



MONTANA FFA NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2020

The snow has been falling and the student members of Montana FFA have been gearing up for the 2020 Montana FFA State Convention in Great Falls, Montana, in March. In this issue, read about the latest events of Montana FFA and the opportunities available for all with a passion for agriculture.

UPCOMING:

Save the date for Montana FFA's Annual Agricultural Opportunities Tour! June 25-28, we will showcase the diverse agribusinesses and industry found in northeastern Montana. Unique stops include the Fort Peck Dam, natural resource extraction, and specialty crop processing plants. This tour will also host the inaugural Ag Tour Day of Service!

Be sure to keep an eye out for a further schedule of events and registration details for this exciting tour!

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PRESIDENT'S PUBLICATION

Throughout the past year, our FFA members have been committed students in the classroom, developed their career skills through work-based learning in their Supervised Agricultural Experiences, and worked diligently to serve their communities.

We are now fast approaching the 90th Annual Montana FFA State Convention where we will celebrate our students' successes in their communities from Plentywood to Lima, Saint Regis to Ekalaka, and everywhere in between.

This year's Montana FFA State Convention is being held March 25-28 in at the Montana ExpoPark (State Fairgrounds) in Great Falls. We are inviting you to meet our young leaders whether you are able to volunteer to support our students' competitive experiences in Career Development Events or to help celebrate our successes by attending one of our General Sessions during the State Convention. All of our General Sessions are free and open to the public. If you have any questions about getting involved in the State Convention, I would encourage to visit our website or call our staff at (406) 582-4118. They would be happy to talk to you!

We hope that you consider joining us to help make Montana's largest conference a success!



Curt Robbins

PRESIDENT

Montana FFA Foundation

GRANT RECIPIENTS NAMED

Every year, the Montana FFA Foundation awards grant funding for FFA members across the state. Students use these grants to participate in work-based learning and expand their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs). FFA members who seek to raise and produce their own beef can apply for Bulls for Blue grants to assist them in starting or expanding their own beef operation. SAE grant funding comes from the Gianforte Family Foundation and the Wells Fargo Foundation. Bulls for Blue donors include Shipwheel Cattle Company, Vermillion Ranch, Apex Angus, South Montana Angus Association, Bobcat Angus, Stevenson Angus, Gateway Simmental, Pine Coulee Angus, and Prickly Pear Simmental. Without their support, many students would not receive aid in expanding their SAEs in FFA.

Cole Taylor (pictured below), an FFA member from Opheim, gave an inside look into the impact SAEs and SAE grants have on students:

“My SAE is beekeeping. Beekeeping is an ancient art that has been practiced for thousands of years. The first goal of my SAE was to learn beekeeping. In my year of experience, I have learned much! From building the hive, installing the bees, analyzing feed needs, monitoring hive health, learning bee biology, and researching (lots and lots of researching!), I have gained invaluable skills. One thing I learned was that I have much, much more to learn. I am excited to continue my path in beekeeping and learning each step of the way...success is defined as ‘the accomplishment of an aim or purpose’. FFA provides success for an individual. The abilities attained in the organization itself, the lessons within the classroom, and the experiences related to FFA, all lead to huge benefit to its members. A Supervised Agriculture Experience is a priceless part of the FFA experience. Without the funds this grant supplied, I would not have been able to execute my SAE. I am truly thankful.”

2020 Bulls for Blue Grant Recipients

Alyssa	Thormahlen	Belfry FFA
Shyla	Benzing	Chinook FFA
Torin	Cecrle	Chinook FFA
Seth	Carroll	Plevna FFA

2020 SAE Grant Recipients

Madelynn	Beals	Belgrade FFA
Lance	Vranish	Belgrade FFA
Holly	Vranish	Belgrade FFA
Severin	Heimbigner	Big Sandy FFA
Avery	Durfee	Big Timber FFA
Dawson	Laverell	Big Timber FFA
Elise	Crago	Cascade FFA
Gracie	Orem	Cascade FFA
Ellie	Ward	Cascade FFA
Benjamin	LaVelle	Chinook FFA
Tiffany	Ioder	Corvallis FFA
Jayna	Jackson	Corvallis FFA
Lauren	Kearns	Corvallis FFA
Hailey	Miles	Corvallis FFA
Timothy	Lane	Fort Benton FFA
Devan	Birrer	Fromberg FFA
Jordyn	Whitmus	Fromberg FFA
Max	Andres	Missoula FFA
Khloe	Berdine	Missoula FFA
Justice	Betts	Missoula FFA
Amy	Chilcote	Missoula FFA
Sasha	Helmer	Missoula FFA
Zach	Fauth	Opheim FFA
Aiden	Fouhy	Opheim FFA
Cole	Taylor	Opheim FFA
Delilah	Puckett	Twin Bridges FFA

STATE ADVISOR'S UPDATE

Welcome to 2020! Wow, that kind of sounds like the introduction to a TV news show. Hopefully, we will have good news as we enter this coming year! I am excited to see the number of chapters that will take advantage of the opportunities that are offered at our upcoming 90th Annual Montana FFA Convention.

I recently returned from the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers (ILLSO) on behalf of the National FFA Organization. Seventy-five state officers representing twenty-eight states travel to Spain and Portugal. Participants visited farms and agribusinesses, shared in the local culture, and developed themselves as culturally-aware students. Kyla Andres, our own state officer from Missoula, took the opportunity to travel on this trip, as well.

One highlight for me was a visit to the “Plastic Sea”. This area, near the town of Almeria, Spain, is also known as Europe’s Vegetable Garden. Nearly 90,000 acres of greenhouses covered with plastic are owned by over 15,000 farmers. You can drive for 30-40 miles and see nothing but a plastic covering across the landscape (it’s worth Googling a picture!). Along with agricultural visits, our group also had the opportunity to visit many historical landscapes, including the Renaissance Cathedral in Seville where Christopher Columbus is buried.

Back in Montana, students are busy applying for scholarships, awards, and degrees! Members’ efforts will be recognized at the State FFA Convention held in Great Falls, March 25-28. Everyone is invited to attend this exciting event. Details for the Convention are provided on the Montana FFA website: www.MontanaFFA.org.

I hope to see you all in Great Falls!

Jim Rose

STATE ADVISOR

Montana FFA Association



Cole Taylor, of Opheim, pictured in action with his beekeeping SAE.

CHAPTER VISITS

Throughout December and January, the Montana FFA State Officers traveled the state to visit local FFA chapters. The State Officers traveled the state in pairs and facilitated workshops with students. The workshop topics for students included information on Supervised Agricultural Experiences and the Agricultural Experience Tracking, improving and brainstorming ideas for chapter fundraising, developing and implementing a local Program of Activities (POA), and exciting opportunities in FFA.

For many of the State Officers, it is a unique experience to facilitate multiple workshops in one day with lots of traveling. State Parliamentarian Andrew Ferrat and State Secretary Emily Evans both agreed that they loved to see all the energy that each chapter had, even though they were all so different and hundreds of miles apart. The State 2nd Vice President, Isaac Sponheim, said his favorite part of traveling was witnessing each chapter's unique structure.

The chapter visits were enjoyable from a member perspective as well. Twin Bridges FFA Vice President, Brooke Melhoff said, "It was super helpful to go over our POA as a chapter. It helped us organize activities we already do, as well as get some fresh ideas for new ones." On the other side of the state, Dawson FFA President Chay VanDyke said, "It was an eye-opening experience and good inspiration for members in a new chapter like ours." Finally, Gracie Smith, President of the Victor Chapter, stated, "Chapter visits this year were fantastic! The first-year members learned a lot and are excited about the future!" State President Caroline Roeder summed up chapter visits well by saying, "[a]fter chapter visits, I know I can travel anywhere in Montana and know I have friends there."

Andee Baker

STATE TREASURER

Montana FFA Association



Anna Slivka and Isaac Sponheim gearing up to travel the state.



Lucas Oelkers, Isaac Sponheim visiting the Carter County chapter.

AG @ SHERIDAN COLLEGE

HORTICULTURE SCIENCE

As a Sheridan College student, you will not only learn the foundations, principles, and practices of horticulture science and production, but also techniques necessary for successful plant cultivation, production, and research in our state-of-the-art herbarium and greenhouses.

You will gain the scientific background and skills you need to pursue a career as a landscape designer, wholesale grower, research scientist, and more.



Like us on Facebook @ www.facebook.com/AgatSC

Our faculty members have years of research and industry experience and are passionate about providing students with valuable internships and research opportunities.



For more information on Agriculture at Sheridan College visit us at: www.sheridan.edu/ag or call 1-307-675-0541

DID YOU KNOW?

You can donate to the Montana FFA Foundation online by visiting montanaffa.org and clicking "Donate Now".

Supporters can contribute one-time donations or set up recurring donations. Recurring donations can be monthly, every six months, or annually.

Your support provides opportunities for Montana FFA members to experience premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through conferences, events, and scholarships.

Montana FFA would not positively impact student lives without the support of our generous supporters and alumni.



Choosing our license plate at registration or renewal supports our Montana FFA members. Twenty dollars from the sale or renewal of each plate goes directly to the Montana FFA Foundation and assists in providing opportunities for students in FFA.

IF YOUR COUNTY DOES NOT STOCK THE OFFICIAL MONTANA FFA PLATE, THEY CAN ORDER IT IN! GIVE THEM A PRIOR NOTICE TO YOUR RENEWAL.

If you would like to further support FFA members, please contact the Montana FFA Foundation at (406) 582-4118 for information on how you can support.

JOHN DEERE AG EXPO



FFA members anxiously waiting to compete in the Employment Skills LDE at the MSU campus in Bozeman.

The John Deere Ag Expo (JDAE) once again flooded the MSU campus with more than 1,500 blue jackets. Students from every corner of the state gathered in Bozeman for workshops and competitions. The first-ever Agricultural Enrichment Day for the Bozeman community was held. Middle school students from Chief Joseph Middle School took the opportunity to attend and experience the Montana FFA community.

The Montana Leadership Conference and Premier Leadership Conference for FFA students kicked off each morning at the Montana State University campus. Attendees had the privilege of hearing from a Beef Checkoff representative, past national FFA officer Jason Wetzel, Montana FFA alumni Paytyn Wilson and Saralyn Standley, and Jerrod Muhr from Paradigm Shift Leadership. All facilitators brought the members new perspectives on leadership and advocacy.

Tours offered during John Deere Ag Expo were for FFA members in-between competitions. One tour exposed students to the MSU Wool Lab, where they explored different uses for wool, wool processing, and how wool is studied. All throughout JDAE, attendees, students, and partners of FFA felt the excitement of competition throughout the membership. Even more exciting was the application of agricultural knowledge in the Career & Leadership Development Events. JDAE at its best: the crossover of both learning and competing.

Isaac Sponheim
STATE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Montana FFA Association

JOHN DEERE AG EXPO RESULTS

TOP INDIVIDUALS

Agricultural Education
Monse Arvayo, Fort Benton

Food Science
Brooke Mehlhoff, Twin Bridges

Jr. Ag Communications
Ben Miller, Joliet

Jr. Ag Tech. & Mech. Systems
Rinhard Bold, Big Sandy

Jr. Agricultural Sales
Jacob Broyles, Rapelje

Jr. Agronomy
Wyatt Isaacs, Miles City

Jr. Employment Skills
Brianna Olstad, Shepherd

Jr. Farm & Agribusiness Mgmt.
Kiara Sherman, Mission Valley

Jr. Horse Evaluation
Carsyn Hibbs, Shepherd

Jr. Livestock Evaluation
Shelby Schweers, Grass Range

Jr. Meats Eval. & Technology
Shaun Billingsley, Missoula

Jr. Poultry Evaluation
Brady Bantz, Grass Range

Sr. Ag Communications
Kaitlyn Lummer, Cascade

Sr. Ag Tech. & Mech. Systems
Matthew Dall, Kalispell

Sr. Agricultural Sales
Molly Sutherland, Kalispell

Sr. Agronomy
Amber Johnson, Choteau

Sr. Employment Skills
McKenna Quirk, Missoula

Sr. Farm & Agribusiness Mgmt.
Max Andres, Missoula

Sr. Horse Evaluation
Cassidy Dutton, Grass Range

Sr. Livestock Evaluation
Kiara Sherman, Mission Valley

Sr. Meats Eval. & Technology
Max Andres, Missoula

Sr. Poultry Evaluation
Layton Tucek, Grass Range

Jr. Creed Speaking
Kyah Moring, Victor

Jr. Extemp. Speaking
Phillip Prewett, Park City

Jr. Agriscience Fair
Baylee Herman, Simms

Sr. Creed Speaking
Rosalynn Daniel, Corvallis

Sr. Extemporaneous Speaking
McKenna Quirk, Missoula

Range Science
Amber Johnson, Choteau

Vet Science
Morgan Corean, Grass Range

TOP TEAMS

Vet Science
Grass Range

Range Science
Miles City

Sr. Horse Evaluation
Grass Range

Sr. Farm & Agribusiness Mgmt.
Belgrade

Sr. Meats Eval. & Tech.
Missoula

Sr. Livestock Evaluation
Missoula

Sr. Poultry Evaluation
Grass Range

Food Science
Park City

Jr. Ag Communications
Saint Regis

Jr. Ag Tech. & Mech. Systems
Big Sandy

Jr. Agricultural Sales
Gardiner Team 1

Jr. Agronomy
Joliet

Jr. Farm & Agribusiness Mgmt.
Park City

Sr. Agricultural Sales
Kalispell Team 1

Jr. Horse Evaluation
Shepherd

Sr. Marketing Plan
Cascade

Sr. Agricultural Issues
Cascade

Sr. Agronomy
Stevensville

Jr. Livestock Evaluation
Grass Range

Jr. Meats Eval. & Tech.
Missoula

Jr. Poultry Evaluation
Grass Range

Sr. Ag Communications
Cascade

Sr. Ag Tech. & Mech. Systems
Joliet

Jr. Quiz Bowl
Plevna

Sr. Quiz Bowl
Stillwater Valley 'A'

Conduct of Chapter Meetings
Shepherd 'A'

Parliamentary Procedure
Shepherd Team 1

Jr. Marketing Plan
Park City

Jr. Agricultural Issues
Park City

Sr. Agriscience Fair
Charlie Palacios/Tiffany Ioder,
Corvallis



Do you have an online-shopping addiction to purchasing items from Amazon?
Put it to good use, shop at Amazon Smile and support
the [Montana FFA Foundation](#) as your charitable organization!

Go to smile.amazon.com and choose to support our student-led organization
with eligible online purchases.

TORGERSON'S GOLD CONFERENCE

On January 3, 32 students traveled from all over the state to meet for the seventh-ever Growing Our Leaders' Development (GOLD) Conference in Bozeman. We even had the pleasure of welcoming two students from Washington to GOLD Conference this year. This event, sponsored by Torgerson's, is hosted for high school seniors and college freshmen to focus on developing interview skills, building resumes, and deciding whether or not to run for a state officer position.

The 2020 GOLD Conference Interview panelists kept students busy when workshops were not being presented. Presenters such as Dr. Igo and Dr. Perry from the Department of Agricultural and Technology Education, Past State Officers, and Torgerson's took the time to invest in these young leaders. Additionally, past National FFA Vice President, Valerie Luhman, presented a workshop and a keynote to the students, focusing on the vitality of having a mentor in life.

The state officers enjoyed mingling with the students while waiting for interviews, whether this was through a humorous photo session with "Ted Torgerson" the mannequin, a lively card game, or a "Just Dance" tournament on a gaming console. On the evenings of Friday and Saturday, the students were given the opportunity to review the content of the day and collect their thoughts in powerful reflections led by the state officers.



Before leaving for home Sunday morning, the state officers and Foundation staff left the students with a mission to never forget the lessons learned, experiences gained, and connections created during the three days at GOLD Conference. Thanks to all the effort and support invested in hosting this event, the students are always sent away never lacking a positive outlook or confidence regarding their future. All they ever seem to lack is a few hours of sleep!

Anna Slivka

STATE REPORTER

Montana FFA Association

JOIN US IN THE ELECTRIC CITY!

It's that time of year again! 2020 marks the 90th Annual Montana FFA State Convention in Great Falls. March 25-28, more than 1,500 FFA members, advisors, and guests will meet for one of Montana's largest conventions. In addition to State Convention, the Montana FFA Career Development Event Days, sponsored by Montana Farmers Union, will convene in Great Falls, March 24-25, where FFA members will compete in various contests to vie for a chance to compete at the 2020 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, this coming October.

Keep an eye out for upcoming promotional materials for State Convention, as well as CDE Days, sponsored by Montana Farmers Union.

If you are a business, individual, or college interested in joining our Career & Trade Show, view information for doing so at www.MontanaFFA.org or contact the Montana FFA Foundation.

We need as many volunteers as we can get in order to put on these events! Sign up to volunteer for the Montana FFA State Convention by following this link: <https://signup.com/go/wVCziCf>



MONTANA FFA
STATE CONVENTION



MONTANA FFA
CDE DAYS

STATE CONVENTION OPPORTUNITIES



YOUTH SPEECH CONTEST

Both the Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and Colleen Barnard will be hosting special competitions for students to take advantage of at the 2020 Montana FFA State Convention! For specific details on these contests, scan the QR code below or visit www.MontanaFFA.org:



Colleen Barnard's

MOST INSPIRATIONAL CONTEST

ALUMNI & SUPPORTERS SEGMENT

The Montana FFA Alumni and Supporters have been active! In November, we held our 2019 Annual Meeting where we elected new executive officers and district representatives. Our district reps have been helping at their respective districts' state-qualifying contests, local chapter fundraisers and community service events, and are currently working on contacting alumni chapters in their areas to support your endeavors!

The Judith Basin District Rep position is currently open. Inquiries regarding this role can be directed to Alumni President, Kelsey Kraft: ffakelsey@gmail.com.

We are continuing to support the Montana FFA State Convention in March as we host the Hospitality Suite, the Alumni Silent Auction, and the Alumni Store. We are currently accepting donations for the Hospitality Suite and the Silent Auction. Contact Kelsey to coordinate donations for the Hospitality Suite. Those interested in supporting the Silent Auction can contact Alumni Secretary, Heidi Froelich: ffaheidi@gmail.com. The Alumni Store provides FFA merchandise and convention essentials for FFA members and convention attendees. To pick up a shift at the store, give Kelsey a call.

The Collegiate FFA at MSU is also having an exciting spring semester with community service activities, an FFA Week Breakfast for the College of Ag, and supporting the State FFA Convention as Trade Show exhibitors and hosting pre-session activities. Many of their members will be volunteering during State Convention and challenge other Alumni chapters to join them!

During CDE Days and State Convention March 24-28 in Great Falls, we urge everyone to help judge student contests as many volunteers are needed to make these events successful! Register to volunteer at www.MontanaFFA.org.

To keep up with Alumni and Supporters chapters from across the state, follow our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mtffa.alumnisupporters/>. We look forward to mingling with Alumni and Supporters from across the state at District events, CDE Days, and State Convention!

Heidi Froelich

SECRETARY

Montana FFA Alumni & Supporters



MONTANA
FFA FOUNDATION

502 S. 19th Ave, Suite 113
Bozeman, MT 59718
foundation@montanaffa.org
(406) 582-4118

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTANA FFA CALENDAR

CONRAD CROPS & MECHANICS	MARCH 7	Conrad, MT
STATE CDE/LDE REGISTRATION CLOSES	MARCH 11	State FFA Office
MONTANA FFA CDE DAYS	MARCH 24-25	Great Falls, MT
MT FFA STATE CONVENTION	MARCH 25-28	Great Falls, MT
AMERICAN DEGREE APPS DUE	APRIL 10	State FFA Office
MT NOC NOM COM APPS DUE	APRIL 10	State FFA Office
ENVIROTHON (ENR CDE)	APRIL 20-21	Lewistown, MT
NAAE REGION 1 CONFERENCE	APRIL 21-24	Las Vegas, NV
MONTANA RANGE DAYS	JUNE 15-17	Dillion, MT
ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CAMP	JUNE 18-20	Highwood, MT
AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES TOUR	JUNE 25-28	Eastern MT

