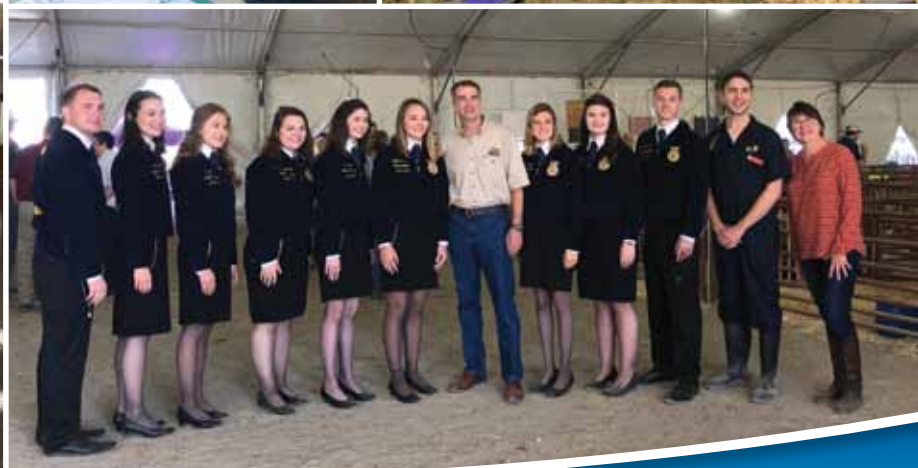


Vision of Virginia

WINTER 2019



CONTENTS

- B** YOUNG FARMERS SUMMER EXPO
- C** MEDIA TRAINING & USDA FAS TOURS
- D** STEAMING AHEAD WITH AG ED
- E** FALL AREA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES
- G** BIG E
- I** STATE FOOD SCIENCE
- J** STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA
- M** FFA STATE OFFICER SUMMIT
- N** STATE OFFICER HIGHLIGHT

UPCOMING events

DECEMBER 2019

3-7: NAAE Convention

JANUARY 2020

2-16: State Officer International Experience (ILSSO)

JANUARY 2020

24-26: Young Farmers of Virginia in Natural Bridge, VA

FEBRUARY 2020

21-23: Farm Bureau Young Farmers Conference

FEBRUARY 2020

22-29: National FFA Week

YOUNG FARMERS Summer EXPO

JULY 26-28, 2019

by MaKayla Craig – VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

Right after the State Officer Summit, the State Officer Team traveled to Shenandoah and Frederick Counties for the Young Farmers Summer Expo. During this event, the State Officers had the opportunity to learn about the different types of agriculture in our state. From vineyards, orchards, and dairy farms, they saw it all! At the event, State Vice President Ryan Gobble competed in The Outstanding Young Agriculturalist Competition. While

there, he spoke about the importance of advocating for agriculture.

At the Expo, there were speakers from Japan and Canada who spoke about international agriculture and the importance of trade.

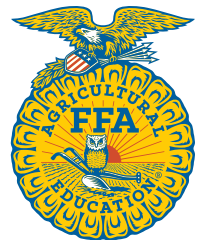
As the summer comes to a close, the State Officers have had an amazing experience and are excited for what is in store for them next!



The state officers met with Jason Brown, a former NFL football player who is now a sweet potato farmer.



On the cover: Mr. Dewese, Principal, and FFA members Faith Settle and Regan Hall with the Virginia Secretary of Education Atif Qami visiting Lord Botetourt.



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Kline
Treasurer

Hope
Showalter
Reporter

Shelby
Stevens
Sentinel

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State officers pictured with VDACS Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Jewel Bronaugh.



State officers spent the day with Andrew Smith and other members of the Virginia Farm Bureau team.

Media Training AND USDA FAS TOURS

by Carly Carpenter – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Secretary

The end of August was action-packed for the State Officer Team. For three days, the state officers worked to learn more about our state agricultural leadership, the media, and international agricultural affairs. On August 19th, the team traveled to Richmond, Virginia, and met with Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Bettina Ring and the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Jewel Bronaugh. They discussed Virginia agriculture and current agricultural issues.

The following day, the state officers traveled to the Virginia Farm Bureau, where they learned about lobbying, social media, and what it takes to be an advocate for agriculture. Later that day, the state officers learned more about media interviews and even got the chance to practice interviewing in front of a television camera! The skills that the state officers learned through this experience will help them with future interviews with the media.



State officers on the steps of the Virginia General Assembly. It was a very sunny day!

on activities. The team toured the facilities alongside representatives from all around the world, including China, Germany, and Russia.

Following their tour, the group joined the representatives for a “classic American” lunch of hamburgers and BBQ chicken and had time to converse with the international representatives. State Secretary Carly Carpenter had the opportunity to address the group about the National FFA Organization, Virginia agriculture, and her time in the Agriculture Production Program at Massanutten Technical Center.

Over the course of those three days, the officer team gained insight into our government and its ties to agriculture. The information they learned through this experience will aid them in becoming strong, passionate advocates for the agricultural industry and our organization.



State officers pose for a picture during their visit with Virginia Secretary of Agriculture Bettina Ring.

On August 20th, the team traveled to Valley View Farms in Rockingham County, Virginia, as part of the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service Virginia Farm Tours. Valley View Farms is part of Massanutten Technical Center’s Agriculture Production class. The class allows students to meet on-site at the farm to learn about farm management using hands-



State Secretary Carly Carpenter speaking to representatives of the International Poultry Buyers group that visited Rockingham County.

STEAMing AHEAD WITH AgED

TEACHERS MEET FOR THE ANNUAL VAAE SUMMER CONFERENCE

by Alison Jones – VAAEA

Ever wonder what your agriculture teacher is up to all summer? For one week ag teachers from across the state attend the VAAE Summer Conference. Ag teachers are lifelong learners. Taking advantage of professional development activities allows teachers to become better and more informed for the students they teach. This year's conference was held in Roanoke, Virginia, and followed the theme of "STEAMing Ahead with AgEd." The workshops and tours offered gave teachers the chance to learn more about how to incorporate STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) into their classrooms, laboratories, and shops. Some of those experiences included drones, school farms, floral design, learning how to teach with humor, and touring the Carter Caterpillar facility.



Broadway Advisor Mr. Herb Hoffedietz practices on the Lawn Tractor Operator's course at this year's Ag Teacher Ag Olympics.

VAAE conference also gives members an opportunity to be recognized for their achievements professionally and within the organization. At this year's awards banquet, Dr. Jessica Jones from Tunstall High School was named the Outstanding Teacher. Mrs. Dani Hodges from Appomattox Middle School was recognized as the Outstanding Early Career Teacher, and the Appomattox High School Agricultural Department was named the Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Department.



Members gather for the retired teachers' reception at the Homeplace Restaurant in Catawba, Virginia.

Special recognition was given to retirees Mr. Ronald Daughtrey of Lakeland High School, who was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Mr. RJ Nobblitt of Madison County High School, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Service Citation. We wish both of these outstanding educators a wonderful and relaxing retirement.

Next year's conference will be held in Suffolk in the Southeast Area with VAAE President Ms. Teresa Lindberg presiding. A special "thank you" to VAAE Past-President Dr. Jessica Jones, the South Ridge Area teachers, and the VAAE Officer Team who planned this year's conference.



Outstanding Secondary Agriculture Education Program—Appomattox High School Agriculture Education Department. The Appomattox team was also named the Region VI outstanding program.



Outstanding Service Citation – Mr. RJ Nobblitt



Lifetime Achievement Award – Mr. Ron Daughtrey



45-Year Tenure Award and 47 years in agriculture education – Mr. Oliver Bennett



Fall Area LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES



by Kenzie Kline – VA FFA 2019-2020 State Treasurer

In the fall each area holds area leadership conferences. The State Officer Team as well as other individuals had the opportunity to present workshops at these conferences. The State Officer Team was able to present a variety of workshops covering different topics to help FFA members grow as individuals. The goal of these workshops is to build the leadership skills of members to prepare them to serve their own chapters and communities. Many members have attended these conferences and will represent this organization well in the upcoming year.

The Southridge Area COLT, or Chapter Officer Leadership Training, was held on September 4th at Liberty

High School. While there, the state officers presented workshops on team building and chapter offices. We look forward to seeing how these chapter officers work together this year.

The Northern Area Leadership Workshop was held on September 17th at Signal Knob Middle School. The state officers presented workshops on public speaking, resolving conflict, how to navigate the POA (program of activities), learning opening ceremonies, how to be a good FFA member, and how to develop your SAE. Other FFA members, FFA advisors, and individuals also presented workshops that helped to develop personal growth and agriculture awareness.



The state officers led a workshop titled “Speak Up: Growing Your Public Speaking Skills.”



The state officers lead an ice breaker before beginning the Blue Ridge Area COLT.



Hope Showalter poses with Turner Ashby FFA members at the Blue Ridge COLT.



The Appalachian Area COLT's theme was "Driven."



Students at the Appalachian Area COLT pose for a photo during a workshop on professionalism.



Shelby Stevens pictured with members of the Dinwiddie FFA Chapter at the Southeast Area COLT.

The Appalachian Area Leadership Conference was held on September 18th at the Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA. The workshops that the team presented were "Acceptance of Others" and "How to be an 'Ag'vocate." Members were also able to participate in workshops presented by the Virginia FFA Foundation, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, and Virginia Tech.

The Blue Ridge Area COLT was held on September 24th at Buffalo Gap High School. The State Officer Team presented workshops on the duties of a chapter officer. The officers there split into groups based on their office in which they were able to learn more about the duties they will have to assume in the upcoming year.

The Southeast Area COLT was held on September 25th at Dinwiddie High School. While there, the state officers presented workshops on diversity, agriculture advocacy, and public speaking. These workshops developed personal growth and will help members to serve their chapters.

The Central Area COLT was held on October 15th at Courtland High School. The state officers had the opportunity to teach the members there how to grow their chapters by presenting a workshop on the topic. We look forward to seeing what the members will do in the future with their chapters and the growth that is to come.



Madison Sifford working with a group of students on goal setting.



Hope Showalter visiting with members at the Southeast Area COLT.

BIG E

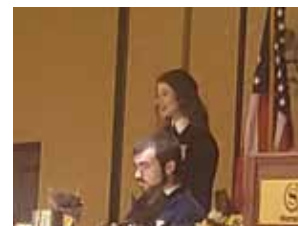
by MaKayla Craig
VA FFA 2019-2020 State President

Virginia FFA members competed at the Big E in Springfield, Massachusetts, from September 12th to 15th. Students had the opportunity to walk around the fairgrounds, visit exhibits, and compete in CDEs. The Virginia FFA State Officers volunteered to serve as timekeepers and test proctors. Virginia had numerous teams competing in junior and senior CDE events. We finished off the week with an awards banquet featuring guest speaker Jordan Stowe, National FFA Southern Region Vice President. Erin Orgen, State Vice President, participated in the Opening Ceremonies as Reporter for the awards banquet alongside state officers from across the country. Congratulations to everyone who competed!

While at the Big E, MaKayla Craig, State President, had the opportunity to represent Virginia as an intern at the Big E. She had the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the fair and how to set up, organize contests, and learn other skills relating to an agricultural fair. MaKayla was an intern with fellow state presidents from New York, Maine, Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. During the fair she job-shadowed multiple employees of the Big E. Before the hundreds of FFA Members arrived at the fair, MaKayla and her fellow interns gathered supplies and organized the many components of the various Career and Leadership Development Events that were held at the multi-state fair. We are thankful that she was able to gain more skills to bring back to the Virginia FFA Association.



MaKayla Craig serving on the Big E Color Guard during fair events.



State Vice President Erin Orgen delivering opening ceremonies during the awards banquet.



AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Silver Winner
R.E. Aylor FFA
Addie Wallin.



AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Silver Winner
Turner Ashby FFA
Loren Satterwhite.



AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Silver Winner
Carroll County FFA
Hannah Snow.



AGRONOMY (CROPS)
2nd Place Team Overall
Central FFA

Jacob Walters 7th, Trey French 8th, and Parker Sheetz 9th.



ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

4th High Team Overall
James River FFA

Morgan Marshall, Ellie Holter—2nd High Individual, Ainsley Simmons, and Andrew Newcomb.



FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

1st Place Team
Riverheads FFA

Team members: Kevin Myrtle, Hannah Eavers, Bella Eavers, Kessler Donald. 1st Place Team, Hannah Eavers 1st, Bella Eavers 3rd, and Kessler Donald 7th.



FOOD SCIENCE

5th Place Team
Broadway FFA

Team members: Abby Coleman, Ava Showalter, Austin Funk, Megan Conley.



FORESTRY

3rd Place Team
Powhatan FFA

Team members: Colby Lowery 4th, Jordan Winall 8th, Trey Timberlake, and Joe Manderbaugh.



HORSE JUDGING

2nd High Team Overall
Powhatan FFA

Team members: Kayla Markwith, William Cumbea, Kaylynn Lipford 6th, Alex Holliday 9th.



LIVESTOCK JUDGING

4th High Team
James Wood FFA

Hayley Seabright—1st High Individual, Hannah Davis—4th High Individual, Lacey Snyder, Gracey Snyder.



MARKETING PLAN

2nd High Team Overall
Magna Vista FFA

Team members: Sydney Cruise, Jasmine Hamlet, Claudia Phillips.



MILK QUALITY AND PRODUCTS

2nd Place Team Overall
Central FFA

Team members: Cheyanne Jordan, Sierra Miller, Ashley Bushong, Emma Hockman—2nd High Individual.



NURSERY LANDSCAPE

*3rd Place Team
James Wood FFA*

Grace Lilly, Caitlin Garis—7th High Individual, Oliva Schick, and Chase McCubbin.



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

*5th Place Team Overall
Buffalo Gap FFA*

Jason Teter, Laurel Graham, Tristain Grimm, Mckenzie Blackwell, Katherine Redifer, Kelsie Puffenbarger, and Grace Rexrode.



POULTRY EVALUATION

*1st Place Team
Broadway FFA*

Austin Funk, William Zerkel, Bethany Gentry, and Jesse Earhart.



PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

1st Place Winner

*Massanutten Technical Center FFA
Carly Carpenter.*



TRACTOR OPERATORS

5th Place Winner

*William Monroe FFA
Brice Norford.*



VET SCIENCE

*2nd High Individual
Randolph-Henry FFA*

Team members: Hannah Goldman, Lilian Jubb, Nathan Michaelson—2nd High Individual, and Callie Tharpe.

2019 STATE *Star* CONTEST COMPETITORS



LOGAN MILLS
CHATHAM FFA

MAEVE DAVIS
CLARKE COUNTY FFA

WALKER BOWMAN
CENTRAL FFA

JOSH POWERS
SMITH MOUNTIAN FFA



Virginia delegation at the awards reception.

STATE Food Science

by Shelby Stevens

VA FFA 2019-2020 State Sentinel

On September 19th, the State Food Science contest was held at Virginia Tech. This year the contest grew to six teams, including many of whom have never participated in the contest before. Each team started with a multiple choice test, followed by a short answer math test. After that, each team traveled around six stations in the HABB1 building on Virginia Tech's campus. The stations consisted of the teams, identifying different aromas and grains, creating a new food with nutrition facts, presenting their new product to judges, and many more in-depth activities.

At the end of the event the results were announced. Herhsal Hofiditz from J. Frank Hillyard Middle School was the top individual, and the team from Broadway High School was the first-place team. They will go on to represent Virginia as they compete at National Convention in October. Without the help of Kim Waterman and her grad students the competition would have been impossible. We look forward to next year's competition and hope to see many new faces!



State President MaKayla Craig, Jackson Lohr, Austin Funk, Mollie Coleman, Joy Bergan, Contest Coordinator Kim Waterman, and State Sentinel Shelby Stevens.



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2019 STATE FAIR OF Virginia



by Jacob Dinterman – VA FFA 2019-2020 Vice President
by Ryan Gobble – VA FFA 2019-2020 Vice President

The State Fair of Virginia was held this past fall, September 26th-October 6th in Doswell, Virginia. Over 2,000 FFA members from across the state of Virginia came to compete in various Career Development Events, ranging anywhere from Junior Dairyman's to Horticulture Demonstrations.



State officers had the opportunity to meet Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and speak with him about opportunities in agriculture.

Wrenches and Ruminants!

On the first Friday, members competed in the Safe Lawn Tractor Operator, Small Engine Troubleshooting, Tractor Troubleshooting, and Junior Dairyman's Career Development Events. During the Safe Tractor Operator's Competition, participants were required to take a test based on regulations and common knowledge within the landscaping industry. Along with the test, competitors identified a collection of lawn tractor parts and operated a lawn tractor through a very challenging obstacle course. During the Small Engine Troubleshooting event, students take a test created to challenge their knowledge of the components of the small engine. Participants are given a

small engine that has been intentionally "bugged" that they will have to fix after identifying the possible problems. In the Tractor Troubleshooting CDE, the top team from each area is chosen to compete. The competition begins with a test created with topics ranging from tractor safety to the components of a diesel engine. The teams are each given fifteen minutes at each of the various tractors around the room to find the two issues created by the judges. Finally, students draw tractors and have a set amount of time to fix their tractor's bugs to the best of their ability. In the Junior Dairyman's competition, competitors completed a written exam, identified different dairy-related equipment, feeds, and food products, and judged two classes of animals.

Logs, Saws, and Applause!

On Tuesday, chapters from all around the state came to compete for the Forestry Field Day event held every year at the State Fair. Members competed in the five competitions in order to gain points towards their chapter's score. Members were able to compete in the Waterpack, Log Roll, Log Toss, Bow Saw, and Crosscut Saw competitions. At the end, both the top individuals and chapters were recognized for their hard work! These competitions give students insight into the forestry industry and inspire the new generation of hardworking foresters!

Participation Through Demonstration

On Wednesday, members from all across Virginia came to show off their knowledge in different areas of Agriculture, through participating in the Agriscience and Horticulture Demonstrations contest. Presenters had to create a presentation on an agricultural-based topic. Presentations had a twelve-minute time limit. Contestants' demonstrations were judged primarily on content, delivery, and interactiveness. Competitors also had to answer a series of questions regarding their project. The Agriscience and Horticulture Demonstration contests give FFA members the opportunity to enhance their public speaking skills while doing research and learning about a topic they are interested in.

Crops and Treetops!

On Thursday, the Junior Foresters and Crops Judging competitions were held. During the Junior Foresters contest contestants had to identify tools and trees, complete a written

exam, and measure logs. In the Crops Judging CDE participants had to judge seven classes. Contestants had to sift through the different samples and determine which specimen was ideal. Competitors also had to identify twenty-five plants. These contests give students the opportunity to show off their knowledge of forestry as well as agronomy while growing potential interest in future careers within these areas.

Horses and Workforces!

On the last Friday of the Fair members competed in the Skillathon competition as well as Hippology. During the Skillathon competition competitors tested their knowledge on different species of livestock. Participants had the option of completing one species or all four species. Each contest consisted of a written exam; breed, meat, and equipment identification; and judging a

class of the particular species in which the contestants were participating. This year was the introductory year for the Hippology contest at the State Fair. In this contest competitors had to identify tack and feeds, take a written exam, and judge classes of halter and performance horses. Both the Skillathon and Hippology contests allow members to show off their knowledge and passion for both the livestock and horse industries.

2019 VIRGINIA STATE FAIR Award Recipients



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

(No Picture)

JUNIOR AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION

State Winner

Warrenton Middle FFA

Lauren Byrd and Laure Lowenbauch. Placing 2nd Beverley Manor Middle, 3rd Caroline B, 4th Appomattox B, and 5th Buffalo Gap.



SENIOR AGRICULTURE DEMONSTRATION

State Winner

Randolph Henry FFA

Tyler Mason and Ainsley Napier. Placing 2nd James Wood, 3rd Highland, 4th Kettle Run, and 5th Louisa.



JUNIOR AGRICULTURE SCIENCE POSTER CONTEST

State Winner

R.E. Aylor FFA

Makenna Blair (photo left). Placing 2nd Buckingham Middle, 3rd R.E. Aylor Middle, 4th Warren, and 5th Auburn.



SENIOR AGRICULTURE SCIENCE POSTER CONTEST

State Winner

Appomattox FFA

Jenna St. John. Placing 2nd Nottoway, 3rd Caroline, 4th Randolph Henry, and 5th Nelson County.



JUNIOR CROPS JUDGING

High Individual

Charlotte Central Middle FFA

Ben Geeseman.

Placing 2nd Rayah Edelson, 3rd Brendan Ridings, 4th Brodily Ireland, and 5th Emily Geesaman.



JUNIOR CROPS JUDGING

State Winner

Charlotte Central Middle FFA

Team members: Ben Geeseman, Emily Geeseman, Adyson Metts, and Mason Hamlett.

Placing 2nd Sherando, 3rd Charlotte Central B, 4th Sherando B, and 5th Randolph Henry.



SENIOR CROPS JUDGING

High Individual

Central FFA

Emma Hockman.

Placing 2nd Hannah Geesaman, 3rd Justin Higginbotham, 4th Evelyn Wade, and 5th Cole Cobb.



SENIOR CROPS JUDGING

State Winner

Central FFA

Team members: Emma Hockman, Lindsey Rigby, Shyann Jordan, and Regan Bowman.

Placing 2nd Randolph Henry, 3rd Nelson Senior, 4th Southampton, and 5th Fort Defiance.



JUNIOR DAIRYMAN'S

State Winner

J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA

Hershel Hoffidietz, Jackie Diaz, Ayla Janney, and Jessica Dove.



SENIOR DAIRYMAN'S

State Winner

Rockingham 4-H

Paul Craun, Jacob Craun, and Hailey Daubert.



STUDENT GARDEN

State Winner

James Wood FFA



GIANT HAY BALE CONTEST

State Winner

Patrick Henry FFA



JUNIOR FORESTERS

High Individual

Atlee FFA

Jake Huffman.

Placing 2nd Moriah Moss, 3rd Jack Rogers, 4th Jacob Barlow, and 5th Ethan Ye.



JUNIOR FORESTERS

State Winner

Atlee FFA

Team members: Jake Huffman, Frederi Myers, Jade Bowers, and Ben Huffman.

Placing 2nd Atlee B, 3rd Henry County 4-H, 4th Nelson 4-H, and 5th Louisa 4-H.



JUNIOR FORESTRY FIELD DAY

State Winner

King William FFA

Team members: Seth Curry, Daniel Howell, Caleb Jimmo, Trenton Johnson, Austin Weeks, Wylie Johnson, James Mundy, and Howard Hill (coach).

Placing 2nd Broadway, 3rd Randolph Henry, 4th Amherst, and 5th Nelson Middle.



SENIOR FORESTRY FIELD DAY

State Winner

Madison County FFA

Team members: Taylor Geer, Tyler Geer, Nick Humphrey, Jacob Davis, Dylum Reynolds, Spencer Humphrey, and Thomas Eanes (coach).

Placing 2nd Highland, 3rd Randolph Henry, 4th Amherst, and 5th Culpeper.



(No Picture)

JUNIOR HIPPOLOGY

High Individual

Wilson Memorial FFA

Isabelle Zipf.



JUNIOR HIPPOLOGY

State Winner

Lousia Middle FFA

Team members: Hannah Ryan, Morghan Watchter, Baylee Byers, and Nacole Bartolet.

Placing 2nd Hanover, 3rd Wilson Memorial, 4th William Taylor Middle, and 5th S. Gordon Stewart Middle.



SENIOR HIPPOLOGY

High Individual

Chatham FFA

Kamber Lee.

Placing 2nd Taylor Bryant, 3rd Steph Smith, 4th Victoria Klapper, and 5th Sophie Karney.



SENIOR HIPPOLOGY

State Winner

Louisa FFA

Team members: Sophie Karney, Kaylen Snead, Savanna Goodwin, and Taylor Moran.

Placing 2nd Culpeper, 3rd Southampton, 4th Fauquier, and 5th Chatham.



HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION

State Winner

Fort Defiance FFA

Heather Rawley and Ainsley Napier. Placing 2nd C. L. Payne, 3rd James Wood, 4th Auburn, and 5th Central.



LAWN TRACTOR OPERATOR

State Winner

Atlee FFA

Dillan Marcos.

Placing 2nd Robert Hoosier from CL Payne, 3rd Alex Holsinger from J. Frank Hillyard Middle, 4th Colton Payne from North Fork Middle, and 5th Blake Payne from Broadway.



SMALL ENGINE

State Winner

Highland FFA

Lucas Wimer.

Area winners: Michael Coats, Atlee; Trevor Agee, Buckingham; Brain Watts, Lord Botetourt; Lukas Daugherty, John S. Battle; and Kyle Hunter, Sherando.



TRACTOR TROUBLESHOOTING

State Winner

Liberty Bedford FFA

Thomas Burnette and Joshua Leamy.

Area Winners: Jordan Krausse and Isaac Grissom from Amelia, William Zerkel and Ryan Conley from Broadway, Henry Klosster and Wyatt Compton from Culpeper, Robby Burchett and Colton Wilcer from Lee County, and Luke Wright and Colt Bauserman from Sherando.



Medals for Forestry Field Day were handmade by students at J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA and Montevideo FFA.



Livestock scholarship winners.

STATE *Officer* SUMMIT

by MaKayla Craig
VA FFA 2019-2020 State President



The State Officer Team spent time reflecting at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.



Teambuilding at this year's State Officer Summit.

During the last week of July the State Officer Team traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 2019 State Officer Summit. During this time they met fellow state officers from around the country, toured famous landmarks, and learned how to advocate for the industry we all love: agriculture. The team was able to spend a day on Capitol Hill speaking with legislators and members of their staffs. While on The Hill, Shelby Stevens, State Sentinel, was given the opportunity to speak at the Career and Technical Caucus about the positive impact that FFA has had on her life.

Throughout the week, a common theme was revealed to the State Officer Team, and that was hope. As they toured the various landmarks around our nation's capital, they realized that we must be hopeful that we can and will make a positive difference in our communities and world. Influencers like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., and Franklin D. Roosevelt were all hopeful in the causes they were fighting for. Whether we are fighting for social change, peace, love, or agriculture we must have hope. What do you have hope for?

As the week continued, State President MaKayla Craig and State Secretary Carly Carpenter began working as leadership delegates for National Convention in October. They learned about the delegate process and about the issues being presented at the National Convention. Then the leadership delegates were split into groups. Within these groups MaKayla and Carly will be serving as discussion group leaders at National Convention. MaKayla and Carly were also given the opportunity to visit the United States Department of Agriculture, where Secretary Sonny Perdue addressed the group of state officers about the partnership between the USDA and FFA.

While Carly and MaKayla were at the USDA building, the rest of the team toured The American Farm Bureau and USDA buildings. They also had the opportunity to catch up with past Virginia state officers. The past state officers are doing great things in our nation's capital!

The State Officer Team joined together again to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

STATE OFFICER

Highlight

What envision means to me.



E.N.V.I.S.I.O.N. Envision a life where we focused less on being perfect and more on improving each and every day. Envision a community where change is embraced and accepted. Envision a world where serving those around us is our number one priority. Envision is more than just hoping for change and a better future; it is being persistent and persevering. Envisioning a world of change starts with one idea, one day, and one YOU!



MaKayla Craig

VIRGINIA FFA PRESIDENT

► From Eastern View FFA

Envision: a word synonymous with words like imagine and visualize. When I think of the word *envision*, the first word that comes to mind is future. This year's theme is all about *visualizing* where you could be in your future, and having the courage and drive to make that vision come true. Imagine the possibilities that could await you in life, and seize every opportunity you can to help you achieve your dreams.



Carly Carpenter

VIRGINIA FFA SECRETARY

► From Massanutten Tech FFA

The word *envision* to me is very open ended. When I say the word *envision* I think about the future. We all have a plan and a vision for what we want our future to be like. We must all set goals for ourselves and plan for the future. Envision your possibilities in life and never doubt yourself. When you envision something it is completely open ended and up to you to make your own path.



Madison Sifford

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

► From C. L. Payne FFA

The definition of *envision* is “to picture oneself.” When I hear this it instantly makes me look ahead to the future. The future is something that we all think about and cannot avoid. We wonder about our future careers, home lives, and overall what will we achieve in life. We all have our own personal dreams and aspirations. Whether they range from winning a CDE to running for President of the United States, no matter how big or small, they all make us who we are. To me, envision is about reaching for the stars and seeing how many you can grasp. We only have one life, so why stay timid and be a wallflower when you can accomplish anything you set your mind to? This is what *envision* means to me, but what does it mean to you?



Ryan Gobble

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

► From Abingdon FFA

Envision to me means finding your purpose. Everyone has a story that's waiting to be told, but sometimes it can be difficult to express that story. Imagine if we let our passions and ambitions motivate us to be who we are and do what we love. Let your potential push you towards your goals and don't stop there. Actor and musician Ben Platt once said, “The things that make you strange are the things that make you powerful.” Scream your purpose from the rooftops! Don't let anything stop you from being yourself. It's okay to just be you. If you stray from the person you are, it can become difficult to remember your true purpose down the road. Envision who you are and don't let anything stop you from being that person. Stay strange!



Erin Orgen

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

► From Sherando FFA

When I think of *envision*, my head automatically jumps back to my first day at Appomattox High School as an extremely shy, socially awkward 16-year-old. At the time, my fears and extreme lack of confidence made it impossible to understand how valuable switching high schools was for me. However, it couldn't be any clearer now that every situation during my first year began to uncover a new piece of my path. Envision isn't just what you see for the future, but how you understand the present and use it to build a path for yourself to create an impact. I want every member to understand the value of the present and why it is so important to know where you want to go, instead of pulling yourself back to where you previously came from.



Jacob Dinterman

VIRGINIA FFA VICE PRESIDENT

▶ From Appomattox FFA

When we are asked what we see with our vision, it's very easy to answer by looking around at our surroundings. What if we're asked to see what we *envision*? Envision means to imagine or visualize a future possibility. When we envision, we look past the now and into the future. We are able to pursue limitless opportunities for our futures, others, agriculture, and the world. There are no boundaries as to what we get to visualize or see. I see an illuminated future where many bright FFA members are changing agriculture, the world, and the lives of many. When we see a problem, visualize the difference we can make. Virginia FFA, what do you see? What do you envision?



Kenzie Kline

VIRGINIA FFA TREASURER

▶ From Strasburg FFA

Envision. Who knew a word that seems so small can mean so much? Envision means to look forward to the future instead of dwelling on the past. No matter where we start, we can envision a place we want to end up. What do you envision for your life? What kind of person do you want to be? What are your goals and how can you make them a reality? How do you envision leaving your mark on the world? Envision who YOU are longing to be and make that vision a reality.



Hope Showalter

VIRGINIA FFA REPORTER

▶ From Turner Ashby FFA

What envision means to me is what you see for not only yourself but for the world in the upcoming future. We all have dreams and aspirations; however, we are never guaranteed a certain path, but we can always envision one. And no matter how far off the path we go or if we stay on that path, we always have to envision what we want it to look like, no matter how many times it may change.



Shelby Stevens

VIRGINIA FFA SENTINEL

▶ From Dinwiddie FFA



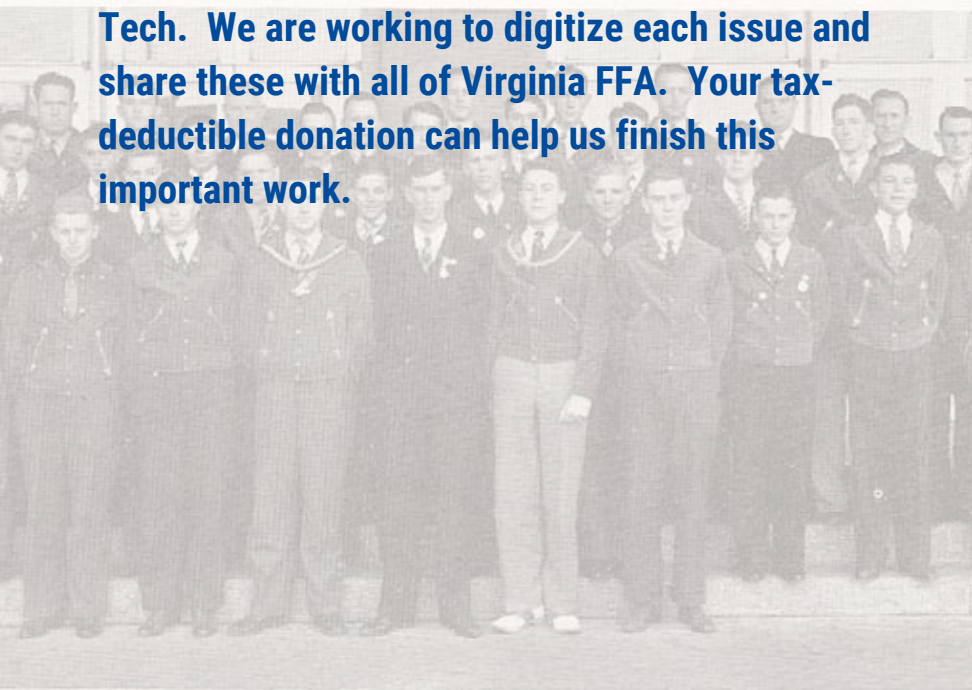
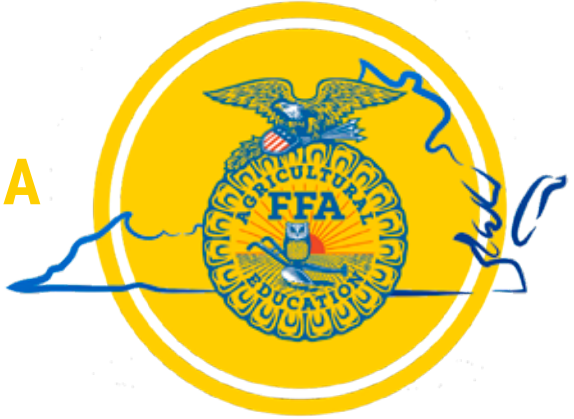
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