

Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

April to May 2018

State FFA Convention Results Are In

Thursday and Friday, May 3 and 4, members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter attended the Ohio FFA State Convention in Columbus. Members were recognized for various accomplishments and competed in several contests. While in Columbus, the members the convention's Career Show, met FFA members from across the state, and enjoyed eating out.

Motivation speakers at the convention included Professional Motivational Speakers Gian Paul Gonzalez, former Ohio State and NFL football player Eddie George, USDA Under Secretary Greg Ilbach, National FFA Secretary Erica Baier and State FFA President Ryan Matthews.



The highlight of the trip was the conferring of the State FFA Degree. This year, Miami East High School had six members receive such an honor. Seniors Dylan Hahn, Alex Isbrandt, Emily

Thimmes and Juniors Kylie Blair, Maci Krites, and Zach Kronenberger earned the degree. The degree requirements are based on their earned income from their Supervised Agricultural Experience program, leadership experience, and FFA and community activities.

During the National Chapter Award results the chapter was named a Top 10 Chapter, out of over 320 chapters in the state. Additionally, the chapter placed in the Top 10 in the areas of Growing Leaders, Building Communities, and Strengthening Agriculture. These results are from the chapter's National Chapter Application. The application will now be sent to the National FFA for review and placing. Additionally, the chapter was recognized for being a Gold Medal Chapter. Members sharing informational presentations were Jessica Gillum, Dylan Hahn, Maci Krites, and Emily Thimmes.



Students were recognized for having outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs through the State Proficiency Award program. All students earned a cash prize and were recognized on stage with a plaque. Maci Krites was named the



named the State Winner in the area of Agricultural Sales-Entrepreneurship. Michael Bair was

named the State Winner in the area of Ohio Organic Agriculture. Emily Thimmes was the State Winner in Specialty Crop Production. They will now have their applications forwarded to National FFA for further competition.

Additionally in proficiency awards Lane Mergler was named second in the area of Agricultural Sales-Entrepreneurship. Kylie Blair placed third in the area of Agriculture Research-Integrated. Zach Kronenberger placed third in the area of Small Animal Production and Care. Michael Bair was named second place in Diversified Livestock Production and second in the area of Poultry Production

Past chapter officers submitted their year's officer books. Liza Bair, Alex Isbrandt, and Rachael Hodge were received state recognition for completing a Gold rated Chapter Secretary's, Treasurer's Book and Reporter's Book, respectfully.

In the State Agriscience Fair members conducted a research project, created a display, and participated in an interview. Jessica Gillum and Kylie Blair placed 2nd in their division and earned a gold rating with their research project, "Does Clean Water Mean Clean Soil?" Kearsten Kirby earned a gold rating for her research in a feed trial on market chickens. Zach Kronenberger earned a silver rating for his study of iron uptake in soybeans.

Makayla Brittain, Ethin Bendickson, and Carter Gilbert were members of the State FFA Band. Other recognition for the Miami East-MVCTC FFA included special recognition for the donation of monies to various charities.

Members attending Maci Krites, Emily Thimmes, Kylie Blair, Kearsten Kirby, Jessica Gillum, Michael Bair, Zach Kronenberger, Dylan Hahn, Lauren Wright, Emma Younce, Leann Vernon, Kaitlyn Hawes, Makayla Brittain, Ethin Bendickson, Alex Isbrandt, Carter Gilbert, Jarrett Winner, Lane Mergler, and Rachael Hodge. A special thank you to chaperones Michelle West, Superintendent Todd



Rappold, Eric Krites, and Jackie Winner for their dedication and time. Several parents and special guests joined the chapter during the Convention to celebrate the accomplishments.

Congrats FFA Members of the Month

April 2018 – Tyler Laycox

May 2018 – Alex DiNardo, Dylan Hahn, Rachael Hodge, Alex Isbrandt, Emily Thimmes, and Emma Younce

FFA Holds Annual Parent-Member Banquet

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently held its 59th Annual Parent Member Banquet. Over 300 parents, members, and guests were attendance at Miami East High School Gymnasium. Highlights of the evening were:

In 2017, the Chapter was ranked in the Top 10 out of 315 chapters in the National Chapter Application. Also we placed in the Top 10 Chapter in the areas of Growing Leaders, Strengthening Agriculture, and Building Communities. The application was then sent on for national judging and we were named a 3-Star National Chapter at the 2017 National FFA Convention.

The chapter just learned that they are, again, a Top 10 Chapter in the state and a Top 10 in all three areas of the National Chapter Application. They will interview at the upcoming State FFA Convention to be named the #1 chapter in the state.

This year, three officers, Liza Bair, Alex Isbrandt, and Rachael Hodge submitted Officer Books for review at the District Evaluations. All three earned a gold rating. They will be further recognized at the 2018 State FFA Convention.

Chapter FFA Degree Recipients

FFA members are given the opportunity to earn four degrees during their membership in the organization. The first is the Greenhand Degree represented by a bronze pin. Students were recognized



who have reached the second degree presented – the Chapter FFA Degree. 22 candidates met the minimum qualifications for

this degree. The candidates were Elizabeth Bair, Michael Bair, Daniel Baker, Kyle Baker, Ethin Bendickson, Blaine Brokschmidt, Madison Calvert, Josie Desautels, Ryan DiNardo, Kelsea Drake, Austin Ferryman, Luke Gilliland, Savannah Holzen, Megan Honeyman, Anastasia Kilbourne, Kearsten Kirby, Saige Lacey, Jesse Nick, Kaitlyn Rohrbach, Blake Snyder, Brailyn Tarcea, and Chloe Thomas.

Honorary Chapter FFA Degree

One of the premier goals of the FFA is to promote leadership among its students. The Miami East-MVCTC



FFA Chapter would not be able to do special projects without some very special people. There was one individual recognized with the Honorary Chapter FFA Degree because of their continuous support of the FFA – Mr. Denny Zerkle.

Proficiency Awards

Proficiency awards are designed to recognize the efforts of members who have outstanding Supervised



Agricultural Experience programs and have kept accurate records. Winners of the 2018 Chapter Proficiency Awards were: Agricultural Research Integrated – Kylie Blair,

Agricultural Sales – Maci Krites, Agricultural Sales – Lane Mergler, Diversified Livestock Production – Michael Bair, Organic Agriculture – Michael Bair, Poultry Production – Michael Bair, Small Animal Care and Production – Zach Kronenberger Specialty Crop – Emily Thimmes, and Swine Production – Dylan Hahn.

Additional Awards

Quality Supervised Agriculture Experience Programs are based on accurate record keeping and perfected record books. Students with outstanding record books in each of the classes were Freshman – Coleman Demmitt, Sophomore – Luke Gilliland, Junior – Tyler Heckman and Senior – Alex Isbrandt.

High scholastics are an important part of each high school student's life. Results of the students with the highest academic records in their entire high school career include Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources – Libby Carpenter, Plant and Animal Science – Madison Calvert, Livestock Science – Junior – Maci Krites, and Livestock Science – Senior – Emily Thimmes.

Kearsten Kirby, Kylie Blair, Kaitlyn Hawes, Abbey Koontz, Tyler Laycox, Paige Pence, Sydney Preston, Seth Wells, and Jarrett Winner were recognized for selling over \$1,000.00 worth of fruit during the chapter's fruit sales. Kearsten Kirby was the highest selling fruit sales person.

State FFA Degree Recipients

The State FFA Degree is the highest degree received in the state. About 2% of the state's FFA membership earns their State Degree. Kylie Blair, Dylan Hahn, Alex Isbrandt, Maci Krites, Zach Kronenberger, and Emily Thimmes were recognized.

Additional Chapter Awards were Star Greenhand to Jarrett Winner and Lauren Wright, Passion for Ag Advocacy Award to Rachael Hodge, Blue and Gold Spirit Award was Emma Younce, Excellence in Agriculture Award was Alex Dinardo, Star Chapter in Agribusiness was Alex Isbrandt, Star Placement was Dylan Hahn, and the Star Chapter Leader was Emily Thimmes.

Chapter Officers Installed



The 2018-19 Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Officers were installed. They are as follows: Reporter Lauren Wright, Treasurer Jarrett Winner, Secretary Ethin Bendickson,

Vice President Liza Bair, and President Kylie Blair.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation State CDE



The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation team members wrapped up a spring season of Career Development Events. A special thank you goes to

the practice sites. The Dairy Cattle Team practiced at Quietcove Holstein Farm in Wapakoneta, Knoop Holstein Farm in Fletcher, Hershberger Jersey Farm in Troy, Hines Holstein Farm in Chickasaw, and Buschur Dairy Farm in New Weston.

On March 3 at the Marysville/Champaign County Invitational in Marysville the Dairy Cattle Team placed 16th and consisted of Michael Bair, Chloe Thomas and Elizabeth Bair. Michael Bair was the highest placing individual from Miami East at 34th out of 101 contestants.

On March 10 at the Miami Trace FFA Invitational in Washington Court House the Dairy Cattle Team placed 13th and consisted of Michael Bair, Ethin Bendickson and Elizabeth Bair. Michael Bair was the highest placing individual from Miami East at 26 out of 93 contestants.

The State Dairy Cattle Evaluation Career Development Event was held on April 7 at Ohio State-ATI in Wooster. The team placed 16 out of 57 teams. The highest individual from Miami East was Ethin Bendickson placing 33 out of 295 contestants. Michael Bair placed 46.

Plant and Animal Science Students Go Wild

Students from the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter had the tables turned for a day when they became teachers at Miami East Elementary School on Friday, April 20. 23 second-year students enrolled in Plant and Animal Sciences were trained in Project WILD earlier in April and then prepared 20 minute lessons to educate Kindergarten, first graders, and second graders about wildlife and wildlife habitats.

The goal of Project WILD is to assist learners of any age in developing the awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends. Linda Raterman of the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District was responsible for the training and lesson development the FFA members went through.

Ethin Bendickson, Kearsten Kirby, Kelsea Drake, Michael Bair, Saige Lacey, and Kyle Baker played "Animal Charades" to teach about domesticated and wild animals with Mrs. Jennifer McCuiston, and Mrs. Lauren Nosker classes.

"Quick Frozen Critters" was a fast, freeze tag game to help learn about predators and prey. Elizabeth Bair, Josie Desautels and Anastasia Kilbourne really enjoyed teaching this game with Mrs. Carmen Richter's class.

Austin Ferryman, Brailyn Tarcea, and Savannah Holzen played the "Thicket Game" with Mr. Preston Elifritz's class. The game included a hind-and-go-seek game to mimic how wild animals hide from their predators.

Luke Gilliland and Megan Honeyman shared a game called "How Many Bears Can Live In This Forest?" In this activity Mrs. Amanda Riley's class learned about the carrying capacity of bear habitats.

In the game Color Crazy, Chloe Thomas, Blake Snyder, Daniel Baker, Madison Calvert and Blaine Brokschmidt taught Mrs. Ashley Demmitt and Mrs. Betsey Seger's class about an animal's ability to adapt to their environment through camouflage.

According to Raterman, Project WILD is endorsed by the Ohio Department of Education (Divisions of Curriculum and Instruction and Professional Development), Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio Wildlife Federation, League of Ohio Sportsmen.



Trees Given to Fourth Grade Students

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently donated trees to every fourth grader in the Miami East Local School District. This was a special project of the FFA's Environmental Committee of the FFA with the help of several Plant and Animal Science students. Members of the Environmental Committee are Luke Gilliland, Megan Honeyman, Kaitlyn



Rohrbach, and Brailyn Tarcea. The trees were distributed in the classrooms of Mrs. Kathryn Irick, Miss Lauren McCord, Mr. Matt Roth, and Mrs. Laura Weddle.

In an effort to help repopulate Ohio with trees, each student was given one pine tree in the hopes that they would plant it. FFA members realize that farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75 percent of the nation's wildlife. Not only will the trees provide cover for wildlife in the area, they will also produce quality oxygen.

All students were challenged to plant their tree in celebration of Earthy Day. Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on Sunday, April 22, on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.

Additional participants of this project were Alex Isbrandt, Emily Thimmes, Blaine Brokschmidt, Madison Calvert, Ryan Dinardo, Austin Ferryman, and Savannah Holzen. The trees were a project with the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Troy Foundation.

Grain Merchandising Team Competes at State



Recently several members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter completed in the Ohio FFA State Career Development Event for Grain

Merchandising.

The Grain Merchandising event consisted of an online test which evaluated participant's knowledge of grain merchandising options for farmers and former and current grain marketing trends. Members taking the test were Emily Thimmes, Jessica Gillum, Alex Isbrandt,

Couy Moreland, Zach Kronenberger, Dylan Hahn, Kylie Blair, Alex DiNardo, Maci Krites, Tyler Heckman, Liza Bair, Abbey Koontz, Jacob Rife, Kami Martin, Cody Niswonger, Brookelyn Hermann, Emma Younce, Lane Mergler, Kaitlyn Hawes, and Jacob Brunke.

The team placed 9 out of 41 teams in the state and was led by Emily Thimmes, who placed 22 out of 288 individuals. Members that competed at the State Finals were Emily Thimmes, Jessica Gillum, Couy Moreland and Dylan Hahn.

A special appreciation goes to Amanda Matheny and Janelle Brinksneider from Andersons Ethanol in Greenville for their coaching help.

FFA Alumni Sponsors Scholarships

The Miami East FFA Alumni Chapter recently recognized graduates of Miami East High School that had been enrolled in Agricultural Education and members of the FFA Chapter. In order to qualify for the scholarship, the applicants completed an essay on "The Benefits of Agricultural Education" and been active in the FFA Chapter for at least one year. Each recipient received a cash scholarship to be used for their further education.

Dylan Hahn is the son of David and Wylena Hahn. He earned the State FFA Degree and participated in the Grain Merchandising event. Dylan said, "Ag Education gives students opportunities they would never have if they didn't take the class. There are contests from public speaking to tractor trouble shooting or soils judging. All have different and helpful aspects you can take into your career if you choose."

Rachael Hodge is the daughter of Steve and Jenny Hodge. She earned a gold rating on her Reporter Scrapbook and participated in Ag Day for elementary students. Rachael said, "I believe that agriculture, it is the backbone of our country. Through Agricultural Education, we can help to mold our future to become more efficient and productive. We can help get people more involved, informed, and appreciative with agriculture because it is important to be advanced for generations to come."

Alex Isbrandt is the son of Rich and Kristine Randall and BJ Isbrandt. He earned his State FFA Degree and earned a gold rated Treasurer's book. Alex said, Agriculture class has taught me a lot of hands on skills but I have also learned useful skills in the classroom. One of those useful skills is grain merchandising which uses basic fundamentals of economics."

Emily Thimmes is the daughter of Robert and Kim Thimmes. She participated in Food Science and won a State FFA Proficiency in Specialty Crop. Emily said, "Agricultural Education has an interesting stereotype that surrounds it. Many people think it is just for kids who grow up on farms or raise animals. However, agricultural education is so much more than just learning how to "be a farmer".

Emma Younce is the daughter of Brian and Crystal Younce. She attended the National FFA Convention and participated in Freshman Families. Emma said, "Agriculture education is beneficial in the way of having an idea of where your foods and products you are buying are really coming from. Being educated on how products you may be purchasing are being made, and knowing the production and wholesomeness behind your meal."

The Miami East FFA Alumni was able to provide these scholarship recipients with monies because of the generous donations and support of community members through such projects as the Longaberger Basket Bingo in January, Quarter Auction in April, and the Silent Auction at the Chapter Banquet in April. They look forward to supporting all Agricultural Education students in their participation in learning about the diversity of the agriculture industry.

Alumni Needs Help!

The Alumni is in need of new members. Anyone can get involved, regardless of your enrollment at Miami East or previous membership of FFA. The Alumni was started in 1971 and is open to anyone interested in supporting FFA and Agricultural Education. Annual dues are \$20 (for local, state, and national). Lifetime dues are \$200.

Additionally, the Alumni are collecting empty 2- or 3-liter bottles. They do not need to be cleaned out but do need the lids. If you have any please drop them off in the Ag Room.

The Alumni is supportive to the FFA through financial support and physical labor. If you are interested in participating talk to Les Kinder by phoning him at 937-368-2569.

Upcoming Important Dates

June

- 1 – Officer Retreat
- 4-8 – FFA Camp
- 12-15 – Minnesota Chapter Exchange

July

- 2 – Miami County Jr. Fair King & Queen applications due (interviews to follow)

- 13 – Miami County Fair Shop and Crop entry

CHANGES/ADDITIONS due to Mrs. Carity by 3pm

- 15 – AFNR Orientation Night, 4pm
- 17 – AFNR Orientation Night, 7pm

August

- 5 – AFNR Orientation Night, 7pm
- 9 – Shop and Crop Drop-Off, 3-6pm
- 10-16 – Miami County Fair
- 15 – Miami County Fair Judging Contest, 8:30am
- 19 – Freshman Open House, 2pm
- 21 – First Day of School

Great Learning Experience at Ag Day

On Friday, May 11, 500 Kindergartners and first-



graders from Troy and Miami East attended the FFA's annual Ag Day at the Miami County Fairgrounds.

Stations included: water and soil education with Linda Raterman

from Miami Soil and Water, hayride, bee education with Amanda Bennett from the Miami County OSU Extension, animal snacks/animal nutrition, soybean education, horse



education, the role of farmers in our society, farm safety with Melinda Lee from the Miami County Farm Bureau, petting zoo, cow milking with a cows from the Bair Family, and yogurt from the Dannon Company.

Each school was given a book approved by the American Farm Bureau Federation was distributed to each building's library through a grant from the Altrusa Club of Troy.

Congrats Seniors!



Summer Visits

Mrs. Carity will be visiting all returning students of the Agricultural Education program. Additionally, she will be visiting any students with an animal being exhibited at the 2018 Miami County Fair. Students signed up for the visits

during class. Make sure you are aware of when the visit will be taking place. A photo will be taken during the visit.

5K-9 Raises \$700 for Miami County Animal Shelter

On Saturday, May 12, 90 runners and walkers participated in the 5K-9 at the Miami County Fairgrounds. A special thanks goes to the sponsors of the event: Koverman, Staley, Dickerson Insurance, Graves-Fearon Insurance, Holly's Café and Carry-Out, Troy Sports Center, Troy Daily News/Piqua Daily Call/Sunday Edition, Schirbyz Party Rental, Miami County Farm Bureau, Miami East FFA Alumni Miami County Agricultural Society, Miami Valley Career Technology Center, and Milton Union-MVCTC FFA Chapter.



Tire Recycling Day A Success

Thanks to a grant from the National FFA Organization, 2000 tires were collected from residents of Miami County and recycled into playground groundcover. Thanks to Miami Soil and Water for cooperating in this event.



Letter To The Editor:

On behalf of the Miami East FFA Alumni Chapter, I would like to thank the following businesses for their support of our recent FFA Alumni Silent Auction and Quarter Auction Fundraisers. We appreciate their continued support of Agricultural Education and the members of the Miami East FFA Chapter.

Our appreciation goes to: Advanced Auto Parts of Piqua, Advanced Auto Parts of Troy, Around About Books, AutoZone of Piqua, Barclay's, Beppo Uno, Biker's Closet, B-K Root Beer Stand, Braden's Café, Pence Family, Brower Supply, Buffalo Wild Wings, Buffalo Wings and Rings, Carried Away Salon, Christiansburg General Store, Cinemark, Classic Cleaners, Copeland Family, Countryside Concrete, Cracker Barrel, Drafthouse 311, El Sombrero, Elvira's Antiques, Erwin Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Family Farm and Home, Family Video, Farmers Equipment, GeNell's, Guys and Dolls Salon, Hinders, Hodge Family, Integrity Therapeutic Essential Oils/Brenda Coverstone, JD Equipment, Joe Johnson Chevrolet, Ken-Mar Antiques, Kim Thimmes, Koenig Equipment of Tipp City, Koenig Equipment of Urbana, Kountry Kruse Drive Thru, K's Hamburger Shop, LA Tan, Loretta's Country Kitchen, Luann Jess, Main Optical, Marco's Pizza, ME Athletic Department, Miami County Agricultural Society, Miami County YMCA, Mojo's Bar and Grille, Mulligan's Pub, Olive Oasis, Ordings Party Time, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Peggy Kelly, Pence Family, Phyllis Harner, Piqua Guitar, Piqua Lumber, Poor Farmers RV and Campground, Reedmore Hallmark, Renee Woodward, Rocket Cleaners, Samorzejme, Sherwin Williams of Troy, Splish Splash Auto Bath, St. Paris Hardware Store, Stoneridge Vet Service, Submarine House, SunDown Tan, Sunoco, Sunset Cleaners, Tackle Shack, The Andersons, The Mercantile, The Muffler Shop, Tim Horton's, Total Team Sports, Tractor Supply Company, Treon Barber Shop and Tan, Troy Ford, Troy Sports Center, True Value of Troy, Voss Honda, Wag 'N Tails Dog Grooming, Win Supply, Woodward's Animal Nutrition, and Wooten Trucking.

Their donations and financial support helped make the events successful for both the Alumni and the participants. We thank these businesses for their donation and the many community members that attended the events so that the FFA Alumni can support the many leadership and personal growth activities that the Miami East FFA Chapter participates in.

Sincerely,
Les Kinder
President
Miami East FFA Alumni