



Montana FFA Foundation

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State Advisor's Update

The National FFA Convention took place in Indianapolis from October 19th to the 22nd. This 89th convention is one of the longest running conventions in the U.S. and will attract close to 65,000 people. Nearly five hundred students from Montana were in attendance.

Six of the eight state officers were involved in competitions at this year's convention. Jon Andres participated in the Ag Mechanics Career Development Event (CDE), Brock Reiner participated in the National Parliamentary Procedure CDE, Kacie Cummings competed in the Marketing Plan CDE, Albert Koenig competed in the Job Interview activity, CJ Stevenson was a competitor in the National Prepared Public Speaking CDE and Ashley Koenig participated in the Extemporaneous speaking CDE. To earn the opportunity to compete in a national event the student has to have won an individual state contest or be a member of a state winning team. In addition to competitions, the Montana Officers will participate in a Day of Service where they helped community organizations across Indianapolis. Finally, Josh Meyer, Jake Michels and three of the other officers served as official delegates and make decisions that will affect the future of the FFA organization.

The state officers recently completed district leadership schools that were held in eight different locations across Montana. Jon Andres, Kacie Cummings, Brock Reiner and Josh Meyer conducted activities in eastern Montana to over 525 FFA members, while Albert and Ashley Koenig, CJ Stevenson and Jake Michels presented to more than 650 members in the western part of the state. The officers had a great experience and look forward to the upcoming John Deere Ag Expo in Bozeman and chapter visits that will take place during the Christmas holiday.

In conclusion, Montana FFA would like to welcome Valier as the most recent school to implement an Ag-Ed/FFA program into their curriculum. Valier brought 14 students to the Glacier District Leadership School. What a great start to what everybody hopes will become a thriving chapter. Congratulations to Valier and we hope to see additional schools join the FFA family.

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NATIONAL OFFICER CANDIDATE — NEELA ANDRES

One thing is for sure about growing up on a small 20-acre sod farm turned irrigated alfalfa operation, there was always work to be done. The standard farm chores were divided up between my siblings and I. Packing the slop bucket to the pig pen, cleaning the chicken coop, and mowing the lawn was nothing compared to moving the hand line what seemed like every day. My brother Jon and I would wake up early and wade through the knee high green alfalfa (that I just knew was full of snakes, frogs, and mice) because our parents wanted to teach us character or something. In these days my littlest brother Max was about knee high to a grasshopper and really wasn't big enough to help us move the hand line. Instead he found another way to help. Max, being the compassionate little helper he is, would bring us 'butter sandwiches' and unsweetened cherry Kool-Aid. You see, Max was so small he couldn't even reach the top shelf to get the sugar yet, he still made every effort to make our day that much better. Each of us has the opportunity to help someone else regardless of what we consider our limitations.

Last year at National Convention, I took a break from interviews and speeches to help Max pick out his very first FFA jacket. I am excited to see the value my little brother and every student zipping up their jacket for the first time will add to FFA, agriculture, and our nation. Beyond career success, work ethic, and giving a set of market hog reasons, this blue jacket teaches us to add value to others.

The amount of time others have invested in me this last year (and the last 20 years really) has been overwhelming. I have truly amazing mentors in my corner who constantly provide me with unimaginable levels of support. It has been my greatest honor to represent Montana at the national level as our national officer candidate. I come prepared to share this story and others as I try to best champion the lessons of our land and its people.

Thank you for your support this past year.

Neela Andres
2016 Montana FFA National Officer Candidate



MONTANA AG TOUR

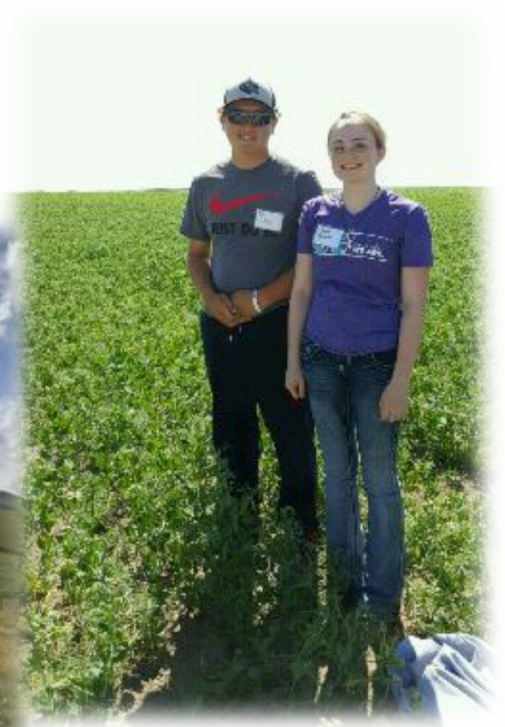
If you've ever wondered what it was like to travel on a bus with twenty other people for two days, Montana Ag Tour is an opportunity you should take. Although the fun bus ride was definitely a highlight, getting to tour the ag businesses and producers that made up northcentral Montana was an exciting opportunity that helped spark interest in Montana agriculture. We visited several beef producers, a few ag businesses, several schools, a pea producer, and even a sod farm! The trip gave me a better idea of what it took to become a member of the agricultural workforce in our great state.

Another opportunity we had while on the tour was to visit the MSU- Northern campus in Havre, MT. During this stop on the trip we spent time touring the agricultural programs they have to offer. One highlight for me was visiting the alternative fuels lab where biofuel is being produced from Canola.

This trip also allowed members from all over the state to get to know each other a little bit better. I met some people on this trip that will become lasting friendships. I also got to get to know the state officers better during the ag tour.

Overall, Ag tour was a great experience that helped me learn a lot more about Montana agricultural opportunities and what I can do in my future to help grow Montana Agriculture.

- Written by Katie Koterba, Electric City FFA



BLUE & GOLD GOLF SCRAMBLE



Montana FFA Foundation Blue & Gold Golf Tournament 2016

The 2016 Golf Tournament was a grand success thanks to the generous friends of the FFA who played, sponsored, or donated. We appreciate your continued support of the FFA Foundation and members across the treasure state.



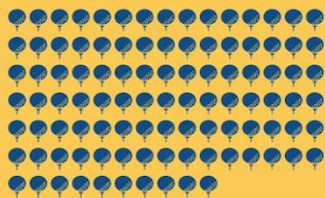
Congratulations to Kathy Krook from the President's Team for winning the John Deere Gator for the course's first ever hole-in-one!



1st Place Team
President's Team

By the numbers:

125 People in Attendance



\$7,492.50
Raised in total

Thank you to Mountain Sky Guest Ranch
and Rising Sun Golf Course for hosting us!

"Thank you all for coming to the Blue & Gold Golf Scramble! Whether you were a hole, prize, or beverage sponsor the tournament would not have been possible without your support."

- Jake Michels, State Parliamentarian

FACE OF FFA

Q & A WITH OUR FACE OF FFA, CAROLINE ROEDER OF THE CHOTEAU FFA CHAPTER

Q: What is your favorite FFA memory?

A: My favorite FFA memory was when I got to put on my blue jacket for the first time knowing the responsibility it would come with and the promises it held.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: My current plans for after high school include becoming an agricultural lawyer, possibly purchasing land to continue raising livestock, and some traveling. I also desire to continue to be actively involved in FFA, school, church, community, and the sheep industry for the rest of high school. One of my big goals is to become a FFA State Officer.

Q: What advice would you give to new FFA members?

A: My advice for new FFA members is to try everything and put yourself out there. You have to get out of your comfort zone to create memorable experiences and build the best possible you. FFA will reward you handsomely if you are actively involved and try for success. You may not always be recognized for what you do but when you are the rewards will be sweet.

Q: What has helped shape you to be who you are today?

A: I love being actively involved and learning constantly. While at times I am tired and stressed, I later get to see the produce of my hard work. I want to thank my family, teachers, friends, and God for helping me get to where I am today.

Congratulations, Caroline! The Montana FFA Association is proud to acknowledge the accomplishments and qualities of our members, and we look forward to seeing what outstanding feats other members are striving towards this year!



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings.

There is a definite feel of fall in the air and the colors have been wonderful this year. As always the staff and directors at the Foundation have been very busy. We have had tremendous support from all of our summer visits. This is great to hear and makes it even clearer that Montana FFA is alive and strong.

We had our annual golf tournament in September and thanks to the great people at Mountain Sky Guest Ranch it was an overwhelming success. Thanks to all the teams that participated. The first ever hole in one was shot on this course, congratulations to Kathy Krook who took home a new John Deere Gator compliments of Frontline Ag. After the event the board of directors held it quarterly meeting and began to solidify a 3-5 year strategic plan for perpetuating our scholarship endowment campaign. More details will be available by the end of 2016.

By the time you receive this newsletter several Montana FFA members will be attending the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Montana will be well represented in several national contests and Neela Andres will be competing for a spot on next year's National officer team. Best of luck to all of you.

Our staff is working diligently to make John Deere Ag Expo another great success. I'm looking forward to seeing all the bright young faces November 17-19 on the campus of MSU. This event has quickly become a premier youth conference for the Western region of the United States. A big thank you to the John Deere dealers of Montana and Montana State University for making this event possible.

In closing thanks again to our staff, advisors and FFA supporters for your time, dedication and funding. Truly this is making a difference for the youth of Montana to become more successful.

Forever Blue,

Curt Robbins
President
Montana FFA Foundation

Featured below is the new state logo for
the 2016-2017 Montana FFA year,
ImAGine!



WELCOME NEW STAFF

The FFA Foundation recently hired two new interns, both past state officers were of the 2015-2016 state FFA officer team, Meghan Brence of the Miles City FFA, and Cody Boyce of the Lewistown FFA Chapter!



Meghan Brence is a proud eastern Montana native who hails from Miles City. A past State 4-H President and 2015-2016 Montana FFA State 1st Vice President, Meghan is currently a sophomore in Agribusiness Management and Economics at Montana State University. This Custer County Cowgirl loves the outdoors and working as a founding member of the Brence Chix Sow Farm. During her time in FFA, Meghan showed steers and hogs as well as competed in livestock judging. Meghan joined the team at the Foundation in August of 2016 to continue her service to Montana FFA.

Cody Boyce hails from Lewistown, Montana, where her family owns and operates a commercial cattle operation located east of town. She is currently a sophomore at Montana State, studying pre-veterinary medicine. She plans to attend veterinary school after her time here at MSU and focus her work in the livestock industry. Cody was a member of the Fergus FFA chapter and spent her time competing in various CDEs along with showing hogs. She served as the 2016-2017 Montana FFA State Secretary and is excited to further her involvement with Montana FFA this year while assisting at the Foundation.



We wish you well, Carol!



We are so thankful for Carol's two years of service with the Montana FFA Foundation. Carol went back to work as a school counselor in Shelby, Montana. Carol was very instrumental in bringing in new sponsors and cultivating our partnerships. Carol will still be actively involved with the FFA and will volunteer wherever she can. Thank you, Carol, for your service and dedication to advancing the future of agriculture with the blue jackets!

GREETINGS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



October and November marks some of my favorite months here at the Foundation. School is well underway and there is a new promising class of FFA members beginning their leadership journey. I have the chance visit and reconnect with many of our FFA supporters and Alumni. It never gets old to hear how FFA changed the lives of our Alumni and members while connecting with supporters who see the value in the organization. FFA might mean something different to each person, but we all understand the value and potential the program can produce for each student.

One of the most endearing traits of our organization, and Agriculture as a whole, is the consistency of our mission. Despite changing technologies or generations, I see hard working individuals with a desire to serve others, perpetuate a tradition of excellence for the next generation, and lead with integrity. With an election year in full swing, it's nice to remember that, while there may be a lot of negative messages out about the state of our country and the ability of each candidate, the corduroy jacket and the hard work and sweat equity put into agriculture never changes. We have a bright future ahead, not because of what's on a ballot, but because of those in the industry and our next generation of budding leaders. Our strength and viability as an industry and developing future leaders is due to the tight-knit, caring community in which Ag and FFA makes for itself. Enjoy the fall and thank you for all you do to perpetuate Ag and leadership in Montana.

Sincerely,

Jaime Edmundson

Jaime Edmundson
Montana FFA Foundation
Executive Director



Ag @ Sheridan College

Sheridan College agriculture programs are highly regarded for their rigorous, hands-on training.

Students study with experts in their field, who care about student success.



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Sheridan College Ag Programs

Animal Science • Agricultural Business
Agricultural Science • Horticulture • Farrier Science
Horticulture & Sports Turf Management
Natural Resources & Ranch Land Management



For more information on Agriculture at Sheridan College visit us at:
www.sheridan.edu/ag
or call 1-800-913-9139

ONLINE APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

The Montana FFA Foundation is excited to announce that all student and chapter applications are all online! These applications include: all scholarships applications, Beef SAE Grant application, Helping Hands chapter grant applications, and more!

Scholarship Applications are now available!

Did you know?

The Montana FFA Foundation gives
over \$25,000 in scholarships each year,
apply now!



Without the kind support of the Montana FFA Foundation and all the sponsors of the Montana FFA, I would have never been able to experience the Washington Leadership Conference. Thank you so much for the scholarship to help me pay for the expense of WLC. I greatly appreciate all that you do to help make opportunities, like WLC, possible.

- Kelsey Kraft, WLC Scholarship Recipient

Students – contact your advisor(s) for all website link to the applications. If you have any questions, contact the FFA Foundation.

support@montanaffa.org

406-582-4118



STATE REPORTER'S ARTICLE



Classes are in full swing for schools across the treasure state, and so are events for the Montana FFA! The state officer team travelled to each of the eight FFA districts over the past few weeks, conducting District Leadership Schools for members young and old. Officers Jon Andres, Kacie Cummings, Josh Meyer and Brock Reiner travelled to the East side of the state, visiting the Big Muddy, Eastern, South Eastern and Southern districts. The rest of the team including Ashley Koenig, Albert Koenig, Jake Michels and CJ Stevenson, took on the West side of the state, traveling to the Glacier, Western, South Western and Judith Basin districts. Hundreds of enthusiastic members gathered to see old friends, meet new ones, and attend some awesome workshops conducted by the officer team. District Leadership Schools often mark the beginning of the FFA year and many events have taken place since DLS only a few weeks ago.

The weather was perfect for the annual FFA Golf Tournament, which took place at the Mountain Sky Guest Ranch near Yellowstone National Park. The entire officer team came out to enjoy a beautiful day of golfing, good food, and great conversations with some of the many supporters of Montana FFA. The highlight of the day was surely the hole-in-one, from Kathy Crook. Not only was it her first shot of the day, but it was the first hole-in-one ever at the Mountain Sky golf course! Not only did she walk away with an amazing story to tell, she also one a brand new gator from John Deere! Thank you to all of the sponsors and to the Montana FFA Foundation for all of their hard work!

As the FFA year really takes off, we look ahead to many exiting events in the near future. Coming up this week is the Young Agriculture Leaders Conference, or YALC, in Great Falls. Quite a few current and former Montana FFA State Officers will be in attendance, as well as many other young agriculturalists from the area. The conference will take place September 29th through October 1st. Additionally, the National FFA Convention will take place this year October 19th through the 22nd in Indianapolis, Indiana. The state officer team will all be in attendance, along with many other members from across the state. All of Montana FFA is proud to garner our support to former state secretary Neela Andres, who is in the running for national office. Congratulations to all of the members attending nationals and good luck to Neela Andres, as she represents our association at the national level.

COMMODITY TOUR

The National FFA Organization plays a large role in the lives of students across the state of Montana. This program first started in 1928 and has since spread across all 50 states and 5 territories of the United States. Chartered in 1930, the Montana Association has a membership of nearly 5000 students, in 90 chapters spread across the state. The FFA Motto is “Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve” and members practice this every day. Students have boundless opportunities to learn about potential careers, serve their communities, and develop skills that will last a lifetime. One unique opportunity for members that took place recently is the Agriculture Commodity Tour. Students travelled by van over 1700 miles, visiting Idaho, Oregon and Washington, stopping at various locations along the way. The State Officer Team as well as the 1st Place Agronomy team from Joliet hit the road on July 10th, led by State Advisor Mr. Jim Rose, Mrs. Carol Perisho, and Joliet Advisor Mr. Chad Masser. The first stop of the trip was at Columbia Grain in Clarkston, Washington, where the group took a very interesting tour of their facility. Members found it very interesting to see the transport of grain on such a large scale. As agriculturalists, it is important for us to understand what happens to our grain after it is harvested. The tour at Columbia Grain gave us a unique perspective and new respect for what goes on behind the scenes.



Mr. Jim Rose is a big advocate for the Agriculture Commodity Tour and has seen the great impact it has on students. One of his favorite parts of the trip is visiting the Wheat Marketing Center in Portland, Oregon. He has found it is very interesting for the students and gives them a unique perspective into the wheat industry.

This trip provides very unique opportunities for students to learn about the agriculture industry as well as potential careers. Very few people get the privilege to get a behind the scenes look in the Wheat Marketing Center and watch Montana commodities loading a barge to feed people all over the world.

Another interesting stop was made at Grand Central Bakery in Portland, Oregon. This business began back in the 1960's, and has since expanded into a large production bakery with cafes in Portland and Seattle. We got a full tour of the production facility in Portland, and were able to see the mass production of high quality artisan breads to be delivered around the city. “It was amazing to see both the people and the bread rise to the occasion to feed Portland,” according to 2nd Vice President Jon Andres.

Also during the trip, the group also stopped at Hatton Cranberry Farm, Stutzman Farm, Stemilt Fruit Processing Plant, Ocean Spray, Bonneville Dam and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Among the agriculturally focused tours, the group also spent an afternoon at Pike's Place Market in Seattle, visited the beach in Oregon, and hiked up to Multnomah Falls.

This experience was generously sponsored by Columbia Grain and the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.



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Volunteer at John Deere Ag Expo!

Would you like to volunteer for John Deere Ag Expo, November 17-19? We are in need of volunteers to proctor exams, help judge reasons, and judge speaking events. Simply log on to the link below to sign up!

<http://signup.com/go/q8nvZ1>

Save the Date!

John Deere Ag Expo
November 17-19

Torgerson's GOLD Conference
January 6-8

KMON/Meats CDE
January 20-21

Fergus Mechanics
January 28

Montana FFA State Convention
March 22-25