

Vision of Virginia

SUMMER 2020



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UPCOMING events

MAY 2020

5-7: National Land & Range Judging Contest

JUNE 2020

15-18: State FFA Convention (Blacksburg, VA)

JULY 2020

13-17: FFA Leadership Camp (Syria, VA)

19-23: 2020 State Officer Summit (Washington D.C.)

20-23: VAAE (Suffolk, VA)



by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President and Jennifer Armstrong – VA FFA

Give FFA Day 2020 was held on February 25. This year the Virginia FFA Foundation made a goal of \$12,000, meaning that every single chapter could receive a jacket for a deserving student through the Give the Gift of Blue program. This was a very large goal, and in less than 24 hours, that goal became a reality. The goal was not only met, but it was succeeded. For Give FFA Day 2020, \$13,030 was raised. Breaking this incredible number down means that 236 jackets will be given to members

this year! Out of the 44 states who participated, Virginia came in first for the most donors at 187. Jacket scholarships will be distributed to each chapter in the fall, when schools resume programming. Jacket recipients will be chosen by their advisor, and all donors should expect notes of gratitude from those members. We look forward to showing the impact from Give FFA Day! Thank you to everyone who helped make this day such a success for Virginia FFA!



Give FFA Day 2020

\$13,030 Raised

187 Donors

236 Jackets

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2020 NATIONAL FFA Week



by Hope Showalter – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter

On February 20, the State Officer Team, State Staffer Alison Jones and Executive Secretary Andy Seibel started off on a week-long journey across the state for the National FFA Week Tour. These 11 individuals traveled over 1,500 miles, stayed at a new hotel almost every night, visited around 50 FFA Chapters, and spent countless hours learning about students' visions for their own futures.

When visiting every chapter, the State Officers facilitated a workshop based around the 2020 State Convention Theme, **Envision**. Students learned about famous individuals who turned their visions into reality and how all of their visions, when combined together,

were able to “light up” our communities and create a better world. They also had the chance to create their own goals and steps to achieve their vision for their own life, their community, or their FFA Chapter. After that, students created their own visionary statements; this was a simple statement that had a larger meaning that showed what they envision for the world.

The State Officer Team had a blast meeting members and traveling the state. Thank you to all schools who hosted the team and state staff during quick visits, chapter events, or federation nights! We are excited to see how you continue to envision a brighter world!





Huntington

WEST VIRGINIA

M
Na

Charleston



Kingsport



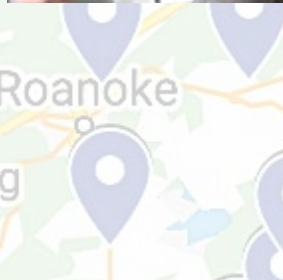
Cherok

National Forest

Winston-Salem

noxville





STATE MEATS JUDGING Contest

by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

On March 7, 24 Senior FFA members and 26 Junior FFA members traveled to Virginia Tech to compete in the Block and Bridle Meats Competition. Members began the competition by identifying retail cuts of meat as well as carcasses. After that, a written test was given and then senior teams worked on reasons. This competition is a great start for members who are interested in careers in this field or for those who are interested in learning more about it! We are so proud of the members and all of their hard work in preparation for this event.



SENIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Nelson County FFA
Katie Powell



JUNIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Peter Muhlenberg FFA
Jera Cook



HIGH SENIOR TEAM
Central FFA (Shenandoah) FFA
Lindsey Rigby, Reagan Bowman, Jacob Walters,
Parker Sheetz



HIGH JUNIOR TEAM
J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA
Jessica Dove, Julia Haviland,
Haelyn Keller, Bryson Funk



FARM BUREAU *Young Farmers* WINTER EXPO

by Ryan Gobble – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President



The State Officer Team visits the Pryor Farm and poses for a photo with Mr. Richard Pryor, Virginia Farm Bureau President.

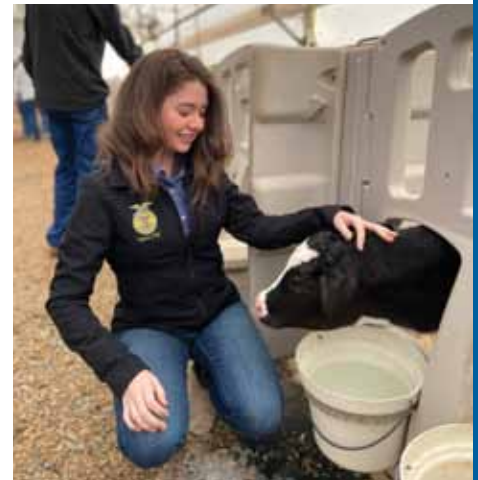
During the weekend of February 21-23, the State Officer Team had the opportunity to join in the fun at the Virginia Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers Winter Expo. The Expo began on Friday with a variety of agricultural tours and a welcome dinner in Zion Crossroads. On Saturday, the large group loaded up early on charter buses and departed for the various tours. Our team began the day by touring Goochland/Powhatan State Farm facilities. While at the State Farm, we had the opportunity to learn about their dairy operation and their beef

herd. While walking through the dairy, we learned about the different parts of the farm such as the milking parlor, barn flushing system/waste management, and the calf barn. Before we left the dairy, we had the opportunity to try their product: a bag of delicious chocolate milk. We traveled to the other side of the farm to the beef herds where we learned about rations given to the cattle, breeding, and shipping of the feeder steers. The next stop of the day was at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Pryor, a hay production operation. At this stop on

the tour, Mr. Pryor talked about the types of grasses that his hay consisted of, as well as how he juggles harvesting while simultaneously being Virginia Farm Bureau’s President. The afternoon consisted of a series of lectures delivered by accredited professionals in different sectors of the agricultural industry. We had a great time and would like to thank the Virginia Farm Bureau Young Farmers and all those that helped coordinate this event!



Louisa FFA alumni supported this event by catering delicious meals for the group.



State Vice President Erin Orgen toured the Goochland Prison Farm which has a fully operational dairy, beef feedlot and cow/calf operation.

BLUE RIDGE AREA Rally

by Hope Showalter – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter

On March 10, the 9th Annual Blue Ridge Area Rally was held at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, Virginia. The day started at 9:35 with opening ceremonies and a keynote address from Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong with the Virginia FFA Foundation. From 9:55-11:15, students competed in seven official Career Development Events. Students who did not compete attended mock contests for CDEs or workshops on various subjects. For the remainder of the day, while results were being compiled, members participated in the Ag Reality Town and ate lunch. Ag Reality Town was a fun way for students to learn about finances in agriculture. Finally, the day wrapped up with Awards and Closing Ceremonies. All results from the day are listed below. Congratulations to everyone who competed. Virginia FFA is excited to see you at the State Convention!



Blue Ridge Area Officers conducted the opening ceremonies for this year's rally.



State officers held leadership workshops for members during the rally.



Members anxiously awaited the results of the Creed Speaking contest.



FFA Members showed off their self-portraits, an exercise to help them envision their future selves.



Members gathered in the ballroom to gear up for lunch and Ag Reality Town.

CREED SPEAKING

J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA
Jackie Diaz
Winner

EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Turner Ashby FFA
Jacob Craun
Winner

JUNIOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Stuarts Draft Middle FFA
Anna Grace Henderson
Winner

SENIOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Nelson Senior FFA
Abigail Foley
Winner

SMALL ENGINES

Spotswood FFA
Jeremiah Vanhuss
Winner

TRACTOR OPERATORS

Highland FFA
Hunter Colaw
Winner

TRACTOR TROUBLESHOOTING

Broadway FFA
Winning Team



National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Tess Seibel leads a workshop at this year's Southeast Rally.

by Jacob Dinterman – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

During the spring, FFA members from all across the state prepare for the various Career and Leadership Development Events in order to represent their chapters at their Area Rally. This year, the Southeast Area Rally was held at the Southside Virginia Community College in Keysville, Virginia. Leading up to this event, competitors participated in their chapter and federation events in order to qualify to compete at rally. After months of preparation, these members came together to compete for the opportunity to represent their area at the 2020 State Convention in their respective CDEs and LDEs. Along with the various competitions, members were able to attend workshops across campus held by a group of this year's State Officer Team, National Officer Tess Seibel, and multiple community offices and agencies. The workshops allowed the students to develop skills in premier leadership, personal growth, and career readiness while exploring opportunities in future careers. Congratulations to all of the members who were able to attend and participate in this year's Southeast Area Rally!



Rally got underway with opening ceremonies and instructions about contests and workshops.



Hope Showalter and Shelby Stevens led a workshop on advocacy.

- CREED**
Appomattox Middle FFA
 Savannah Jones - *High Individual*
- CROPS**
Randolph-Henry FFA - Winning Team
 Hannah Geesaman - *High Individual*
- EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING**
Powhatan FFA
 Gabriel Martin - *High Individual*
- HIPPOLOGY**
Amelia County FFA - Winning Team
 Savanna Banton - *High Individual*
- JUNIOR AG MECHANICS**
Powhatan FFA - Winning Team
Randolph Henry FFA
 Jason Duffey - *High Individual*
- JUNIOR CROPS**
Charlotte Central Middle FFA - Winning Team
 Emily Geesaman - *High Individual*
- JUNIOR HIPPOLOGY**
Buckingham Middle FFA - Winning Team
 Jenna Oliver - *High Individual*
- PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING**
Amelia County FFA
 Katie Stang - *High Individual*
- SENIOR AG MECHANICS**
Powhatan FFA - Winning Team
 Trey Timberlake - *High Individual*
- SMALL ENGINES**
Appomattox FFA
 Tyler Moore - *High Individual*
- VETERINARY SCIENCES**
Powhatan FFA - Winning Team
Randolph-Henry FFA
 Nathan Michaelson - *High Individual*

Block & Bridle

LIVESTOCK JUDGING AND STOCKMEN'S CONTEST

by Madison Sifford – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

On February 28 and 29, Virginia Tech hosted their annual Block and Bridle Livestock Judging and Stockman's Contest. Both FFA and 4-H members came from all across the state to compete this weekend. On Friday, the Stockman's Contest had over 460 participants. Students were asked to identify tools,

feeds, breeds, and meats. They also had classes of livestock to judge as well as hay and meat classes.

On Saturday, the Judging Contest had over 400 participants with the combined junior and senior teams. The contest had eight classes of lambs, goats, cattle, and hogs. Students have to evaluate the livestock based on the criteria they are given. Then some students chose to give reasons, where they defend their placings to a judge. This contest helps develop quick decision-making skills and public speaking skills. This contest is a great opportunity for students to practice before the State FFA contest, coming up in a few months.

STOCKMAN'S CONTEST RESULTS

TOP JUNIOR TEAM

1st - Augusta County Team A

TOP FIVE JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Landon Marshall - Augusta County Team A
- 2nd - Emory Seal - Augusta County Team A
- 3rd - Emily Vincent - Frederick 4-H Team A
- 4th - Carrie Miller - Wilbur S. Pence Middle School Team A
- 5th - Herschel Hoffeditz - J. Frank Hillyard FFA Team A



TOP TEN INDIVIDUALS IN THE JUNIOR STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

TOP SENIOR TEAM

1st - Montgomery 4-H

TOP FIVE SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Ethan Clouse - Montgomery 4-H
- 2nd - Camille Mitchell - Virginia Beach Livestock Club
- 3rd - Andrew Tuck - Bedford 4-H Livestock Club
- 4th - Ryan Borer - Augusta County 4-H Team A
- 5th - Jesse Zirkle - Shenandoah 4-H Team A



TOP TEN INDIVIDUALS IN THE SENIOR STOCKMAN'S CONTEST

LIVESTOCK JUDGING RESULTS

TOP JUNIOR TEAM

1st - Wythe County 4-H Team A

TOP FIVE JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Grant Grubb - Wythe County 4-H Team A
- 2nd - Emily Vincent - Frederick 4-H
- 3rd - Landon Marshall - Augusta County Team A
- 4th - Sarah Craun - Rockingham 4-H
- 5th - Isabella Taylor - Wythe County 4-H Team A



TOP TEN INDIVIDUALS IN THE JUNIOR ADVANCED JUDGING CONTEST

TOP SENIOR TEAM

1st - Frederick 4-H Team B

TOP FIVE SENIOR INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Chet Boden - James Wood FFA
- 2nd - Jocelynn Whitsel - Huntingdon County Livestock Judging Team A
- 3rd - Isaac Miller - Wythe County 4-H Team A
- 4th - Madison Sifford - Fauquier 4-H Team A
- 5th - Hayley Seabright - Frederick 4-H Team B



TOP TEN INDIVIDUALS IN THE SENIOR ADVANCED JUDGING CONTEST

ALL-STAR Ag Teachers ACROSS VIRGINIA

We can all agree that Virginia agriculture teachers are the best! Whether they are leading a classroom lecture on propagation, helping students discover their own potential through SAEs, or repairing equipment on the school farm, ag teachers are jacks of all trades. We also admire the many late evenings and weekends that agriculture teachers sacrifice for the betterment of their students and for the agriculture industry. This spring, several teachers were honored with the distinction of being named Teacher of the Year in their respective localities. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!



Savannah Jones
Brookville High School
Teacher of the Year



Cindy Green
Lee-Davis High School
Teacher of the Year



John Welsh
J. Frank Hillyard Middle School
Teacher of the Year

VAAE WINTER IN-SERVICE

Teaching Teachers!



Teachers show off their skills in a floral design workshop.



Mr. Ed McCann from Dabney S. Lancaster Community College speaks with teachers about the forestry program and forestry education in Virginia.



Teachers gather for an update from VAAE leaders during the opening session of the Winter In-Service.

The Virginia Association of Agriculture Educators (VAAE) met on January 28 and 29 for the 2020 VAAE Winter In-Service. The event was held at Valley Career and Technical Center in Fishersville, Virginia. During this time, educators from around the state took part in workshops, sessions, and meetings to help them better serve the students in their own communities. During general sessions, teachers received updates from state leaders and from state colleges and universities. In workshops, teachers participated in sessions that would provide additional resources for their classrooms and learned new skills in the Make-It-Take-It workshops. From sheep production to wind turbines and greenhouse misting benches to shop safety, there was something for every program at this year's in-service. We would like to thank our hosts at VCTC, workshop presenters, and attendees for a successful event.



Dr. Phil Fravel of Clemson University guides teachers through an agriculture mechanics workshop.



Teachers have the unique opportunity to collaborate with other teachers to gain ideas and knowledge to take back to their classes.

VIRGINIA TECH Block & Bridle HORSE WEEKEND

by Shelby Stevens – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Sentinel

On February 14 and 15, Virginia FFA members gathered at Virginia Tech’s campus to showcase their knowledge on horse judging and hippology. The Hippology Contest was held Friday afternoon and consisted of students testing their knowledge on a written exam on horse care and ancestry. They also had to identify breeds of horses, equipment, parasites, and different styles of riding. Saturday was the day for horse judging. The day started with registration for horse judging at 6:30 a.m., and then the contest started at 9:00 a.m. The Horse Judging Contest consisted of members judging class followed by giving oral reasons. The FFA members jumped in full force, asserting their best effort in both contests. The weekend concluded with results in Litton Reaves Hall. FFA members agree that B&B Horse Weekend was full of fun times and new experiences.

HIPPOLOGY RESULTS

SENIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Franklin County FFA
Amanda Roberts

HIGH SENIOR TEAM
Culpeper FFA
Cira Fowler, Kate Illemeszy,
Nicole Polome

JUNIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Wilbur S. Pence Middle FFA
Carrie Miller

HIGH JUNIOR TEAM
S. Gordon Stewart Middle FFA
Amy Welcher, Paige Chafin,
Ashley Tutwiler, Lee Kent

HORSE JUDGING RESULTS

SENIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Culpeper FFA
Kate Illemeszy

HIGH SENIOR TEAM
Blacksburg FFA
Jayna Lee, Hannah Wynn, Elsa Hoyt

JUNIOR HIGH INDIVIDUAL
Peter Muhlenberg FFA
Jera Cook

HIGH JUNIOR TEAM
S. Gordon Stewart Middle FFA
Amy Welcher, Paige Chafin,
Lee Kent, Ashley Tutwiler



High Individual in the Junior Hippology Contest, Carrie Miller from Wilbur S. Pence Middle.



High Junior Team in BOTH Horse Judging and Horse Hippology was the team from S Gordon Stewart Middle. Amy Welcher was the high individual for the Junior Horse Judging Contest.



Senior Hippology winning team was from Blacksburg FFA.



High Senior Horse Judging Team was from Culpeper FFA. Kate Illemeszy was the high individual in the senior contest.

(Not Pictured)

Senior Hippology High Individual, Amanda Roberts of Franklin County FFA.



4-H and FFA members were poised to compete in this year’s events.



FFA Members gather around the arena to judge a halter class.

Young Farmers OF VIRGINIA



by Carly Carpenter
VA FFA 2019-2020 State Secretary

On January 24-26, the State Officer Team attended the Young Farmers of Virginia Conference in Natural Bridge, Virginia. The group started off their weekend meeting with National FFA Eastern Region Vice President Tess Seibel to discuss upcoming statewide events. The next morning the group participated in business tours around the surrounding area. They began their morning at Donald's Meat Processing in Lexington, followed by a short visit to Cattlemen's Market. Then, they travelled to Devil's Backbone Brewery for a tour of their facilities. Following their tours, the group travelled back to the historic Natural Bridge Hotel, where they were staying for the weekend. That afternoon, the State Officer Team gave a brief presentation on their trip to Spain and Portugal through the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILSSO). Matt Lohr, Chief of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), addressed the group that evening at dinner. The weekend was an excellent opportunity to meet new people from the agricultural community and to explore the different businesses involved in Virginia agriculture.

Eastern Region Vice President Tess Seibel coaches the state officers through planning for upcoming statewide events.



State President MaKayla Craig gives a welcome at the Young Farmers of Virginia Banquet.



Matt Lohr addresses the group at the Young Farmers of Virginia banquet.



The State Officer Team before dinner.



The State Officer Team toured Donald's Meat Processing in Lexington, Virginia.



The team gave a presentation on their recent ILSSO trip to Spain and Portugal.



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

STATE PARLIAMENTARY *Procedure*

by Kenzie Kline – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Treasurer

The Virginia State Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDEs were held on February 8 at Riverheads High School. In the Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE, FFA members in grades 7 through 9 compete to see how well each team can properly run a chapter meeting. Their knowledge is tested through a written test as well as a mock meeting where members present opening ceremonies and solve a problem using parliamentary procedure.



The **All-State Conduct of Chapter Meetings Team** are as follows:

President – Katie Payne from J. Frank Hillyard
 Secretary – Amanda Everhart from Carroll County
 Vice President – Katie Graham from Carroll County
 Treasurer – Carrie Miller from Wilbur S. Pence
 Reporter – Herschel Hoffeditz from J. Frank Hillyard
 Sentinal – Jackie Diaz from J. Frank Hillyard
 Student Advisor – Ashley Ruleman from Buffalo Gap



The **Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDE** results are as follows:

1st – J. Frank Hillyard Middle
 2nd – Carroll County Middle
 3rd – Broadway
 4th – S. Gordon Stewart Middle
 5th – Buffalo Gap
 6th – Sherando
 7th – Wilbur S. Pence Middle



In the **Parliamentary Procedure LDE**, FFA members are tested on their knowledge of parliamentary procedure and Robert's Rules of Order. They compete by taking a written test and using parliamentary procedure in two rounds of a mock meeting, with different assigned motions and problems in each. The results for the event are as follows:

1st – Broadway
 2nd – Buffalo Gap
 3rd – Fort Defiance

The 1st place teams for the Parliamentary Procedure and Conduct of Chapter Meetings LDEs will have the opportunity to compete at National Convention.
Congratulations to each member that competed for your hard work!

FFA Camp: AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEK

Virginia FFA members share why FFA camp needs to be a part of **your** summer plans.

“Living to Serve” is a line that FFA members know well. At the 2019 FFA Camp, we put this line into action! Members spent an afternoon packing over 8,000 items into 2,200 food packs for local churches’ food pantries in Madison County. We partnered with National FFA and the Virginia FFA Foundation in order to give back to the community. This year, we hope to pass last year’s total and give back even more. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”



DANIEL JUDY
Highland FFA

I wanted to go to Virginia’s FFA camp this year for the leadership experiences, but it surpassed everything I could have expected and more! One of my favorite parts of FFA camp was being able to connect with other members throughout the state, along with getting the opportunity to know the Past and Current State Officers outside the school walls.



DYLAN PRICE
Buckingham FFA

FFA Leadership Camp is probably the single best thing someone can do in their years as an FFA member. It is a week that you will never forget. I met so many great people at camp that I can truly call friends. The week at camp truly teaches you what it means to be an FFA member at its core. You learn unforgettable lessons about leadership and encouragement from the recently retired state officers that will stick with you forever. After all the seriousness, there is plenty of time to have fun as well. I encourage every member to attend FFA Camp at least once. You won’t regret it! (The food is great too by the way! 10/10)



AYLA JANNEY
J. Frank Hillyard FFA

I went to FFA Leadership Camp because I had the opportunity to learn and develop my leadership skills. I was able to present the Creed to everyone at camp, which boosted my confidence and improved my public speaking skills. My favorite part of camp was getting to meet all of the state officers. My best advice to someone who wants to go to camp is, go for it!! The camp experience is so much fun. I was nervous at first but quickly made new friends and loved the chance to disconnect from the outside world for a while. And lastly, don’t forget to bring a sweatshirt and try not to lose it!



SAMANTHA HOLDREN
Smith Mountain FFA

Leadership Camp is the place where I got to reflect on all of the positive changes that the people in blue jackets have made in my life and so many others that are just like me! It was a great place to unplug, still be connected to others, and have a lot of fun. My favorite activity at camp was definitely small groups. I learned so much about myself and the people in the room. It was a really special time. Some of the people from camp have become lifelong friends that I wouldn’t have met otherwise! I would definitely recommend attending FFA Camp; it’s for everyone in a blue jacket!



MAX HEGGMAN
FFA

I enjoyed camp because of the many great memories I made. I met a lot of new people that I still keep in contact with. I enjoyed the beautiful scenery that the camp was set in and the atmosphere while at camp. The food was amazing along with my being able to enjoy my service project. The most memorable part of camp was the FFA pin I received while at camp. Participating in this camp is a memory I will always remember!!



MEMBERS WHO *Envisioned*

2019-2020 State Officer Team

Throughout this year, our team has had the amazing opportunity to meet so many students and members who have truly envisioned a better world.



MaKayla Craig:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

This year, I have met so many members who have embodied this year's theme really well. Through multiple interactions, one member in particular I noticed is a positive light to those around us even in tough times. Whether it was a smile or a hug, she is able to brighten any room. She truly helped me envision a world with more joy!



Hope Showalter:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Reporter

I have met so many members that have inspired me this year. I had the opportunity to meet one particular member who really stood out to me as embodying our theme at State FFA Camp. I've always said that it's important to be vulnerable, but this member showed me what it truly means to put it into action and how important it is to share about the hard times. She helped me see what it means to envision a world where people are willing to be vulnerable about their struggles and successes in order to build a stronger relationship with those around them!



Kenzie Kline:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Treasurer

I'm glad that this year I had the opportunity to meet so many members across Virginia. Each one takes something different out of our state theme, "Envision," but there is one member that inspired me to see how anything is possible when we envision. This young lady is someone I met for the first time at camp. From the first time I met her, to competitions, or the county fair, it's very evident how much of a hard worker she is, especially for a middle schooler. She's also very passionate about everything she does and FFA. She's taught me that when we combine our passions and hard work anything is possible. She has helped me to envision big things, because anything is possible and the sky's the limit!



Madison Sifford:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

I never would have thought I would have the opportunity to meet so many amazing members this year. What is so special about our theme, "Envision," is that many people embody this theme daily without even knowing it. I had the chance to meet one young lady through my travels that truly represented "Envision." While she was only in the seventh grade, she had BIG plans for her future. She talked about what she saw in the future, not just for herself but for the world. She knew that there was a chance to make things better for the people around her, and she was determined to succeed. She showed me that with a little bit of hope and determination whatever you envision can become a reality.



Ryan Gobble:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

Over the course of this year I had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet many outstanding FFA members while traveling the Commonwealth. Throughout my travels I kept running into one young lady who embodied our state theme, "Envision." From camp to FFA Week and all the meetings in between, she always had a smile on her face and a positive attitude. As a middle schooler, she has shown me how to always keep a smile on my face and be my true self. This member helped me to envision a world where everyone is willing to be their authentic self.



Shelby Stevens:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Sentinel

Through many interactions with members this year, I met one member who really lived the life of envisioning. My first interaction with her was during FFA Week when we went to a federation event at a trampoline park. It was a great time, and I especially enjoyed the foam pits, though, I jumped in and got completely stuck. This member was standing to the side waiting for her turn to jump in. When she saw I was stuck, she came to my rescue before I even knew it! Though it was just a simple gesture, this middle school member was half of my size. But she envisioned going in full force on an obstacle that was way bigger than she was. I strive to envision as she did, and I strive to have the courage she did!



Jacob Dinterman:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

There's one member in particular that I think of that practically lives "Envision" almost 24/7. This student devotes her time to not only her school work but also to her work life and countless hours to community service while always keeping a smile on her face. She not only envisions how to better herself but her community as a whole. Her constant devotion to others is extremely admirable; she never fails to impress me.



Carly Carpenter:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Secretary

This past year, I've been lucky to meet so many amazing individuals who embody everything that our theme is all about: determination, charisma, and action. I was fortunate to meet one particular young man during National FFA Week, who lives and breathes the word "Envision." Through the short time we had together, I was inspired by his determination and drive to reach his goals. His passion and energy were contagious. I have no doubt in my mind that he will grow to become an amazing leader, and I wouldn't be surprised if we saw him on TV one day working on Capitol Hill.



Erin Orgen:

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Vice President

"Envision" is a word that can be defined in many ways. This one member that I was fortunate enough to meet creates his own definition. He shows kindness to all and devotes many hours to his chapter. Not only is he active with the members at his school but is widely known around his county and state. "Envision" to him goes beyond believing, but actually achieving. Everything comes from the kindness of his heart. There is no doubt about it that this student is truly stellar!