

Vision of Virginia

WINTER 2020



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ADVOCACY & MEDIA *training* WITH ANDREW SMITH

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



“If you don’t speak up, your viewpoint may never be heard.”

-Andrew Smith

Understanding the Importance of Ag-vocating

On October 1st, all nine State Officers participated in an advocacy and media training with Mr. Andrew Smith, Associate Director of the Governmental Relations Team for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation. To start us off, Mr. Smith brought us up to date on current agriculture issues and representatives throughout the state. Mr. Smith gave us tips for learning how to professionally advocate and the importance of developing strong relationships with our legislators and government officials.

We covered many aspects including; understanding the issue we are advocating for, researching the area and our opponent and understanding how our issue impacts us personally. Mr. Smith touched on the importance of leaving an impact, “Impacts can be made at all levels - local, state and federal.” Most importantly, Mr. Smith taught us that we can bring real insight and be a specific voice to the industry we are representing.

Virginia FFA would like to thank Mr. Smith for taking the time to educate and train us on how to advocate and the importance of advocating!

UPCOMING *events*

- JANUARY**
29-31: Young Farmers of VA Conference
- FEBRUARY**
4-6: VAAE Winter Conference
7-14: Block & Bridle
18-26: National FFA Week
- APRIL**
15-18: Virginia Beef Expo
- JUNE**
21-24: State FFA Convention

VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

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Megan Day <i>President</i>	Andrew Seibel <i>Secretary</i>	Hunter Carson <i>Vice President</i>	Madeline Moore <i>Vice President</i>	Austin Funk <i>Vice President</i>	Joshua Powers <i>Vice President</i>	Jeremy Petrie <i>Treasurer</i>	Faith Dellinger <i>Reporter</i>	Ryan Altis <i>Sentinel</i>
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The 93rd National FFA Convention was held virtually on 10/26-10/29!

by Faith Dellinger – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Reporter and Andrew Seibel – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Secretary

This year’s national convention may have looked different, however the members from across the nation had an amazing group of leaders to make this convention feel as normal as possible. Regardless of the pandemic that has struck our nation, our national officers made the most out of the worst situation. They allowed us to enjoy national convention from the comfort of our homes and created unique activities that made convention memorable. Whether you sat around the TV with your family watching a session, interacted with members across the country in the blue rooms or attended a workshop - there was something for everyone. The National FFA offered many seminars with avid agriculturists who gave us words of wisdom and inspired many. We even got to hear from the NASA Administrator, Jim Bridenstine.



Our very own Tess Seibel retired and gave us all a message we needed to hear. She taught us how to turn our powerful feelings into purposeful actions. She has been a light to many this year and we are so proud of the impact she has left not only on Virginia FFA, but members across the nation. Thank you for teaching us how to embrace our story, and we cannot wait to see where life takes you, THANK YOU for your service to this organization.

Thank you to our National Officer Candidate, Ryan Gobble, for representing Virginia with such passion and pride. You have made us all so proud and have always reminded us to just be



ourselves. We appreciate your dedication to this organization and the members within it.

While all good things must come to an end, the 2019-2020 National Officer Team hung up their jackets after serving members wholeheartedly and impacting so many. While their door has closed, a new group of six individuals started their journey of a lifetime. Given the circumstances of convention, that didn’t hold our organization back. The newly elected officers were greeted outside their door with their new national jackets - how cool is that? Just moments after being elected! Congratulations to the 2020-2021 National Officer Team!

2020-21 National FFA Officer Team



Doster Harper
President
Georgia



Anna Mathis
Secretary
Arkansas



Paxton Dahmer
Central Region
Vice President
Missouri



Miriam Hoffman
Eastern Region
Vice President
Illinois



David Lopez
Western Region
Vice President
California



Artha Jonassaint
Southern Region
Vice President
Florida

Congratulations TO THE 2020 HONORARY AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Robert "Bobby" Orrock
Mr. Andrew W. Smith
Mr. Chandler Vaughan
Mr. Andy Seibel

Dr. Megan Seibel
Dr. Jessica Jones
Mr. John "Mike" Long
Mrs. Jaclyn Ryan

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION- ENTREPRENEURSHIP/PLACEMENT



**JOSHUA
POWERS**

Smith Mountain FFA
VIRGINIA



Congratulations to Joshua Powers for being recognized as a finalist in Agriculture Education! We are so proud of you and all of the hard work you put into your project!



AGRISCIENCE FAIR

Plant Systems: Divis

FIRST PLACE
Joscelyn Layma
Millcreek-West Unity FFA

SECOND PLACE
Garrison Pieniase
Krum FFA TX

THIRD PLACE
Andrew Dorrier
Buckingham Middle FFA

Congratulations to Andrew Dorrier of being a Plant Systems Division 1 National FFA Agriscience Fair Finalist! We are so proud of you!



"The National Convention will be one I remember, even though it was virtual it was still every bit as amazing!"
- Izzy Dellinger, Stonewall Jackson FFA

"I loved watching the national convention because I got to watch Tess Seibel's RA!"
- Katilin Owens, Abingdon FFA

"Even under the circumstances, the national convention was a wonderful experience!"
- Lindsey Rigby, Central FFA

"It was great to connect with members through a different platform!"
- Emma Jackson, Bedford FFA

The American Degree is the highest honor an FFA member can receive. Congratulations to Virginia's 2020 American FFA Degree Recipients! We are so proud of each of you and we are thankful for your outstanding dedication to FFA and agriculture!

Trevor Marshall Agee
Elizabeth Alexander Atkins-Bredemeier
Pride Arrington
Linsey Baker
Anthony Cariton Banton
Ashlyn Clemmer
Carly Michelle Carpenter
Hannah Nicole Conner
MiKayla Grace Caroline Craig
Dalton Crickenburg
Olivia Michaela Croft
Hannah Davis
Nicholas Dellinger
Jacob Lane Dinterman
Kirsten Eubank
Clay Falls
Cassidy Fitzgerald

Katelyn Funkhouser
Austin Samuel Geesaman
Ryan Allen Gobble
Ethan Gochenour
Matthew Allen Golladay
Chad Hicks
Newlin Ann Humphrey
Naomi Hurley
Jacob Hunter Inge
Jacob Allen Johnson
Hannah Johnson
Katelyn Funkhouser
Hunter Kerns
Mackenzie Kline
Christopher D. Kuhler
Alena Nikolaevna Latysheva
Jacob Layman

Hunter May
Charles Meadows
Allison Mongold
Jared Tyler Morgan
Matthew S. Moyer
Virginia Paige Neal
Emily Newman
Cassidy Marie O'Quinn
Erin Elizabeth Orgen
Hannah Joann Orndorff
Nicholas Pool
Taylor Danielle Prince
Kaitlyn Ann Reiter
Isaac David Rhodes
Samuel F. Rhodes
Avery Schaefer
Emma C. Seekford

Claire Seibel
Morgan Elsie Short
John Showalter
Hope Showalter
Madison Zalea Sifford
Mikayla St. Clair
Shelby Stevens
Jakob Dylan Toney
Rylee Toothman
Ryleigh Travers
Andrew Tuck
Alec Turner
Jordan Alexandra Walker
Brian Watts
James P. Whorley
McKenzie Elizabeth Wills
Jordan Leighann Winall

VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU'S 15TH ANNUAL YOUNG FARMERS *summer* *expo*

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

Virginia Farm Bureau's 15th Annual Young Farmers Expo kicked off on July 31st in Marion, Virginia at the beef cattle farming operation of Justin and Lori McClellan. The McClellan's operate multiple businesses as well, and were 2018 AFBF YF&R Runner Up for the Achievement Award.



President, Megan Day and Vice President, Hunter Carson eagerly waiting for the farm tour at the McClellan's.

August 1st, early Saturday morning we started out at the Southwest Virginia HirEd Center listening to guest speakers Josey Moore of VFBF Grain Marketing Division, Molly Harris of Lulu's Local Markets, Ryan Ellison an employee of Food City's Distribution Center, Virginia Farm Bureau President, Wayne Pryor and Matt Lohr, Chief of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services. All of these speakers provided great insight of the effects of COVID-19 in agriculture and inspiring stories!



Justin and Lori McClellan on their farm operation in Marion, Virginia.



Jonathan Whitesides selling his Sweet Corn out of his truck bed.

Our next stop was the well known sweet corn operation owned and operated by Jonathan Whitesides of Meadowview, Virginia. Seven years ago, Whitesides started his sweet corn operation while attending college at Virginia Tech. This summer, his corn is in high demand. The typical amount of corn he sales in three hours sold out in just thirty minutes!

We ended Friday night with a nice dinner at the Barns at Chip Ridge located in Abingdon, Virginia. Dr. Andy Overbay, Smyth County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, was the guest speaker who gave an amazing speech about operating the family farm then having to sell it in order to change. He left us with this inspiring thought, "Don't love something that can't love you back."



Dr. Andy Overbay and his wife, Andrea Overbay.



State Officers eating dinner and listening to guest speaker, Dr. Overbay at the Barn at Chip Ridge in Abingdon, Virginia.



State Officers listening to President of Virginia Farm Bureau, Wayne Pryor at the HirEd Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

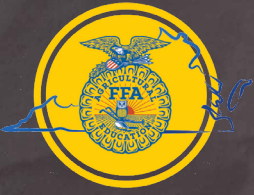
Our last, but certainly not least, farm tour of the Expo was Wilson Farms, owned and operated by Adam Wilson of Abingdon, Virginia. Wilson is not only a farmer but an auctioneer. He provided us with a great insight into the operation advancements of his farm and advice in communicating and making connections within our own communities. In between farm tours the State Officers toured other parts of Southwest Virginia including the state line where Virginia and Tennessee meet in Bristol, while social distancing. Virginia FFA would like to say a huge thank you to the Virginia Farm Bureau and Bear Lloyd, Virginia Farm Bureau Vice Chair and Expo Planning Chair for planning an amazing Expo. Farm Bureau treated us to nice meals and treats, great hospitality and farm tours!



Adam Wilson of Wilson Farms, Abingdon, Virginia.



Vice President, Josh Powers snapped a picture at the state line in Bristol, VA/TN!



BMW FARM TO TABLE Dinner

by Andrew Seibel – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Secretary



On October 11, three of the State Officers attended a culinary experience that brought together some of the state's best chefs and farmers to create a meal that highlighted Virginia agriculture at Celebrations Farm in Bluemont, Virginia. This opportunity was thanks in large part to The Wishing Well in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The Wishing Well sponsored the tickets for Virginia FFA as well as coordinated transportation with Roger Aldhizer,

owner of "Ride with Rog". The meal was six courses featuring all Virginia agricultural products, from bay scallops to beef. The evening featured guest speakers from the agricultural industry to talk about their niche specialties and how their particular contribution to the meal came to be. The night was a fantastic display of the diversity found within Virginia Agriculture and offered a unique view of what the future of agritourism may entail.

In addition to the meal, Megan Day and Andrew Seibel were able to speak with **Nancy Craun** about what they see in the future of Virginia Agriculture. They were also asked about some of the opportunities using a more virtual format for events has provided, as well as to touch on some of the obvious challenges that come with virtual events.



4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

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

As the world adjusted to take precautions against COVID-19, FFA members were left wondering what that meant for Career Development Events such as Livestock Evaluation. Livestock Evaluation is an event that requires participants to evaluate cattle, swine, sheep and goats and then give an explanation as to why they evaluated the animals the way they did. Typically the state contest is held in conjunction with Virginia 4-H at the State FFA Convention. However, the contest like convention could not safely carry on as usual. That resulted in members left wondering would the contest be held later, be held virtually or be cancelled entirely.

However, thanks to the creativity and dedication of individuals in a state contest was able to safely take place on August 4th at the Rockingham Fairgrounds. The contest organizers had to make major adjustments to guarantee FFA and 4-H members were safely able to participate. For example, students arrived on a staggered schedule to avoid large crowds and students did not come in contact with any students outside of their chapter or club. Katherine Carter, Assistant Youth Livestock Specialist with Virginia Cooperative Extension explained, “Our youth are worth the extra effort, the long hours, the “think outside the box” creativity required right now, and, today, seeing them do what they love to do made every minute, every step, every struggle worth it!”



Participants competed in a “Judge and Go” format contest so that adequate social distancing guidelines could be followed.

All of the work was certainly appreciated by FFA members. Liberty FFA senior Charlie Moser explained, “Livestock Judging isn’t just another contest to me. My teammates and I practice all year for this. I am planning on competing at the collegiate level so having the opportunity to compete safely during the pandemic allowed me continue to work toward that goal.”

Moser wasn’t alone in thinking the event was an outstanding success FFA members and advisors voiced their approval of the event.

SENIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING TOP TEAMS

1st - Fort Defiance FFA
2nd - Smith Mountain FFA
3rd - Massanutten Technical

HIGH INDIVIDUALS

1st - Salem Sifford
2nd - Ryan Borer
3rd - Emma Jackson

JUNIOR LIVESTOCK JUDGING TOP TEAMS

1st - Broadway FFA
2nd - S.G. Stewart FFA
3rd - Wilbur S. Pence FFA

HIGH INDIVIDUALS

1st - Carrie Miller
2nd - Herschel Hoffeditz
3rd - Katie Payne



THE *show* MUST GO ON

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

While the State Fair we all know and love may have been cancelled, Virginia 4-H and FFA members still had the opportunity to show their animals from October 2nd to October 4th, 2020. Members of both organizations exhibited cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats throughout the weekend at the State Fairgrounds in Doswell, Virginia.

The State Fair also hosted a youth dairy cattle and dairy goat show on Saturday,

September 26, 2020. The 4-H and FFA members that exhibited in the show were able to participate in showmanship and breeding classes. The following classes were created for the dairy cattle show: Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey, Commercial Cows and Heifers, and AOB (All Other Breeds). The following classes were exhibited on September 26 for the youth dairy goat show: Nubian, Nigerian Dwarf, recorded grade, Lamancha, and Alpine.



4-H and FFA members were also invited to participate in livestock judging competitions. Congratulations to the team from Fort Defiance on placing first in the Senior FFA division of the livestock judging competition. The team includes: Lauren Rhodes, Audrey Eagle, Jessica Layman, and Aiden Shifflet. In the Senior 4-H division, the team from Montgomery County 4-H with team members: Zane Redifer, Ethan Clouse, and Sidnie Saville took first place. The participants of this competition were tasked with judging four pieces of livestock: goats, lambs, cattle and swine. The

exhibitors also had to give an oral set of reasons and evaluate EDP (Expected Progeny Differences) records on some of the species.

State Fair staff worked tirelessly with show staff to ensure that each and every exhibitor was able to show off their hard work and was also able to stay safe. We are all so thankful for the work that went into planning, organizing, and executing the show in its entirety. Congratulations to all those that participated in the various shows and competitions!



AG DEMO

Junior Teams

- 3rd - Louisa FFA
Nacole Bartolet
- 2nd - Louisa FFA
Morghan Wachter
- 1st - Buckingham FFA
Olivia Cummings, Sydney Oliver

AG DEMO

Senior Teams

- 3rd - Fort Defiance FFA
Rachel Mohler
- 2nd - Dinwiddie FFA
Jill Reiter
- 1st - James Wood FFA
Kenna Kerns, Hayley Seabright

AGRISCIENCE POSTER

Junior

- 3rd - Liberty FFA
Lila Gibson
- 2nd - Broadway FFA
Thomas Lohr
- 1st - Buckingham Middle FFA
Andrew Dorrier

AGRISCIENCE POSTER

Senior

- 3rd - Eastern View FFA
Lewis West
- 2nd - Broadway FFA
Jackson Lohr, Heidi Messerly
- 1st - Cumberland FFA
Jordan Newman

CROPS

Junior High Individuals

- 3rd - Charlotte Central Middle FFA
Virginia Davis
- 2nd - Appomattox Middle FFA
Clay Moore
- 1st - Nelson FFA Team B
Eli Hatter

CROPS

Junior Teams

- 3rd - S. Gordon Stewart FFA
- 2nd - Charlotte Central Middle FFA
- 1st - Stonewall Jackson FFA

CROPS

Senior High Individuals

- 3rd - Stonewall Jackson FFA
Isabell Dellinger
- 2nd - Nelson FFA
Justin Higginbotham
- 1st - Nelson FFA
Katherine Powell

CROPS

Senior Teams

- 3rd - Randolph Henry FFA
- 2nd - Central Junior FFA
- 1st - Nelson County FFA

HORTICULTURE DEMO

Category A - Crop Production and Soil Management

- 2nd - James Wood FFA
Grace Lilly
- 1st - E.W. Wyatt FFA
Makayla Bryant

HORTICULTURE DEMO

Category C - Food Crop Preparation

- 2nd - Buckingham FFA
Haylie Hucks
- 1st - Northern Neck FFA
Allie Blevins

HORTICULTURE DEMO

Category D - Artistic Arrangement

- 2nd - Rappahannock FFA
Cameron Allen, Morgan Halsey
- 1st - Turner Ashby FFA
Audrey Garrison

HORTICULTURE DEMO

Category E - Landscape Design, Installation and Maintenance

- 2nd - Brentsville FFA
Melanie Beard, Kayleigh Gheen
- 1st - Buffalo Gap FFA
Laurel Graham, Grace Rexrode

HIPPOLOGY

Junior Teams

- 3rd - Buckingham Senior FFA
- 2nd - S.G. Stewart FFA
- 1st - J. Frank Hillyard FFA

HIPPOLOGY

Senior Teams

- 3rd - Hanover FFA
- 2nd - Eastern View FFA
- 1st - Courtland FFA

JR DAIRYMAN'S

Junior Teams

- 3rd - S.G. Stewart Middle FFA
- 2nd - J. Frank Hillyard Middle FFA
- 1st - Rockingham 4H Team A

JR DAIRYMAN'S

Senior Teams

- 3rd - Broadway FFA
- 2nd - Clarke County 4H
- 1st - Rockingham 4H

JR FORESTERS

Juniors High Individuals

- 3rd - Chatham FFA
James Oaks
- 2nd - Buckingham FFA
Ethan Martin
- 1st - Buckingham Middle
Andrew Dorrier

JR FORESTERS

Junior Teams

- 3rd - Charlotte Central Middle FFA
- 2nd - Buckingham FFA
- 1st - Chatham FFA

JR FORESTERS

Seniors High Individuals

- 3rd - Louisa 4H
Moriah Moss
- 2nd - Atlee FFA
Jake Huffman
- 1st - Abingdon FFA
Jettie Sullivan

JR FORESTERS

Senior Teams

- 3rd - Magna Vista FFA
- 2nd - Henry County FFA
- 1st - Nelson FFA



2020 Virtual CONTESTS

Thank you to all participants, judges, and officials who made the first virtual State Fair a success!

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



HIPPOLOGY

State Winner
Wilbur S. Pence FFA
Carrie Miller

I have been participating in the Hippology contest for the past four years. My favorite part is going through the slides. I wish it was in person!

- Carrie Miller



Some of our State Officers working to get ribbons ready and delivering!



SENIOR AG DEMO

State Winner
James Woods FFA
Haley Seabright and Keanna Kerns

Keanna Kerns and myself, Haley Seabright, competed in the Agriscience Demonstration contest. It's normally held at the State Fair of Virginia, but this year because of government regulations, it was held on Zoom. I competed in the contest when I was a sophomore, and my topic was artificial insemination in cattle. Keanna and I are both heavily involved in FFA, 4-H, and livestock. This year we decided to go with another reproductive concept – Laparoscopic AI in sheep. We both show sheep and love to learn the behind-the-scenes techniques and methods for advancing our show stocks' genetics. We had the help of our advisors in addition to Dr. John Boyd and Dr. Davis. We had the opportunity to watch them AI (artificially inseminate) goats, which is very similar to sheep. It was a great experience and will assist us in the future, as we work to advance our livestock herds.

- Haley Seabright



SENIOR CROPS

High Individual
Nelson High FFA
Katherine Powell

This was my second time competing in Crops. I last competed in the Agronomy contest at the State Convention in 8th grade. What I liked about competing this year was the chance to compete! I usually can't compete at State Fairs during normal years because of other conflicts. I was glad to finally compete in a State Fair contest that I enjoy. Competing virtually definitely had its challenges. Living in a rural area, the internet has connectivity issues. I always became stressed if a screen took more than five seconds to load, and of course, not being able to compete in person with all my FFA colleagues.

- Katherine Powell

Thank you to past State Reporter, Hope Showalter, for working on creating our social media post and script!

THE BIG E

REGIONAL WINNERS

by Faith Dellinger – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Reporter

Virginia is so proud of our two Big E Eastern winners, Mindi Freed and Tanner Lipscomb! The purpose of the Big E is to promote and encourage excellence in the FFA through development of outstanding scholarship, leadership and supervised agricultural experiences. Both Mindi and Tanner represented Virginia very well, and were both named a 2020 FFA Regional Star Winner! Mindi Freed is from Stonewall Jackson, Virginia and was named the Regional Star in Ag Placement. Tanner Lipscomb is from King William, Virginia and was named the Regional Star in Agribusiness!

2020 REGIONAL

Star WINNERS



MINDI FREED
STONEWALL JACKSON FFA
AG PLACEMENT

"I am honored to represent Virginia at the Big E for the Star Placement Award! I have had so much fun working in both a dairy placement position as well as a swine placement position to follow my passion of agriculture and achieve my goals in the industry."
- Mindi Freed



TANNER LIPSCOMB
KING WILLIAM FFA
AGRIBUSINESS

Tanner's SAE involves the work of his business, Lipscomb Crabs. In this venture, he brings 6-12 bushels of crabs to market weekly that he crabs out of the Rappahannock River. He plans to continue scaling up his business and is interested in studying Marine Mechanics.
- Congratulations Tanner!

VIRTUAL PUMPKIN

Carving

by Jeremy Petrie – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Treasurer

On October 26th, to get into the spirit of fall, Virginia FFA hosted a zoom meeting where members could hang out, carve pumpkins, and chat with state officers about various topics. The meeting lasted approximately two hours and the first event of its kind. This socially-distanced event allowed for people all across the state to gather and have fun in a safe environment. This event also served as our kick off to the first ever virtual National FFA Convention and Expo!



2020 NATIONAL JUNIOR *Horticulture* ASSOCIATION DEMONSTRATIONS



**SILVER RATING
DEMONSTRATIVE PRESENTATION ON
PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES (TOPWORK
GRAFTING AND CHIP BUDDING) USED IN
THE APPLE INDUSTRY**

Grace Lilly and Caitlin Garis
James Wood FFA

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

Each year the National Junior Horticulture Association presents a series of competitions for middle and high school students. This year the competitions included were Photography, Writing in Horticulture, Speaking in Horticulture, Horticulture Demonstrations, and Floral Arrangements. This year all competitions were conducted virtually but Virginia FFA members brought their best and made Virginia FFA proud! Congratulations to these six VA FFA members!



**NATIONAL WINNER IN
PREPARED FLORAL
ARRANGEMENT**
Kaylea Caldwell
Giles FFA



**NATIONAL PREPARED
FLORAL ARRANGEMENT
WINNER**
Ta'Nayiah Newton
Virginia High FFA



**NATIONAL LANDSCAPING
DEMONSTRATION WINNER**
Carrie Barker
Chatham FFA



**GRAND NATIONAL WINNER
IN PREPARED HORTICULTURE
ARRANGEMENT**
Samantha Wall
Bassett FFA

STATE OFFICER *Workshop* FACILITATION TRAINING

by **Ryan Altis** – VA FFA 2020-2021 State Sentinel

Every year, the newly elected state officer team participates in a workshop facilitation training. This training teaches the state officers how to create and facilitate workshops. This year the State Officer team spent three days at the Hilton Garden Inn in Blacksburg, meeting with Mr. Zach Hamilton via Zoom to complete their training. The State Officers created three workshops that they will use throughout the year.



“Workshop facilitation has been one of the things I’ve looked forward to the most as a State Officer. It was so exciting to learn the ins and outs of building a workshop for students, and I can’t wait to share what I’ve learned with others.”

- Hunter Carson,
Virginia FFA State Vice President



“I loved being able to learn how to put together a workshop because it gave me a better understanding and opportunity to connect with FFA members!”

- Maddie Moore,
Virginia FFA State Vice President

VIRGINIA FFA Photo CONTEST

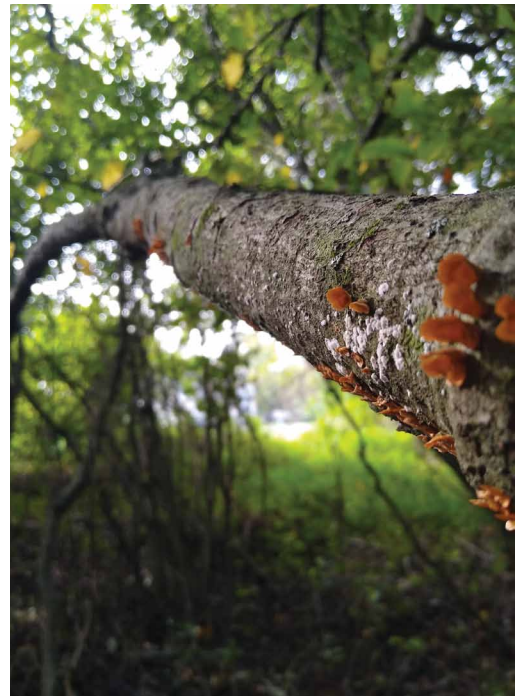


OVERALL CHAMPION

Chlowe Taylor
Holston FFA
"Fisher Hollow Veterinary"

YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS

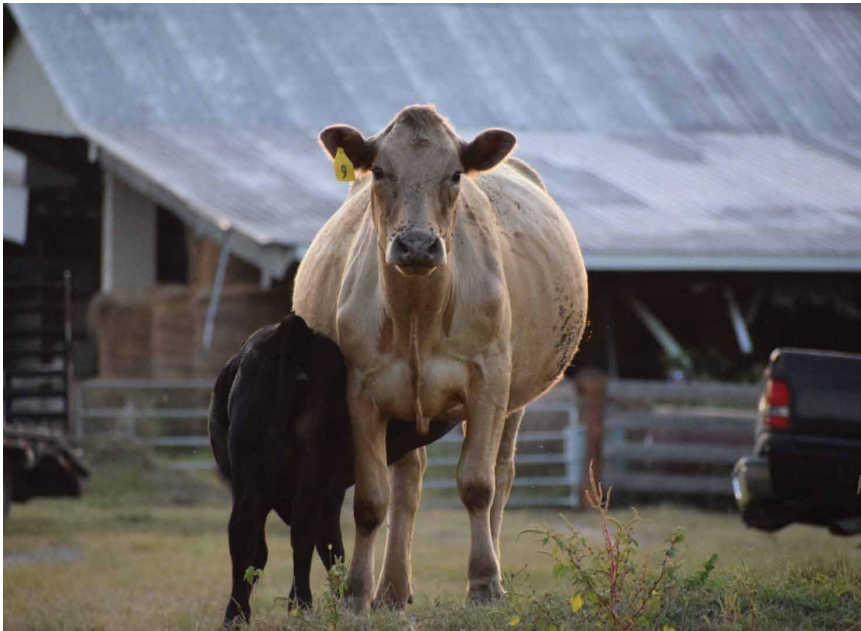
Izzy Hallberg
Culpepper FFA
"Hazel Alder's Fungi"



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

For the first time ever, Virginia FFA hosted a virtual photo contest. With COVID-19 restrictions schools remain closed, events are postponed and canceled, and virtual settings become the hotspot for all activity. With the State Fair of Virginia being condensed into just livestock shows and virtual competitions, the state officers took action to get students excited about virtual events as well as creating a new opportunity for students to participate in. Students had the opportunity to enter their original photographs into four categories relating to virtual competitions being held during the state fair: "Your Neck of the Woods," "Virginia Fields," "Amazing Animals," and "Ag in Action." A winner would be chosen in each category with an additional winner being the overall champion of the very first Virginia FFA Photo Contest.

The Virginia FFA team was blown away by the talent Virginia FFA has to offer. The contest brought in almost 200 entries that showcased the contest themes. Winners were announced during the Virginia State Fair Awards Ceremony. Winners each received a Virginia FFA prize pack, TSC National FFA shirt, and artwork published in the Visions of Virginia magazine, as well as the Overall Champion receiving an additional \$100.00 prize.



AG IN ACTION

Jill Reiter
 Dimwiddie FFA
 "Harvest Time"

AMAZING ANIMALS

Madison Rooks
 Luray FFA
 "Leave Her Be"

VIRGINIA FIELDS

Joy Bergan
 Broadway FFA
 "Crop Season"



EPA

ADMINISTRATOR VISIT

by Megan Day – VA FFA 2020-2021 State President

On August 26, 2020 the Virginia FFA state officer team had the very unique opportunity to advocate for agriculture on a national scale. Megan, Andrew, Hunter, Jeremy, Maddie, Faith, and Ryan met with Administrator Wheeler of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Kirby family, of Creamfield Grain Farm, hosted the event in Hanover, Virginia.

Administrator Wheeler spoke on the first ever Memorandum of Understanding with the National FFA Organization. The MOU is in place to expand the EPA’s environmental education programs to the FFA’s more than 670,000 active members from across the country. “The MOU reflects the importance of agricultural practices in promoting environmental stewardship and builds on our recent collaborations with America’s farmers and ranchers.” said Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

While at the Kirby’s family farm, the Administrator also touched on his outlook for the agency and the various plans and practices he hopes to implement in the future. The farmers that were in attendance spoke to the Administrator about precision agriculture and the costs of implementing such practices.

Below: Virginia FFA State President, Megan Day, is speaking with a Virginia FFA Alumni member about the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has affected Virginia FFA.



The state officer team is observing Mr. Kirby as he gives everyone more information on his farm and the equipment they use.



The state officers met with local stakeholder, Andrew Wheeler, of the Environmental Protection Agency.



GROWING *the* FUTURE

SAVE THE DATE • THURSDAY, FEB. 25, 2021



@virginiaffa

WRITE

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