

Vision of Virginia

WINTER 2018



State Officers Claire Seibel and Ethan Jackson with First Lady Pamela Northam at the State Winning Garden



State Officers Ethan Jackson and Claire Seibel with Governor Ralph Northam and Jeremy Johnson - VA 4H State Program Leader



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BASE & FFA CAMP

by **Claire Seibel**
VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

Many of us share the common experience of sitting in a crowd riveted to the words of those we consider great leaders. It could have been at a workshop, during a keynote address, during a lecture of a well-respected teacher, or while watching YouTube, but regardless of the details of circumstance, we wondered how did this person, this leader, get to where they are today? How do we train trainers? How do leaders acquire the knowledge, skill, and experience to become effective?

We find some of these answers in the FFA. This summer many of our members and officers trained to become better, more effective leaders as they took part in some of the incredible opportunities Virginia FFA provides.

Only days after the gavel tap rang out in Burruss Hall, signaling the end of the 92nd Virginia State FFA Convention, the 2018-2019 officer team traveled to Winchester for a leadership training intensive called Base Camp, which is a newly revised foundational leadership curriculum developed by National FFA that state officers across the nation participate in. Our Virginia team worked with past national FFA officer Joenelle Futrell as they dove into topics including self-discovery and assessment, levels of leadership, perceptions and reality, diversity and inclusion, project management, effective communication, and workshop facilitation. With an arsenal of leadership knowledge, the

team moved forward to the greatest leadership event of the summer.

For many of our members, the place that forms leaders is set in rural mountains in central Virginia. Each year at Graves Mountain Lodge, we come together for seeing old friends and making new ones, for some of the most incredible food found at any FFA event, for stepping out of our comfort zones, seeking opportunity, and for leadership training at the FFA Leadership Camp. This year over one hundred members attended agricultural skills workshops and leadership workshops conducted by the newly retired state officer team and advisors. Meanwhile, the newly elected State Officer Team underwent State Officer Facilitation Training conducted by James River agriculture teacher; Zach Wakeman. Both parties unconsciously transformed while, under the guise of dances, bonfires, swimming, and writing happy grams, they formed life-altering, deep connections with each other, learned effective communication, and inspired each other to become their best selves.

With joyful memories, motivated hearts, and inspired minds, the summer's leadership opportunities gave way to school halls, chapter meetings, and busy programs of activities. Although the shadows of evening draw a curtain closed on the events themselves, we retain the motivation and experience to become those sorts of leaders we listen to with awe. We now look forward to the impact of all of us, the thousands of leaders in Virginia FFA, and hope to see you July 8-12, 2019, for this year's Leadership Camp.

UPCOMING events

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

26-29: Virginia Farm Bureau Convention
(Indianapolis, IN)

FEBRUARY

16-24: National FFA Week

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STATE OFFICER Summit

by Kendall Knicely
VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary

In July, the Virginia FFA State Officer team had the privilege to attend the first ever State Officer Summit in Washington, DC, where they learned how to tell their FFA story, advocate for FFA and agriculture, and use their voice to represent Virginia FFA. At this conference, there were over 300 State Officers present from all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico. Delegate work was also started and voted on to determine what will be discussed at National FFA Convention and Expo in October. The Virginia FFA State Officers are ecstatic about being strong advocates for Virginia FFA by using their voices for our members, advisors, and organization. We look forward to this year and what it holds for Virginia FFA!



Fall CONFERENCES

by Kendall Knicely
VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary

The Virginia FFA State Officers had the privilege to attend and facilitate workshops about FFA 101, Service, CDEs/LDEs, How to Create a Rocking Speech, and Relationships at the South Ridge FFA Leadership Conference, Appalachian Area Leadership Conference, and Northern Area Leadership Rally over the past two months. On behalf of the State Officer Team, we would like to thank all members and chapters for being so welcoming and inspiring! Thanks for some awesome days of workshops, laughs, and fellowship!



2018 VIRGINIA FFA State Fair



by Matthew Myers
VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

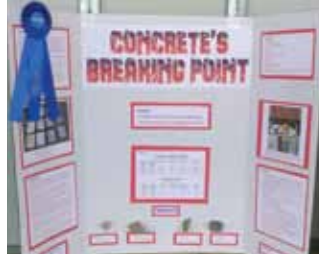
Our members did not disappoint while putting their knowledge to the test as they competed in various contests at the Virginia State Fair. We kicked off events at the state fair on Friday, September 28, 2018. FFA Members participated in many CDEs during the week including: Dairy Handling, Tractor Troubleshooting, Forestry Field Day, Forestry, and many more. FFA exhibitors brought the best of the best in the show ring whether it was showing lambs, goats, pigs, cattle, or horses. The state fair brought an atmosphere like no other for FFA members and their families.



AGRICIENCE DEMONSTRATION
Shaelyn Frey
1st Place Junior
Louisa FFA



AGRICIENCE DEMONSTRATION
Savanna Goodwin, Kaylen Snead
1st Place Senior
Louisa FFA



AGRICIENCE FAIR POSTER
Thomas Woolfolk
1st Place Junior
Louisa 4H Wildlife Explorer FFA



AGRICIENCE FAIR POSTER
Jackson Lohr, Heidi Messerley
1st Place Senior
Broadway FFA



CROPS

Tom Hardiman - Virginia Crop Improvement, Justin Higginbotham, Grace Huffman, Trent Umbarger, Daniel Campbell, Jerry Rogers - Virginia Crop Improvement, Coach - Lauren Goff (not pictured)
1st Place Junior Team
Nelson County Middle FFA



CROPS

(front) 2nd - Mason Hamlett, 6th - Sarah Mason, 7th - Wesley Anders, 9th - Kandace Rutledge, 10th - Hayden Hedrick, (back) 1st - Grace Huffman, 3rd - Justin Higginbotham, 4th - Daniel Campbell, 5th - Ben Geesaman, 8th - Gracen Ogburn (not pictured)
Top 10 Junior



CROPS

Tom Hardiman - Virginia Crop Improvement, Grace Geesaman, Tyler Mason, Austin Geesaman, Hannah Geesaman, Jerry Rogers - Virginia Crop Improvement, Coach - Jim Pugh (not pictured)
1st Place Senior Team
Ralph Henry FFA



CROPS

(front) 1st - Hannah Geesaman, 2nd - Austin Geesaman, 3rd - Emma Hockman, 4th - Fletcher Clark, 5th - Jonathan Ames, (back) 6th - Shyann Jordan, 7th - Mindi Freed (not pictured), 8th - Faith Dellinger (not pictured), 9th - Chase Perkins, 10th - Matthew Hartley
Top 10 Senior



JUNIOR DAIRYMEN'S

Jacqueline Diaz, Herschel Hoffeditz, Elliot Messerley, Stephanie, Schweigert
1st Place Junior Team
J Frank Hillyard FFA



JUNIOR DAIRYMEN'S

1st - Hayley Daubert, 2nd - Herschel Hoffeditz, 3rd - Emily Vincent, 4th - Jackson Kelly, 5th - Stephanie Schweigert, 6th - Madilyn Adkins, 7th - Kaydan Shomaker, 8th - Carrie Miller, 9th - Jenna Wolf, 10th - Mary Rothgeb
Top 10 Junior



JUNIOR DAIRYMEN'S

Rachel Craun, Jacob Craun, Arlie Eye, Paul Craun
1st Place Senior Team
Rockingham FFA



JUNIOR DAIRYMEN'S

1st - Colton Allison, 2nd - Mallory Painter, 3rd - Emma Seekford, 4th - Emily Orgen, 5th - Regan Jackson, 6th - Elizabeth Goodwin, 7th - Rachel Craun, 8th - Mattea Krejci, 9th - Raven Funkhouser, 10th - Grace Fravel
Top 10 Senior



FORESTRY FIELD DAY

Tom Snoodly - Forester, Eric Nichols, Nicholas Mundy, Pearson Lipscomb, Wes Poore, Chase Rosso, Jake Beck, Drew Newcomb (not pictured)
1st Place Junior Team
King William FFA



FORESTRY FIELD DAY

Caleb Shook, Noah Tombs, Charlie Taylor, Dustin Perkins, Joseph Layne, Devin Letterman, Chandler Newcomb, Tom Snoodly - Forester
1st Place Senior Team
Randolph Henry FFA



JUNIOR FORESTERS

Jack Rodgers, Kelsy Fitzgerald, Cole Morris, Colt Mauer, Coach - Cole Ramsey
Top Senior Team
Nelson County FFA



JUNIOR FORESTERS

(front) 1st - Kelsey Fitzgerald, 2nd - Alyssa Vass (not pictured), 3rd - Tanner Roach, 4th - Jake Huffman, 5th - Jack Newton, (back) 6th - Clay Coleman, 7th - Jack Rodgers, 8th - Jack Hammock, 9th - Hunter McRay, 10th - Jordan Winald (not pictured)
Top 10 Senior



GARDEN
State Winner
Spotsylvania FFA



HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION
Mackenzie Blackwell, Cheyenne Clifton
1st Place
Buffalo Gap FFA



LAWN TRACTOR OPERATORS
SAFETY
Tommy Lamb
1st Place
Ailee FFA



SMALL ENGINES
James Grimshaw
1st Place
Lord Botetourt FFA



TRACTOR TROUBLE SHOOTING
John Haile, Ethan Cutright
1st Place Team
King William FFA

FOOD Science

On September 25th five teams competed in the Food Science Career Development Event at Virginia Tech. In this contest FFA members test their knowledge of food science and apply their skills to practical situations. This year's first place team is from the Turner Ashby FFA Chapter, with team members Krystalyn Hassett, Jacob Craun, Paul Craun and Shelvin Arey. Congratulations to all who participated.



FOOD SCIENCE CDE

Krystalyn Hassett, Jacob Craun, Paul Craun, and Shelvin Arey
1st Place Team
Turner Ashby FFA

BIG E

by Nathan McDonald
VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

The Big E is a multi-state exposition that allows FFA members to compete in various Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events among other things. Our members represented us in 10 events with the following results:

- Ag Mechanics: 5th Place - Lord Botetourt FFA
- Agriscience Fair: Gold Rating – Ryleigh Travers - Clarke County FFA
- Agronomy: 5th Place plus Layla Scott 3rd High Individual - Rustburg FFA
- Creed Speaking: 2nd Place - Makayla Bryant - EW Wyatt FFA
- Environmental & Natural Resources: 2nd Place plus 3rd High Individual – Wade Reiter - Dinwiddie FFA
- Forestry: 4th Place plus Colby Lowery 4th High Individual - Powhatan FFA
- Horse Evaluation: 3rd Place plus Sarah Shinault 3rd High Individual, Sam Levine 5th High Individual, and Kaylie Green 9th High Individual - Smith Mountain FFA
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking: 4th Place Jordan Winall - Powhatan FFA
- Prepared Public Speaking: 6th Place Ruth Fitzgerald - Nelson County FFA
- Milk Quality: 3rd Place plus Kaitlyn Spittler 9th High Individual - Clarke County FFA

When not competing in these events, our members enjoyed their time learning about New England agriculture. They had the opportunity to learn these things through the “State House,” which showcased agricultural commodities in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Also, the State Officer Team had the opportunity to advocate for agriculture in the “Farm-A-Rama” building which housed interactive exhibits to teach others about the agriculture industry. These exhibits included a farm-to-table walk-through, live animals, and other booths showcasing various aspects of agriculture.



WHAT IF?

2018-2019
THEME

by Claire Seibel
VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

What if? It is a question we all ask. It is a question dressed in a multitude of ways, clothed in tones of regret, wonder, or excitement, and it is a question we ask Virginia FFA this year.

We can think about our what-ifs as we reflect on our personal journeys. *What if I never took that first ag class? What if I did not zip up the jacket? What if the leaders who inspire me and shaped me were not a part of my life?* These types of questions extract a deep-seated motivation within us as we realize we are not here by a matter of circumstance and we have the power to shape others' lives in the same ways people shaped our own.

What if can signal hazy doubts or burning anger. *What if I did not experience my hardships? What if I was not so shy? What if I was cooler, had more money, had better opportunities ...* We all ask those questions. However, we now challenge all of us to use these as fuel for positive change because each one of us can make a difference, not despite our challenges, but because we have them. We embrace our what-ifs to make us stronger.

What if is exalting as we think of the future. *What if the world was exactly what I wanted it to be? What if I could be anything, leave any legacy I wanted? What if I took that extra step and stepped outside my comfort zone, pushed a little harder, dreamed a little bigger?* We find the power and spirit to soar past limits and expectations in these what-ifs. With that in mind, we invite you to ask yourself, **What if?**



THROUGH THE *Lens* OF A STATE OFFICER



Claire Seibel

VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

Though the sunrise this morning faded into a beautiful summer day, no matter how many times I go to our nation’s capital, this statue leaves me speechless. While none of us can truly comprehend the struggles felt by foot soldiers in the Vietnam War, this memorial teaches us a lot about leadership and sacrifice. These teenagers, embrowned here and representing thousands more, were nameless to the nation as a whole. Often our leadership must share the same reality. Though our sacrifices pale in comparison, as leaders we cannot yield to complacency or put our personal comforts before the good of the people we serve. We must remember our mission, whatever it may be, and strive for the selfless servitude these young men demonstrated. To grow as leaders and make a difference, we must be willing to sacrifice. What if all of us, as leaders, worked selflessly for each other?



Ethan Jackson

VA FFA 2018-2019 President

“The rising sun is the token of a new era in agriculture ...”. Although to many it may just be words of opening ceremonies, this year I’ve learned to look at each rising sun as a new opportunity to create a new era in agriculture. As leaders we’re called to not wait for someone else to give us an opportunity to create a positive change. With each rising sun we have the chance to better our chapters, communities, and world. In August, I met a young man named Cody. Cody wasn’t afraid to start a new era; Bold, brave, and confident, he started a Bible club at his school. He didn’t wait to follow someone else’s lead. He stepped up and followed his heart. He planted a seed that will continue to grow long after he leaves middle school and will produce countless acorns, those acorns being more seeds planted within other people, causing a tremendous ripple effect. Each day we have the opportunity to create a positive change in the world. I hope his example will encourage others to look at the rising sun as a daily opportunity to create a new era in agriculture within our school and communities!!



Kendall Knicely

VA FFA 2018-2019 Secretary

When I was little, I always looked in my dad’s closet and saw an old, blue jacket with his name stitched on it in gold cursive. I often wondered what it was, and why he had it in his closet. When I finally asked, he told me that it was an FFA jacket, and explained what FFA was; I knew that one day, I too would get an awesome blue jacket with my name on it! What I didn’t know at the time is that my dad planted a tiny seed of excitement for FFA and agriculture in my head and led me to join my middle school FFA chapter. My Dad had an impact on me, but at the time, I didn’t realize it. As FFA members, we know that FFA can change lives; what we may not realize, is that we can change lives too! Every day, we have a chance to have an impact on someone’s life. How we impact them, in a good, bad, big, or small way, is up to us. How will you impact someone’s life today?

Nathan McDonald

VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

This picture was taken at the Tidal Basin in Washington, DC on one of the last nights of the State Officer Summit. As over 300 State Officers stood talking about the leaders we had just witnessed in the monuments we visited, this monument stood tall in the background. When we think of George Washington, we think of him as the first President of our great nation. But, seldom do we think about the leadership he had during those trying times. Washington stepped up to lead a brand-new nation in its first few years of existence. Now, Washington is forever remembered for his bravery and courage to step up in times of uncertainty. He taught us that even when times are uncertain, we have to step up to lead those around us.



Matthew Myers

VA FFA 2018-2019 Vice President

It is the oldest of things that make us stand back and truly cherish something more than we did already. It was this piece of equipment, which at one point was a true marvel of its time, that made me have this realization. We sometimes look at things of the past with a quick glance and no thought, but it was this piece of equipment that made me realize that we are not so far removed as we think we are. This motor grader was a vital piece of equipment to someone not so long ago. There are things that change over the years but some things truly never do. While this motor grader was used to smooth gravel roads, there are still motor graders today doing the same job. We realize some things never change, and that's okay. However, as things become more sophisticated and complex, let us not forget the simplicity from which we were once made.



Ruth Fitzgerald

VA FFA 2018-2019 Treasurer

The minute I came home from a busy weekend at the fair, some of my family was in the car ready to leave for a hike. At first, I was reluctant to go with them, but then decided I needed to hop in the car and go spend some time with my family. When we got to the trail, we talked, laughed, and hiked our way to Crabtree Falls. As we reached the top, all we could hear was the clear water rushing over the edge of the mountain and all we could see ahead of us were the Blue Ridge Mountains wrapped in the cool evening fog. As I marveled at the mystical beauty of it all, the sound of the water reminded me of the rush and busyness of life that can take over and steal our energy, enthusiasm, and focus if we let it. Sometimes we need to get away from the busyness of life and spend some time clearing our minds and perhaps let ourselves focus back on the natural beauty around us so that we can continue to give of ourselves to live, serve, and love wholeheartedly.



Newlin Humphrey

VA FFA 2018-2019 Reporter

Though the sunrise this morning faded into a beautiful summer day, the memories made at the Virginia FFA Leadership Camp left a permanent mark on my heart. On the final morning we all walked to the top of the hill to catch a glimpse of the painted sky while we reflected on the best week of the summer. A lifetime of connections, personal growth, purpose, defining moments, laughter, and happy grams all packed into five of the most meaningful days that I ever experienced as an FFA member. As we all sit beneath the rising sun, we are brought into the glorious sunlight of self-discovery.



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

Katherine Thompson

VA FFA 2018-2019 Sentinel

Adventure awaits those who seek it, and with it come endless experiences and memories! Throughout life's adventures, we face many adversaries and at times we may become lost or stranded along the way. I myself faced many challenges my first year away from home, but throughout that adventure I always had my roots to return to. My family, friends, and support network were there time and time again, exactly when I needed them. Experiencing these struggles and strifes during our journeys allows us all to grow as individuals and appreciate what we are blessed with. Just like this road, leading towards a new destination on the adventure we get to call our life, take that first step into the unknown and remember: we never really think about what lies ahead on that road in front of us, but we always know where we've already been and where we come from.



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