

Vision of Virginia

SUMMER 2022



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UPCOMING events

FEBRUARY

15-24: Virginia FFA Week

24-26: Farm Bureau Young Farmers Expo

MARCH

24-26: VICE Conference
(Graves Mountain Farm & Lodges)

JUNE

18-23: State FFA Convention



President Charlie Moser brings a warm welcome to a chapter banquet.

A YEAR IN Review: FFA STYLE

by Elizabeth Bates – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

As the school year winds down many chapters across the state are holding their end of the year FFA banquets. These events are held to look back and celebrate all of the accomplishments of their chapter, members, and officers. Chapter banquets allow for the members to get together with their family and friends to reminisce on the past school year. During this time members usually mingle and share a meal, then listen to the presentation of awards. Some of the highlights would be preparation for the Virginia FFA State Convention and the teams competing, reflection of the year's events, greenhand and chapter degree recipients, retiring/graduating officers, and the installation of a new officer team. Reflecting on her favorite FFA banquet memory during her year



Appomattox FFA member Braelyn Floyd, smiles while receiving her FFA jacket!

of service, 2021-2022 State Treasurer Ellie Vance said, "One of the most truly inspiring things to me is to not only see an FFA member dedicate themselves to a goal but for them to achieve it. When I attended Signal Knob Middle School, Lidia wanted to run for chapter President just like her sister, and because of her hard work she did just that." Congratulations on a great year, Virginia!



Reporter Lauren Rhodes sits with members and their families during an end of the year banquet.



Dinwiddie FFA's graduating seniors after receiving their FFA graduation cords!

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Savannah
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Reporter

Katie
Powell
Sentinel

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Growing Leaders

AT FFA CAMP



by Jordan Petrie – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

A group picture of the overnight campers Wednesday after going to the Madison County fair.

On July 11th-15th the annual Virginia FFA Leadership Camp took place at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. This year, though, Leadership Camp looked a little different than in years past. There was a combination of two days of day camp and three days of overnight camp. This year's camp was the most well attended Leadership Camp since COVID with a total of 275 members attending throughout the week!

Virginia FFA Leadership Camp is where FFA members of any age come to learn how to be stronger leaders and make numerous new connections with people from all across the commonwealth. Campers that came for day camp got to participate in leadership classes, speciality classes, group games, a variety show, and reflections.



The campers enjoying a friendly game of capture the flag with the new State Officer team.

The overnight campers participated in many of the same activities as the day campers. The overnight camp allowed for more time to go more in depth in their workshops as well as building stronger connections with their group mates. The leadership classes offered were FFA 101, Public Speaking, and Teamwork and Communication. In the group games, campers were

challenged to put what they learned in their teamwork and communication leadership workshops to use to have a successful game. During the variety show campers and their groups showed off their talents and skills, such as singing, dancing, comedy, and playing the ukulele. The Past State Officer team and new 2022-2023 State Officer Team also had acts in the variety show. On Wednesday night of camp, the overnight campers received the opportunity to visit the Madison County Fair for a night out of fun and to represent Virginia FFA. The overnight campers also had the opportunity to compete in a few contests as well as running for camp offices. Contests that members competed in included: Creed, Prepared Public Speaking, and Extemporaneous



The annual picture of the overnight campers in front of the main lodge before the banquet Thursday evening.

Public Speaking. The winners of the contests were announced at the Camp Banquet on Thursday. Other camp-wide awards were given out at the banquet to campers who showed an immense amount of growth, good character, and the drive to better themselves and the others around them. At the banquet the recently elected Camp Officer Team did opening ceremonies and helped to run the show. On the Friday morning of Camp, there was a final awards ceremony where everyone in each group was recognized for individual growth in each of the campers leadership abilities increased substantially and they all deserved praise for that.



The 2022-2023 State Officer team with the 2021-2022 State Officer team.



The 2022 Virginia FFA Camp Officers performing opening ceremonies at the banquet Thursday evening.

The 2022 Virginia FFA Leadership Camp was a massive success in shaping the future leaders of Virginia FFA! A huge thank you to Mr. Turner Trice, Ms. Tess Seibel, Mr. Andrew Seibel, and the 2021-2022 state officer team for making camp run smoothly and creating more opportunities for members of the Virginia FFA Association to grow!

We look forward to seeing everyone at camp next July! Check out @ VirginiaFFA on Facebook and Instagram for future details about FFA Camp and other opportunities that YOU can participate in!



Mr. Trice and Nick Dewitt after Nick received the Turner Trice award.



Campers at the banquet Thursday evening.



Campers performing at the camp talent show.



by Hope Showalter – VVA FFA Staff Intern

Throughout this May and June, the Virginia FFA Foundation partnered with Virginia Produce Company and Harris Teeter to raise funds for scholarships and grants for Virginia FFA members interested in pursuing a career in production agriculture. Harris Teeter sold sweet corn from Virginia Produce Company at their stores and donated a portion of the proceeds to Virginia FFA. This partnership raised \$18,000 this year and the check was presented at the 96th Annual Virginia FFA State Convention. The scholarship recipients this year included James Tompkins from the Carroll County FFA Chapter, Austin Funk from the Broadway FFA Chapter, and Jackson Lohr from the Broadway FFA Chapter. Congratulations to these recipients!

The opportunity came into conversation in May 2022 when VDACS Commissioner, Joe Guthrie recognized the opportunity for a partnership. Mr. Moir Beamer, CEO of Virginia Produce Company had a long relationship with Harris Teeter and wanted to implement a program similar to G & R Farms' program through National FFA.

In a recent article from Produce Blue Book; Moir Beamer, CEO of Virginia Produce Company said, "It was so rewarding to use our business to help invest in FFA members and know that we are helping them financially as they begin their studies in college. With the challenges we're all experiencing from the farm all the way down to the grocery store, the whole supply chain needs to support our agriculture students. They're who will be growing the food we need to feed the future generations."

During this past summer, Virginia FFA helped to promote the program through online communications and by bringing FFA members and State Officers to participating stores in order to give a face behind the program. This program is planned to continue and possibly expand to include other funding for additional programs through Virginia FFA. You can help support this program by looking for "Growing America's Farmer" logos when shopping for your produce! Thank you to Mr. Beamer, Commissioner Guthrie, and Harris Teeter stores for making this program possible!

After a conversation about the program, the 2021-2022 State Officer Team smiles for a picture with Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Susan Sumner; CEO of Virginia Produce Company, Mr. Moir Beamer, VDACS Commissioner, Joe Guthrie; and Walt Dasher of G & R Farms.



BLUE JACKETS BACK IN BLACKSBURG: *Overcome 2022*



by **Charlie Moser** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State President and **Ellie Vanc** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Treasure

Filled with blue jackets, smiling faces, and an atmosphere of excitement, Virginia Tech's campus was once again flooded with over 1500 FFA Members from across the state. After two years of virtual and semi-virtual conventions, the 96th Virginia FFA Annual State Convention returned to Virginia Tech during the week of June 27-30th. This year's theme was "Overcome", a phrase that summarized how the Virginia FFA Association has overcome the challenges and hardships that were faced throughout the past two years.

After spending months practicing, members competed in various CDEs and LDEs throughout the week to show off their skills and knowledge! When they weren't competing in contests, members enjoyed various interactive workshops, spent time exploring campus, attending fun-filled sessions, and danced till their feet hurt at the FFA Dance. Virginia FFA heard from guest speakers: accomplished radio host and actor, Alpha Trivette, and National FFA Eastern Region Vice President, Mallory White during their keynote speeches at Session.

During this year's State Convention, the Virginia FFA Foundation created a unique opportunity for Virginia FFA Members. On Wednesday afternoon, members had the opportunity to make connections with businesses at the first ever Career and Opportunity Expo. There were various booths from agricultural businesses set up, lots of freebies for members, and free ice cream from the Homestead Creamery Truck!

The Virginia FFA Association would like to extend a special thank you to all the many volunteers, advisors, and special guests who made this week of celebration possible. Congratulations to winners of the CDE and LDE events, State Degree recipients, Honorary State Degree recipients, State Proficiency winners, and our Star Stars! Good luck to our State Winners who will be competing in Indianapolis, Indiana at the 95th National FFA Convention and Expo during October!



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION



STATE WINNING CDE AND LDE TEAMS/INDIVIDUALS ARE...

**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ANIMAL SYSTEMS****Individual:** Nathan Paris from Chatham**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ANIMAL SYSTEMS****Individual:** Michele Mickelwait from Central**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ANIMAL SYSTEMS****Individual:** Katie Powell from Nelson**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - POWER SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY****Individual:** Ella Toothman from Central**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ENR****Individual:** Jackson Lohr from Broadway**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - PLANT SYSTEMS****Individuals:** Jadyn Smith, Camrey McMillian from Carroll County**AGRISCIENCE FAIR - SOCIAL SYSTEMS****Individual:** Audrey Garrison from Turner Ashby**CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS****Team:** Broadway**CREED****Individual:** Grace Stowe from Chatham**DISCUSSION MEET****Individual:** Noah Smith from Holston**EMPLOYMENT SKILLS****Individual:** Grace Walbroehl from Culpeper**FLORICULTURE****Team:** John S. Battle**High Individual:** Allison Ratliff from John S. Battle**HORTICULTURE DEMONSTRATION****Team:** C.L. Payne**HORTICULTURE EVENT****Team:** John S. Battle**JUNIOR DAIRYMANS****Team:** Sherando**JUNIOR AG DEMO****High Individual:** Cassie Fulks from Fort Defiance**JUNIOR AG MECHANICS****Team:** Wilbur S. Pence**High Individual:** Caleb Jones from Wilson Memorial**JUNIOR AGRONOMY****Team:** Nelson Middle**High Individual:** Jodie Saunders from Nelson Middle**JUNIOR FORESTERS****Team:** Atlee**High Individual:** Jake Huffman from Atlee**JUNIOR FORESTRY FIELD DAY****Team:** Carroll County**JUNIOR FORESTRY****Team:** J. Frank Hillyard**High Individual:** Rachel Haviland from J. Frank Hillyard**JUNIOR HIPPOLOGY****Team:** Johnson-Williams Middle**High Individual:** Reagan Loker from Johnson-Williams Middle**JUNIOR LIVESTOCK EVALUATION****Team:** Rural Retreat**High Individual:** Abigail Miller from Rural Retreat**JUNIOR MEATS****Team:** J. Frank Hillyard**High Individual:** Jodie Saunders from Nelson Middle



JUNIOR POULTRY

Team: J. Frank Hillyard Middle
Individual: Shay Tusing from J. Frank Hillyard Middle



JUNIOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Individual: Savanna Jones from Appomattox Middle



JUNIOR SOILS

Team: Sherando
High Individual: Ayla Janney from Broadway



LAWN TRACTOR OPERATORS

Individual: Thomas Wilson from Appomattox



MILK QUALITY

Team: Clarke County
High Individual: Herschel Hoffeditz from Broadway



MS AGRISCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND MECHANICS

Team: RE Aylor Middle
High Individual: Corinne Cooley from RE Aylor Middle



MS FOOD AND FIBER

Team: Stuarts Draft Middle
High Individual: Olivia Moore from Stuarts Draft Middle



MS PLANT SCIENCE

Team: RE Aylor
High Individual: Lily Wray from RE Aylor



MS QUIZ BOWL

Team: North Fork Middle



MS QUIZ BOWL - WRITTEN

Team: Wilson Middle
High Individual: Emma Wisecarver/Marcus Bowley from RE Aylor Middle



MS SMALL ANIMAL

Team: Beverley Manor Middle
High Individual: Nicholas Haggerty from North Fork Middle



NURSERY/ LANDSCAPE

Team: John S. Battle
High Individual: Rocco Malina from John S. Battle



PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Team: Sherando



SENIOR AG COMMUNICATIONS

Team: Central
High Individual: Walker Willoughby from Nelson County



SENIOR AG DEMO

Team: Wilson Middle
High Individual: Emma Wisecarver/Marcus Bowley from RE Aylor Middle



SENIOR AG MECHANICS

Team: Appomattox
High Individual: Devin Allison from Fort Chiswell



SENIOR AG SALES

Team: Highland
High Individual: Erin Brendel from Highland



SENIOR AVIAN BOWL

Team: Mountain View
High Individual: Katie Powell from Nelson County



SENIOR CROPS

Team: Rustburg
High Individual: Ben Geesaman from Randolph-Henry



SENIOR ENR

Team: Central
High Individual: Benjamin Walters from Central



SENIOR EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Individual: Jana Lee from Abingdon



SENIOR FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Team: Broadway
High Individual: Brent Harper from Broadway



SENIOR FLORICULTURE

Team: John S. Battle
High Individual: Allison Ratliff from John S. Battle



SENIOR FOOD SCIENCE

Team: Rappahannock
High Individual: Erica Wood from Broadway



SENIOR FORESTRY

Team: Atlee

High Individual: Jake Huffman from Atlee



SENIOR FORESTRY FIELD DAY

Team: King William



SENIOR HIPPOLOGY

Team: Franklin County

High Individual: Carrie Miller from Massanutten Technical Center



SENIOR HORSE EVALUATION

Team: Fort Defiance

High Individual: Lauren Byrd from Fauquier



SENIOR LIVESTOCK EVALUATION

Team: Rural Retreat

High Individual: Emily Klein from Wilson Memorial



SENIOR MARKETING PLAN

Team: Wilbur S. Pence



SENIOR MEATS EVALUATION

Team: Nelson County

High Individual: Katie Powell from Nelson Senior



SENIOR PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Individual: Katie Stang from Amelia



SENIOR POULTRY

Team: Broadway

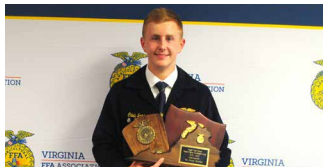
High Individual: Katie Payne from Broadway



SENIOR SOILS JUDGING

Team: Atlee

High Individual: Andrew Farrell from Atlee



SMALL ENGINES

Individual: Caleb Jones from Wilson Memorial



STATE FAIR CROPS

Team: Randolph-Henry

High Individual: Ben Geesaman from Randolph-Henry



STATE STOCKMANS

Team: Nelson County

High Individual: Katie Powell from Nelson County



TRACTOR OPERATORS

High Individual: Kody Burnette from Smith Mountain



TRACTOR TROUBLESHOOTING

Individuals: Devin Allison, Charlie Goforth from Fort Chiswell



VET SCIENCE

Team: Liberty

High Individual: Anna Grohs from Liberty

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State Stars



Logan works for his family business at W.E. Kellum Seafood and through his own seafood business, Drakes Landing Seafood. His love of FFA and aquaculture has provided him with many opportunities to grow and advocate for the seafood industry. Logan recently lobbied at the Virginia General Assembly on behalf of the Virginia Waterman's Association about a bill that would negatively impact watermen across the Commonwealth. Logan plans to join the family business as the next oyster buying manager.



Courtney grew up working for TB Pallets, a business founded by her parents in 2001. Through FFA, she has developed leadership, communication, and business management skills. She uses these skills to continue to strengthen and further develop her business. One day, Courtney hopes to take over the family business and is very interested in the trends in the pallet industry. She plans to attend Virginia Tech this fall to pursue a degree in business.



Since she was young, **Rachel** has held a deep passion for livestock and agriculture. She started showing Holstein heifers when she was 3 years old. Through competing in multiple contests such as Dairy Handlers and Farm Business Management, Rachel gained knowledge on ways to expand her herd. She currently has developed a herd of 8 cows and 12 heifers. Her operation focuses on genetics and raising cattle with excellent characteristics. Rachel will attend Purdue University this fall to pursue a degree in Biological Engineering.



Ella's SAE was based on studying the effect of chemical additives on the amount of head production that various residential concrete produced. As well as the effect of these additives on the environment quality and nesting boxes for Wood Ducks. Her various research projects, FFA experiences, and inquisitive mind have led her to always look for ways to make a positive impact on the environment. The research she has conducted has allowed her to gain budgeting, advocacy, and data collection skills. Ella will be attending James Madison University this fall with plans to become a researcher!

ONTO THE NEXT Chapter

by Makenna Garrett – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Secretary
and Gabriella Martin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

Throughout 2021-2022, six individuals from across the commonwealth served Virginia FFA members with enthusiasm, passion, and diligence. Charlie, Emma, Jackson, Ellie, Lauren, and Sammy...thank you for an incredible year. Thank you for all the laughs, memories, and moments that will forever leave an impact on Virginia FFA. **You have shown us through this past year what it looks like to overcome.**



CHARLIE - PHENOMENAL

"Watching the year come to a close at the 96th Annual State Convention was my favorite part of this past year. I enjoyed being able to watch members showcase their hard work and accomplishments as well as support them along the way."

Future Plans: Cornell University



ELLIE - GROWTH

"During FFA Week, we had the opportunity to play volleyball with the members from R.E. Aylor! It was fun getting to spend time with members in a more relaxed setting."

Future Plans: Virginia Tech



EMMA - FULFILLING

"This year was full of opportunities for me to learn and grow. I loved being a witness to the growth of members and seeing others find their yellow!"

Future Plans: Black Hawk East College



LAUREN - INSPIRING

"I loved watching members put all of their effort into achieving individual goals. Chapter banquets were my favorite because I got to see various chapters recognize their members for their hard work and accomplishments!"

Future Plans: Blue Ridge Community College and volunteer with local Fire Department



JACKSON - PROUD

"One of my favorite memories from this past year was when we had a full day of workshops. We were all exhausted, and the chapter we were visiting noticed this and asked us to spend quality time with them instead of doing the workshop. We ate a good meal, enjoyed some music and just had a relaxing time while making new friends."

Future Plans: Virginia Tech



SAMMY - REMARKABLE

"My favorite memory was meeting a student who has autism and witnessing how he became more comfortable communicating with others when he had the calming presence of rabbits in his small animal care class! FFA and ag classes offer opportunities for everyone!"

Future Plans: Virginia Tech



Question Guide

1. Name
2. Position
3. CDE/LDE of Choice
4. Fun Fact
5. What are you looking forward to this year?
6. Why should someone join FFA? Or what was the best part about being in FFA?



1. Emily Jenkins

2. PRESIDENT

3. Cattle Working

4. I have an obsession with Cinch shirts and Corral boots.

5. I love to travel and I am so excited for all the opportunities, but getting to learn about the members and watch them grow to continue the agriculture industry is going to be the most rewarding thing this year.

6. For me, FFA is like a family. I have made so many friends and connections through this organization. The skills I have learned and use everyday are so impactful. You don't have to be a "Farm Kid" to be a part of this organization. There are so many opportunities for anyone and everyone.

1. Makenna Garrett

2. SECRETARY

3. Veterinary Science

4. I work at a coffee shop!

5. I am super excited to meet members from across the state and see how they grow this year!

6. I think the best part of being an FFA member is the opportunities that come with it. There are so many doors that open throughout your time in the organization, so many connections are created that can and will help you in your future career, even if it's not in the agriculture industry.



1. Jordan Petrie

2. VICE PRESIDENT

3. Parliamentary Procedure

4. I have three bee hives.

5. I most look forward to traveling around the commonwealth and getting to meet members.

6. I believe that people should join FFA because it helps teach good life skills such as leadership and public speaking!

1. Jill Reiter

2. VICE PRESIDENT

3. Cattle Working or Extemporaneous Public Speaking

4. One fun fact about me is that I love to bake! Whether it's cream puffs, cupcakes, or macarons I love to find new recipes and try them!

5. This year I am looking forward to chapter visits and getting to know the amazing FFA members across Virginia.

6. I believe that students should join FFA because the organization has something to offer for everyone, whether that is learning public speaking skills, becoming a better leader, competing in contests, or learning more about agriculture. Personally, my favorite part of FFA as a student was competing in contests and being able to travel and make new friends through those contests.





1. Elizabeth Bates

2. VICE PRESIDENT

3. Horse Judging
4. My favorite movie is Legally Blonde!
5. I am looking forward to meeting members and exploring the diversity of Virginia's agricultural industry!
6. The best part about being in FFA is the friendships that you make and the leadership skills that you gain.

1. Gabriella Martin

2. VICE PRESIDENT

3. Floriculture
4. I show sheep and goats.
5. Meeting and connecting with members!
6. There are many great opportunities through FFA and you can gain skills for any career you may choose as well as leadership skills. FFA helped me overcome my fear of public speaking and it can help others overcome their fears as well!



1. Carly Thomas

2. TREASURER

3. Prepared Public Speaking
4. I'm the 2022 Highland County Maple Queen!
5. I'm looking forward to meeting members from across the state! VA FFA members are truly amazing, so I can't wait to meet them and learn more about their chapters!
6. The best part of FFA is the life-changing nature of our organization. Because of FFA I am a better person, member, and friend. I truly believe in this organization because it has made me the person I am today!

1. Savannah Goodwin

2. REPORTER

3. Horse Judging or Hippology
4. I learned to surf a couple of summers ago and just bought my first surfboard last summer!
5. I am really looking forward to learning about our unique members and their agriculture interests. I also love hearing why our members joined FFA and what drives them to be a part of the agriculture industry.
6. I think that FFA is a unique organization because it covers such a variety of interests. Whether you're interested in working on the farm or in the office, FFA has a place for that and everything in between.



1. Katie Powell

2. SENTINEL

3. Meats Judging
4. I work in a peach and apple orchard doing everything from sales, to production, to quality control. It's definitely grown my love for fruit and growing healthy food!
5. This year I am most excited to learn about each chapter's traditions and cultures. I am so happy to see all the similarities and differences from my home chapter's traditions!
6. The best part of being in FFA is having a support system of people who want you to succeed. Even though we may compete against each other at times, we always want to see each other do well!

Gearing Up FOR THE NEW YEAR



by **Jordan Petrie** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President
and **Elizabeth Bates** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President
and **Carly Thomas** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

Have you ever wondered how our State Officer team is trained for their year of service? The 2022-2023 State Officer Team spent the beginning of their term in various trainings to prepare for the upcoming year!

On July 11th through July 15th, the newly elected Virginia FFA State Officer team traveled to Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia to begin their first training session. The first official training is more commonly referred to as ‘Base Camp’ and is led by a facilitator from National FFA. The team had the amazing opportunity to learn from Mr. Rodrigo Ramirez-Perez. During the course of the week the team focused on learning the principles of leadership, active listening, and building a stronger bond. “Base Camp” took place the same week as the annual Virginia FFA Leadership Camp and during their breaks the newly elected officers enjoyed meeting with members from all over the state, as well as performing in the camp talent show! State Vice President, Jill Reiter reflected on her favorite aspect of Base Camp, “There were so many things, but my favorite part was building connections with my teammates and getting to know them on a deeper level.”

The State Officer team then attended the annual State Officer Summit in Washington D.C during the week of July 17th-July 21st. The Summit theme for this year was “Exemplify Advocacy”. At this training, the State Officers learned how to advocate for agriculture, agriculture education, and the FFA as well as gain knowledge on the FFA’s legislative goals for this year. While at Summit, the State Officer team met with Representative Ben Cline and Representative Abigail Spanberger as well as a staff member from Senator Mark Warner’s Office. In the Legislative Visits, the Officer team talked about how vital agriculture education is to not only Virginia, but also to the United States.





The team discussed the need for Perkins funding to be increased as well as the idea of including agriculture education into the 2023 Farm Bill.

The final training of the summer occurred in Blacksburg during August 31-September 3. This time they were reunited with their facilitator, Rodrigo, for another week of learning and preparation. Here, the State Officers learned how to initiate dialog, practice approachability, connect with others, and interact with stakeholders. These are all very valuable and important skills that the team will be using throughout their year of service. Next, the team got to work creating and preparing workshops to be implemented in schools this fall! This was especially exciting because several of the State Officers remembered how the workshops given in their schools were instrumental in encouraging them to become active members of their local chapters.

All these training experiences were well valued by all as they helped the team kick off their year and prepared them for all the fun that is to come, serving Virginia FFA!



2022 VIRGINIA Ag Expo



by Madison Sifford – VA FFA 2020-2021 Vice President

This year, the biggest supporters and advocates for Virginia agriculture gathered to recognize the success, advancements, and research throughout the Commonwealth. Each year, the Expo is held at a new location to showcase the diversity and new developments of Virginia's agriculture. Mill Creek Farms at Camden in Port Royal hosted this year's Expo with help from various sponsors such as Mixon Seed Service, Southern States, Virginia Tech, AgXplore, and more. "Precision for Profits" this year's theme could be seen throughout; from researchers from Virginia Tech to the Virginia Seafood ARCE and food trucks of all kinds,

Virginia agriculture was showcased well. Virginia Cooperative Extension worked alongside NRCS to discuss soil diversity and new, advanced farming techniques. Various speakers presented throughout the course of the Expo from different, unique backgrounds, such as, weed management, wireless data collection, drone usage, agriculture employment and education, and more.

All nine of State Officers attended the Virginia Ag Expo where they had the opportunity to meet with stakeholders, supporters, and Secretary of Agriculture, Matt Lohr. State Vice President, Elizabeth Bates, enjoyed the

networking opportunity, "I had a great time at the Virginia Ag Expo! It was a great experience being able to walk around and chat with other business and colleges that focus on the agricultural industry. I also got to meet the producers of the show Corn Warriors!" The State Officers worked alongside Mrs. Jennifer Armstrong at their own booth where they promoted the VA FFA Foundation, VA FFA license plates, and how to support students in the blue jackets. Virginia FFA would like to thank every donor, sponsor, and supporter that made the 2022 Virginia Ag Expo a success!



Exploring

FIELDS OF OPPORTUNITY WITH VAAE

by Melessa Suder – 2022-2023 VAAE President

Success is where preparation and opportunity meet. Based on the recent Virginia Association of Agriculture Educators' Conference themed "Fields of Opportunity", the 2022-2023 school year will be successful for many agriculture education programs in Virginia. The conference was held July 25th-28th in Warrenton, Virginia at Fauquier County High School and was the first full in-person conference the association has held since 2019. Over 105 teachers and State Staff were happy to get back to the yearly tradition of sharpening skills and celebrating friendships. Thank you to Christy Huffman-Kerr and Susan Hilleary for planning and hosting the conference.

The conference began with certification courses for teachers which enable them to assist students in earning those valuable industry credentials required for graduation. Teachers tested for their Pesticide License or became certified in Beef Quality Assurance or Greenhouse Management (Greenhouse Growers Exam).

During the remainder of the conference teachers enjoyed a wide variety of workshops providing valuable information on many agricultural topics. Workshops were led by teachers, vendors, and university professors. Agriculture constantly changes and these workshops assist agriculture teachers in staying on top of their game as they teach and train future agriculturalists.

Attendees celebrated the year's successes at a banquet held on Thursday evening at Fauquier Country Club. A variety of awards were given to agriculture teachers. Many received recognition for their years of service while others were awarded for their extraordinary efforts throughout the past year. A new slate of VAAE officers was installed.

VAAE Conferences and Winter In-Service provide excellent opportunities for agriculture teachers to refresh and remain current in their subject areas. Teachers will have a mid-year opportunity to gain even more skills February 3-4 at the Winter In-Service that will be held in Culpeper, VA. Visit <https://www.vaffa.org/vaae-pd> for more information about this opportunity!

2022-2023 VAAE Officer Team:

President - Melessa Suder, Eastern View High School
Past President - Christy Huffman-Kerr, Fort Defiance High School
Secretary - Thomas Davis, Dinwiddie High School
President-Elect - Sarah Jo Jones, Carroll County High School
VACTE Representative - Teresa Lindberg, E.W. Wyatt Middle School



Using colorful squares, teachers explore ideas for educating students about ideal layouts of school garden beds during a workshop hosted by Virginia Ag in the Classroom.



A student from the Canine Clippers Grooming School discusses tips and tricks for grooming various dog breeds and how teachers can educate their students about the proper way to take care of companion animals.

Always at Home

WITH FB YOUNG FARMERS



by Jill Reiter – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President
and Katie Powell – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Sentinel

The 17th Annual Farm Bureau Young Farmers Summer Expo was held in Wytheville, Virginia during July 29th-31st. Attendees of the Expo had the opportunity to network with other agriculturists, hear from government leaders, and go on various local farm tours. VDACS Commissioner, Joe Guthrie attended the Expo and spoke to attendees about exporting crops internationally. Other speakers included Delegate David Reid and Delegate Marie March; the delegates answered questions from the audience about issues facing young agriculturists today. The farm tours included an 18-acre tomato greenhouse, a 200-year-old dairy farm, a milk bottling plant, a pumpkin farm, and more.

When attendees were not listening to agricultural debates and discussions on attending farm tours, they were likely to be found competing in contests and workshops. FFA members and other high school students had the opportunity to compete for the Outstanding Young Agriculturalist (OYA) award. State Vice President Jill Reiter competed for this award and explained the contest. Reiter said, “The OYA award is a scholarship for youth involved in agriculture. Finalists in the competition have the opportunity to give a 3–5-minute speech about an agriculture topic.” All attendees of the expo were able to attend workshops, including BQA certification, pesticide application certification, and drone piloting. These workshops were run by industry professionals who provided excellent information and the opportunity to become certified for some people.





When asked about their favorite event at the Young Farmer's Expo, the officers talked about the trailer driving contest. Attendees of the expo had the opportunity to drive a UTV with a trailer attached through an obstacle course with prizes for the top finishers. State Reporter, Savannah Goodwin won fifth place and a brand-new set of emergency reflective triangles. State Vice President, Jordan Petrie also competed and took home last place with a time of a whopping six minutes.



Turner Trice

LEADERSHIP CAMP SCHOLARSHIP



by Hope Showalter – VA FFA Intern

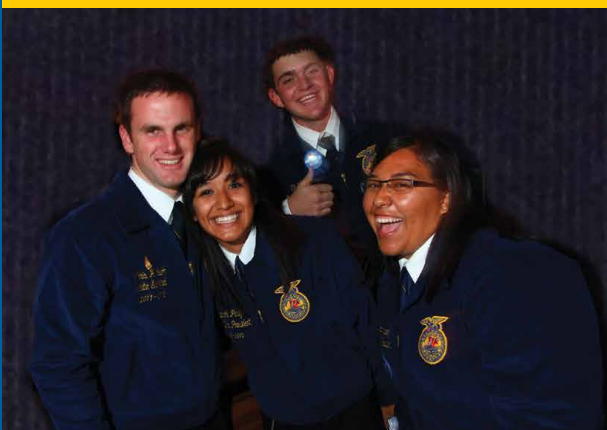
Today, we're focused. Our mission and cause are clear. We have a vision that is inspired and designed by those we serve, and those that serve with us every day. Our focus on deepening a culture of philanthropy and developing principled student leaders is still at the core of our work and serves as the common thread throughout the history of FFA's efforts in the commonwealth, and throughout the country. Legacy funds are crucial to providing our members with opportunities to grow as leaders for years to come. Each fund was created to honor those who have left a lasting legacy on Virginia FFA. Keep reading to learn more about one of the Legacy Funds you can give a gift to, today!

Leadership Camp has been facilitated by Mr. Turner Trice. His impact and legacy may be best expressed in the words of those who have experienced Leadership Camp first-hand. When asked what Mr. Trice has meant to FFA Camp, David Balderson noted, "Turner is a great example to me, our students, and teachers on what it is to give of your time." Mr. Trice has spent countless hours ensuring FFA Leadership Camp is an inspiring and educational experience for members. The Turner Trice Leave a Legacy Fund will provide scholarships for FFA members to attend camp during the coming years, ensuring his legacy of leadership lives on at camp. To give to this Legacy Fund, visit <https://tinyurl.com/TurnerTriceLegacy>.

When you support Virginia FFA, you change the lives of our future leaders. In a fast-paced world with disconnect from the farm to table, one organization has remained steadfast in its dedication to developing the next generation of leadership for our nation's pinnacle industry—agriculture. The FFA Organization is guided by the phrase - "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve" and its members live out hands-on service in their daily lives. The largest youth leadership organization in the world began right here in Virginia in 1927. Won't you be a part of it today?

Visit us online at vaffafoundation.org to join us in inspiring premier leadership, personal growth, and career success for FFA members across the commonwealth!

We believe in the future of our members. We believe in the future of agriculture. And we believe in you.



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