

Blue Jacket Journal

The official newsletter of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter

October to December 2021

National Pork Month Coloring Contest

The Agricultural Literacy Committee of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently sponsored a coloring contest at Miami East Elementary.

Members of the Ag Literacy Committee challenged the students in Kindergarten were given a pig-themed picture to color and decorate. This event was coordinated to promote October as National Pork Month. FFA members evaluated the pictures and awarded first place to each homeroom. The results are as follows:

Mrs. Amy Gerlach – Murphy Barnett
Mrs. Stephanie Larson – Nora Gray
Mr. Preston Elifritz – Easton Weaver
Mr. Justin Roeth – Jase McClellan



Each student participating received a pencil, sticker, and a candy treat. The first place picture in each homeroom was awarded a special prize and a pig ear headband sponsored by the Ohio Pork Council. This contest is an annual event. Congratulations to the winners!

Members of the Agricultural Literacy Committee involved in the project were Alaina Helsing, Madison Maxson, Devan Nix, Logan Phillips, Jacob Roeth, and Thomas Wallace.

FFA Members Attend National Convention

The 94th National FFA Convention is the largest event hosted by the National FFA. 26 members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA chapter were in attendance at the convention in Indianapolis. Those members included were Jadyn Bair, Sydney Brittain, Luke Brunke, Julia Couser, Keyara Davis, Katelynn Dill, Ethan Fine, Jayden Gates, Ayla Gilbert, Katelyn Hall, Fletcher Harris, Alaina Helsing, Kyle Larson, Keira Kirby, Madison Maxson, Lillian McClain, Cora Moore, Jillian Niswonger, Kat Niswonger, Elisabeth Norman, Adi Richter, Logan Phillips, Ty Roeth, Dalton Schreadley, Gretchen Stevens,

and Thomas Wallace. Also joining the members during the trip was the Arcanum-MVCTC FFA Chapter and its members.

Over 50,000 members, parents, and guests were in attendance at the National FFA Convention. Previous conventions were held in Kansas City, Missouri and Louisville, Kentucky. Last year's convention was held virtually.

Convention activities included attending several convention sessions where members were inspired by motivational speakers such as the 2020-21 National FFA Officers and motivational speaker Courtenay DeHoff. Attendees enjoyed attending the Brett Young concert, World's Toughest Rodeo, the FFA Shopping Mall and Career Show, and a tour of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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 Ethin Bendickson, Elizabeth Bair, Michael Bair, Savannah Holzen, Luke Gilliland, and Kearsten Kirby 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 keys and a certificate to commemorate the achievement.



Thank you to Mrs. Marie Carity from Miami East and Mr. Brian Pohlman from Arcanum. Additional appreciation goes to the administration at Miami East Local Schools and the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.

Environmental Committee Sponsors Poster Contest

The Environmental Committee of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently sponsored a Recycling, Reducing, and Reusing contest at Miami East Elementary.

Members of the Environmental Committee visited each classroom and shared facts about the importance of recycling, reducing, and reusing materials. They then challenged the students in third grade to color and decorate an environmental-themed picture. FFA members evaluated the pictures and awarded first place to one student in each homeroom. The results are as follows:

Mrs. Megan Noll – Avery Baker
 Miss Stephanie Blackton – Alexa Bade
 Mrs. Katie Mason – Lilly Nation
 Mrs. Elizabeth Fields – Avery Billing



Each student participating received a prize complement of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter. The first place picture in each homeroom was awarded a special prize of a recyclable water bottle. Congratulations to the winners!

Members of the Environmental Committee involved in the project were Julia Couser, Evan Demmitt, Bryce Haught, Cora Moore, Kat Niswonger, and Caleb Staley.

Ag Literacy Committee Sponsors Coloring Contest for National Apple Month

The Agricultural Literacy Committee of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter recently sponsored a coloring contest at Miami East Elementary. The event was held to celebrate National Apple Month.

Members of the Agriculture Literacy Committee challenged the students in first grade and were given an apple-themed picture to color. FFA members evaluated the pictures and awarded first place to each homeroom. The results are as follows:

Mrs. Jennifer McCuiston – Finnley Jackson
 Mrs. Carmen Richters – Kinsley Francis
 Mrs. Black – Ryleigh Myers
 Mrs. Lauren Nosker – Brynn Davis



Each student participating received an apple-themed prize complements of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter with the help of Mrs. Becky Weldy's apple orchard. The first place picture in each homeroom was awarded a special prize. Congratulations to the winners!

Members of the Agricultural Literacy Committee involved in the project were Alaina Helsinger, Madison Maxson, Devan Nix, Logan Phillips, Jacob Roeth, and Thomas Wallace.

State Officer Visits ME Ag Classroom

Recently, Ohio FFA State Vice President At Large Laura Wuebker came to visit the members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter. She spent the day in the two Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources and two Plant and Animal Sciences classes sharing with them about how to thrive in the FFA organization by having a positive attitude towards challenges in life. Her message was about “Opportunities in FFA” and “Overcoming Stress.”

Laura is a senior at Versailles High School and is currently serving as a State FFA Officer. Her duties require her to travel throughout the state conducting chapter visits, presenting speeches on behalf of Ohio’s FFA members, and facilitating conferences and conventions.



The FFA members at Miami East High School greatly appreciate that Laura could take time out of her busy schedule to come and visit with the freshman and sophomores FFA members.

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!

November 2021 – Rhylee Eichhorn

December 2021 – Anthony Putnam

January 2022 – Thomas Wallace

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.

Food Science Teams Compete

Recently the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Food Science and Technology Team competed in the District 5 Contests hosted by Twin Valley South High School.

Food Science and Technology Contest contestants included Adi Richter, Isaac Beal, Emma Sutherly, Braden Zekas, Dottie Everett, Samuel Sutherly, Chloe Gump, Ethan Paulus, Jayden Gates, Katelynn Dill, Matthew Osting, Jillian Niswonger, Anthony Putnam, Luke Brunke, Sydney Brittain, Annabelle Penny, Kendal Staley, Evan Massie, and Spencer Triplett.



Miami East students placed 2nd out of 29 teams. They qualified for the state competition in December. The highest placing team was Adi Richter, Isaac Beal, Braden Zekas, and Jayden Gates. Adi Richter was the highest placing individual from Miami East. She placed second. Isaac Beal was the third overall high individual in the entire contest.

During the contest the team members were asked to complete a product development scenario in which they calculated the nutritional facts for a new food product and design a new package. Also they completed an aroma identification section, responded to customer inquiry scenarios, identified sanitation errors in the food industry and common equipment used in a food production facility, and completed a taste sensory test and flavor identification.

Food Science Team Places In State

On Saturday, December 4 four members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in the State Food Science and Technology Career Development Event hosted at The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. The Food Science and Technology Team members were Isaac Beal, Adilyn Richter, Emma Sutherly, and Braden Zekas. The team placed fourth in the state and earned a



10th overall.

During the contest the team members were asked to complete a product development scenario in which they calculated the nutritional facts for a new food product and design a new package. Also they completed an aroma identification section, took test on their knowledge of food science, responded to mock customer complaint scenarios, identified sanitation errors in the food industry, identified common food flavorings, and completed a taste sensory test.

District Job Interview Competitors Successful

Recently several members of the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter competed in the District 5 FFA Job Interview Career Development Event held at Brookville High School. The Event consisted of designing a resume and cover letter, completing a job application, performing an interview, and writing a form thank you letter



Gretchen Stevens competed in the Division 4 (senior year) interview competition. She placed 9th in the district. There were 24 participants.

Isaac Beal competed in the Division 3 (junior year) interview competition. He placed 4th in the district. There were 23 participants.

Alaina Helsingher competed in the Division 2 (sophomore year) contest and placed 7th in the district. There were 18 participants.

banner for the agriculture classroom. Braden Zekas was the highest placing individual from Miami East, placing

Maxson Receives Sutherly Memorial Jacket

Connor Maxson has received a complementary jacket from the financial donations of friends and family of William “Bill” Sutherly. Mr. Sutherly was a lifelong farmer in the Miami East Schools Community and passed away in 2021. His family and friends have made financial contributions to the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter in his memory.



Connor is the son of Scott and Katrina Maxson of Conover. Connor is a first year member of the Miami East FFA Chapter. He completed an essay and will be

receiving his FFA Jacket for use at FFA activities, Career Development Events, and various conferences and conventions. Connor has already participated in the Soils Career Development Event and is preparing for the Novice Parliamentary Procedures Career Development Event.

Chapter Inducts New Members

On Monday, November 22, 2021, the Miami East-MVCTC FFA Chapter awarded 32 new members their Greenhand FFA Degree. The Greenhand Degree is awarded to first year members of the FFA, and is the first award that can be received. Each member awarded received a pin to be worn on their FFA jacket and a certificate of achievement.

In order to receive the Greenhand FFA Degree the members must be enrolled in an agriculture class, have plans for a Supervised Agricultural Experience Program, learned and explained the FFA Creed, Motto, Salute, Mission Statement, Code of Ethics and uses of the FFA Jacket, Colors, and Emblem, and demonstrated an understanding of the FFA's history, chapter constitution and by-laws. The Greenhand FFA Degree is the first of four degrees that an FFA member can earn.



The students earning the degree were Haley Barnes, Hale Beck, Wyatt Black, Blake Boggess, Adrien Comer, Wyatt Cotrell, Clayton Couser, Julia Couser, Evan Demmitt, Lydia Durst, Rhylee Eicchorn, Caysen Gates, Katelyn Hall, Peyton Harper, Bryce Haught, Violet Hazard, Lacie Henry, Myah Jefferis, Jacqueline Kadel, Haley Lane, Abigail Maxson, Connor Maxson, Lillian McClain, Cora Moore, Kat Niswonger, Wesley Penny, Karley Prosser, Dalton Schreadley, Jackson Shane, Caleb Staley, Kamden Wolfe, and Aliana Wissman.

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.

January 2022

- 11 – State Ag Biotechnology Online Exam CDE
- 11 – State FFA Leadership Night at UVCC
- 15 – National FFA Scholarships due
- TBD – Strawberry sales begin
- 20 – County Evaluation, 4pm (Mrs. Carity only)
- 21 – State Ag Biotechnology Finals (Central State U)
- ~~22 – OSU Meats Team Clinic (members)~~
- 24 – FFA Meeting Throwback Night with Chili Cook-Off, 7pm**
- 25 – Ag Sales, TTS, and Grain Merchandising exams CDEs
- 28 – Regional Evaluations (Mrs. Carity only)

February 2022

- 2 – County Public Speaking CDE
- 4 – Chapter Officer Applications due with interviews TBA
- 8 – District Ag Sales CDE @ New Knoxville HS
- 11 – Chapter Proficiency Award Applications due
- 11 – District TTS/Ag Power Diagnostics CDE (Koenig, Greenville)
- 12 – OSU Buckeye Meats Invitational
- 16 – District Public Speaking CDE @ Coldwater HS
- 19 – VikingFest (great SAE marketing opportunity)
- 22-25 – MEHS celebrates National FFA Week
- 28 – FFA Meeting Disney Night with officer elections, 7pm**
- 28 – State FFA Band and Choir Applications Due

March 2022

- 2 – Wilmington College Invitational
- 5 – Marysville Invitational Spring CDEs
- 5 – State Public Speaking CDEs
- 7 – State Equine, Poultry & Dairy Cattle Online Exams
- 11 – Agriscience Fair Research Reports due to State Evaluations
- 12 – Miami Trace Invitational Spring CDEs
- 14 – State Ag Sales CDE
- 26 – State Spring CDEs (livestock, poultry, horse)
- 28 – State Animal Behavior and Welfare online exam CDE
- 31 – State Dairy Cattle CDE

