

Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

January to March 2023



Black, Blake Boggess, Adrien Comer, Clayton Couser, Julia Couser, Lydia Durst, Rhylee Eichhorn, Katelyn Hall, Violet Hazard, Lacie Henry, Myah Jefferis, Haley Lane, Abigail Maxson, Connor Maxson, Lillian McClain, Cora Moore, Kat Niswonger, Wesley Penny, Karley Prosser, Jackson Shane, Dalton Schreadley, and Caleb Staley.



Annual Parent-Member Banquet Held

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently held its 64th Annual Parent Member Banquet. Approximately 300 parents, members, and guests were attendance at Miami East High School Gymnasium. Highlights of the evening were:

- In 2023 the chapter has been named a Gold Medal Chapter and a Top 10 Chapter in the state in the areas of Growing Leadership and Building Communities. The chapter was interviewed and results will be announced at the upcoming State FFA Convention.

- This year, three officers, Fletcher Harris, Ayla Gilbert, and Luke Brunke submitted Officer Books for review at the State Evaluations. All three earned a gold rating. They will be recognized at the 2023 State FFA Convention.

- Five seniors have participated in the Senior Capstone Experience where they learn through hands-on experiences with an agriculture company. Luke Brunke is working at Yingst Farms. Ethan Fine is working at Hodge Farms. Jillian Niswonger is working at Breezy Knoll Horse Farm. Matthew Osting is working at Lynn Alan Farms. Braden Zekas is working at Caven's Meats.

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. 24 candidates met the minimum qualifications for this degree. The candidates were Haley Barnes, Hale Beck, Wyatt

Honorary Chapter FFA Degree

The Honorary Chapter FFA Degree was given to Mr. Jesse Maxfield, Miami Valley Career Technology Center Agriculture Satellite Supervisor.

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 2023 Chapter Proficiency Awards were: Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication - Wyatt Black, Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance – Wyatt Black, Ag Processing – Braden Zekas, Beef Production Entrepreneurship – Alaina Helsinger, Beef Production Placement – Cora Moore, Diversified Crop Production Placement – Matthew Osting, Diversified Livestock Production – Keira Kirby, Goat Production – Isaac Beal, Poultry Production – Alaina Helsinger, Sheep Production – Keira Kirby, Service Learning – Ayla Gilbert, Specialty Crop Production – Haley Barnes, and Swine Production Entrepreneurship – Rhylee Eichhorn.

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 – Jenna Taylor and Emma Hershberger, Sophomore – Hale Beck and Haley Barnes, Junior – Jadyn Maingi and Jadyn Bair, and Senior – Matthew Osting and Jillian Niswonger.

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 – Kaci Manns and Kirya Wise, Plant and Animal Science – Wyatt Black, Business Management–Junior – Ava Prince, and Business Management–Senior – Isaac Beal.

Keira Kirby, Dustin Winner, Jackson Shane, Emma Hershberger, Madison Maxson, Isaac Beal, Tenley Potter, Ava Skeens, and Owen Heilman were recognized for selling over \$1,000.00 worth of fruit during the chapter's fruit sales. Keira Kirby was the highest selling fruit sales person. Abigail and Connor Maxson were recognized for being the highest selling family.

Elisabeth Norman was recognized for being the highest selling sales person in the strawberry sales. Addison Fine and Luke Robinson were recognized for being the highest selling family.

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. Chloe Gump, Katie Larson, Anthony Putnam, Emma Sutherly, and Samuel Sutherly will receive their degree in November 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. Sydney Brittain, Jillian Niswonger, Kendal Staley, Ayla Gilbert, Fletcher

Harris, Alaina Helsinger, Reagan Howell, Kyle Larson, Jadyn Maingi, Madison Maxson, and Ty Roeth will receive their degree in May.

Additional Chapter Awards

The Star Greenhand Award went to Madison Grube. The Excellence in Agriculture Award went to



Luke Brunke. The Blue and Gold Award went to Adi Richter. The Star Chapter in

Agribusiness was Kendal Staley, the Star Placement was Braden Zekas, and the Star Chapter Farmer went to Isaac Beal.

Chapter Officers Installed

The 2023-24 Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Officers were installed. They 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.

State Evaluations Held

The Ohio FFA Evaluations were recently held with several members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in various competitions. Members became eligible for State Evaluations by placing at Regional Evaluations in February.

State FFA Degrees – Seniors Sydney Brittain, Jillian Niswonger, and Kendal Staley and Juniors Ayla Gilbert, Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsinger, Reagan Howell, Kyle Larson, Jadyn Maingi, Madison Maxson, Ty Roeth, submitted applications to receive the State FFA Degree. Their applications were approved, and they will receive their Degrees in May at the State FFA Convention.

American FFA Degrees – Graduates Chloe Gump, Katie Larson, Anthony Putnam, Emma Sutherly, and Samuel Sutherly applied to receive the American FFA Degree. Their applications were reviewed and will now be submitted to the National FFA Organization. If approved by National FFA they will receive their degree at the National FFA Convention in October.

Officer Books - Three 2022-2023 Chapter Officers that submitted books for review. Fletcher Harris submitted the Secretary's Book and earned a perfect score and gold rating. Ayla Gilbert submitted the Treasurer's



Book and earned a perfect score and gold rating. Luke Brunke submitted the Reporter's Book and earned a gold rating. All three will be recognized at the

State FFA Convention in May.

Proficiency Awards – Members applied for a district and state proficiency award. They were recognized for having an outstanding Supervised Agricultural Experience program in one of 47 areas. Applicants just received notice of interviews for being Top 4 in the State

candidates. They will now be interviewed by an industry panel of judges and be recognized at the State FFA Convention.

Diversified Crop Production Placement – Matthew Osting has job placement at Lynn Alan Farms where he assists in the production of corn, soybeans, and wheat. He is also assists with equipment maintenance and repair.

Goat Production – Isaac Beal owns and operates Beal Show Goats where he raises and markets of 47 head of goats. He also provides his goat services to other exhibitors and breeders.

Also applying were Ayla Gilbert in the Service Learning Proficiency and Braden Zekas in the Agricultural Processing Proficiency.

Chapter Awards – The Miami East-MVCTC Chapter was named a Gold Rated Chapter and a Top 10 in the areas of Growing Leaders and Building Communities. Chapter members presented information through a virtual interview and are awaiting final placings.

Ag Mechanics Skills Team Competes

Recently the Miami East FFA Agricultural Mechanics Skills Career Development Event team



competed at the District 5 competition at Saint Marys High School. There were 16 teams from Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami,

Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

During the competition the students were asked to perform a variety of mechanically related tasks including mig welding, dial calipers, copper flaring, hydraulics, electrical diagnostics, DC wiring, micrometers, and electrical connections along with tool, wire, fluid, fasteners, and engine part identification.

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA team consisted of Ethan Fine, Matthew Osting, and Braden Zekas. The team placed 6th out of 13 teams. The highest placing individual from Miami East was Matthew Osting, whom placed 8th out of 39 individuals.

Team Places in State Ag Power Diagnostics

Matthew Osting and Braden Zekas recently competed in the State Agricultural Power Diagnostics (formerly known as Tractor Trouble Shooting) Career Development Event hosted by the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima. Matthew and Braden are both

members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter at Miami East High School.

During the contest the team troubleshot two bugs in each of five tractors. They had to identify the problems and fix them in less than twenty minutes. Prior to the contest they took a test over tractor maintenance and repair.

A special appreciation goes to coaches and helpers for the training of the team. The lead coach was Denny Zerkle, Lost Creek Repair. The team also had practice sessions with Jarrett Winner and Family, Apple



Farm Service in Covington, Mr. Dan Schmeising at Upper Valley Career Technology Center, Koenig Equipment of

Greenville, Michael Lawn and Ag of Sidney, and Farmers Equipment in Urbana.

The team attended the recognition banquet at the University of Northwestern Ohio and were joined by parents and supporters.

The team placed 2nd in the state out of 15 teams. For their placing, both Matthew and Braden will each receive a \$6,000 scholarship to the University of Northwestern Ohio. They earned a banner for the agriculture classroom. Additional members that practiced for the contest were Wyatt Black, Hale Beck,

Zawalich Competes in State Public Speaking

On Saturday, March 4, Emily Zawalich competed in the State FFA Public Speaking Contest held at



Marysville High School. Emma is a freshman and first year member of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter. Emily competed in the State FFA Creed Speaking Career Development Event. She recited the FFA Creed and answered questions. She placed 4th in her competition room. She advanced to the state contest after placing

second at the county and first at the district contests earlier in February

Members Compete in Ag Sales CDE

In February members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in the District 5 FFA Agricultural Sales Career Development Event hosted by Versailles High School.

The Agricultural Sales team consisted of Haley Barnes, Alaina Helsinger, Alyssa Helton, and Braden



Zekas. The team members each completed a test on agricultural sales, prepared a team sales presentation,

and demonstrated their ability to sell an agricultural product.

Alaina Helsinger was the highest placing individual from Miami East. She placed thirteenth in the entire contest, out of 68 contestants. The team placed ninth out of 17 teams.

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

January 2023 –

February 2023 –

March 2023 – Emily Zawalich

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.

Members Compete in County and District Public Speaking Competitions

Recently the Miami County and District 5 FFA Public Speaking Career Development Events were held. The county competition was held in early February, hosted by the Upper Valley Career Center in Piqua. Miami County FFA Chapters participating included Bradford, Covington, Miami East, Milton Union, Newton, and Upper Valley Career Center. The top two speakers in each category advanced to the district competition.

The District 5 FFA Public Speaking Contest was held mid-February. It was hosted by Covington High School. District 5 consists of schools from Auglaize, Darke, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby Counties.

Emily Zawalich and Kirya Wise competed in the FFA Creed Speaking Event. They recited the FFA Creed and answered questions. Zawalich placed second and



Wise placed fourth. Zawalich moved onto district competition where she placed first and advanced to the State

FFA Creed Speaking contest in March. Best of luck to Emily.

Katelyn Hall competed in the Beginning Prepared Speaking Event. She researched, wrote, presented and answered questions on a five to seven-minute speech. Hall's speech addressed ways to feed nine billion people by 2050. She placed first in the county contest and seventh in the district.

Fletcher Harris competed in the Advanced Prepared Speaking Event. He researched, wrote, presented and answered questions on a six to eight-minute speech. Harris's speech concerned the importance of African Swine Fever. He placed second in the county contest and eighth in the district.

The Extemporaneous Speaking Event members are given an agriculture topic then have 30 minutes to prepare a four to six-minute speech and follow-up answer questions. Representing Miami East-MVCTC was Kinsley Courtright. Courtright placed third in the county competition.

Members Compete in State Ag Biotechnology Competition

Recently members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter completed in the Ohio FFA State Agricultural



Biotechnology Career Development Event. The students learned and applied their knowledge through an online test then competed in an in-

person competition.

The Agricultural Biotechnology team placed 18th in the state. Those representing Miami East in the state finals were Wyatt Black, Julia Couser, Abigail Maxson, and Adrien Comer. They demonstrated their knowledge of research advancement in the agriculture industry through a group presentation, identified equipment used in a lab, and demonstrated biotechnology laboratory industry related tasks.

Additional Miami East participants in the Career Development Event were Haley Barnes, Rhylee Eichhorn, Dalton Schreadley, Adi Richter, Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsing, Isaac Beal, Hale Beck, Violet Hazard, Connor Maxson, Cora Moore, Wesley Penny, Lacie Henry, Haley Lane, Karley Prosser, Myah Jefferis, Jackson Shane, Katelyn Hall, Kat Niswonger, Kendal Staley, Luke Brunke, Lillian McClain, Clayton Couser, Lydia Durst, Caleb Staley, and Blake Boggess.

There were 378 individuals from 41 schools in the competition. A special thank you goes to Mr. Todd Gentis for chaperoning the contestants.

Members Earn SAE Grants

Three \$1,000 grants have been awarded to Miami East-MVCTC FFA members Wyatt Black, Connor Maxson, and Madison Maxson by the National FFA Organization. The SAE Grant is designed to help FFA members create and enhance their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), a requirement that all FFA members must complete.

All three are members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter. Their applications were selected from applications nationwide. This year 30 different sponsors funded SAE Grants. Their applications were selected from among 1,296 applications nationwide.

An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture-related business, work at an agriculture-related business or conduct an agricultural research experience. Upon completion of the grant fiscal year, grant recipients must submit a comprehensive report regarding their career development experience.

Wyatt Black is the son of Kris and Becky Black. He received a \$1,000 grant from Howes Products. Black will use the grant funds to purchase equipment to improve the efficiency and production of his repurposing of chassis for wagons and trailer business.

Connor Maxson is the son of Scott and Katrina Maxson. He received a \$1,000 grant from CTB, Inc. so that he can make improvements to the family's barn which will lead to proper ventilation for his market hogs.

Madison Maxson is the daughter of Tom and Lisa Maxson. She received a \$1,000 grant from Domino's Pizza so that she can build a new wash facility and improve the overall facility for her market hogs.

Penny Wars for March of Dimes

The Citizenship Committee coordinated a Penny War amongst 4th period classes with all proceeds going to the March of Dimes. Pennies were positive points and all other coins and paper monies were negative. The winning class was Mrs. Sroufe's. They received a donut party.



🇺🇸 Now available! ME FFA is collecting your tattered and faded flags. We will dispose of them properly. This collection point is at the east entrance of MEHS.

Thanks to the US Postal Service for the box. Thanks to Hart's Towing and Recoery for the awesome repair and painting. 🇺🇸



The FFA's Human Resources Committee is proud to donate \$1,159.56 to the Wounded Warrior Project from their recent fundraiser.



Congrats to the winners of the 2023 ME FFA Cookie Bake-Off Challenge.
 1st - Fletcher & Kyle (turtle bites)
 2nd - Kendal (peanut butter no-bakes)
 3rd - Emma & Alexa D (confetti cake cookies)
 People's Choice - Braden & Reagan (chocolate chip)



State Spring CDEs Held

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. In the Horse Judging Contest were Ava Skeens and Alexa Deaton. In the State Poultry Contest was Kaci Manns. In the State Dairy Cattle Contest was Braden Zekas, Emma Hershberger, Keyara Davis, Lillian McClain, and Jillian Niswonger. There were no results at the time of printing. Please watch the Miami East FFA Alumni social media accounts for results/updates as they come available.

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.



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.

April 2023

- 1 – ME Community Easter Egg Hunt hosted by ME FFA, 10am to 3pm
- 10 to 14 – Project Wild with all Plant and Animal Science students
- 10 – Distribute trees to the 4th graders
- 12 – State FFA Convention payment due
- 18 – Quality Assurance training with ME FFA
- 19 – State Vet Science Finals
- 21 – Miami East FFA Alumni Scholarships due
- 28 – State FFA Dairy Cattle, Poultry, Horse, and Livestock team finals
- 29 – State FFA Meats Evaluation and Ag Issues Forum CDEs

May 2023

- 1 – FFA Camp payment due (\$50)
- 4&5 – State FFA Convention
- 12 – FFA's Ag Day at Miami County Fairgrounds
- 17 – Tire Recycling Day with Soil & Water at fairgrounds

June 2023

- 1 – Chapter Officer Training Session
- TBD – Hosting of our friends from Sleepy Eye, Minn.
- 19 to 21 – FFA Camp



