

Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

April to May 2021

FFA Members Compete at State FFA Convention

Thursday and Friday, April 29 and 30 members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter participated in the Ohio FFA Virtual State Convention. Members were recognized for various accomplishments and competed in several contests.

Motivation speakers at the convention included the National FFA Vice President Artha Jonassaint and State FFA President Bethany Starlin. Serving as voting delegates were Isaac Beal and Adi Richter with the assistance of Luke Brunke.

The highlight of the event was the conferring of the State FFA Degree. This year, Miami East High School had five members receive such an honor. Seniors Erin Baker, Sarah Blocher, Carter Gilbert, Jimmy Sutherly, and Seth Wells 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 placed in the Top 10 in the area of Building Communities and was named a Gold Medal Chapter. These results are from the chapter's National Chapter



Application. The application will now be sent to the National FFA for review and placing. Members sharing informational presentations were Carter Gilbert and Lauren Wright.

Students were recognized for having outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs through the State Proficiency Award program. All

Additionally, in proficiency awards Emma Sutherly was named second in the area Goat Production.

Past chapter officers submitted their year's officer books. Carter Gilbert, Paige Pence, and Libby Carpenter received state recognition for completing a Gold Rated Chapter Secretary's, Treasurer's Book and Reporter's Book, respectively.

Lauren Wright was recognized as the state winner in the Grain Merchandising Career Development Event. The chapter was recognized as a participating chapter in the Charitable Giving Program.



Members attending a group watch gathering were Madison Avey, Jadyn Bair, Erin Baker, Isaac Beal, Makayla Brittain, Sydney Brittain, Luke Brunke, Libby Carpenter, Keyara Davis, Martin Desautels, Katelynn Dill, Ethan Fine, Ayla Gilbert, Carter Gilbert, Fletcher Harris, Kylie Haight, Alaina Helsinger, Michael Hohenstein, Abigail Kadel, Keira Kirby, Kyle Larson, Brayden Link, Jadyn Maingi, Evan Massie Madison Maxson, Trenton Maxson, Mckayah Musselman, Jillian Niswonger, Elisabeth Norman, Lindsey Ott, Ethan Paulus, Paige Pence, Logan Phillips, Rylee Puthoff, Jacob Roeth, Ty Roeth, Sera Rush, Olivia Shaffer, Jimmy Sutherly, Brooklyn Taylor, Leann Vernon, Thomas Wallace, Kaden Weldy, Dustin Winner, Lauren Wright, and Braden Zekas.

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.

Adam Bensman is the son of Brian and the late Catherine Bensman. He served as a chapter officer, earned the State FFA Degree and participated in the livestock evaluation team. He shared, "I am sure that I will use all of the skills that I have learned to help me in the future. I am hoping to inspire others in a positive way."

Sarah Blocher is the daughter of David and Susan Blocher. She has participated in poultry evaluation, earned the State FFA Degree and taught elementary children during Ag Day and Farm Safety Day. She shared, "It teaches the younger generation about the importance of agriculture and raises them with an idea of agriculture and where their food comes from."

Carter Gilbert is the son of Adam Gilbert and Michelle West. He served as a chapter officer, participated in the food science competition, organized a community Easter Egg Hunt, and earned the State FFA Degree. He shared, "I believe the best thing that I have learned while being a part of this class, organization, and group, is my ability to be a leader."

Lauren Wright is the daughter of Eric and Jill Wright. She was a state proficiency winner, earned the State FFA Degree, served as a chapter officer and lead numerous competition teams to top 5 placings. She shared, "Agricultural education opens many doors for students that otherwise would not have even been available."

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.

FFA Meats Evaluation Team Finishes Judging Season

On Tuesday, April 27, the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Meats Evaluation Team competed in the Ohio FFA State Virtual Career Development Event. Team members were Emma Sutherly, Dottie Everett, Braden Zekas, Samuel Sutherly, Isaac Beal, Jillian Niswonger and Thomas Wallace. The team placed 6 out of 43 teams. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Emma Sutherly whom placed 18 out of 205 individuals.

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 in several virtual meats competitions. At the Champaign County Invitational where they were fourth and Emma Sutherly was the highest placing individual from Miami East.

During the Ohio State Buckeye Invitational the team placed fifth. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Braden Zekas.

ME 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 Monday, April 13. 24 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 second 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. In 2021 all training was completed virtually.

One group played "Animal Charades" to teach about domesticated and wild animals. Dustin Winner, Isaac Beal, and Spencer Triplett worked with Mrs. Elizabeth

Field's class.

In the game Color Crazy, students learned about an animal's ability to adapt to their environment through camouflage. Keyara Davis and Katelynn Dill taught Mrs. Ashley Demmitt the Color Crazy game.

During a game of freeze tag between predators and pray, two classes learned the game of Quick Frozen Critters. Megan Gilliland and Alex Fergerson worked with

Mrs. Amanda Riley's classroom. Jillian Niswonger, Luke Brunke, Sydney Brittain, and Ashlee Deaton visited Mrs. Becky Blackton's class.

Several groups taught the activity of the Thicket Game where students hid as in a prey versus predator activity. They hid throughout the classroom as one classmate called their name when they were found. Ethan Paulus, Matthew Osting, and Kendal Staley visited Mrs. Tammy Mumford's classroom. Annabelle Penny, Sumsaar Thapa, and Trenton Maxson visited Mrs. Patty Gentis's classroom. Ethan Fine, Braden Zekas, Dottie Everett, and Madison Avey visited Mrs. Megan Noll's classroom. Adi Richter, Sera Rush, and Keira Kirby visited Mrs. Katie Mason's classroom.

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.

FFA Holds Awards Program

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently held its 62nd Annual Parent-Member Awards Program. During the event social distancing and face coverings were worn. Highlights of the evening were:

- Mr. Bill Mote presented a gift to the Miami East FFA Chapter on behalf of the Doris McMillan Trust. The funds will be used for local scholarships and various FFA programs.

- Career Development Event Teams were recognized for their participation. In the 2020-21 school year the FFA members competed in over 200 competitions for an average of 2.5 events per member. The teams placing in the Top 5 were Food Science and Technology, Agricultural Biotechnology, and Grain Merchandising.

- Michael Bair was recognized as being a 2020 National FFA Proficiency Winner in the area of Poultry Production.

- In 2020 the National FFA recognized the chapter as a 3-star National Chapter. The chapter is recognized as a 2021 Gold Medal Chapter and a Top 10 in the state in the area of Building Communities.

- Three chapter officers, Carter Gilbert, Paige Pence, and Libby Carpenter submitted Officer Books for review at the State Evaluations. All three earned a gold rating. They will be further recognized at the 2021 State FFA Convention.

- Three seniors participated in the Senior Capstone Experience where they learn through hands-on experiences with an agriculture company. Jimmy Sutherly,

Seth Wells, and Brayden Ingle present their employer with an appreciation plaque.

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. 26 candidates met the minimum qualifications for this degree. The candidates were Madison Avey, Isaac Beal, Sydney Brittain, Luke Brunke, Keyara Davis, Ashlee Deaton, Katelynn Dill, Dottie Everett, Alex Fergerson, Ethan Fine, Jayden Gates, Megan Gilliland, Kylie Haught, Keira

Kirby, Trenton Maxson, Jillian Niswonger, Matthew



Osting, Ethan Paulus, Annabelle Penny, Adilyn Richter, Sera Rush, Kendal Staley, Sumsaar Thapa, Spencer Triplett, Dustin Winner, and Braden Zekas.

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. Bill Mote.

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 2021 Chapter Proficiency Awards were: Agricultural Services Placement – Kaitlyn Roop, Diversified Livestock Production – Paige Pence, Equine Management Placement – Rylee Puthoff, Goat Production – Emma Sutherly, Goat Production – Samuel Sutherly, Service Learning – Carter Gilbert, Small Animal Care and Production – Carter Gilbert, Sheep Production – Keira Kirby, and Vegetable Production – Lauren Wright.



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 – Jadyn Maingi and Ty Roeth,

Sophomore – Jillian Niswonger and Annabelle Penny, Junior – Kaitlyn Roop and Samuel Sutherly and Senior – Erin Baker and Rylee Puthoff.

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 – Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsinger, and Ava Prince, Plant and Animal Science – Dottie Everett, Business Management–Junior – Emma Sutherly, and Livestock Science–Senior – Libby Carpenter.

Keira Kirby, Madison Maxson, Emma Sutherly, Morgan Nosker, Dustin Winner, Jadyn Bair, Dottie Everett, Isaac Beal, Paige Pence, Landin Putnam, Logan Phillips, Katelynn Dill, Gretchen Stevens, and Adam Bensman were recognized for selling over \$1,000.00 worth of fruit during the chapter's fruit sales. Keira Kirby was the highest selling fruit salesperson. Samuel and Emma Sutherly were the highest averaging family for fruit sales. Elisabeth Norman was recognized for being the top salesperson in strawberry sales. Anthony and Landin Putnam were recognized for being the top family in strawberry sales.

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. Elizabeth Bair, Michael Bair, Ethin Bendickson, Savannah Holzen, Lucas Gilliland, and Kearsten Kirby 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. Erin Baker, Sarah Blocher, Carter Gilbert, Jimmy Sutherly, and Seth Wells were recognized.

Additional Chapter Awards

Star Greenhand was awarded to Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsinger, and Madison Maxson, Excellence in Agriculture Award was Adam Bensman, Blue and Gold Award was Libby Carpenter, Chapter Star Farmer was Paige Pence, Star Chapter in Agribusiness was Carter Gilbert, Star in Job Placement was Seth Wells, and Star Chapter Leader was Lauren Wright.



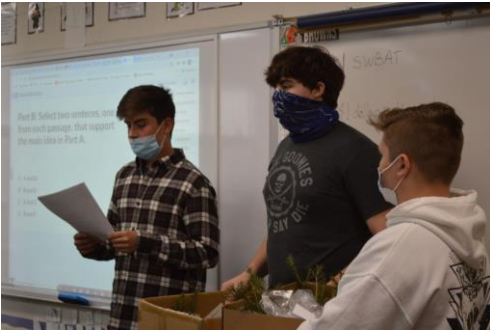
Chapter Officers Installed

The 2021-22 Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Officers were installed. They are as follows: Chaplain – Luke Brunke, Sentinel – Samuel Sutherly, Reporter – Kendal Staley, Student Advisor – Katie Larson, Treasurer – Alaina Helsinger, Secretary – Adilyn Richter, Vice President – Emma Sutherly, and President – Isaac Beal.



FFA Donates Trees To 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. Members of the Environmental Committee are Martin Desautels, Abigail Kadel, Devin Nix, Logan Phillips, and Kyle Vernon. The trees were distributed in the classrooms of Mrs. Kathryn Irick, Miss Anna Lauterbach, 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 Thursday, 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.

The trees were a project with the Miami County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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

Congrats Members of the Month!



April 2021 – Leann Vernon
May 2021 – Adam Bensman, Libby Carpenter, Carter Gilbert, Paige Pence, and Lauren Wright



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.

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.

Contact Mrs. Carity!

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Carity (mcarity@miamieast.k12.oh.us or cellphone 937-417-3087).

Chapter T-shirts For Sale

In the meantime, we have a limited supply of several past chapter shirts. Sizes available are small through XL. Any ME FFA members, parents and supporters can order. Contact the Ag Room to make a purchase.

The blue and white shirts are \$10.

The navy, white and gold are \$10.

The gray front and back are \$15.



FFA Jackets For Sale

"Only Blue Will Do," seems to be what FFA Chapters are saying nationally. Through the 90+ years of FFA the once national blue has seemed to turn to more of a shade of purple. The once corn gold of the jacket has now turned to a shade of orange.

The jackets style has been revised. FFA jackets can be purchased for a cost of \$40.00. The same jacket can be worn all the years of agriculture education. Make checks payable to Miami East FFA.

Farewell Seniors!

We will certainly miss you! We wish you the best of luck for lifelong happiness, good healthy, and much success.



Ag Day Held

On Thursday, May 20 over 50 chapter members hosted almost 200 Kindergartners and first-graders from Miami East Elementary for the annual Ag Day. There were 9 stations that children rotated around. It was a great day!



Tire Recycling Day

On Wednesday, May 12, 18 members of the chapter helped recycle over 1,700 tires. It was a dirty and beneficial day.



5K-9 to Benefit the Miami County Animal Shelter

On Saturday, May 8 members of the chapter hosted a 5K-9 to benefit the Miami County Animal Shelter. The event raised \$200.



Upcoming Events

These are as of the time of printing. Plans will change. As events evolve we will share with students, parent emails, and social media.

June 2021

- 1 – Chapter Officer Training
- 4 – deadline online entry changes for county junior fair entries
- 21 to 23 – FFA Camp
- 28&29 – SAE Home Visits

July 2021

- 1, 12, 13, 15 – SAE Home Visits

August 2021

- 10&11 – SAE Home Visits
- 12 – FFA Shop and Crop Drop-off at Miami County Fairgrounds, 3-6pm
- 13 to 19 – Miami County Fair
- 18 – Miami Co Fair Livestock Judging Contest, 8:30am
- 25 – School Starts

