

# Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

April to May 2023

## Members Successful at State Convention

Thursday and Friday, May 4 and 5, 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 attended the convention's Career Show, met FFA members from across the state, and enjoyed eating out. Members toured the Ohio State House and met State Senator Huffman and with the office of State Representative Powell.

Motivational speakers at the convention included motivational speakers Lasada Pippen and Kyle Scheele, social media influencer Zoe Kent, National FFA Officer Ryan Williamson, and State FFA President Aubrey Schwartz.

The highlight of the trip was the conferring of the State FFA Degree. This year, Miami East High School had 11 members receive such an honor. Seniors Sydney Brittain, Jillian Niswonger, Kendal Staley and Juniors Ayla Gilbert, Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsinger, Kyle Larson, Jadyn Maingi, Madison Maxson, and Ty Roeth 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 Gold Medal Chapter. Additionally, the chapter placed in the Top 10 in the areas of Growing Leaders and Building Communities. 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 Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsinger, Adi Richter, and Isaac Beal.

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. Isaac Beal was named second in the state in Goat Production. Matthew Osting was named fourth in the state in Diversified Grain Production – Placement.



Past chapter officers submitted their year's officer books. Fletcher Harris, Ayla Gilbert, and Luke Brunke received state recognition for completing a Gold rated Chapter

Secretary's, Treasurer's Book and Reporter's Book, respectively.

Luke Brunke was recognized for his commitment to the Sunrise Cooperative RISE program for fulltime employment. Wyatt Black and Braden Zekas were members of the State FFA Band. Emily Zawalich and Shelby Buck 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 Isaac Beal, Wyatt Black, Luke Brunke, Shelby Buck, Julia Couser, Rhylee Eichhorn, Katelyn Hall, Kaci Manns, Lillian McClain, Cora Moore, Matthew Osting, Dalton Schreadley, Emily Zawalich, and Braden Zekas. Several additional members, parents and special guests joined the chapter during the Convention to celebrate the accomplishments.

## 2023-24 Chapter Officers

The 2023-24 Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Officers are as follows: Sentinel- Rhylee Eichhorn, Student Advisor – Cora Moore, Reporter – Reagan

Howell, Treasurer – Wyatt Black. Secretary – Madison Maxson, Vice President – Alaina Helsinger, and President – Fletcher Harris.

### Ag Issues Forum Team Places Tenth

Recently the several members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in the Ohio FFA State



Career Development Event of Agricultural Issues Forum. The competition was held at the Ohio FFA Center on the Ohio

Expositions Center/Ohio State Fairgrounds.

The Agricultural Issues Forum team consisted of Haley Barnes, Rhylee Eichhorn, and Karley Prosser. The team presented their open discussion on a controversial topic, H2Ohio and water quality issues facing the state of Ohio, then answered questions pertaining to the topic. The team placed tenth in the state. They earned a plaque from the Ohio FFA Association.

### Meats Team Places Sixth in State

On Saturday, April 28, 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 Braden Zekas, Kinsley Courtright, Wyatt Black, and Cora



Moore. The team placed 6 out of 20 teams. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Braden

Zekas whom placed 15 out of 90 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.

### Eichhorn Places Third in State

On Friday, April 28, a Miami East-MVCTC FFA



General Livestock Evaluation Team member competed in the Ohio FFA State Finals Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event. The competition was held at the livestock farm of The Ohio State University. Rhylee Eichhorn qualified for the finals after placing in the top 10 individuals in the state at the March preliminaries.

During the finals competition, Rhylee evaluated four classes of livestock and gave a set of oral reasons for each of the classes. She evaluated a class of market steers, breeding sheep, breeding hogs, and breeding goats. She placed third in the competition out over 1,000 individuals. She earned a plaque sponsored by the Ohio FFA Association.

### Members Compete in State Competitions

On Wednesday April 19, members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter participated in the State Finals of two Career Development Events. They traveled to the Ohio Expo Center/State Fairgrounds in Columbus to compete against several other Ohio FFA members.

Haley Barnes and Rhylee Eichhorn participated in the State Veterinary Science Career Development Events Finals. They identified equipment and demonstrated four practicums of practices used in the industry. They were able to participate in the competition because they were in



the top 150 participants of the online state test taken earlier in the month. Barnes placed 78th and Eichhorn placed 83rd.

Shelby Buck, Katelyn Hall, Violet Hazard, Karley Prosser, and Emily Zawalich participated in the Grooming 1 Career Development Event Finals. They took a knowledge test, identified equipment and breeds of dogs and cats, and demonstrated four practicums of practices



used in the grooming industry. The team placed tenth and earned a plaque for the Miami East Agriculture Room. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Violet Hazard who placed 51st.

### **Miami East 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 Tuesday,



April 18. 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 Kindergarten and first-grade classrooms 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 a game of freeze tag, students learned about the need for habitats for predators and prey through the lesson



of Quick Frozen Critters. Jackson Shane, Wesley Penny, Blake Boggess, and Lacie Henry visited Mr. Preston Elifritz's

classroom. Hale Beck, Caleb Staley, and Dalton Schreadley visited Mrs. Lauren Nosker's classroom.

Two groups played "Animal Charades" to teach about domesticated and wild animals through the game of charades. Cora Moore, Abigail Maxson and Julia Couser visited Mrs. Stephanie Larson's classroom. Karley Prosser and Katelyn Hall taught Mrs. Amy Gerlach's class.

Lydia Durst, Adrien Comer, Clayton Couser visited Mr. Justin Roeth's classroom. Rhylee Eichhorn,

Haley Barnes, and Connor Maxson visited Mrs. Carmen Richter's classroom. Haley Lane, Wyatt Black, and Kat Niswonger visited Mrs. Jennifer McCuiston's classroom. They taught the Thicket Game. The activity had students hide as prey versus predator activity. They hid throughout the classroom as one classmate called their name when they were found.

Lillian McClain, Violet Hazard, and Myah Jefferis taught in Miss Chelsea Black's class a lesson on Busy, Busy Blooms. They shared how wildlife play a role in pollination.

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.

### **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 2023 – Abigail Maxson

May 2023 – Isaac Beal, Luke Brunke, Adi Richter & Kendal Staley

### **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 \$250.

The Alumni is supportive to the FFA through financial support and physical labor. If you are interested in participating talk to Bill Mote by phoning him at 937-684-0673.

### **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.

### Spring Safety Belt Check Held

On Thursday, April 13, the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter held a Seatbelt Awareness Activity. As students exited the parking lot at Miami East High School, the drivers were stopped and their seatbelts were checked. This was conducted as part of Miami East High School Prom Safety Week.

All student drivers were inspected for wearing their seatbelt. They received a peppermint candy for their good choice and reminded that, "Seatbelts are 'mint' to be worn." Any student drivers or passengers not wearing their seatbelts were instructed to put on their seatbelt immediately.

Results of the event proved that a majority of the drivers at Miami East High School do wear their seatbelt. 65 drivers and passengers were presented candy with

1.5% of drivers were not wearing their seatbelt. Worse results as were collected last fall when 5% of drivers were not wearing their seatbelt.



The first seatbelt was in a Volvo vehicle in 1849. On February 15, 1885, the seatbelt patent was given to Edward J. Claghorn. By

the 1930s doctors were requesting the vehicles be equipped with the restraining device. By the 1950s they were seen regularly in automobiles. And legislation in 1966-1968 made them mandatory for all cars.

The FFA's Safety Committee would like to encourage all drivers to slowdown and wear their seatbelt. Committee members involved in this activity were Sydney Brittain, Keyara Davis, McKayah Musselman, Ava Prince, and Braden Zekas.

### Environmental Committee 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 Isabel Eichhorn, Madison Grube, Jon Hart, Brandon Lane, Tenley Potter, and Kirya Wise. Additional support was provided by

Emma Hershberger and the second period Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources class. The trees were distributed in the classrooms of Mrs. Kathryn Irick, Mrs. Anna DeTorres, 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 Saturday, 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.

### Members Compete in Spring CDEs

At the State Spring Career Development Event at the Ohio Expo Center/State Fairgrounds in Columbus the Miami East-MVCTC FFA General Livestock Team consisted of Isaac Beal, Rhylee Eichhorn, Cora Moore, Dustin Winner, Wyatt Black, Ty Roeth, Elisabeth Norman, and Kyle Larson. The team placed 12th out of 191 teams. Rhylee Eichhorn was in 1st place out of 1072 individuals. She then competed in the state finals the end of April.



Participants in the Horse Judging Competition were Ava Skeens and Alexa Deaton. Alexa was the highest placing individual from Miami East. She placed 127 out of 355 individuals. In the State Poultry Contest was Kaci Manns. Kaci placed 59th out of 271 individuals.

In the State Dairy Cattle Contest was Braden Zekas, Emma Hershberger, Keyara Davis, Lillian McClain, and Jillian Niswonger. The team placed 32nd. The highest individual from Miami East was Braden Zekas. He placed 63rd out of 442 individuals.



Prior competitions included the Patriot Invitational hosted by Tri-Village FFA Alumni in February. The Livestock team members were Dustin Winner, Ethan Fine, Ty Roeth, Isaac Beal, Cora Moore, Blake Boggess, Rhylee Eichhorn, Trenton Griffith, and Cylah Boggess. Rhylee Eichhorn was the highest placing individual from Miami East and placed first in the contest. Cora Moore placed second. The team was 2nd overall.

On March 4 at the Marysville/Champaign County Invitational in Marysville the General Livestock team placed 42nd teams with Rhylee Eichhorn, Wyatt Black, Kyle Wright, Elisabeth Norman, Josie Shane, and Madison Grube. Rhylee Eichhorn was the highest placing individual from Miami East at 14th out of 572 contestants. Emma Hershberger placed 9th and Lillian McClain placed 46th in Dairy Cattle. Alexa Deaton competed in the Horse Evaluation and placed 91st. Kinsley Courtright placed 20th in the Meats Contest.

At the Miami Trace Invitational on March 11, Emma Hershberger placed 18th and Lillian McClain placed 42nd in Dairy Cattle. The Livestock team consisted of Rhylee Eichhorn, Wyatt Black, Josie Shane, Cora Moore, Kyle Wright, Cylah Boggess, and Kennedy Swigart. The team placed 17th. Rhylee Eichhorn was the highest placing for the team. In the Meats Contest Kinsley Courtright placed 7th. Alexa Deaton and Ava Skeens competed in the Horse Judging Contest.

### ME FFA Alumni Presents 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. Isaac Beal is the son of John and Melissa Beal. He plans to attend the University of Dayton to study mechanical engineering. Isaac was a member of the State Livestock Judging Team and was a state finalist in the Goat Production Proficiency area.

Dottie Everett is the daughter of Thomas and Christa Everett. She plans to attend Taylor University to study education. She was a state finalist in the Vegetable Production Proficiency area and State Food Science Team.

Keira Kirby is the daughter of Kenny and Jennifer Kirby. She plans to attend the University of Toledo to study nursing. She received the State FFA Degree and was the high salesperson in the FFA's fruit sales fundraiser.

Jillian Niswonger is the daughter of Shane Niswonger and Felicia Niswonger. She plans to continue to employment at Breezy Knoll Horse Farm. She was a

member of the Dairy Cattle Judging team and earned the State FFA Degree.

Adi Richter is the daughter of Heather and Stephen Cudd. She plans to attend Wright State University for media studies. She was a member of the State Food Science team and served as a chapter officer.

Kendal Staley is the daughter of Mark and Betsy Staley. She plans to attend Wilmington College to major in agribusiness. She earned the State FFA Degree and served as a chapter officer.

Dustin Winner is the son of Doug and Jackie Winner. He plans to pursue a career in the welding field at Honda of Anna. He was a member of the General Livestock Judging Team and earned the State FFA Degree.

Braden Zekas is the son of Elyssa Hughes and Aaron Zekas. He plans to attend the University of Northwest Ohio in Lima to study agriculture equipment technologies. He was a member of the State Agriculture Power Diagnostics team and earned the State FFA Degree.

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 Silent Auction at the Chapter Banquet in March. They look forward to supporting all Agricultural Education students in their participation in learning about the diversity of the agriculture industry.



Thanks to ME FFA Alumnus Bill Mote for his donation to the ME FFA members that are participating in the State FFA Band and Choir at the upcoming State FFA Convention. Thanks, Mr. Mote!



Thanks to these dedicated and strong individuals for helping with today's tire recycling event and the Miami Soil and Water Conservation District for coordinating it.



## FAREWELL, SENIORS! You will be missed!



Miami East-MVCTC FFA  
@MiamiEast\_FFA

It's Ag Day! We welcome 490 Kindergartners and first graders from Troy, Tipp City and Miami East.



### Upcoming Events

#### June 2023

TBD – Chapter Officer Training Session  
1 – Miami County Junior Fair entries due  
1 – Hosting of our friends from Sleepy Eye, Minn.  
19 to 21 – FFA Camp  
26 to 19 – SAE/Home Visits (scheduled)

#### July 2023

10 to 13 – SAE/Home Visits (scheduled)  
12 – AFNR Orientation Night, 7pm  
16 – AFNR Orientation Night, 4pm

#### August 2023

8 – SAE/Home Visits (scheduled)  
10 – FFA Shop & Crop Drop-Off, 3-6pm  
11 to 17 – Miami County Fair  
16 – Miami County Junior Fair Livestock Judging Contest, 8:30-10am

