

Chillicothe FFA receives Top Chapter Award

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COLUMBIA, Mo., April 20, 2023 – The Missouri FFA Association awarded Chillicothe FFA Chapter a Gold Emblem, a Top Chapter Award. Chillicothe placed 15th out of 355 chapters. Only 10 percent of state chapters receive a top chapter designation each year.

The National Chapter Award Program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. Chapters improve operations using the National Quality Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership. This award is sponsored by FCS Financial. The Chillicothe FFA advisors are Neal Wolf, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner, Cyrsen Sarbaugh, Micheal Slater, and Rhonda Oesch.



The Chillicothe FFA growing leaders activities included an event titled Pizza and Pathways. Alumni members were invited back to provide a networking experience with current members. Alumni shared their agricultural career experiences in plant sciences, animal sciences, agricultural business, and wildlife conservation/natural resources pathways. The purpose of this event is to expose and highlight the abundant careers available within the agricultural industry. Building communities activities included Leading for a Cure. A preview cattle show was constructed by members, alumni, parents, and community members to raise funds for cancer research. Proceeds collected from the entry fee, admission, and an online sale were donated to the American Cancer Society. Chapter activities in the strengthening agriculture category included Researching for a Reason. During this event, members are able to present an agriculture topic to members of the community. FFA members are able to explore their career interests and apply scientific principles to agricultural issues. The top chapters in Missouri will compete for the National FFA Chapter Award. Winners will be announced this fall at the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The Missouri FFA has 26,716 members representing 356 chapters. The national organization has more than 850,000 members representing 8,995 chapters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.



Walker of Chillicothe FFA Chapter named State FFA Vice President

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COLUMBIA, Mo., April 20, 2023 – During the 95th Missouri FFA Convention, Claire Walker was named a 2023-2024 State FFA Vice President. Walker is a member of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. Her advisors are Lance Martin, Randy Plattner, Cyrsen Sarbaugh, and Neal Wolf. Walker's supervised agricultural experience program consists of owning a beef cattle operation, where she raises and sells purebred Simmental cattle. Walker served her chapter as assistant vice president, second vice president, and president. She has also served the Area 2 Association as first vice president.

Walker has competed in the FFA knowledge and Division I prepared public speaking leadership development events. She has also competed in the Missouri Teach Ag FFA Fall Public Speaking Contest and the Missouri Cattle Industry Speaking Contest. In addition to FFA, Walker is a member of National Honor Society, CHS Rotary Club, student council and Senior Executive Committee. She has served as the junior class vice president, CHS Spanish Club vice president, and CHS History Club president. Walker is also a youth leader and Sunday school teacher at Chillicothe United Methodist Church. After graduating high school, Walker plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to study agribusiness management, international business, and political science. Upon graduation she plans to be involved in agriculture through international agricultural relations and public policy. The Missouri FFA has 26,716 members representing 356 chapters. The national organization has more than 850,000 members representing 8,995 chapters in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

State Proficiency 1st & 2nd Place

<p>STATE PROFICIENCY 1ST PLACE Grain Production Entrepreneurship</p> <p>EMILY SCHREINER</p>	<p>STATE PROFICIENCY 1ST PLACE Turf Grass Management</p> <p>AUSTEN MINNICK</p>	<p>STATE PROFICIENCY 2ND PLACE Fiber &/or Oil Crop Production</p> <p>CARVER CRAWFORD</p>	<p>STATE PROFICIENCY 2ND PLACE Small Animal Production & Care</p> <p>CHLOE CLEMENTS</p>	<p>STATE PROFICIENCY 2ND PLACE Veterinary Science</p> <p>ELLA JOHNSON</p>
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State Competition Results & State Talent

<p>STATE CDE CONTEST CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS</p> <p>4th Place</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST FARM MANAGEMENT TEAM</p> <p>9th Place Group I</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM</p> <p>9th Place Group I</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST KNOWLEDGE TEAM</p> <p>10th Place Group I</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST AG MECHANICS TEAM</p> <p>16th Place Group II</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST POULTRY JUDGING TEAM</p> <p>24th Place Group II</p>
<p>STATE CDE CONTEST DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING TEAM</p> <p>32nd Place Group II</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST FORESTRY TEAM</p> <p>38th Place Group III</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST AGRONOMY TEAM</p> <p>53rd Place Group III</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING Claire Walker DIVISION II PUBLIC SPEAKING Harlee Beck DIVISION I PUBLIC SPEAKING Gracelynn Barnett</p> <p>State Participants</p>	<p>STATE CDE CONTEST PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM</p> <p>State Participant</p>	<p>MISSOURI FFA TALENT</p> <p>Harley Bostner</p>

District Competition Results

<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST CONDUCT OF CHAPTER MEETINGS 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier Claire Walker</p>	<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST FFA KNOWLEDGE TEAM 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST DIVISION II PUBLIC SPEAKING 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier Harlee Beck</p>	<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE TEAM 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST FARM MANAGEMENT TEAM 1ST PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>
<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST DIVISION I PUBLIC SPEAKING 2ND PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier Gracelynn Barnett</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST POULTRY JUDGING TEAM 2ND PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING TEAM 2ND PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST AG MECHANICS TEAM 2ND PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM 4TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST FORESTRY TEAM - 7TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>
<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST AGRONOMY TEAM - 7TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST BO GOALS TEAM 4TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT FFA CONTEST DIVISION II PUBLIC SPEAKING Sadie Burtch FFA CAREER Beau Graves</p> <p>District Competitor</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST ENTOMOLOGY 10TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST MEATS - 10TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>	<p>DISTRICT CDE CONTEST FLORICULTURE 27TH PLACE</p> <p>State Qualifier</p>



Wagers & Rodenberg Qualify For Nationals Agri-Science Fair

Congratulations to our 10 FFA Members competing at the Missouri State FFA Agriscience Fair May 9, 2023!!

1st Place - Koby Wagers & Sammy Rodenberg in Division 4 Social Science

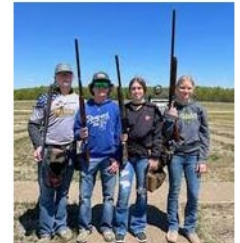
2nd Place - Anna Pfaff & Allie West Division 4 Food Science Systems

2nd Place - Hannah Pfeifer & Kenyen Gannan Division 4 Plant Science Systems

2nd Place - Jaden Funk & Kolt Neptune Division 4 Power, Structure & Technical Systems

2nd Place - Hallie Maberry Division 3 Social Sciences

2nd Place - Aubrie Burton Division 3 Food Science Systems



Trap Team Competes At State

Chillicothe competed today at the Paul Larsen Memorial State High School Trapshoot hosted at MTA in Linn Creek, MO. 34 Chillicothe FFA members competed in 16 yard singles trap supported by a large group of parents, family members, friends and coaches. Many shot personal records and were competitive in the standings of close to 1,000 high school shooters. Congratulations to Spencer Epperson and Ethan Davis for 25 straights! A special Shout-Out to our Seniors Porter Ficken, Cooper Murphy, Lance Clark, Carter Crawford, Cayleb Cothorn, Hudson Corzette and Seth Summers. You will make a positive impact on the world & many of us will enjoy watching you succeed in life! Keep shooting for your Dreams!



SCHREINER TO ATTEND HYPE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

HYPE is a youth leadership conference designed to challenge and equip the TOP 30 incoming high school senior FFA members in Missouri to be advocates for agriculture. Emily Schriener is one of those 30!

These FFA members will receive hands-on experiences to prepare them to communicate, lead, and advocate for the agricultural industry. In addition, members will gain strategies to continue strengthening their knowledge base in agricultural issues, sharpen written and verbal communication skills, and spark potential career interests. Most importantly, participants will bring home tools to help other chapter members tell the agriculture story!



TOP 100 FOR THREE FRESHMAN MEMBERS

Congratulations to Gracelynn Barnett, Beau Graves & Luke Thompson on being chosen for the HYMAX Leadership Academy Class of 2023!

Chillicothe FFA has 3 out of the top 100 Greenhand students in the state, and they will be attending the HYMAX Leadership Academy this summer. These 100 FFA members will receive hands-on experience to prepare them to communicate, lead, & advocate for the agriculture industry. FFA members will also learn from other FFA members about their chapter & how to better their SAE program. In addition, these members will gain strategies to continue strengthening their knowledge base in agricultural issues, sharpen written and verbal communication skills, & spark potential career interests. Most importantly, participants will bring home tools to help members in their home chapter tell the agriculture story!



TWO CHOSEN FOR MAbA

Agriculture has a tremendous impact on our nation's economy, and Missouri is at the heart of this industry. It is important that young people carry on the tradition and heritage of those who have made this state the agricultural leader it is today and develop the skills necessary to continue that legacy in the future.

To be eligible for the Missouri Agribusiness Academy, students must come from a farming family or be an active member of the National FFA Organization or 4-H. The 2023 MAbA class will tour agribusinesses, explore educational opportunities and meet with agricultural leaders in the St. Louis area from June 5-9, 2023. The students will end their week in Jefferson City.

Congratulations Harlee Beck & Yoo Jung Lee on being selected as two of the TOP 30 Sophomores



Minnick Named 2023 Area II Star in Agribusiness

Austen's Supervised Agriculture Experience began when he purchased the agribusiness, Minnick's Lawn Care, based out of Chillicothe, Missouri. Austen decided to expand the business in 2021 by purchasing another lawn care business based out of Lake Viking in Daviess County. In 2022, Austen made another investment by purchasing snow removal equipment and diversified his operation through offering these services in the mowing and landscaping off-season. Austen provides lawn mowing, fertilizer applications, aeration, spraying, dirt work, rock spreading, skid loader work, block laying, ice melt, as well as snow removal through his agribusiness which is now named, Minnick's Snow N Mow.

Wilford Places 3rd in MO Pork Association Speech Contest

The Missouri Pork Association continues its support of Missouri's youth and FFA students by holding a speaking contest each year. Students proceed through their area and district before reaching the state final, where the top student in each of Missouri's six FFA districts competes for the top prize. The state finals are held during the Missouri Pork Expo in Columbia around February every year.

This year's theme was, The Importance and Impact of International Pork Markets. Emily was honored with 3rd at the state competition.



3 Attend Public Speaking Institute

Three of our members traveled to Columbia for the Public Speaking Institute. They worked to improve: Public speaking skills

- Get tips and prepare for FFA Speaking Contest
- Learn to become an Advocate for Agriculture
- Have fun and learn the essentials to better speaking!



Area Greenhand Motivational Conference

Over 4500 first year FFA members from more than 350 Missouri High Schools had the opportunity to learn about being positive role models, learning to get involved, making sound choices, becoming active team members and making a positive difference in their lives, school and community at the annual Greenhand Motivational Conferences. Chillicothe FFA members attended the Area II Conference presented by the State FFA Officers and sponsored by MFA Incorporated held at North Central Missouri College, Trenton. Through interactive workshops and skits, the State FFA Officers encouraged first-year FFA members to explore their talents and reach outside their comfort zone for the opportunities provided through FFA membership. They helped the new agriculture students set goals for their education, careers, and FFA experience.



Senior Member Places 2nd at MO Cattlemen's

Senior member, Claire Walker presented her speech about the nutritional differences of beef and meat substitute products to a panel of three judges at the Missouri Cattlemen's Association State Convention held in Lake of the Ozarks. Claire placed 2nd out of 6 FFA members that presented.



FFA Member Places 3rd

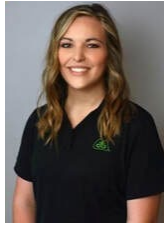
The Missouri Sheep Producers State FFA Speaking contest was held at Margaritaville Resort in December. The contest is designed to develop individual public speaking skills and to promote interest in and awareness of the many different aspects of the sheep industry. Participants earned the right to compete at the state contest by winning their respective district competitions. Chillicothe FFA member Harlee Beck placed 3rd at this years state event.

Trap Team Finishes Fall Competition

The Chillicothe FFA Trap Team wrapped up the Area 2 Trap League Season Saturday, December 3rd in challenging weather conditions. The Chillicothe A Squad earned 2nd and the AA Squad placed 3rd at the December Shoot. Individuals earning honors are Porter Ficken- 1st (47/50), Landon Bradley & Carver Crawford- Tied 3rd (41), Ethan Davis- Tied 5th (40), Lance Clark-Tied 9th (39). In the Ladies Bracket Harlee Beck and Ellah Geiser Tied for 2nd with a score of (34/50). Thirty-six Trap Team Members competed throughout the 2022 Fall Trap Season.

FFA Christmas Party

FFA members enjoyed themselves during our annual Christmas party/December meeting on November 30th. Members tied blankets, made Christmas cards, and enjoy some friendly competition participating in a cornhole tournament and playing board and card games. To satisfy the hunger from all of the activities members enjoyed walking tacos and pop. The annual Chillicothe FFA gun raffle was held at the end of the night, and the lucky winner was Ritchie Allnut.



Pizza & Pathways = Success

Our 1st annual Pizza & Pathways was a HUGE success, with approximately 143 students in attendance. There were five presenters who gave of their time to share different pathways that a student could go within the agriculture field of study. It was a very informative night with much knowledge shared and gained by all in attendance. Those presenting were: Clint Boon, Ray Carroll Company Grain Growers, Inc.; Victoria Thorne, Pioneer Seeds; Cliff Wilson, MO Department of Conservation; Stephanie Coram, Smithfield Hog Production of Missouri; and Zach Trout, MFA Incorporated.



Red, White, & Bags Cornhole Tournament

The 2nd Annual cornhole competition was held to help raise money for Honor Flight. Honor Flight Network is a national network working to honor our nation's veterans with an all-expenses paid trip to the memorials in Washington, D.C., a trip many of our veterans may not otherwise be able to take. Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the chance to share this momentous trip with other veterans, to remember friends and comrades lost, and share their stories and experiences with each other. Winners were recognized in the 13-18 age group and the 19 and over age group.



Salute to Our Veterans

We were honored to have sixty special guests at CHS for the annual Veteran's Day program. Thirty-one members of the Army, eleven members of the Air Force, eight members of the Navy, nine Marine veterans, and one Coast Guard member were present for the celebration. We are thankful for the service of each one of them, and were honored to show them our appreciation for their sacrifice!



2022 Litton Lecture Series Held

We had a great time at the Litton Lecture Series in Columbia, on November 10th. Dr Rick Rigsby challenged those in attendance to:

- Do the basics
- Own it
- Have a growth mindset



Local, Area, & District Fall Public Speaking

Students competed in the Area II and District I public speaking competitions during the month of November.

Those advancing from Area to Districts were: Anna Pfaff, Harlee Beck, Emily Wilford, Carson Samm, Cole Judy, Claire Walker, Milo Costner, Jackson Trout, and Yoo Jung Lee.

Districts were held in Cameron, and those advancing on to State in their speech areas are: Claire Walker- 1st MO Cattlemens, Harlee Beck- 1st MO Sheep Producers, and Emily Wilford- 1st MO Pork Producers. Carson Samm placed 2nd and is an alternate to State in MO Farm Bureau.

Chillicothe named their Chapter Creed Speakers for 2022-2023. Congratulations to Braydon Cull (Chillicothe) & Grant Warren (Southwest Livingston)!

Barnwarming Sets Record

Congratulations to the 2022 Barnwarming King and Queen, Cooper Murphy and Ella Johnson. The senior class raised \$11,280.67 with an average of \$282.02 per person. The first runner up was the freshman class raising \$18,168.00 and an average of \$279.50 per person. Third runner up went to the Junior class, they raised \$9,778.33 with a \$264.28 person average. The fourth runner up were the Sophomores who raised \$13,662.00, with a \$253.00 average. This year the Chillicothe FFA raised a RECORD HIGH of \$52,889.00!



Trap Team Places at Area in November

The trap team competed this month at the Area II Shoot on Nov. 5th. Top squads at this meet were: 3rd place, squad C; 4th place squad A. Individual results are: Girls Division, 1st Place, Harlee Beck & 3rd Place, Maggie Horton. Boys Division, 2nd Place, Portor Ficken; Tied for 6th Place, Lance Clark & Milo Costner.

Dine & Dash Delivers Meals

We held our annual "Dine & Dash" event where FFA members deliver lunches to businesses & individuals in our community who support our FFA Chapter. We are so grateful for the support we receive and want to say THANK YOU for your involvement in our chapter's success! This year we delivered 130 meals to the 15 area businesses.



Missouri Senator Visits Litton Agriculture Center

Senator Roy Blunt stopped by to tour the Litton Agriculture Center on Oct. 13th. Senator Blunt was interested in learning about the legacy that Jerry Litton has left his community.

Boo Fest Outreach & Advocacy

Chapter members enjoyed participating in Boo Fest by passing out books to promote Agriculture Literacy. They also gave out Mini First Aid Kits with emergency numbers to the first 300 trick or treaters.

National Convention in the Books

26 Chillicothe FFA members took in the sessions and career fair at the 95th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN in late October. Students also toured Fair Oaks Farms and attended the convention rodeo. 14 members were awarded their National Degree.

Trap Team Competes at Fall Classic

The Chillicothe FFA Trap Team hit the road on Saturday, October 8th, to compete in the Fall Classic Trapshoot held in Linn Creek, MO. Representing Chillicothe were the A & B squads. The A squad shot an impressive 449 out of 500. Senior shooter Porter Ficken placed 9th overall as an individual after shooting a 94 out of 100.

Three Contests Teams to NWMSU Fall CDE Contest

Three contest teams were taken to the NWMSU Fall CDE contest in Maryville on Thursday, October 6th. Agronomy placed 7th overall, Soils placed 11th overall, and Livestock placed 4th overall. Rylee Anderson placed 4th overall as an individual in Livestock. These teams put in time throughout the summer, and before school to get a jump start on their spring contests.

Annual Ceremony Celebration Honors 1st & 2nd Year Members

Wednesday, October 12th, the Chillicothe FFA held their Ceremony Celebration for the 1st and 2nd year FFA members and their parents.

Colt Neptune, last year's FFA Creed speaker and District qualifier, presented the FFA Creed to all parents, members, and guests present. Division I State qualifier from last year, Harlee Beck, shared her speech with those in attendance as well. Students from the freshman class recited the FFA Creed in groups.

This ceremony concluded by recognizing and awarding 62 first-year FFA members with their official FFA jackets and Greenhand pin, as well as 53 second-year members who received their Chapter pins.



1st Year Members Attend Greenhand Initiation

Sixty Chillicothe FFA Greenhands attended the Area II Greenhand Initiation Wednesday, October 5th, in Gallatin, MO. Members got to see Chapter President and Area II 1st Vice-President, Claire Walker, perform her duties.



Trap Team Participates in the 1st Annual Tom Burtch Memorial Shoot

The Chillicothe FFA Trap Team enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the 1st Annual Tom Burtch Memorial Shoot, Saturday, October 1st. Members earning awards were Tucker Burtch - High Overall Individual, High Overall Squad - Tucker Burtch, Kale Campbell, Josh Meservey, Ethan Cooper & Wade Horton. 2nd High Overall Squad- Porter Ficken, Carter Crawford, Lance Clark, Ethan Davis & Timothy Summers. High Overall Lady went to Harlee Beck & 3rd High Lady went to Maggie Horton! Over 100 shooters attended. We look forward to next year!

Pack Your Bags for National Convention

- Adra Stretch
- Alikai Walker
- Alli George
- Anna Pfaff
- Aubrie Burton
- Carson Thompson
- Chloe Clements
- Cole Judy
- Ellah Geiser
- Emma Thomas
- Ethan Melte
- Hadley Beemer
- Hannah Pfeifer
- Jack Schneider
- Kaleb Carlson
- Kerrigan Moore
- Kolt Neptune
- Lyla Oesch
- Lylah Smith
- Mason Meservey
- Regan Donoho
- Remington Rhodes
- Rylee Anderson
- Sadie Burtch
- Timothy Summers
- Trevor Peniston

Indiana Bound

Twenty-six Chillicothe FFA members will be packing their bags and heading to the 95th National FFA Convention held in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 26th through the 29th. Students will have the opportunity to attend leadership workshops, convention sessions, a rodeo, and tour some amazing agriculture near Indianapolis.



Ag Ed On The Move

Ella Johnson & Emma Thompson attended training at the University of Missouri in Columbia for Agriculture Education on the Move.

Agriculture Education on the Move is a 10-week hands-on education program delivered by trained, diverse, and passionate educators. The program identifies key classroom objectives and meets standards primarily in the areas of science, math, reading, and writing. We look forward to working with elementary teachers in Chillicothe this year to deliver this program.



Money In The Mud

There was no doubt after our annual mud volleyball tournament that all ages like to play in the mud! This year there were 27 teams that participated. The chapter matched funds with the pit sponsors to donate \$1200 for YMCA Back Pack Buddies. This year's pit sponsors were: Rhodes Repairs, Pasture to Plate, Rooted Cowgirl, Sydenstricker/Nobbe, Hutchinson & Company, T&R Soil Service.



Children's Barnyard at Chautauqua

Members promoted agriculture by again holding the Children's Barnyard at this years Chautauqua in the Park. Students brought their own animals to educate the public and youth in our community about each species and what products each provide or are used for. They also handed out 200 mini first aid kits with emergency numbers to families that attended.



Local FFA Earns Governor's Trophy at State Fair

Chillicothe FFA has been named the winner of the Governor's Trophy at the 121st Missouri State Fair. This distinction is given to the FFA Chapter who's members exhibit the most livestock over all species at the fair. Chillicothe FFA was also the Swine sweepstakes winner this year.



Keithley Wins Reserve Market Barrow at MSF

Connor Keithley, of Chillicothe, showed the Reserve Grand Champion Barrow. Connor is the son of Chad and Betsy Keithley and is a member of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. Connor's 264-pound crossbred barrow was purchased for \$7,500 by Climate Field View. Additional funds were provided by Youth in Agriculture and hometown supporters resulting in a record-breaking total sale value of \$46,946.63.

Anderson Captures MSF Reserve Market Goat

Rylee Anderson, of Chillicothe, exhibited the MO State Fair Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat. Rylee is the daughter of Brad and Lori Anderson and is a member of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. Rylee's goat weighed 88 pounds and sold for \$3,000 to Edward Jones. Additional funds from Youth in Agriculture and hometown supporters resulted in a record-breaking total sale value of \$15,012.08.





Minnick Wins State Proficiency

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 21, 2022 –Austen Dale Minnick of Chillicothe, Missouri, won the Missouri FFA Landscape Management Proficiency award at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention.

Minnick, a junior at Chillicothe High School, is the son of Aaron and Kathy Minnick. Minnick is a member of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter. His FFA advisors are Brook Kreatz, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner, and Neal Wolf. Minnick's supervised agricultural experience program consisted of owning his own landscape business.

Minnick's supervised agricultural experience program consisted of owning his own landscape business. Minnick and his dad started the business in 2012. He purchased the business from his father last year.

Minnick handles all operations of landscaping and has recently begun expanding a car lot at a local dealership.

Minnick attended the National FFA Convention & Expo and the State FFA Convention. He competed in the diversified horticulture proficiency and exhibited at the Missouri State Fair.

In addition to FFA, Minnick is a member of both Ducks Unlimited and Quail Forever. He was on the honor roll for both Chillicothe High School and Grand River Tech School.

After graduation, Minnick's plans include attending a local technical school to become a diesel mechanic and keep expanding his SAE program.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Landscape management is one of 48 proficiency award areas recognized at the state level. Missouri Landscape and Nursery Association sponsored this award.

Chillicothe FFA Named State Models of Innovation Winner in Strengthening Agriculture

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 21, 2022 –

The Missouri FFA Association awarded the Chillicothe FFA Chapter a Gold Emblem, a Top Chapter Award. Chillicothe placed 26th out of 353 chapters and was the model of innovation in strengthening agriculture state winner. Only 10 percent of state chapters receive a top chapter designation each year. The top chapters compete for the National FFA Chapter Award.

The National Chapter Award Program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. Chapters improve operations using the National Quality Chapter Standards and a Program of Activities that emphasize growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Chapters are rewarded for providing educational experiences for the entire membership. Both awards are sponsored by FCS Financial. The Chillicothe FFA advisors are Neal Wolf, Michael Slater, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner, and Brook Kreatz.

The Chillicothe FFA growing leaders activities included Aiming for Gold. Members of the FFA trap team set goals to maintain a "B" level grade throughout the school year. Members learned the importance of maintaining high grades, as well as the ability to set personal and team goals.

Chapter activities in the strengthening agriculture category included Litton Crusaders. The agricultural literacy program for preschool- and elementary-aged students introduced youth to livestock and production agriculture.

Building communities activities included Pop Tabs for Plunge. Members collected pop tabs and donated them to an FFA advisor of choice. The advisor with the most tabs "won" and took a plunge in the school pond. Pop tabs collected during this event were donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Conduct of Chapter Meetings Places 5th at State

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 22, 2022 —

The Chillicothe FFA Chapter places fifth in the FFA conduct of chapter meetings leadership development event at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention.

Chillicothe team members are Langston Johnson, Jack Bernhardt, Aubrie Burton, Bo Smith, Anna Pfaff, Kealee French and Emma Thomas. Chillicothe advisors are Neal Wolf, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner and Brook Kreatz.

Participating teams present opening and closing ceremonies and demonstrate meeting procedure. Individual team members also take a written exam. Grand River Technical School sponsors this event and introduces ninth graders to parliamentary procedure.





Parliamentary Team Takes 2nd at State

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 22, 2022 —

The Chillicothe FFA Chapter places second in the FFA parliamentary procedure leadership development event at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention.

Chillicothe team members are Griff Bonderer, Claire Walker, Emily Wiford, Glen Holt, Hudson Corzette and Landon Winder. Chillicothe advisors are Neal Wolf, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner and Brook Kreatz.

Grand River Technical School sponsors the state event, which consists of both a written test and a demonstration that tests the team's knowledge of parliamentary law based on Robert's Rules of Order. This event is one of many ways the FFA prepares student members for career success and make a real connection to lifetime goals.

Singer Named Area II Star Farmer

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 22, 2022 –

The Missouri FFA Association recognized Kolby Singer of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter as the Area 2 Star Farmer and one of four finalists at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention. His parents are Buddy and Amanda Singer of Hale. His advisors are Brook Kreatz, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner and Neal Wolf.

Area Star Farmers are chosen based upon outstanding production agriculture in the student's supervised agricultural experience program and active participation in FFA. Area 2 includes 27 chapters in the Northwest District.

MFA, Inc., Columbia, sponsors the 16 area Star Farmer awards and the State Farmer Award. Singer's supervised agricultural experience consists of diversified agricultural production. After his first year of cash renting 31 acres of soybeans, he was able to increase his cash rent to 89 acres of soybeans and corn, along with 82 acres of hay. Singer recently purchased a 4440 John Deere tractor and a 2004 379 Peterbilt with the money he saved during his freshman and sophomore years. He will use this machinery to do his fieldwork, haul his own grain, and haul other farmers grain to elevators. Additionally, Singer has been able to grow his cattle herd by seven cow calf pairs.

Singer participated in the forestry and agricultural mechanics career development events at the state level. As well as the poultry career development event at the district level.

In addition to FFA, Singer participates in baseball, basketball and track.

After graduating high school, Singer plans to expand his operation. He has also considered attending State Technical College to further his education in heavy equipment.



Eckert Named Area II Star in Placement

COLUMBIA, Mo., April 22, 2022 –

The Missouri FFA Association recognized Joshua Eckert of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter as the Area 2 Star in Placement at the 94th Missouri FFA Convention. His parents are Rick and Becky Eckert of Chillicothe. His advisors are Brook Kreatz, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner and Neal Wolf.

Area Stars in Placement are selected based upon outstanding achievement in work experience in an agricultural business as a part of a student's supervised agricultural experience program and active participation in FFA. Area 2 includes 26 chapters in the Northwest District.



MFA Inc., Columbia, Mo., sponsors the 16 area Star in Placement awards and the State Star in Placement Award.

Eckert's supervised agricultural experience consists of landscape and turfgrass management at Eckert's Lawn Care. Eckert runs motorized equipment such as mowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers along with operating machinery. He delivers materials and tools to the jobsite using pickup trucks and large trailers.

Eckert currently serves as chapter president and served as vice president and assistant president. He has competed in Division I prepared public speaking, Division II prepared public speaking and at the Missouri Soil and Water Association FFA Prepared Public Speaking Contest. Eckert participated in the employment skills leadership development event. He attended Helping Youth Maximize Agricultural eXperiences Academy, State FFA Convention, Missouri State Fair and National FFA Convention & Expo.

In addition to FFA, Eckert is involved in hunting and fishing club and plays trumpet in the band. He is a member of the National Honor Society and a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

After graduating high school, Eckert plans include attending North Central Missouri College and studying agriculture. He plans to enter the agricultural field while still helping at Eckert's Lawn Care.