

Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

June to October 2022

Members Attend National FFA Convention

The 95th National FFA Convention is the largest event hosted by the National FFA. 20 members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA chapter were in attendance at the convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Those members included were Jadyn Bair, Wyatt Black, Shelby Buck, Julia Couser, Alexa Deaton, Isabel Eichhorn, Katelyn Hall, Brayden Havenar, Alaina Helsinger, Emma Hersherberger, Kyle Larson, Keira Kirby, Kaci Manns, Madison Maxson, Matthew Osting, Elisabeth Norman, Adi Richter, Ty Roeth, Jenna Taylor, and Emily Zawalich. Also joining the members during the trip was the Arcanum-MVCTC FFA Chapter and its members.



Over 65,000 members, parents, and guests were in attendance at the National FFA Convention. Previous conventions were held in Kansas City, Missouri and Louisville, Kentucky.

Convention activities included attending several convention sessions where members were inspired by motivational speakers such as the 2021-2022 National FFA Officers and four-time Olympic gold medalist and WNBA player Tamika Catchings. Attendees enjoyed attending the Lauren Alaina and Jimmie Allen concert, World's Toughest Rodeo, the FFA Shopping Mall and Career Show, and a tour of the Ozark Fishery and Crossroad Genetics Boar Stud. Miami East and Arcanum FFA members donated one elementary book at the National FFA Convention book drive.

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter received a Three-Star National Chapter Award, the highest award bestowed to an FFA Chapter. The chapter was selected for this honor based on its activities during the previous school year, in the areas of growing leaders, building communities, and strengthening agriculture.

Miami East Schools graduates Erin Baker, Adam Bensman, Makayla Brittain, Carter Gilbert, Paige Pence, Rylee Puthoff, Jimmy Sutherly, Seth Wells, Jarrett Winner, and Lauren Wright received the American FFA Degree. The American FFA Degree is the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization and recognizes members' ability to demonstrate leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing, and service programs. Recipients received gold American FFA Degree key and a certificate to commemorate the achievement.



Thank you to Mr. Brian Pohlman from Arcanum for co-chaperoning the trip. Additional appreciation goes to the administration at Miami East Local Schools and the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.

Livestock Team Competes in Kansas City

Three members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently represented Ohio at the 123rd American Royal Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, Missouri. The team consisted of Rhylee Eichhorn, Wyatt Black, and Dustin Winner. The members were able to participate after placing third in the Ohio FFA Livestock Evaluation competition in the spring of 2022.

The focus of the American Royal Livestock Judging Contest was to develop the skills necessary to effectively evaluate beef, swine, sheep, and goats. During the contest the contestants judged 10 classes of livestock and gave 6 sets of oral reasons. The team placed 13th with Rhylee Eichhorn was the highest placing individual from Miami East.

While in the Kansas City area, the team visited and practiced judging at Kansas State University. They also had practices at the Brian Habjan Family Farm and with Ward Brothers Cattle. They made stops at Cavendar's Western Wear and Cabela's. Additionally, the

team ate at local restaurants such as Joe's Gas Station BBQ, the Hereford House, and Fritz's Railroad Café where the meal was delivered via a toy railroad train.



Prior trip preparations included practices at the Eichhorn Showpigs (Rhyann and Alisha Eichhorn), Lynn Allen Goat Farms (Brent and Christine Pence), and Fine Brothers Show Sheep (Bryan and Lindsey Fine). Additional support was given by the Miami Valley Career Technology Center and the Miami East FFA Alumni and Supporters.

During the Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event (CDE), members rank breeding and market classes of beef, sheep and swine and give oral reasons to back up their decisions. Members participating in this CDE make accurate and logical observations of livestock, decide on the desirable traits in marketing and breeding livestock, and select and market livestock that will satisfy consumer demands and provide increased economic returns to producers. Understanding what makes a good market or breeding beef, sheep or swine is valuable knowledge for the decisions every livestock producer has to make. This CDE also encourages students to communicate proficiently, interpret data and work as a team — skills that translate into other career opportunities.

Greenhands Attend State Conference

On Saturday, October 8, 8 Miami East-MVCTC FFA first-year members attended the 2022 State Greenhand Conference hosted by the Versailles FFA Chapter. The theme was “First Down and Life To Go,” and the conference offered workshops for the first-year agricultural education students to learn about opportunities in the FFA, setting goals, developing communication skills, and working in teams. Additionally, attendees rotated through various Career Development Events that FFA members can get involved in during their FFA membership.

The keynote speakers were Dan and Charity Schroer with their message on the importance of making good decisions. Additional presenters for the conference

included sessions by Ohio's National FFA Officer Candidate Branson Van Fleet and members of the 2022-23 Ohio FFA State FFA Officer team including Aubrey Schwartz, Graham Carson, Kennedy Short, Katie Oestreich, Dalton Mullins, Luke Jennings, Benjamin Bitner, Alyson Murphy, and Landon Shelpman. The participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet FFA members from across the state of Ohio and learn more about FFA. Almost 400 members were in attendance.



Those attending the 2022 Ohio FFA Greenhand Conference from Miami East included Alexa Deaton, Brian Fulton, Trenton Griffith, Madison Grube, Owen Heilman, Emma Hershberger, Kaci Manns, and Kirya Wise.

Corn Contest Yields Big Results

Recently, members from the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter were challenged to participate in the annual Chapter Corn Contest. The rules of the contest were to bring in one ear of corn and earn a prize. Winners were presented an FFA T-shirt from the FFA Chapter.



A winner is chosen based on the predicted yield of the corn. The grand prize winner was determined by the highest yield

estimate, based on plant population per acre. Agricultural Education students in Plant and Animal Science classes took time in class to figure the predicted yield of corn ears as part of their continuing education of agronomy.

The overall winner was Keira Kirby. Her corn was predicted to yield 372.4 bushels to the acre with a 36,000 seed population per acre. Her corn was a Ebberts corn product. Second place went to Kaci Manns who presented an ear of corn that is predicted to produce 357.8 bushels per acre with a 35,000 seed population per acre. Hers was a DeKalb. Third place went to Matthew Osting

with an ear of corn predicted to yield 338.2 bushels to the acre with a 36,500 seed population per acre. His was a Seed Consultants product. Fourth place went to Jadyn Bair with a yield of 338 bushels to the acre with a seed population rate of 36,000 and was a Pioneer product. Jenna Taylor placed fifth with a predicted yield of 331.5 with a DeKalb product with a population rate of 35,000 kernels per acre. Rhylee Eichhorn had the longest ear at 10 inches.

As a whole, the contest yielded an average of 292.6 bushels per acre. This is 10 bushels to the acre higher than last year's results. Additional participants included Abby Maxson, Emma Hersherberger, Connor Maxson, Jon Hart, Isabel Eichhorn, Wyatt Black, Madison Maxson, Fletcher Harris, and Trenton Griffith.

Members Compete in Soils Contests

On Wednesday, September 28, members of the



Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in the District 5 Soils Judging Contest in Auglaize County in the New Bremen area.

The Urban Soils team consisted of Rhylee Eichhorn, Luke Robinson, Kirya Wise, and Jaycee Roeth. The team placed 10 out of 19 teams. Rhylee Eichhorn was the highest placing individual from Miami East placing 22 out of 117

individuals.



The Agriculture/Rural Soils team consisted of Wyatt Black, Connor Maxson, Kinsley Courtright, Emmitt Ondera, Kaci Manns, Brian

Fulton, Shelby Buck and Emily Zawalich. The team placed 13 out of 31 teams. Connor Maxson was the highest individual from Miami East placing 23 out of 201 contestants.

The contest consisted of evaluating three soils pit for slope, erosion, drainage, depth, and soil texture and structure. Also, the contestants took a written test and answered questions from the soil survey.

Previously, the teams had competed at the Miami County Soils Career Development Event coordinated by the Miami Soil and Water Conservation District. Participants included Emmitt Ondera, Kaci Manns, Wyatt Black, Brian Fulton, and Kirya Wise.

2022-23 Chapter Officers

The 2022-23 Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter Officers are as follows: Sentinel - Adi Richter, Student Advisor – Kendal Staley, Reporter – Luke Brunke, Treasurer – Ayla Gilbert Secretary – Fletcher Harris, Vice President – Alaina Helsinger, and President – Isaac Beal.



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

September 2022 – Myah Jefferis

October 2022 – Ty Roeth

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.

Safety Sponsors Farm Safety Poster Contest

The Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently sponsored a farm safety poster contest at Miami East Elementary. The competition was coordinated by the Safety Committee and its members Sydney Brittain, Keyara Davis, McKayah Mussleman, Ava Prince, and Braden Zekas.



Students in the second grade were given poster board and had to create a farm safety promotion poster.

FFA members evaluated the pictures and awarded first place to each homeroom. The results are as follows:

Mrs. Patty Gentis – Austin Slock
 Mrs. Ashley Demmitt – Luke Eichhorn
 Mrs. Amanda Riley – Emmett Brown
 Mrs. Tammy Mumford – Bradley Anderson
 Ms. Grace Fonseca – Ryleigh Myers

Each student participating received a gift from the FFA Chapter, including candy and a pencil. The first place poster in each homeroom was also awarded special prize. Congratulations to the winners!

Seatbelt Awareness Activity Held

On Tuesday, September 22, as part of National Farm Safety and Health Awareness Week, 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.

All student drivers and passengers were inspected for wearing their seatbelt. They received a “Smarties” candy because seatbelts save

lives and drivers are smart to wear their seatbelt. 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. Over 50 drivers and passengers were presented candy with 96.3% of drivers were wearing their seatbelt and the remainder not wearing the seatbelt. Similar results as were collected last fall when 93.9% of drivers were 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, Ava Prince, and Braden Zekas.

Tire Recycling Day Takes Place



On Wednesday, September 14, members of the Miami East FFA Chapter assisted with the Miami Soil & Water Conservation District's Tire Recycling Day. 2,000

tires were gathered from county residents and sent to be recycled into playground cover and other uses.

Members Attend FFA Camp

The week of June 20, 6 members of the FFA Chapter at Miami East High Schools attended the second session of Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum, Carrollton, Ohio. There were over 100 campers in attendance with additional State FFA Officers, FFA Camp Staff, and several of FFA Advisors from across the state. FFA Camp Muskingum is located on Leesville Lake and is owned and operated by the Ohio FFA Association.

Members attending from Miami East-MVCTC FFA included Clayton Couser, Katelynn Dill, Abigail Maxson, Connor Maxson, Lillian McClain, and Dalton Schreadley.

The 2022 theme was "The Wild West of Camp." During the camp members had the opportunity to participate in water activities such as canoeing and motor boating and ranges such as rifle, shotgun, and archery. Each morning, before breakfast, campers had the opportunity to plunge into the lake or take a sunrise walk.

During the first day members met fellow members in their camp chapters, learned camp rules, and participated group challenges. The evening key note speaker was Mr. Dan Schroer and Mrs. Charity Freeland Schroer with a message about making good decisions. The day ended with a reflections of the accepting the challenges and opportunities at camp.

The second day included team building activities and line dancing lessons, members rotated through various environmentally-related workshops, a team scavenger hunt and team building workshops by the State FFA



Officers. The day ended with a dance and a campfire challenging campers to take advantage of life's opportunities whenever they are available.

The week ended with a morning cleaning of camp and a send-off by the State FFA Officers.

Highlights of the

week were the many friends and challenges that campers overcame. Members enjoyed the experience to meet FFA members from across the state and connect back to nature.

Corn Hole Tournament Raises Money For Local Group

In October Kendal Staley organized a corn hole tournament to benefit the local group, We Love Birthday Parties. We Love Birthday Parties provides birthday parties and all the goods that go with them for local children that might not get a



birthday celebration.

There were 12 teams that participated in the event. They raise \$165 for the local group.

Cruise-In for Suicide Prevention Held

Senior FFA Dustin Winner organized a Cruise-In to benefit New Creations Counseling Center in the prevention of suicide. This event was held in memory of a former Miami East FFA Member Hunter Sharp who passed away in 2018. The event profited \$1125.



A special thanks goes to the event sponsors Minster Bank and Troy Sports Center.

Chapter Exchange with Minnesota FFA Chapter

In June, four members of the Miami East FFA Chapter conducted a chapter exchange with members of the Sleepy Eye FFA Chapter in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota.



The chapter members flew to Minneapolis and toured the Minnesota Twins stadium. They then joined the Sleepy Eye FFA members in a tailgate party. The next day the chapter members toured a state park, toured a cavern, large dairy,

and an entertainment center. The final day the members visited the Mall of America and flew home. Attending the trip were Keyara Davis, Katelynn Dill, Myah Jefferis and Dustin Winner.

Members Visit Ohio State

On Monday, October 24 (a day off of school), 39



Miami East FFA members, guests, and parents tour The Ohio State University. Alaina Helsing organized the event. They began by touring the

College of Veterinary Medicine then had Cane's for lunch. They toured the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Science and stopped at Ohio Stadium.

Summer Family Picnic Held

In June members, friends, and family gathered at Poor Farmers Campground for a Summer Family Picnic. Isaac Beal organized the event. The participants had a carry-in, played games, and fellowshiped.



Plant and Animal Science Classes Conduct Feed Trial



The Plant and Animal Sciences conducted a feed trial on 50 chickens. They tested 5 different feeds. During the 5.5-week trial the group realized that the feeds with the most crude protein and crude fat raised the biggest

chickens. The chickens were processed and 235 pounds of fresh chicken was donated to the Fletcher Food Pantry.

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.

November 2022

8 – District Food Science CDE, Anna HS
8 – State Animal Welfare and Animal Management CDEs
10 – District Job Interview CDE, National Trail HS
14-22 – Canned Food Drive for Fletcher Food Pantry
15 – National FFA SAE Grant due
22 – County Parliamentary Procedures CDE (virtual)
28 – FFA Meeting w/ Greenhand Degree Ceremony, 7pm
29 – District Parliamentary Procedures CDE

December 2022

3 – State Food Science and Job Interview CDEs
5 – Fruit Arrives
19&20 – Record Book/FFA Award Application work days

January 2023

10 – State Ag Biotechnology Online Exam CDE
15 – National FFA Scholarships due
TBD – Strawberry sales begin
17 – County Evaluation, 4pm (Mrs. Carity only)
20 – State Ag Biotechnology Finals (Central State U)
TBD – OSU Meats Team Clinic
23 – State Leadership Night at MEHS, 7-8pm (no formal meeting)
24 – Ag Sales, TTS, and Grain Merchandising exams CDEs
27 – Regional Evaluations (Mrs. Carity only)

February 2023

1 – County Public Speaking CDE, UVCC
2 – District TTS/Ag Power Diagnostics CDE, Tri-Star CC
3 – Chapter Officer Applications due with interviews TBA
9 – District Public Speaking CDE, Covington HS
10 – Chapter Proficiency Award Applications due
11 – OSU Buckeye Meats Invitational
13 – District Ag Sales CDE, Versailles HS
21-24 – MEHS celebrates National FFA Week
25 – VikingFest (SAE marketing opportunity)
27 – FFA Meeting with officer elections, 7pm
28 – State FFA Band and Choir Applications Due

March 2023

3 – State TTS/Ag Power Diagnostics CDE, Lima
4 – Marysville Invitational Spring CDEs
4 – State Public Speaking CDEs
6 – State Livestock, Equine, Poultry & Dairy Cattle Online Exams
10 – Agriscience Fair Research Reports due to State Evaluations
11 – Miami Trace Invitational Spring CDEs
14 – State Ag Sales CDE
25 – State Spring CDEs (livestock, poultry, horse)
26 – Parent-Member Awards Banquet, 6:30 in gymnasium with FFA Alumni Silent Auction at 5:30
30 – State Dairy Cattle CDE

