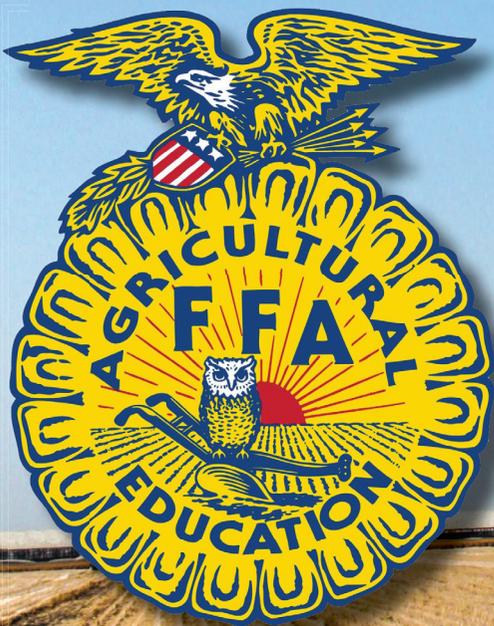


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A supplement of the Record-Herald

History of the Future Farmers of America

Courtesy of FFA website

The National FFA website has continued to keep track of the organization's history for years, dating back to 1917 when the first steps were made that made it into what it is today.

1917

The Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act (both Smith and Hughes were Georgia Congressmen) established vocational agriculture courses.

1925

Virginia Tech agricultural education teacher educators Henry Groseclose, Harry Sanders, Walter S. Newman and Edmund C. Magill organized the Future Farmers of Virginia for boys in agriculture classes. The FFV served as the model for the Future Farmers of America.

1926

The American Royal Livestock Show invited vocational agriculture students to participate in national livestock judging contests in Kansas City, Mo.

1927

G.W. Owens, teacher-trainer at Virginia State College, and Dr. H.O. Sargent, federal agent for agricultural education for African-Americans, U.S. Office of Education, wrote the first

constitution and bylaws of the New Farmers of Virginia, an organization for African-American agriculture students.

1928

Future Farmers of America established in Kansas City, Mo.

First National FFA Convention held in Kansas City: 33 delegates from 18 states in attendance.

Leslie Applegate of New Jersey selected as the first national FFA president.

First sectional gathering of New Farmers of America members held.

1929

National blue and corn gold adopted as official colors.

Carlton Patton of Arkansas named first Star Farmer of America, one of the first awards created by FFA.

At the Second National FFA Convention in November 1929, 33 states represented by 64 delegates.

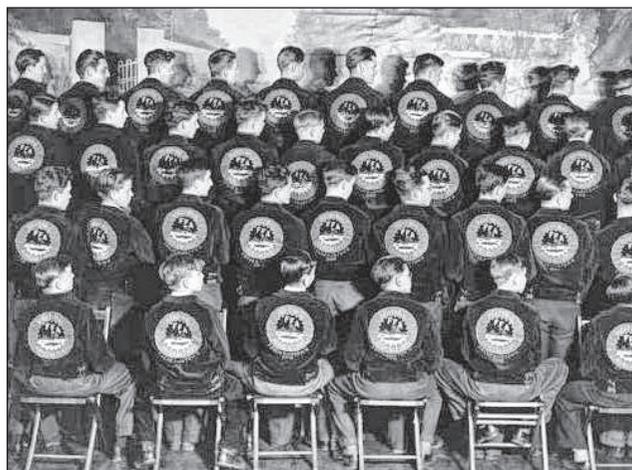
Thirty-five state associations with approximately 1,500 chapters and 30,000 members affiliated with the national organization.

1930

Official FFA Creed, written by E.M. Tiffany, adopted.

First National Public Speaking event held. Winner: Edward Drace, Missouri.

First Official Dress uniform adopted: dark blue shirt,



In 1929, national blue and corn gold became the official colors of FFA. A year later, delegates adopted the official FFA Creed and by 1933 the familiar Official Dress of blue corduroy jackets was adopted after convention delegates were enthralled by the jackets won to Kansas City by members of the Fredericktown FFA chapter.

blue or white pants, blue cap and yellow tie.

Delegates restricted membership to boys only. First Official FFA Manual printed.

1933

Blue corduroy jacket adopted as Official Dress. A group of FFA officers and members made a pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., where they were greeted on the White House lawn by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1935

New Farmers of America founded in Tuskegee, Ala. Active FFA membership

exceeded 100,000 members.

1937

During national convention, action taken to establish a national FFA camp and leadership training school in Washington, D.C.

1939

28.5 acres of land purchased near Alexandria, Va., for the first FFA-owned national headquarters; the land was part of George Washington's estate.

Identical twins Albert and Arthur Lacy of Hondo, Texas, become the only members ever to share the title of Star Farmer of America.

The "H.O. Sargent Trophy

Award" was created to honor H.O. Sargent's commitment to helping NFA members achieve success and leadership in agriculture.

1942

During World War II, when tens of thousands of FFA members served in the armed services, national FFA conventions were streamlined events where only delegates and award winners attend. In 1942, just 217 people attended the convention.

1944

Future Farmers of America Foundation formed to raise money from business, industry, government, individuals and sponsors for FFA programs and activities.

138,548 FFA members were serving in the Armed Services in World War II.

First National FFA Agriculture Proficiency Award presented for Agricultural Mechanics.

1947

First National FFA Band performed at national FFA convention.

1948

First FFA Chorus and National FFA Talent program held at national FFA convention.

National FFA Supply Service began operation.

Record jump in membership from 238,269 in 1947 to 260,300 in 1948; so many

members attended the 20th National FFA Convention that a folding-cot hotel was set up in the basement of the Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City.

First FFA Week celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday.

1949

First International Exchange Program for FFA members began with Young Farmers Club of Great Britain.

1950

A bill was passed by the 81st Congress of the United States that granted FFA a federal charter and specified that a U.S. Department of Education staff member be the national FFA advisor. On Aug. 30, President Harry S. Truman signed the bill, and it became Public Law 81-740.

1952

First issue of The National Future Farmer magazine published.

1953

The U.S. Post Office Department issued a special stamp to celebrate the 25th anniversary of FFA.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first president to speak at a national FFA convention.

1957

Former President Harry S. Truman spoke during the national convention.

See HISTORY | 10

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February is Career and Technical Education Month

Courtesy of FFA website

This month, FFA will celebrate CTE Month® 2016 in collaboration with the Association for Career and Technical Education.

CTE month is a public awareness campaign that is held each February by organizations nationwide to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs. It is an opportunity to make educators, students, policy-makers, employers and others aware of the value of CTE. Agriculture, advanced manufacturing and energy are a few of the many fields that encompass career and technical education.

Throughout the month, there will be many opportunities for FFA members to be involved with CTE month and educate others about the value of career and technical education. During this month, many FFA members will host school visits in their community, allowing a broad range of audiences to view the innovative CTE programs in local schools and learn about the accomplishments of these programs through question and answer sessions and classroom tours.

This month, FFA also celebrates FFA Week, Feb. 21-27, and many chapters across the country will take that week to share with others the benefits FFA offers

students.

ACTE strongly supports the FFA mission of helping students develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit ACTE's CTE Month page to learn more about how you can get involved in CTE Month, and check FFA and ACTE's websites and social media pages regularly throughout the month to receive updates on CTE Month activities across the country.

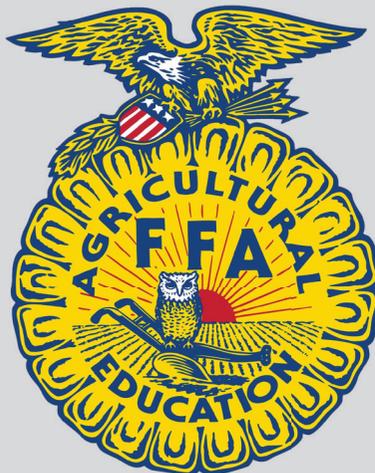
The National FFA Organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 629,367 student members who belong to one of 7,757 local FFA chapters throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance and career development professionals and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

2015-16 MIAMI TRACE FFA STATISTICS

Courtesy of Miami Trace FFA

- 196 total members
- 3 teachers covering classes that range from: crop science, ag mechanics, business management, greenhouse production and livestock science.
- Led by 14 chapter officers
- MT FFA invested \$672,389 in the local community in 2015 through their SAE projects.
- 3 National Proficiency Candidates: Natalie Miller, Evan Schaefer and Gus Mitchem
- 9 candidates for State FFA Degree
- 6 candidates for American FFA Degree
- 12 Proficiency candidates
- Earned 5 CDE banners in 2015
- Sold \$110,000 in the annual fruit sale



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Another year of success at the fruit sale

Chapter earned a profit of \$35,000 during annual sale

By Marissa Sheets

The Miami Trace FFA Chapter recently concluded the annual chapter-wide fruit sale and is proud to announce that they had a successful fundrais-

er once again this school year.

The chapter sold close to \$108,000 worth of fruit, meats, cheeses, honey, hand-crafted wreaths, and a variety of nuts, profiting approximately \$35,000.

Kameron Rinehart was this year's top fruit salesperson, selling just over \$6,300 worth of fruit. Second place top salesperson was Morgan Miller, selling just over \$4,700 worth of fruit. Third place salesperson was Marissa Sheets, sell-

ing just over \$3,600 worth of fruit. Congratulations to these three individuals for being top fruit salespeople this year. The chapter would like to express its sincere appreciation to all of the participating chapter members who sold fruit this year!

Top selling members will be recognized at the annual end of the year banquet this upcoming April. The money raised from our fruit sales goes to many things, including paying for both State and National FFA

convention trips, leadership camps and workshops, entry fees for contests, and financing our parent/member banquet. Also, the money raised will allow freshmen and other first year members who sold fruit the opportunity to receive their FFA jackets free or at a reduced rate.

Thank you to all of those who supported the Miami Trace FFA Chapter with their purchase in the annual fruit sale.

Extending ag knowledge to younger students

By Cody Clyburn

Fayette County is an agricultural county where almost all citizens are affected by agriculture. So, why don't all citizens in Fayette County take an agriculture related course in school?

This year, the Miami Trace FFA partnered with the Miami Trace Middle School to extend agricultural knowledge to younger students. Mrs. Swigert, Miami Trace FFA advisor, hosts a class of eighth graders every day. She instructs them on the basics of agriculture in our society.

Middle school students are required to take at least one fine arts credit. This new ag program is considered a fine arts credit for these students. This encourages more students to take the course.

Also, some of these students will even receive their Discover FFA Degree. This will start their track to earning a Greenhand Degree, Chapter Degree, State Degree, and possibly American Degree.

Spring means CDE Judging for MTA FFA

By Faith Holloway

Just like many other people, FFA members are eagerly waiting for spring to arrive. For FFA members across the state, spring means judging season.

Miami Trace FFA has a lot of different Career Development Events (CDEs) to get involved in this coming spring. Some of the CDEs that are available to MT FFA members are: livestock evaluation, wildlife/nature interpretation, agronomy, dairy cattle evaluation, poultry evaluation, equine

management and milk quality and products evaluation.

Participants in the livestock evaluation CDE cooperatively classify livestock as a keep or cull for market or breeding purposes based on physical characteristics and records. Agronomy possesses an in-depth knowledge of seeds, insects, soils and crops. They must also demonstrate skills in solving complex problems related to crop production.

Dairy cattle evaluation helps students develop skills in dairy cattle selection and herd man-

agement. Participants evaluate the cattle's physical characteristics, explain their various classes and analyze a herd record as a team. The poultry evaluation tests students' skills in the production, processing, and marketing of chickens, turkeys, processed poultry products and eggs.

Equine, students evaluate and rank horses based on breed characters, conformation and performance. As a team, students cooperatively solve problems related to equine selection, management, nutri-

tion and production. The last CDE is dairy foods, the participants in the milk quality and products CDE demonstrate their knowledge about the quality production, processing, distribution, promotion and marketing of milk and dairy foods.

Students on these teams spend endless hours studying and practicing after school. They will showcase their skills at five invitational events before competing at the state judging contest on April 2 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds.



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Miami Trace and Great Oaks partnership

Courtesy of the Miami Trace FFA

Ten years ago, our FFA chapter had the option to become part of Great Oaks Career Campuses as a satellite program. At the beginning, many people were skeptical of such a change. Luckily, there have been many positive changes now that we are chartered by Great Oaks and the agriculture community.

Miami Trace High School and Great Oaks has continued to build a positive relationship.

Prior to being a satellite of Great Oaks, our chapter had to use its own money to pay for buses. Now, Great Oaks pays for all student transportation, which means that FFA events that require traveling are more affordable for FFA members. Also, Great Oaks has equipped each classroom with a Smart board and 25 laptops. Students now have faster access to important information and technology has become an everyday part of class.

Probably the best addition Great Oaks has given us is a science/agriculture lab in one of our classrooms. This facility allows students to do more hands-on experimentation on the subjects covered in class. Some of these activities include: examining microorganisms under a microscope, testing soil erosion and pH levels and evaluating the different nutrients in feed additives.

Overall, the Miami Trace/Great Oaks partnership has proved valuable for students, teaching and administration, and we would like to thank Great Oaks for their continued support.

MT FFA attends 212/360 Leadership Conference

By Cole Karnes

On Saturday, Jan. 16, members of the Miami Trace/Great Oaks FFA Chapter traveled to the Embassy Suites in Dublin to attend the 212/360 Leadership Conference.

This conference is offered each year by the Ohio FFA, and over 800 FFA members from across the state are present. MT FFA had 20 students in attendance.

At the conference, students learned various leadership tactics and how to better themselves, their chapters and their communities. The students spent the night at the hotel and attended more sessions on Sunday. They left the hotel at noon on the 17th. In addition to expanding their personal skills, members also spent a great deal of time interacting with fellow Miami Trace FFA members and building friendships with members across the

state.

The students loved everything the conference taught them and they are enthusiastic to apply these new skills in their life. Junior Cole Karnes described his experiences at the conference as, "212/360 gives you the opportunity to help discover the leadership qualities we all have and how to use these skills to better ourselves and the people around us. The conference was very educational and was also a ton of fun."



Members of the Miami Trace/Great Oaks FFA Chapter traveled to the Embassy Suites in Dublin to attend the 212/360 Leadership Conference.

Courtesy photo



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MT FFA harvests success through community support

By Zach Ault

This spring, the Miami Trace FFA chapter, a satellite program of Great Oaks Career Campuses, planted a combined 100 acres of corn and soybeans on two farms.

The first farm was located in Jeffersonville on farmland donated by the late Mel Bush. Mr. Bush granted the Miami Trace FFA chapter 40 acres of his farm to operate rent free with 100 percent of the profits benefiting the MT FFA chapter treasury. The second site was 60 acres alongside the Miami Trace High School, which was purchased by the Miami Trace Local School District, MTLSD. In agreement with the MTLSD, the chapter receives 50 percent of the profits from the farm with the remaining 50 percent going towards graduating senior scholarships. The financial support and educational knowledge gained from these endeavors would not be possible without the support of numerous individuals and businesses within the community.

The Jeffersonville Farm was a 40 acre field planted in corn. This field was planted and harvested through the generous donations of Dale Mayer and Mayer Farm Equipment, LLC. Dale and his family donated their time, fuel and equipment to make this project successful. In addition, Brian McClish and

the McClish family also donated time, fuel and trucks to haul the corn to Premier Grain in Melvin, Ohio.

Scott Jenks and family donated time and funds to provide us with an outstanding corn variety and treatment that yielded 56 bushel an acre. Weed control management at both locations were donated by the efforts of Byron Gustin and his family. Kevin Stockwell and the other Bush Trustees, Bill Diley and Marion Stockwell, provided much needed information about the logistics of the farm.

The Miami Trace High School farm consisted of 60 acres of soybeans, which again was possible through contributions of many individuals, families and businesses. The beans will be planted by the McClish and Carmen family in late May. Gustin Seed and Doug Coe of Pioneer Seed donated time and labor to secure a good priced seed bean.

The crops were marketed at the Miller Grain Company in New Holland, thanks to the Miller family. Byron Gustin and the Gustin family again managed the weed control for Miami Trace FFA. The soybeans were harvested by Baxla Tractor Sales of Fayette Inc. and Brad Reisinger free of charge.

In addition, Marvin Arnold and Wayne Arnold donated time, labor and fuel to transport the grain to Miller Grain Company. The MT FFA would also

like to thank Eric Bartchy. He gave an educational demonstration to some of the Miami Trace FFA chapter members about the combine and its internal workings used for harvest on the field. Eric was also instrumental in getting the crops harvested in a timely manner by staying beyond normal business hours to finish the production.

The 10 acres of corn were planted by Doug Coe and Bryan McCoy with the donation of a tractor and planter use from JD Equipment. The seed was donated by multiple seed companies from around the area. The crop was fertilized and sprayed to control weeds by Crop Production Services Inc. Again, the harvesting was done through donations of time, equipment and labor from Baxla Tractor. The corn yields struggled due to very wet conditions on that side of the field, but because of the many donations to the corn crop it was still a substantial profit.

The overwhelming support of the community has been a direct catalyst to the success of these two farming operations. Financially, the profit made from the farms will go toward the MT FFA chapter's program of activities as well as funding scholarships for all Miami Trace graduating seniors. While the financial opportunity of farming 100 acres will undoubtedly benefit current and future Miami

Trace students financially, the educational experience is also extremely valuable.

This project has created an opportunity to educate the agriculture education students and in particular the Farm Management Capstone class about effective management practices. The students experienced first-hand the planning of seed, fertilizer, treatments and marketing that would produce the most successful harvest. With the experience from this past year, the future Farm Management Capstone classes will be able to study the data and make a continual growth plan to improve production each year.

The Miami Trace FFA was allotted use of a 40 acre farm in the winter of 2014. They proceeded to plant and harvest a soybean crop in 2015. They were successful as they obtained an average of 54 bushel to the acre. They are planning to proceed with planting the 40 acres in corn as to utilize the nutrients in the soil deposited by the bean crop of the previous year.

Mel Busch was a life-long farmer from Jeffersonville, Ohio. In his will, Mr. Busch gave generously to the Miami Trace FFA chapter. He first set aside 40 acres, which the chapter is able to farm for education and financial use. There is also a few hundred acres set aside specifically for an agriculture scholarship for students in our chapter. All

profits from this larger farm will go into the scholarship fund. This fund will provide financial support to numerous graduating seniors every year to assist them in the financial burden of pursuing a higher education.

With this 40 acre farm, the agriculture department has initiated a new form of curriculum called a capstone. Capstone is an advance course offered to juniors and seniors enrolled in Ag education. The course will be entitled Farm Management. Within this course curriculum students will learn how to manage all aspects of operating a cash crop operation by using the 40 acres as an education tool. The Miami Trace FFA department is grateful for the opportunities brought forth by Mr. Busch.

The farm capstone class has benefited substantially from these farms. They were able to use the cost of a rent and maintenance free farm and compare it to an actual farm operation. We looked at the financial gain off of the farms and then we subtracted realistic numbers for maintenance, seed, fertilizer, and other expenses. This is how we have benefited from farming the 100 acres.

The Miami Trace FFA chapter plans to continue this farm management practice for future years and would like to again thank everyone who helped make this project a success.

FFA holding annual Strawberry Sale

Courtesy of MT FFA

The Miami Trace FFA chapter is continuing its annual strawberry sale in February.

The chapter is currently selling

strawberries and orders can be placed until Feb. 26. Anyone in the community is welcome to take part in this sale by contacting any Miami Trace FFA member or calling the Ag Department at 740-333-

4759.

Strawberries will be delivered in March. The Miami Trace FFA is hoping to raise additional funds to support the chapter Program of Activities.



'Living to Serve'

By Todd Peterson

The FFA motto is "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." As FFA members, we are constantly looking for ways to fulfill the first part of the motto and improve ourselves and our community.

Miami Trace FFA is dedicated to making Fayette County a better place through numerous community service projects ranging from a breast cancer awareness campaign and fundraiser to adopt-a-highway.

Every October MT FFA holds the Paint the Town Pink fundraiser in order to raise funds for the Fayette County Mammogram Program. This fundraiser consists of a t-shirt

sale, a 5k walk across town, and window painting at numerous local businesses. Last year alone the chapter raised just shy of \$9,000, all of which goes to helping women in the community get a mammogram.

Members of the chapter also participate in Adopt-a-highway along State Route 41 near the high school. Each month when the weather is good, members will pick up trash along the highway in order to give the community a clean and pleasant view.

When the leaves begin to change colors, FFA members travel to the Miami Trace Elementary School in order to teach third through fifth graders about the numerous aspects of modern agriculture. As it

starts to get colder, the chapter teams up with Fayette Christian School to host an Operation Christmas Child packing party where FFA and community members pack thousands of shoe boxes to be sent to children in developing nations as part of the Operation Christmas Child. The MT FFA also hosts three blood drives throughout the year in cooperation with the American Red Cross.

Miami Trace FFA is truly exemplifying the words "living to serve." Through these numerous community service activities, students are developing personal leadership skills, taking pride in their community and learning that a single individual can have a large impact on the world around them.

Miami Trace Novice Parliamentary Procedure team competes at state

Courtesy of MT FFA

On Dec. 19, the Miami Trace Novice Parliamentary Procedure team competed in the state Novice Parliamentary Procedure competition.

The parliamentary procedure contest helps students learn the rules and ethics of running a proper business meeting. The novice team is for first year FFA members only. The team consists of freshman Abbi Pettit, Meri Grace Carson, Khenadi Grubb, Andrea Robinson, Becca Ratliff, Madison Pittstick, Logan Smith, and Tori Evans.

The team received fifth

"It taught us great public speaking skills. It even gave some of us more confidence in our own abilities."

— Abbi Pettit

place at the state competition but has taught the students things that cannot be learned just in the classroom. Freshman Abbi Pettit described her learning experience as, "It taught us great public speaking skills. It even gave some of us more confidence in our own abilities."

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We proudly congratulate our local FFA chapter on another successful year! We salute the National FFA Organization for continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of our students by developing their leadership skills through agricultural education.



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This isn't my goodbye, it's my 'I'll see you around'

By Hannah Ellenberger

"One day you won't be an FFA member anymore. You won't have those long trips with your fellow chapter members or officers. You won't have to tuck in your tallywacker, nail polish your tights, and spend the night in a hotel with five other people. You won't have your advisor at arm's length or the weird things in your jacket for good luck, your officer team will become distant and laughs will become limited. You won't be a core one organization who makes you who you are anymore. You won't be an FFA member; you'll have the memories of one." –

Anonymous

Passion is defined by Webster as any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling, a strong extravagant fondness, enthusiasm or a desire for anything. FFA isn't just an organization, FFA is my passion. As my year as a Miami Trace FFA officer comes to an end, and my senior year winds down, I have had the time to reflect. Not only on this year but also my previous years associated with FFA.

I think back over all the years I was associated with FFA without realizing it. The endless hours spent in the barn with my brother and father raising our flock, attending the annual



Hannah Ellenberger looks back at her senior year and her year as an FFA officer at Miami Trace.

Courtesy photo

Chapter FFA Banquets, and participating in the Fall Harvest Day program throughout elementary school. Once my brother graduated, I thought to myself how much work that he put in to the FFA chapter and thinking I wasn't cut out for such a thing. Four short years later I found myself reevaluating those exact thoughts, and facing my true fear, Ms. Dendinger.

It was now September of 2013 and I found myself low and behold doing just that, sitting face to face with my biggest fear. As chills ran down my

spine with every question she asked, every criticized learning experience, and every story she told, I knew that this is where I was meant to be. Two years flew by like nothing with endless CDE practices, multiple oral reasons, monthly chapter meetings, a new advisor, and many sleepless nights fretting over early morning competitions. But not one single second is regretted because I was doing it with passion.

I think back to a few months ago sitting at my second FFA banquet as a member. It was

getting late and the banquet was slowly coming to an end, but getting to the best part: Officer Installment. Frankie Neff took the podium and said, "Your 2015-2016 Publicity Officer is... Hannah Ellenberger!" Overcome with joy and emotion I ran to the stage to accept my position. But now reminiscing that moment and knowing in only two short months I will hand my office to the next deserving individual, a flood of emotions comes rushing over me. The thoughts are more powerful than I could ever imagine. Wow,

is it really over...?

The question that stings the most is: Why I took the last nine or 10 years for granted? I learned that Ag wasn't just about farming. It was about living with morals and integrity, about working hard for what you have. It's about holding yourself accountable in your shortcomings, but making sure they're few and far between. I realized God places things and people in our lives but it is up to us to open our eyes to the most oblivious things and people around us.

FFA was already in my life. I just had to realize that it could be my new passion and it was right where I needed it to be. And to think that I almost made a lifelong mistake of never joining FFA. I am proud to be a part of the FFA organization that has shaped not only myself but many members of this community into whom we are today.

As I graduate and leave behind my past, I look forward to my future. As a senior officer, and member I challenge my younger and upcoming chapter members to not let your future pass by you so fast that you look back wondering where time has gone. Be an active part of the FFA and it too can be your paradise. This isn't my good-bye, it's my "I'll see you around."

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MT students successful at Job Interview Contest

By Clare Sollars

On Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015 Miami Trace held the Sub-Districts Job Interview Contest.

There were five divisions, division 1 which is for freshman, division 2 which is for sophomores, division 3 which is for juniors, division 4 which is for seniors, and division 5 which is for first year juniors and seniors. The top two contestants moved on from each division.

Miami Trace had a contestant move on from each of the divisions - the only school at this Sub-District to do this. The contestants moving on to District from Miami Trace were Tori Evans, Maddi Wal-

lace, Clare Sollars, Riley Evans, and Alexis Schwartz.

The Districts job interview was held on Nov. 12 at Hillsboro High School. The top contestant in each division moved on to state. From Miami Trace, Clare Sollars, division 3, and Alexis Schwartz, division 5, competed at the state Job Interview Contest on Dec. 5.

The State Job Interview was held on the Ohio State campus. Every district sends one FFA member to compete in each division. Miami Trace was able to send two representatives, Clare Sollars in division 3 and Alexis Schwartz in division 5. Clare Sollars placed eighth and Alexis Schwartz placed third at the State Contest.

Cultivating more than crops, building the leaders of tomorrow

By Riley Evans

I was hesitant about joining the FFA at the beginning of my high school career. I did not grow up on a farm and significantly lacked experience in the agriculture industry.

At the time, I felt like my disconnection with agriculture was detrimental to becoming an FFA member. I thought there was no way I could fit in or be accepted into this organization if I did not meet the agricultural background prerequisite.

However, after the first few weeks in my agriculture education course, I realized that an agricultural background is not a requirement for membership in the National FFA Organization. After all, FFA exists to educate its members about the world's most important industry.

By joining FFA, I was able to cultivate my knowledge of agriculture. In addition to learning about the agriculture industry, FFA truly helped me discover myself as I gained leadership skills that were developed through chapter leadership

positions, career development events, and my supervised agricultural experience.

In 1988, the Future Farmers of America changed its name to the National FFA Organization in order to reflect the diversity of its members. Today, many think the FFA only prepares students who will be future farmers. However, the organization strives to do more than this. The National FFA Organization strives to educate all students, regardless of background, about the agriculture industry while preparing them to be effective leaders in the future. Students in the FFA are future educators, future lawmakers, future doctors, future researchers, and future salespeople.

The National FFA Organization prepares students for the future in all industries. Even though I did not join this organization as a "farm kid," FFA has proved to be worthwhile for me as it has made a positive difference in my life by developing my potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agriculture education.

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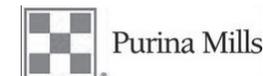
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History

From page 2

1958

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis presented NFA with a Certificate of Appreciation.

1959

First National FFA Center dedicated in Alexandria, Va., on land that had originally been used as the national FFA camp.

1965

New Farmers of America merged with the Future Farmers of America.

1966

First FFA National Agricultural Career Show held at national FFA convention to highlight educational and career opportunities in agriculture.

1968

President Richard Nixon attended national FFA convention in Kansas City.

1969

FFA opened membership to girls, making it possible for them to hold office and participate in competitive events at regional and national levels.

First National Star in Agribusiness, Ken Dunagan from Arizona, named.

Washington Conference (now called the Washington Leadership Conference) began.

Delegate body of the national FFA convention established alumni class of membership

as part of the constitution.

1971

The National FFA Alumni Association chartered as an affiliate of the National FFA Organization.

1973

FFA Official Dress standards created.

1974

Fred McClure from Texas was the first African-American elected to a national FFA office.

President Gerald Ford was the guest speaker at national FFA convention; the speech was carried live on network television.

1975

Food For America program launched.

Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter – a former FFA member – spoke at the national FFA convention.

1976

Julie Smiley of Washington was the first female elected to a national office.

Alaska became the last of the 50 states to obtain a national charter.

1978

President Jimmy Carter addressed the 51st National FFA Convention.

1979

First Extemporaneous Public Speaking Event held and won by Christe Peterson of Wisconsin.

1980

The National FFA Foundation raised \$1 million in one year for the first time.

1982

Jan Eberly, from California,

became the first female national FFA president.

1987

Vice President George H. W. Bush spoke at national convention; Bush was elected president in 1988.

1988

Future Farmers of America changed its name to the National FFA Organization to reflect the growing diversity in the industry of agriculture. Seventh and eighth grade students permitted to become FFA members. Agriscience Student Recognition Program introduced.

1989

The National Future Farmer magazine changed its name to FFA New Horizons.

1990

Partners in Active Learning Support program launched.

1991

Chapters in the Virgin Islands and Guam, along with five chapters in Micronesia, chartered.

1994

Corey Flournoy, from Illinois, was the first African-American to be elected national FFA president; he was also the first urban student leader.

1996

H.O. Sargent Award reinstated, promoting diversity among chapters. FFA announced its decision to move the National FFA Center from Alexandria, Va., to Indianapolis, Ind.

FFA announced its decision to move the national FFA



Girls were restricted from the earliest forms of FFA membership by delegate vote at the 1930 national convention. It wasn't until 1969 that females gained full FFA membership privileges by vote of the national convention delegates, despite many state associations permitting female members long before.

convention from Kansas City, Mo., to Louisville, Ky.

The official website for FFA, www.FFA.org, debuted.

1997

First Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards presented.

1998

National FFA Center in Indianapolis, Ind., dedicated July 20.

Agricultural Education National Headquarters dedicated in Alexandria, Va. National convention held in Kansas City, Mo., for the last time.

Jose Santiago elected to national office; he was the first member from Puerto Rico to serve as a national officer.

The 105th Congress of the United States reviewed and passed technical amendments to Public Law 81-740 (Aug. 30, 1950). Public Law 105-225 passed on Aug. 12.

1999

72nd National FFA Convention held in Louisville, Ky., for the first time.

First National Creed Speaking event held. Winner: Michael Van Winkle, Arkansas.

2000

Delegates at the national FFA convention approved the Discovery FFA Degree for middle school students.

The National FFA Archives at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis opened.

2001

First National Star in Agriscience named: Steven Offer, Wisconsin.

First National Star in Agricultural Placement named: Nicholas Streff, South Dakota.

2002

First female Star Farmer named: Karlene Lindow, Wisconsin.

Official Dress standards revised.

2003

Javier Moreno, Puerto Rico, elected national president; he became the first person with a native language other than English and the first Puerto Rican elected as national FFA president.

2004

First live webcast of national

FFA convention premiered on www.FFA.org.

2005

National FFA launched Seeds of Hope, a fundraising campaign to rebuild Gulf Coast states' agricultural education and FFA programs following Hurricane Katrina; \$835,699 in donations distributed to affected programs.

The National FFA Foundation broke the \$10 million mark in raising money for FFA programs and services.

2006

National FFA Foundation receives first \$1 million contribution from the Ford Motor Company.

79th National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Ind., for the first time, with 54,489 in attendance.

Endorsement of agricultural education's long-range goal of 10,000 quality agricultural education programs by 2015, where every student is a member of FFA and has a relevant SAE.

2007

The National FFA Merchandise Center opened its doors in Indianapolis, Ind. Membership broke the half-million mark with 500,823 members in 7,358 chapters. FFA New Horizons added online feature, www.FFAnewhorizons.org.

2008

FFA member networking site FFA Nation launched.

See HISTORY | 11

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History

From page 10

Board made the decision to rotate the national convention between Louisville and Indianapolis, beginning with Louisville in 2013.

2009

FFA celebrated 40 years of women in the organization.

2010

Dr. Larry Case retired after 26 years as national FFA advisor.

FFA celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of New Farmers of America during the 83rd National FFA Convention.

Six college-age FFA members traveled to Zambia for the FFA Global Outreach: Africa program.

FFA members earned a record 3,449 American FFA Degrees.

2011

The National FFA Alumni Association celebrated its 40th anniversary.

FFA celebrated Native Americans in FFA, agriculture and agricultural education during the 84th National FFA Convention.

Steve A. Brown named national advisor.
The Agricultural Career Network launched.

2012

The National FFA Foundation received a record of more than \$16.2 million in support of FFA.

FFA members and supporters packed 1,005,048 meals during the convention and expo's FFA Rally to Fight Hunger.

FFA celebrates Latinos/Hispanics in FFA, agriculture and agricultural education during the convention and expo.

2013

Membership hits all-time high with 579,678 members in 7,570 chapters.

The 86th National FFA Convention & Expo in Louisville has a record attendance of 62,998 members, teachers, supporters and guests.

FFA members earn a record 3,578 American FFA Degrees.

Ram Truck's "So God Made a Farmer" Super Bowl commercial exceeds 18 million views on YouTube; company donates \$1 million to FFA
Sherene Donaldson named first female national FFA executive secretary.

How MT is celebrating FFA Week

By Marissa Sheets

National FFA Week is an opportunity for current FFA members, as well as FFA alumni members and sponsors to promote agricultural education and FFA, by sharing with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on the lives of its members.

The tradition began in 1947 when the National FFA Board of Directors selected the week of George Washington's birthday as National FFA Week. This particular week was selected in order to commemorate Washington's legacy as a progressive farmer and advocate for agriculture.

Today, FFA chapters around the nation celebrate this week-long event in many different ways. For instance, the Miami Trace FFA Chapter, a satellite program of Great Oaks' Career Campuses, celebrates by having themed "spirit days," which give students enrolled into agricultural education courses the chance to be unified as an organization.

Another beloved tradition is "Drive your tractor to School Day," which gives these participating students the chance to educate their peers on different types of farming machinery and farming practices. The Miami Trace FFA Chapter also enjoys a chapter wide bowling party after school, which gives members the chance to mingle with others outside of the classroom setting.

As a way to give back and show their appreciation to the teachers and administrators, the Miami Trace FFA Chapter conducts a teacher luncheon every year on the Friday of FFA Week. Members of the chapter are exceptionally grateful for the opportunities the teachers and administrators of Miami Trace give us in order to fully amplify our FFA experiences!

Regardless of the FFA Week activity, the Miami Trace FFA Chapter and its members are dedicated about promoting FFA and serving as advocates for agriculture throughout their school and community.

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