

# Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

April - May 2019

## State FFA Convention a Success

Thursday and Friday, May 2 and 3, 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 quadriplegic farmer Chris Koch, deaf singer Mandy Harvey, National FFA Advisor Dr. Steven Brown, National FFA Secretary Layni LeBlanc and State FFA President Koleson McCoy.



The highlight of the trip was the conferring of the State FFA Degree. This year, Miami East High School had seven members receive such an honor.

Seniors Liza Bair and Kaitlyn Hawes and Juniors Michael Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Lucas Gilliland, Savannah Holzen and Kearsten Kirby 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.

Maci Krites was recognized for being a Star State in Agribusiness finalist. Krites owns her own welding business, "Maci's Weld Art" in which she designs and weld various products. She was a Top 4 in the state for the honor.

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 Ethin Bendickson, Kylie Blair, Carter Gilbert, Kearsten Kirby, Maci Krites, and Lauren Wright.

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. Kylie Blair was named the State Winner in the area of Agricultural Sales-Placement. She will now have her application forwarded to National FFA for

further competition.

Additionally in proficiency awards Lucas Gilliland was named second in the area of Beef Production-Placement. Zach Kronenberger placed second in the area of Small Animal Production and Care. Michael Bair was named fourth place in Diversified Livestock Production, fourth in Dairy Production-Placement, and third in the area of Poultry Production.

Past chapter officers submitted their year's officer books. Ethin Bendickson, Jarrett Winner, and Lauren Wright 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. Paige Pence and Lauren Wright placed second in their division and earned a gold rating with their research project, "Does the crude protein and fat levels effect the growth of market broilers?"

Makayla Brittain, Ethin Bendickson, Jayden Gates and Carter Gilbert were members of the State FFA Band. Libby Carpenter, Morgan Nosker, Rylee Puthoff, and Isabella Waite were members of the State FFA Choir. Other recognition for the Miami East-MVCTC FFA included special recognition for the donation of monies to various charities.

Members attending Elizabeth Bair, Michael Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Kylie Blair, Makayla Brittain, Libby Carpenter, Jayden Gates, Carter Gilbert, Lucas Gilliland, Savanna Holzen, Kearsten Kirby, Maci Krites, Zach Kronenberger, Evan Massie, Morgan Nosker, Paige Pence, Rylee Puthoff, Emma Sutherly, Samuel Sutherly, Leann Vernon, Isabella Waite, Jarrett Winner, and Lauren Wright. Several parents and special guests joined the chapter during the Convention to celebrate the accomplishments.

## Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

Besides Remind.com, FFA will be posting announcements to 1) Twitter (@MiamiEast\_FFA) and 2) NEW FaceBook (Miami East FFA Alumni & Supporters). Please feel free to follow and like these pages for updates!

## Meats Evaluation Team Places At State

On Saturday, April 27, the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Meats Evaluation Team competed in the



State FFA Career Development Event at The Ohio State University Meats Lab in Columbus. Team members were Emma Sutherly,

Zach Kronenberger, Samuel Sutherly, Elizabeth Bair, and Isaac Beal. The team placed 6 out of 26 teams. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Emma Sutherly whom placed 19 out of 113 individuals. Isaac Beal competed in the State 4-H Senior Division Competition. He placed 7th overall in his contest.

During the event, contestants were asked to quality and yield grade beef carcasses, place and answer questions on carcasses, wholesale and retail cuts, and identify various retail cuts. Additionally, contestants completed a knowledge test and meats formulation solution challenge.

Previously, the team had competed at the Ohio State Buckeye Meats Invitational. The team placed 14th. Team members were Isaac Beal, Zach Kronenberger, and Elizabeth Bair. The highest individual from Miami East was Isaac Beal who placed 46th.

A special appreciation to Clay Caven and Caven's Meats in Conover, Tina Walters and Walters and Sons Meats in Wapakoneta, and Dr. Lyda Garcia and staff the Meats Lab at Ohio State for hosting practice sessions for the team.

## Elementary Goes 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 Thursday, April 25. 28 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 and third 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. Ms. Linda Raterman of the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District was responsible for the training and lesson development the FFA members went through.

Several groups played "Animal Charades" to teach about domesticated and wild animals. Adam Bensman, Grace Slone, and Jimmy Sutherly visited Mrs. Stephanie Larson's class, Coleman Demmitt, Morgan Nosker, and Seth Wells visited Mr. Preston Elifritz's class. Anna Broerman, Meadow Powers, and Caleb Taylor visited Mr. Justin Roeth's class. Erin Baker, Paige Pence, Jarrett Winner, and Lauren Wright visited Mrs. Katie Mason's class.



Jeffrey Blackford, Carter Gilbert, Sarah Blocher, and Leann Vernon visited Mrs. Amy Gerlach's classroom and played the game "Learning to Look, Looking to See." Their game included the subtle notices of an environment that occur and the impact it has on an animal their habitat.

In the game Color Crazy, students learned about an animal's ability to adapt to their environment through camouflage. Arielle Barnes, Justin Hawkins, and Jacob Sweitzer visited Mrs. Megan Noll's class. Natalie Bair,



Abigail Covault, and Cole Mergler visited Mrs. Elizabeth Fields classroom.

Libby Carpenter, Ethan Swindell, and Isabella Waite played the game "What Bear Goes

Where?" with Mrs. Stephane Blackton's class. Their activities included learning about various bears and creating a habitat for the bear's needs.

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.

## Congrats FFA Members of the Month

April 2019 – Lucas Gilliland

May 2019 – Liza Bair and Kylie Blair



## 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 Events

### June

6/3 to 6/7 - FFA Camp

17-21 – SAE/Home Visits

### July

8-12 – SAE/Home Visits

14 – Freshman/AFNR Orientation, 4pm

17 – Freshman/AFNR Orientation, 7pm

17 – FFA County Fair Shop and Crop Entry

**changes/additions** deadline to Mrs. Carity by 5pm,  
Mrs. Carity turns in the forms at 5pm

### August

1 – Freshman/AFNR Orientation, 7pm

1-2 – SAE/Home Visits

8 – FFA Shop and Crop Drop-Off and fair pass pick-up

9-15 – Miami County Fair

14 – Livestock Judging Contest, 8:30am

20 – First Day of School

## FFA Holds Annual Parent-Member Banquet

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently held its 60th Annual Parent Member Banquet. Over 300 parents, members, and guests were attendance at Miami East High School Gymnasium. Highlights of the evening were:

- In 2018, the chapter was ranked in the Top 10 out of 315 chapters in the state in the National Chapter Application. The chapter also placed in the Top 10 Chapter in the areas of Growing Leaders, Strengthening Agriculture, and Building Communities.
- At the 2018 National FFA Convention the chapter was recognized as a 3-Star National Chapter at the 2018 National FFA Convention. Additionally, the chapter was a Top 10 Chapter in the Nation in the area of Growing Leaders for our Little Library Program.
- Again in 2019, the chapter was named a Top 10 Chapter in the state and a Top 10 in all three areas of

the National Chapter Application. The chapter will be interviewed at the 2019 State FFA Convention to be named the #1 chapter in the state.

## 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. 28 candidates met the minimum qualifications for this degree. The candidates were Natalie Bair, Erin Baker, Arielle Barnes, Adam Bensman, Jeffrey Blackford, Sarah Blocher, Makayla Brittain, Anna Broerman, Libby Carpenter, Abigail Covault, Coleman Demmitt, Carter Gilbert, Justin Hawkins, Cole Mergler, Morgan Nosker, Paige Pence, Meadow Powers, Grace Slone, Jimmy Sutherly, Jacob



Sweitzer, Ethin Swindell, Caleb Taylor, CJ VanPelt, Leann Vernon, Isabella Waite, Seth Wells, Jarrett Winner, and Lauren Wright.

## 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 – Schirbyz Party Rental, owners Kenny and Jenny Kirby.

## 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 2019 Chapter Proficiency Awards were: Agricultural Mechanics Design and Fabrication – Maci Krites, Agricultural Sales–Entrepreneurship – Arielle Barnes, Agricultural Sales–Placement – Kylie Blair, Beef Production–Entrepreneurship – Elizabeth Bair, Beef

Production–Placement – Lucas Gilliland, Dairy  
 Production–Placement – Michael Bair, Diversified  
 Livestock Production–Michael Bair, Poultry Production –  
 Michael Bair, Small Animal Care and Production – Zach



Kronenberger, Specialty Animal Production – Isabella  
 Waite, Specialty Crop – Lauren Wright, Swine Production  
 – Jarrett Winner.

#### **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 – Gretchen  
 Stevens, Sophomore – Leann Vernon, Junior – Elizabeth  
 Bair, and Senior – Tyler Heckman.

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 – Emma  
 Sutherly, Plant and Animal Science – Libby Carpenter,  
 Business Management–Junior – Kearsten Kirby, and  
 Livestock Science–Senior – Maci Krites.

Liza Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Kylie Blair, Kaitlyn  
 Hawes, Kearsten Kirby, Paige Pence, and Jarrett Winner  
 were recognized for selling over \$1,000.00 worth of fruit  
 during the chapter's fruit sales. Jarrett Winner was the  
 highest selling fruit sales person.

#### **American FFA Degree Recipients**

The American FFA Degree is the highest degree  
 for a member to receive in the National FFA Organization.  
 This degree will be bestowed upon graduates at the  
 upcoming National FFA Convention. Carly Gump, Dylan  
 Hahn, and Alex Isbrandt will receive their degree in  
 October in Indianapolis, Indiana.

#### **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. Liza Bair, Michael  
 Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Kaitlyn Hawes, Savannah Holzen,  
 Lucas Gilliland, and Kearsten Kirby were recognized.

**Additional Chapter Awards** were Star Greenhand to  
 Emma Sutherly and Samuel Sutherly, Star Chapter in



Agribusiness  
 was Maci  
 Krites, Star  
 Placement  
 was Liza  
 Bair, and the  
 Star Chapter  
 Leader was  
 Kylie Blair.

#### **Chapter Officers Installed**

The

2019-20  
 Miami  
 East-  
 MVCTC  
 FFA  
 Chapter  
 Officers  
 were

installed. They are as follows: Chaplain – Samuel  
 Sutherly, Sentinel – Adam Bensman, Reporter – Emma  
 Sutherly, Student Advisor – Carter Gilbert, Treasurer –  
 Michael Bair, Secretary – Kearsten Kirby, Vice President –  
 Lauren Wright, and President – Ethin Bendickson.

#### **Trees Given to ME Fourth Graders**

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 Meadow  
 Powers, Grace Slone,  
 Jimmy Sutherly, Caleb

Taylor, Leann Vernon, and  
 Seth Wells. The trees were  
 distributed in the classrooms of  
 Mrs. Kathryn Irick, Mrs.  
 Lauren Bell, 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 Monday, 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 Liza Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Adam Bensman, Kylie Blair, Morgan Nosker, and Seth Wells. The trees were a project with the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Troy Foundation.

## **FFA Raises Money for Charities**

“Every coin counts in a penny war,” says sophomore Isabella Waite. Waite and her fellow Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently sponsored a Penny War with all of the earnings being equally split between the March of Dimes and Children’s Hospital of Dayton.

Members of the Economic Development Committee wanted a creative way to raise money for two of their favorite charities that would include all 77 FFA members. Committee members involved in the organization, counting, and tallying of results were Jacob Sweitzer, Ethin Swindell, CJ VanPelt, Jarrett Winner and Lauren Wright.

During the month of March \$110.52 was raised amongst all six Agricultural Education classes at Miami East High School. All coins were positive points and dollars were negative points. The class earning the highest average per student was fifth period, a class of Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources (mostly freshman) students.

The winning class received a pizza party complements of Farm Credit Services of Mid-America in Versailles.

## **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 endeavors.

Liza Bair is the daughter of Todd and Wendy Bair. She earned the State FFA Degree and participated in the Job Interview competition. Liza said, “Although I will not be going to college for an agricultural field, this class has so many things that will follow me to my desired career. Along with developing the characteristics of a good interviewer, this class has taught me how to manage my money wisely and develop the qualities of a good business owner and employee.”

Kylie Blair is the daughter of Sonya Foster and Marty Blair. She won a State FFA Proficiency Award and participated in Food Science and Technology Career Development Event. Kylie said, “I have learned the value of the agricultural industry in the world. We learn every day the important role that agriculture plays in the United States let alone, the world. If agriculture were to not exist, then the world would go hungry for not only food, but millions of jobs.”

Jessica Copeland is the daughter of Rick and Stephanie Copeland. Jessica was a member of the Horse Judging Team and participated in chapter’s farm safety week. She said, “You don’t have to be a farmer of any sort to be included in an FFA chapter. You just have to want to learn and make a difference. Agriculture is everywhere and it applies to everyone, even if some do not think so.”

Kaitlyn Hawes is the daughter of Larry and Tonya Hawes. She has participated in Ag Day for elementary children and earned the State FFA Degree. Kaitlyn shared, “I have gone outside of my comfort zone more than I typically would. I have learned more through this program than I ever thought imaginable. I love teaching the children about agriculture because this is something I have a passion for.”

Tyler Heckman is the son of Scott and Theresa Heckman. He coordinated raising funds for programs for children with special needs and competed in the parliamentary procedures competition. Tyler said, “It is fun class to take I hope that other students decide to take this class because it is lot of fun and exciting contest to representing our school very well.”

Maci Krites is the daughter of Eric and Jenell Krites and Brian and Suzie Weber. Maci was a National FFA Proficiency Finalist for her welding business and was a Star State FFA Award Finalist. Maci says, “If someone had told me in sixth grade that I would win awards in an agriculture related field, I would have called them crazy; however, that is the direction my life took me.”

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 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.

## **Great Learning Experience at Ag Day**

On Friday, May 10, almost 500 Kindergartners 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, a seed germination activity using water beads, corn education, a water cycle bracelet assembly, a lesson on animal feeds, a bee education station with





Amanda Bennett from the Miami County Extension Service, a hayride, farm safety with Melinda Lee and Emily Beal from the Miami



County Farm Bureau, petting zoo, cow milking with a cows from the Bair Family, and yogurt education from the Dannon Company.

Each student received goodies from the American Dairy Association, Ohio Corn and Wheat Association, Ohio Pork Council and Ohio Beef Council. Additionally, 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.

#### 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: 3 Joe's Restaurant, 3G Tactical, Absolute Automotive, Advanced Auto Parts, Andy & Erin Taylor Family, Angel's Beauty Supply, Around About Books, AutoZone of Piqua, Bair Trax Farms, Baird Funeral Home, Barclay's, Bill Mote & Family, BK Root Beer of Troy, Brower's Office Supply, Christiansburg General Store, Cindi Maggart/Paparazzi Jewelry, Classic Cleaners, Conover Lumber, Countryside Market, CVS of Troy, Dave and Linda Westgerdes Family, David and Wylenea Hahn Family, Erwin's of Troy, Excellence In Dentistry, Family Farm & Home, Family Video, Fricker's, Gennell's Flower Shop, Grandpa Joe's Candy, Greenfire Bistro, Guys and Dolls, Hinder's, Holly's

Pizza & Café, Honey Baked Ham Company, Integrity Therapeutic Essential Oils, Jay and Mary's, Joe Johnson Chevrolet, Jumpies, KenMar Antiques, Kenny and Jenni Kirby Family, Koenig Equipment of Tipp City, K's Hamburgers, LaFiesta Restaurant, Les Kinder Family, Loretta's Country Kitchen, Luann Jess, Marion's Pizza, Market Street Hair, McKaig-Dorset Beauty/Tammie Havenar, Miami County Agricultural Society, Miami County YMCA, Miami East Athletic Department, Miller's Meat's, Nancy Pence, Nancy Pence, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Patti Gostomsky, Phyllis Harner, Piqua Lumber Company, Poor Farmers RV Sales and Campground, Prather Automotive Specialist, Pro Polaris, Readmore Hallmark, Rick and Stephanie Copeland Family, Rudy's Beauty Salon, Rural King of Huber Heights, Samorzejme, Splish Splash, Staunton Store, Stoneyridge Vet Services, Studebaker Chiropractic, Submarine House of Troy, SunDown Tanning Salon, SunSet Cleaners, TC Holzen Excavating, The Hair Hut, This and That Candy on Main, Tipp Florist Shop, Todd & Becky Rappold Family, Total Team Sports, Town Valley Gifts, Tractor Supply Company of Springfield, Tractor Supply Company of Troy, Treon's Tanning, Troy Massage, Troy Sports Center, True Value of Troy, Voss Honda, Wags 'N Tails, Woodward's Animal Nutrition, Wooten Automotive, and Your Personal Florist.

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

## Thank you seniors!

