingness to oversee my work. This SAE has really ignited my passion for livestock and led me to pursue my future plans, which are to attend a junior college for two years to judge livestock, and then pursue my dream of obtaining a Meat Science degree and work for Cargill.



moment spent with awesome friends.

VA FFA: What would you tell someone who is unsure whether or not they should FFA?

Jacob: I would tell anybody unsure of joining FFA to just jump right in. FFA will open up so many opportunities for you, build your character and help you prepare for life whether you chose to pursue a career in agriculture or not. You will meet amazing people and have tons of amazing experiences that will leave a lasting impression for the rest of your life.

VA FFA: What has been your favorite memory inside the blue jacket?

Robby: My favorite memory in the blue corduroy would have to be when we were blessed with the opportunity to represent Virginia FFA at the National FFA convention and expo held in Indianapolis. It was my first time getting to go to National Convention and the sights, sounds, and people made the entire experience very impactful. It made me truly appreciate how large this organization truly is.

VA FFA: What would you tell someone who is unsure whether or not they should join FFA?

Robby: I would tell them there's something in the Blue and Gold for everyone! I would express the true importance of what we all learn in FFA: premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. I would share how I have seen those things work in my own life. I'd also make sure to explain that FFA is not just strictly focused on production agriculture, or as we say, "It's not just cows, plows, and sows." There are so many more opportunities in leadership and personal development opportunities that FFA has to offer.

ROBBY BURCHETT LEE COUNTY FFA APPALACHIAN AREA

The Virginia FFA Association travels to Lee County of the Appalachian area to highlight Robby Burchett.

VA FFA: Can you describe why you decided to join FFA and what the organization means to you?

Robby: My family has a deep connection to FFA, so it was never a question of if I was going to be an FFA member, but just a matter





Owl OUTLOOK

by Claire Seibel - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

At any given chapter banquet, whether it is the 40th for our advisor or the first, we will experience this familiar scene: “Stationed by the Owl,” our advisor says, beginning to smile. Why stationed by the owl? Reflecting back on all of the ridiculous and fun things we did this year, the more serious times, and the occasions when they acted like our second parent, our advisor says, “The owl is a time-honored emblem of knowledge and wisdom. Being older than the rest of you, I am asked to advise you from time to time as the need arises. I hope that my advice will always be based on true knowledge and ripened with wisdom.”

We now get a chance to hear that advice and the stories of both new and retiring advisors, Cole Ramsey and Ronald Daughtrey.



What advice do you have for students who want to become agriculture education teachers?

CR: Talk to several agriculture teachers about their jobs. Find out what they do on a daily basis. After you are sure that this is a career you want to pursue, work with those agriculture teachers to find a college with an agricultural education program designed to prepare agriculture teachers for their careers, and get a degree from that school. I love my job and am happy to talk to anyone about pursuing a career in agricultural education.

What advice do you have for agricultural education teachers just starting their careers?

RD: Be all in – but create a balance between your personal life and your job.

How has agricultural education and FFA changed over the course of your career?

RD: There are many more opportunities available today for non-farm students. (This has been important when teaching in an increasingly urbanized school division.)

What do you see as the future of agriculture education and FFA?

CR: I see a lot of potential for growth and expansion of both agricultural education and the FFA. People are now very interested in where their food comes from and how it is produced. Agricultural education will have a vital role in making sure that the public is educated accurately about where their food comes from. FFA will have a similar role but will continue to thrive as it is the best student leadership organization with the most opportunity for students.

What is one important take away from your 40 years as an advisor?

RD: The students have made it all worthwhile.

What is your funniest memory as an advisor?

RD: Having students “get even” with a student who was being obnoxious during a State FFA Convention trip. I cannot share details, but it worked!

What is your favorite CDE/LDE to coach?

RD: Small Engine Troubleshooting (3 State winners).

CR: Livestock judging. It combines my interest in animal agriculture and youth development.

What is your favorite FFA event/chapter activity?

RD: State FFA Leadership Camp.

CR: Our Food for America Program. We just started this year, but it was very rewarding to see my students teaching younger students about agriculture.

Approximately how many students did you teach over your 40 years as an agricultural educator?

RD: 3,000 (+/-).

How many of your students became state officers?

CR: Two – Phillip Saunders and Ruth Fitzgerald.

RD: One – Josh Holland.

How many of your students became agricultural educators?

RD: One (number two will graduate from VSU this spring).

How many times did you attend an FFA convention (on the state or national level)?

CR: Nine State Conventions, 5 National Conventions.

RD: State – this year will be 40, National – 28.

Why did you want to become an agricultural educator?

RD: Ag Ed provided me an opportunity to work in agriculture with direct daily contact with people. I am convinced that my path to becoming an agriculture teacher was fate.

CR: I enjoyed all of the activities that I got to do in FFA, but I would be lying if I said I didn't want to do more. I became an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor to make sure my students would have the opportunities that I did not have.

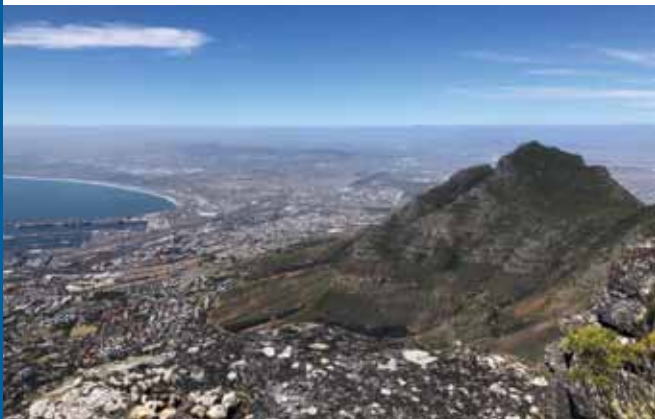
THROUGH THE *Lens* OF A STATE OFFICER



Claire Seibel

VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

These rocking chairs, resting on the front porch of the main lodge at Graves Mountain, witnessed thousands of laughs, swapped stories, and deep conversations over the years as they held hundreds of students at FFA Leadership Camp. When we ask FFA members, what is your favorite part of FFA? they often speak about the friends they made in the organization. We like to joke that we form an “FFA-mily” in the organization, and it is completely true. When we look back at our time as members, it will shock us how a simple conversation led to forming deep friendships, how the people we saw only a few times a year became our closest classmates in college or at work, and how our network has grown. There are few other chances we have as students to meet so many wonderful, passionate people. What if we took advantage of our opportunities to meet others?



Kendall Knicely

VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary

Have you ever felt like you were on top of the world? I know I have! In January, I was thankful enough to go to South Africa with National FFA. While there, we visited Table Mountain, one of the new Natural Wonders of the World. When we got to the top of the mountain by cable car, I walked over to the edge and looked out. Everything looked so small! I could see the ocean go over the edge of the world; it was absolutely breathtaking. While looking out, I reflected. If the world is this big, how can I have an impact and change the world? I felt sad knowing that I probably couldn't make an impact with billions of people in this huge world. I continued to sit and look out. It then hit me. I realized that we don't have to change every single life in the world to make an impact. We can start in our homes, our communities, and our FFA chapters. Who knows, maybe we will change the world, one step at a time. One of my favorite quotes is “No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone.” Who will you impact and change today?



Ethan Jackson

VA FFA 2018-2019 President

There's one dreaded day that makes all FFA members cringe. This day occurs every year in that awkward transition from winter to spring and we are greeted with its presence as our alarm clocks ring an hour earlier. Yes, the dreaded daylight savings changeover.

Now, some may actually make a face at the mention of this day and others will actually embrace the change. But what does it matter; it's only an hour right? There's no way that such a small difference can make a significant impact.

However, when we really think about it, that small difference can and does mean big changes in a lot of ways. We may initially get mentally off and have a strange sleep pattern for a couple days; we may complain as we head to work or school at the extra grogginess; we may actually take advantage of the daylight to accomplish more work; or we may just stay outside to enjoy the beautiful sunsets and increasingly warm weather.

The fact of the matter is, such a small change can make some pretty cool and pretty big differences. And although we may want to complain about the various changing circumstances and scenarios that we call life at first, we always find a way to make it work and to thrive within each situation. We can't ever underestimate the power of small decisions, small actions, or small changes. Because it's the little things that make the big differences.

Nathan McDonald

VA FFA 2018-2019

Vice President

How often do we find ourselves just going through the motions? More times than not, I find myself rushing through life and just getting through my days. But, there is more than just our busy everyday schedules. We must take the time to slow down and enjoy what is around us. Even on rainy spring days, we are surrounded by beautiful greenery and flowers beginning to bloom. As the old phrase goes, “Slow down and smell the flowers.” What if we stop getting so caught up in just going through the motions that we slow down and enjoy what is right in front of us? Lake Geneva, surrounded by vibrant flowers with the Alps in the background is my reminder to just stop and take in the view.





Matthew Myers

VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

The wind was howling with the gray clouds overhead and the cool mist coming off of the water made the air feel as if it were that much colder. We were standing at ground zero of Virginia FFA Campgrounds. Standing there on that cold February day, we saw the empty landscape, tattered basketball nets and beaten flag pole. This place... this place we were standing at was the foundation of Virginia FFA Camp. It is hard to believe that less than 30 years ago there stood buildings on these empty grounds where members and state officers before us fell in love with our dear organization. Camp back then went all summer long with record attendance. It was there in Smithfield that you might hear advisors talking about mosquitoes being as big as ravens but buzzing like bees during the summer; or the haunted house that the state officers stayed in during their time of assisting with camp. It is hard to wrap our heads around the impact on members that camp has each year and the connections that it brings us in our organization. So, as we continue to make history let us respect the past yet continue to look forward to brighter days in the future.



Katherine Thompson

VA FFA 2018-2019 Sentinel

One set of stairs, one path, but different destinations. When you first look at this set of stairs you'll probably notice it looks rather windy, and awful steep, but what if we take a moment to look past that and at the end of it we see a beautiful serene beach just waiting to be explored? With every step up or down, everything can change: your attitude, your drive to keep moving, and even your view. Every single day, we are on a path just like this one, but how we choose to approach it can be so vastly different. We may run full speed forward to see what's ahead; may turn around and head back because the path we were taking wasn't quite for us. Or, maybe sometimes we just stop and soak up everything there is to offer at that step. Each journey is unique even though we all walk down the same path. What if we chose to focus on the beauty of the journey and not the destination?



Newlin Humphrey

VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

Standing at the edge of a cliff on the Cape of Good Hope, at the most southwestern-most point of Africa, it can seem like we are looking out at the edge of the world. The feeling was beyond exhilarating. I listen to the wind whistling through my ears and watch the blue waves crash upon the rocks below. I look out at the vastness and the curve of the horizon. Being so still, so conscious, had never felt so thrilling as I stood at the ends of the earth. In this moment, just one thought crossed my mind. What if we could leave a legacy? How will the world be different and better when we are gone? What mark will we have made? It is said that a butterfly flapping its wings in Africa can cause a hurricane off the coast of Florida. What hurricanes will we leave in the lives of others?



Ruth Fitzgerald

VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer

If you are anything like me, sometimes you might look at different areas of your life and wonder what in the world is happening or whether you are really having an impact where you are. When I question myself like this, what I do is stand strong in faith. Faith in what I believe and faith that I have a totally unique purpose for where I am right now. When we stay true to who we are, what we believe, and have faith in our purpose and position, we can have confidence that we truly are impacting others even when we feel like our lives are crazy or that we are not making a difference. What if we are exactly where we are meant to be this very moment? What if we are impacting others even though we can't see direct results? Virginia FFA, let us be brave, stay faithful, and embrace the fact that we are where we are meant to be for a reason.



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

2019 PARLIAMENTARY *Procedure*



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

by Nathan McDonald - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

"I move to recognize the accomplishments of our members." On February 16th, members competed in the State Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings Leadership Development Event. Students were tested on their knowledge of parliamentary law. Then, students used their skills in a live demonstration using a given problem for solution followed by oral questions from the judges. The results off the Conduct of Chapter Meetings Leadership Development Event are as follows:

All State Team:

President: Emily Kegley from Riverheads
 Vice-President: Jesse Haviland from Broadway
 Secretary: Stephanie Schecigaert from J. Frank Hillyard
 Treasurer: Danny Payne from Broadway
 Reporter: Danielle Thompson from Riverheads
 Sentinel: Jaclyn Diaz from J Frank Hillyard
 Advisor: Charlie Wheeler from Riverheads

The team from Riverheads placed first and will have the opportunity to represent Virginia at the National FFA Convention and Expo in October held in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In the Senior Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event. The team placing second, and having the opportunity to represent Virginia at the Big E in September is the team from Buffalo Gap High School. Turner Ashby High School place first in the event and will represent Virginia at the National FFA Convention and Expo held in Indianapolis, Indiana in October.



SENIOR PARLIAMENTARY TEAM

Turner Ashby FFA

Paul Craun, Shelvin Arey, Jacob Craun, Matt Williams,
 Rachel Craun, Bonnie Rhodes and State Vice
 President, Nathan McDonald
State Winner



JUNIOR PARLIAMENTARY TEAM

Riverheads FFA

Danielle Thompson, Cheyene Deming, Jacob Dedrick,
 Kenzie Woymack, Tavis Layne, Charlie Wheeler, and
 Emily Kegley
State Winner

STATE MEATS CDE

by Ruth Fitzgerald - VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer

On Saturday, March 16th, several teams from across the state headed to Virginia Tech's campus to compete in the State Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event. Members were able to exhibit their knowledge of beef, pork, and lamb meat evaluation, the meat industry, and food safety through completing a team problem, a written test, solving a meat formulation problem, and performing beef quality and yield grading. They also headed into the meat cooler to identify up to 30 cuts of meat, judge 5 classes of retail cuts or carcasses, and answering 10 questions based on two of the classes.



In the junior division, the top team overall was from J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA. The top 3 individuals overall were as follows: 3rd-Jesse Haviland of Broadway FFA, 2nd-William Eberly of Peter Muhlenberg FFA, and 1st-Reagan Bowman of Central FFA.

In the senior division, the top team overall was from Central FFA, which will have the opportunity to represent Virginia FFA in the Meats Evaluation

and Technology CDE this October in Indianapolis, Indiana. The top 3 individuals overall were as follows: 3rd-Shyann Jordan of Central FFA, 2nd-Paul Craun of Turner Ashby FFA, and 1st-Emma Hockman of Central FFA.

All of these teams and individuals will be recognized at the Virginia FFA State Convention in June. Congratulations to all of those who competed in this event!



TOP 10 SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

Emma Hockman, Paul Craun, Shyann Jordan, Brittany Hall, Katie Powell, Ashley Bushong, Lydia Staton, Savannah Collins, Hunter Carson, Megan Pollok



JUNIOR MEATS TEAM

J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA
Stephanie, Katie, Herschel
Top Team Overall



TOP SENIOR TEAM

Central FFA
Ashley Bushong, Emma Hockman, Shyann Jordan



JUNIOR TOP 10 INDIVIDUALS

Reagan Bowman, William Eberly, Jesse Haviland, Stephanie Schweigert, Jenna Wolf, Julia Haviland, Storm Ramsey, Herschel Hoffeditz, Maddox Dalton, Justin Higginbotham



CHAPTER chats

by Matthew Myers - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

STRASBURG FFA

Strasburg FFA is setting the tone by taking part in a new experience hosted by National FFA. They had 12 members, along with 10 from Sherando FFA, spend a week in Washington, D.C. participating in what has been named “Living the Schedule” by National FFA. Their time spent in our nation’s capital was an interactive week, and trial run, of the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC). Facilitators of the conference walked Strasburg’s students through the entire week to make any final adjustments to the program before the conference kicks off later this year. When asked for their over thoughts about the week, members were quick to say things like “an eye opening experience,” but Shelby Smith — who has attended WLC previously — noted that this experience was “very interesting because it was a different aspect to service. We were serving other students by allowing the facilitators to try on everything to make the conference the best for the members about to go through the experience.” Madison Estep said she walked away with “opened eyes about how many needs exist in our community and the need for us to step up and serve those needs.” Different from the full conference, the group was much smaller and had advisors attending the week with them. Advisor Abbi Copp noted that National FFA’s facilitators created an “inclusive environment for all students” and Advisor Brian Fisher said he “saw a lot of passion for everything from both their students and National FFA staff.” Aside from Strasburg’s involvement in “Living the Schedule,” they also host multiple meals for the community that are free of charge and provide hot food for those whom may not be able to afford it. They also spend the first Saturday of every month packing meals for members of the community in the “Friendship Lunches” program. After the week of “Living the Schedule,” Strasburg FFA will continue their mission of “Living to Serve” in the Strasburg community.



FAUQUIER FFA

Fauquier FFA has had one exciting year.. Through attending many conferences such as the Microsoft initiative, hosting Food for America, and teaching elementary students about the impact of agriculture in their community. It has been one busy month and year for Fauquier! Members were not only able to gain knowledge in the classroom, but were able to take the knowledge they learned and give back to the community by hosting Food for America, which all the fourth graders from the district attend. There, the students rotated among stations and were able to see different aspects of farming and agriculture. One interesting thing Fauquier was able to have present at Food for America was the Mobile Dairy Classroom. The Mobile Dairy Classroom is a working milker on the back of a trailer so students and members could see a live dairy cow being milked. Another special guest that Fauquier FFA was able to host was Ridge Hughbanks, National FFA Central Region Vice President. Ridge’s visit was during Fauquier county’s annual Ag Olympics day. There, members from all over the county had the opportunity to meet Ridge and partake in Ag Olympics. Members even got to share information about their chapters as well as Virginia agriculture. If all of that excitement wasn’t enough, member McKenzie Hurley was able to go to the White House to represent FFA alongside State President Ethan Jackson to watch the signing of the 2019 Farm Bill. Fauquier FFA has had a year for the books and is truly living the statement “Living to Serve.” Keep up the amazing work! We cannot wait to see what the next year holds for all of our chapters across the Commonwealth.



(VICE)

VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

by Claire Seibel - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

On March 29-31, FFA members across the state had the opportunity to learn experientially as they ran their own business at the Virginia Institute of Cooperative Education (VICE). Students learned the history of cooperatives and about purchasing co-ops, marketing co-ops, Farm Credit institutions, and electric co-ops. Personal growth is also woven into the curriculum with True Colors Training, a personality assessment students use to determine jobs best aligned with their skills. The business simulation, "Who's Minding the Store?" began on Saturday morning with eight teams, all competing to maximize their market share, efficiency, and profits.

On Sunday morning, students found out their results. The top three students won scholarships, and the top five won a trip to the national conference. Winners were Jacob Craun (\$2,000 scholarship), Andrew Tuck (\$1,500), Jonathan Ames (\$1,000), Lauren Gibson, and Ruth Fitzgerald. The next five alternates, Ellie Holter, Ethan Jackson, Jonathan Azenon, Carter Wasser, and Paige Baker, will attend the institute if any of the others are not able to attend.

RFD-TV'S FFA Today

by Nathan McDonald - VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

The State Officer Team got "camera ready" when they headed to Nashville in March to film RFD-TV's new series, FFA Today. FFA Today is hosted by state officers every week, highlighting the work of FFA members and alumni across the United States. We had the opportunity to tour RFD-TV's facilities and studios to see what goes on behind the scenes of taping an episode. Sitting in the control booth, we watched as the sound engineer, producer, and director all worked together to make everything happen for their live show. Our state officers filmed three episodes highlighting members from California, Minnesota, and even right here in Virginia. The episodes aired on May 6th, 13th, and 20th.



We owe a thank you to Adam Shiflett, Allen Taylor, Cheyenne Rhodes, Dr. Kim Morgan, and Mary Howell for working to put on the conference. VICE 2020 will be held at Graves Mountain Lodge from March 27-29.





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