

## Chillicothe FFA Receives Top Chapter Award

The Constitution-Tribune, April 29, 2020

The Missouri FFA Association awarded Chillicothe FFA a Gold Emblem, a Top Chapter Award, according to a press release from the Missouri State FFA Convention. Only 10 percent of state chapters receive a top chapter designation each year. Model of Innovation winners and rankings will be announced at a summer event. The National Chapter Award Program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. These chapters improve chapter 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 Leda Schreiner, Lance Martin, Randy Plattner and Neal Wolf.

The Chillicothe FFA growing leaders activities included SAE on Display. Members conducted school farm tours for local, state and national groups. Through this event, students communicated the importance of supervised agricultural experience programs. Chapter activities in the strengthening agriculture category included *Communicating News about Agriculture*. Chillicothe FFA partnered with University of Missouri to host a one-day conference for Missouri high school students about agricultural journalism and communications-related careers. Building communities activities included *Warm Fuzzies*. Chapter members, alumni, and community members came together and made 80 fleece blankets to donate to Children's Mercy Hospital along with a monetary donation collected from the community. The top chapters compete for the National FFA Chapter Award. Winners will be announced this fall at the 93rd National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis.

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## Annual Greenhand Motivational Conferences

January 6-10, 2020

Over 4500 first-year Future Farmers of America members from more than 320 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. These conferences presented by the State FFA Officers and sponsored by MFA Incorporated were held January 6 to 10, throughout Missouri.



PHOTO: Seated from left to right are: Vice President Kate Thompson, Columbia; Vice President Kenzie Darst, Aurora; Vice President Alexis Wilkinson, Sikeston; Past President Paxton Dahmer, Nevada; Vice President Tyler Schuster, Boonville; and President Brenden Kleiboecker, Pierce City.

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.

Eighteen conferences were held at 13 different locations throughout the state: Missouri State Fair Grounds, Sedalia; Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green; Truman State University, Kirksville; Sullivan High School, Sullivan; Three Rivers Community College, Poplar Bluff; Missouri State University, West Plains; Lincoln University, Jefferson City;

Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau; Waynesville High School, Waynesville; Missouri State University, Springfield; Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph; University of Missouri-Columbia; and North Central Missouri College, Trenton.

The FFA is a national youth organization of over 700,000 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture with 348 chapters and more than 25,900 Missouri members. FFA strives to make a difference in the lives of students by developing potential for premier leadership, personal growth and success through agricultural education.

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## **Fall Speaking Contest**

November 6 & 13, 2019

On November 6, 2019, Chillicothe FFA students participated in the Area II Fall Speaking Contest in Gallatin. Rachel Holt competed in the Missouri Farm Bureau Contest, Madelyn Wilford competed in the Missouri Pork Producers Contest, Abbey Hayen competed in the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives, Seth Hansen competed in the Missouri Teach Ag, Josh Eckert competed in the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation, Claire Ripley competed in the Missouri Sheep Producers, Lucas Campbell competed in the Missouri Pet Breeders, Selby Miller competed in the Missouri Quarter Horse, and Clara Leamer competed in the Missouri Young Farmers speech contest. Rachel, Madelyn, Abbey, Seth, Josh, Claire, and Lucas moved on to the district competition on November 13, 2019.



L to R - Rachel Holt, Madelyn Wilford, Claire Ripley, Josh Eckert, Seth Hansen, Lucas Campbell, Selby Miller, Abbey Hayen, Emma Leamer

On November 13, 2019, Chillicothe FFA students participated in the Northwest District Fall Speaking Contest in Cameron. Rachel Holt competed in the Missouri Farm Bureau Contest, Madelyn Wilford competed in the Missouri Pork Producers Contest, Abbey Hayen competed in the Missouri Institute of Cooperatives, Seth Hansen competed in the Missouri Teach Ag, Josh Eckert competed in the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation, Claire Ripley competed in the Missouri Sheep Producers, and Lucas Campbell competed in the Missouri Pet Breeders speech contest. Rachel received second place in the Farm Bureau competition. Josh received first place in the MO Soil and Water Conservation competition and will compete at the state level on December 3, 2019 in Lake Ozark, MO.

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## **National FFA Courtesy Corps**

October 30 - November 2, 2019

Almost any event becomes more intriguing when viewed from behind the scenes. The 92nd National FFA Convention, which includes everything from arena stage events to the Day of Service and workshops for nearly 65,000 attendees, is

no exception. It takes many volunteers to help make a convention of this magnitude a positive experience for all of its guests. This year, approximately 900 FFA members, including students from the Chillicothe FFA Chapter, formed the National FFA Courtesy Corps.



L to R - Back: Braden Constant, Colby Gillespie, Sam Maservey, Matt Hawkins, Makenna Campbell, Emily Miller, Wade Horton, Kade Simmer; Middle: Ellie Barnett, Julia Stimpson, Claire Ripley, Ava Gibson, Abbey Hayen, Clara Leamer, Delaney May, Caroline Warren; Front: Dr. Jim Wand, Hypnotist

The students viewed the convention from the other side - backstage - playing a crucial role in the events logistics. Chillicothe members assisted at the Dr. Jim Wand, Hypnotist show. Local members participating in the National FFA Courtesy Corps were Ellie Barnett, Makenna Campbell, Braden Constant, Ava Gibson, Colby Gillespie, Matt Hawkins, Abbey Hayen, Wade Horton, Clara Leamer, Delaney May, Sam Meservey, Emily Miller, Claire Ripley, Kade Simmer, Julia Stimpson, and Caroline Warren.

The 92nd National FFA Convention was held October 30-November 2, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN. "Participants in the National FFA Courtesy Corps provide valuable services for the overall convention operation," says National FFA Advisor Dr. Steve Brown. "FFA gains a tremendous resource, and the participants gain wonderful volunteer experience and an insight into the planning and logistics necessary to ensure a safe and successful convention. They are key to our ability to create a premier leadership and educational event for nearly 65,000 guests."

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## 16 Local Students Attend National FFA Convention

October 30 - November 2, 2019

On October 30 through November 2, 2019, 16 members of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN. The students attended many activities while in Indianapolis. The students attended leadership sessions, the career show, college fair, and convention sessions while at the convention hall. Students also attended a session where the speaker was Bob Goff, a concert featuring Old Dominion and Brandon Lay, and Dr. Jim Wand, Hypnotist.

Local members who attended the convention were Ellie Barnett, Makenna Campbell, Braden Constant, Ava Gibson, Colby Gillespie, Matt Hawkins, Abbey Hayen, Wade Horton, Clara Leamer, Delaney May, Sam Meservey, Emily Miller, Claire Ripley, Kade Simmer, Julia Stimpson, and Caroline Warren.





Back L to R - Sam Meservey, Colby Gillespie, Matt Hawkins, Kade Simmer, Wade Horton; Middle L to R - Caroline Warren, Emily Miller, Braden Constant, Makenna Campbell, Ellie Barnett, Claire Ripley; Front L to R - Clara Leamer, Julia Stimpson, Delaney May, Ava Gibson, Abbey Hayen

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### **Chillicothe Students Attend Statewide Career Awareness Day**

*The 'Communicating News About Science and Agriculture' Conference Focused on the Importance of Storytelling*  
November 16, 2019

Contact: [Suzette Heiman](#), professor, Missouri School of Journalism,  
Event website: <https://cvent.me/DwBZb>

Chillicothe, Mo. - Students from Chillicothe were among the more than 250 high school students and teachers from around the state who attended a career awareness day on Friday, November 15, at the Litton Agri-Science Learning Center in Chillicothe. The conference, "Communicating News About Science and Agriculture," focused on storytelling in science, agriculture, journalism and communication-related areas. The event was hosted by the Missouri School of Journalism and the College for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri. Tyne Morgan, host and executive producer, U.S. Farm Report, gave the keynote speech during the luncheon.



L to R - Makenna Campbell, Seth Hansen, Matney Waters

An experienced group of professionals who use storytelling on a daily basis shared their insights with the students throughout the day. The presenters and their topics were:

- Storytelling 101. Andrew McCrea, national public speaker and broadcaster.
- Planning the story. Ruby Bailey, executive editor, Columbia Missourian.
- Developing the story. Kristofor Husted and Rebecca Smith, reporters, KBIA-FM, an NPR-member station.
- The power of visuals in storytelling. Lynden Steele, director, Pictures of the Year International.
- Why storytelling is important. Chris Chinn, director, Missouri Department of Agriculture.
- Living the dream job. Christine Tew, director of communications, Missouri Soybean Association and the Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council.

The conference participants also had the opportunity to visit with Mizzou faculty and students and an admissions representative.

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## Agriculture Proficiency Awards

Garrett Cramer and Colten Peel of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter competed at the National FFA Convention with their Agriculture Proficiency Awards. The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers. Students can compete for awards in almost 50 areas covering everything from agricultural communications to wildlife management. There are four types of proficiency awards: Placement proficiency awards are given to those whose SAEs are related to employment, apprenticeships, or internships at an agribusiness or agriculture-related organization. Entrepreneurship proficiency awards are given to those whose SAEs are related to ownership of an agribusiness or agriculture-related enterprise. Combined some proficiency award areas are not split into entrepreneurship and placement, applicants can combine both placement and entrepreneurship records if both are included in the SAE.



Colten Peel



Garrett Cramer

Colten competed in the Diversified Horticulture Proficiency award area. This proficiency area consists of members who own or works for an enterprise or business that applies the best management practices available to efficiently produce and market plants from two or more of the following proficiency areas: landscape management, nursery operations, turf grass management and floricultural production accepted in the specialty crop production proficiency area. Projects which include the production of floriculture plants and, but not only, the design and/or sale of floral products (corsages, boutonnieres, bouquets, etc.) qualify in this area. Colten received a bronze rating in his category at the national level.

Garrett competed in the Diversified Agricultural Production Proficiency award area. This proficiency area consists of members using of the best management practices available to produce and market a combination of livestock and crops in two or more proficiency areas. These areas include at least one species included in Diversified Livestock and at least one species included in Diversified Crop proficiency area. Garrett received a silver rating in his category at the national level.

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## American FFA Degrees

**Indianapolis, IN** - Each year, the National FFA Organization honors FFA members who show the utmost dedication to the organization through their desire to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The American FFA Degree is bestowed upon a select group of students in recognition of their years of academic and professional excellence. This year, 4,353 American Degrees will be awarded. Marley Anderson the daughter of Mark and Anne Anderson, McKenzie Anderson the daughter of John Anderson and Shellie Anderson, Elena Boon the daughter of Arte and Suzy Boon, Isaiah Boon the son of Arte and Suzy Boon, Kaylie Campbell the daughter of Vince and Rachelle Campbell, Austin Case the son of Steve and Julie Case, Liberty Cox the daughter of Joseph and Terria Cox, Eric Davis the son of Scott and Heather Davis, Emilee Haley the daughter of Stephen and Brenda Haley, Ben Hayen the son of Bill and Shelley Hayen, Molly Jones the daughter of Michael and Kate Jones, Adler Marshall the son of Jeff and Kim Marshall, Cameron Moore the daughter of Tammy Moore and Rusty Moore, Lane Peters the son of Maria Peters and Robby Peters, Christian Reed the son of Joe and Tonya Reed, Claire Shipp the daughter of John and Annie Shipp received the American FFA Degree at the 92nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 2, 2019. It is the highest degree awarded by the National FFA Organization only given to 1% of FFA membership and recognizes demonstrated leadership abilities and outstanding achievements in agricultural business, production, processing and service programs.

FFA members who qualify for the American FFA Degree: have received the State FFA Degree, have been an active member for the past three years (36 months) and have a record of satisfactory participation in the activities on the chapter and state level. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least three years (540 hours) of systematic secondary school instruction in an agricultural education program, or have completed at least the equivalent of 360 hours of systematic secondary school instruction in agricultural education and one full year of enrollment in a postsecondary agricultural program, or have completed the program of agricultural education offered in the secondary school last attended. Have graduated from high school at least 12 months prior to the national convention at which the degree is to be granted. Have in operation and have maintained records to substantiate an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program, through which the member has exhibited comprehensive planning and managerial and financial expertise. A student after entering agricultural education must have: Earn at least \$10,000 and productively invested \$7,500 or Earned and productively invested \$2,000 and worked 2,250 hours in excess of scheduled class time. Any combination of hours, times a factor of 3.56, plus actual dollars earned and productively invested must be equal to or greater than the number 10,000. Hours used for the purpose of producing earnings reported as productively invested income shall not be duplicated as hours of credit to meet the minimum requirements for the degree. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement and have achieved a high school scholastic record of "C" or better as certified by the principal or superintendent. Have participated in at least 50 hours of community service within at least three different community service activities. These hours are in addition to and cannot be duplicated as paid or unpaid supervised agricultural experience hours.

Each recipient of the American FFA Degree receives a gold American FFA Degree key and a certificate after being recognized on stage at that national convention.

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## Papa Charlie's Pumpkin Patch

October 15 and 17, 2019

Students from all the Kindergarten classes and Preschool at Chillicothe Elementary School enjoyed a hands-on learning experience at Papa Charlie's Pumpkin Patch on October 15 & 17, 2019. The students learn about agriculture in the classroom through their regular curriculum and assistance from the Litton Crusaders program. During the school year, students learn all about animals on the farm, crops grown on the farm, and what farmers provide to the general population.





As part of the Litton Crusaders program, students have the opportunity to go to Papa Charlie's Pumpkin Patch for a farm experience with a little fun mixed in. High school students (29 students) from the Litton Agriculture Education Center assisted in the days' activities. The students were able to pet several animals in the petting zoo, visit with "Curly" the pig, see some longhorn cattle in their nature habitat, walk through a corn field, take a hayride, pedal a tractor, and get up close to hay bales.



All in all, the kids had a fun day and would like to thank the Jerry Litton Family Memorial Foundation for supporting this activity through the Litton Crusaders program.



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## October Area II Trapshoot

October 12, 2019

On October 12, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter attended the area trapshoot held at the Trenton Trap Range. The first place overall team was the Chillicothe team. The students enjoyed the day and learned a lot about competition. The Chillicothe FFA Chapter had 4 teams/24 individuals shoot on Saturday: Bryce Wolf A30, Clayton Walker A46, Mack Anderson A47, Trace Rardon A45, Sam Meservey A42, Kale Campbell B38, Tucker Burtch B45, Brooke Horton B36, Morgan Anderson B32, Keegan Valbracht B35, Colby Gillespie B37, Josh Meservey C24, Carson Crawford C30, Wade Horton C40, Landon Baker C17, Lance Clark D34, Caleb Cothorn D30, Carter Crawford D20, Carson Rhodes D29, Seth Summers D15, Cooper Murphy Freshman A37, Porter Ficken 37, Landon Widner 34, Rugar Cox 29, Randy Plattner (FFA Advisor), Tony Burtch (volunteer coach), and Brice Walker (volunteer coach) who traveled to Trenton.

Chillicothe Team A received first place, Team B received second, Team C received eighth place, and the Freshman B received ninth place in the team competition. Individuals with top ten honors overall were 1st Mack Anderson, 2nd Clayton Walker, 3rd tie Trace Rardon, 3rd tie Tucker Burtch, 6th Sam Meservey, and 7th tie Wade Horton. Individual with top five honors in the female division were 1st Brooke Horton. The members of the team are looking forward to more events.



L to R - First Place Team - Sam Meservey, Mack Anderson, Clayton Walker, Trace Rardon, Bryce Wolf





L to R - Second Place Team - Brooke Horton, Kale Campbell, Morgan Anderson, Colby Gillespie, Keagan Valbracht



L to R - Eighth Place Team - Carson Crawford, Wade Horton, Josh Meservey, Porter Ficken, Tucker Burch

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## Area II Sports Day

October 12, 2019

On October 12, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA participated in the Area II FFA Sports Day in Liberty, MO with 29 members. Members went to Liberty Corn Maze. The corn maze's "Wild West in the Midwest" design highlights the Wild West in Western Missouri and the outlaw, Jesse James.



With four large mazes to choose from, FFA member journeyed through the safe and money bag or wind through the train and stagecoach for one heck of a good time. They also enjoyed a long hike through the Jesse James Wanted poster and pistols on an amazing adventure filled with twists and turns. The time at the corn maze represents a reward for members as well as a time for fellowship. Approximately 112 area members were present; and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

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## Area II Greenhand Initiation

October 9, 2019

On October 9, 2019, 66 Greenhands of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter attended the Area II Greenhand Initiation ceremony in Gallatin, MO. The Area II officer team, which was led by President Rachel Holt of the Chillicothe FFA Chapter, conducted the initiation.



During the initiation, the Greenhands listened to the 2019 Area Creed speaker, Rebecca Urich (Trenton), recite the creed; watched a slideshow featuring Area II Greenhands; listened to State FFA 1st Vice President, Isaiah Massey, speak; and were presented their Greenhand pins during the Greenhand ceremony.

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## NW District Fall Contest

October 3, 2019

On October 3, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter attended the Northwest District Fall Contest Day held at the Northwest Missouri State University Campus in Maryville, MO. The Chillicothe FFA Chapter Livestock Judging team competed at this event. Team members were Tucker Burtch, Seth Hansen, Gabby Hapes, Emily Miller, Chandler Stedem, and Patrick Warren. The team placed sixth out of 35 teams in the overall team competition. On the individual side, Chandler Stedem placed 20th, Gabby Hapes placed 21th, Tucker Burtch placed 22th, Seth Hansen placed 35th, Patrick Warren placed 44th, and Emily Miller placed 106th out of a total of 210 individuals. The day's judging event consisted of judging six classes of traditional placings, feeder cattle grading, and three sets of oral reasons.

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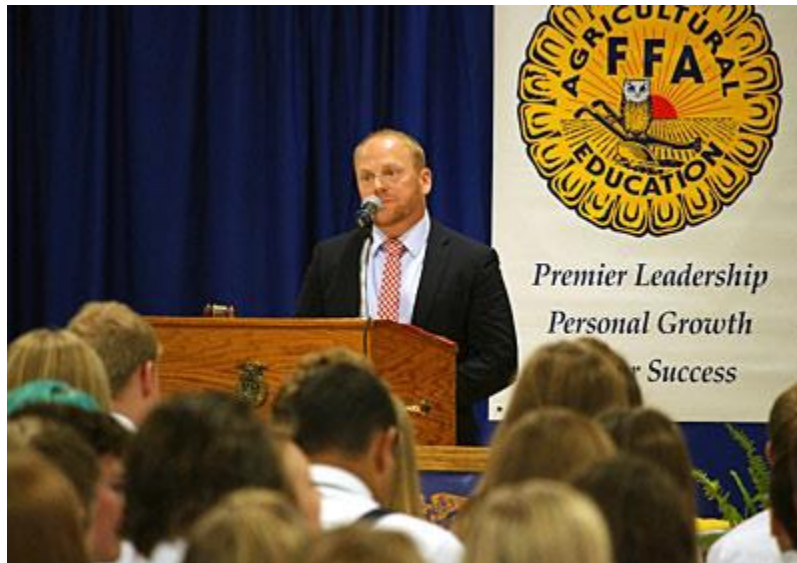
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## Parents' Night

October 2, 2019

On October 2, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA held their annual Parents' Night, where 437 members and guests attended. This event helps welcome the first year FFA member and their parents to our organization, as well as showcase some of our members' talents.

The evening began with FFA opening ceremonies followed by a motivating welcome given by Matt Hawkins, Chillicothe FFA President, as well as a school district welcome given by Dr. Zach McMains, Chillicothe R-II School Assistant Superintendent.



Dr. Zach McMains

The Chillicothe FFA Chapter officers and Chillicothe FFA Assistant Officers presented the program. The program consisted of the Greenhand FFA Degree ceremony, Chapter FFA Degree ceremony, two speeches, a creed, as well as five creeds presented by Greenhands. The two speeches were presented by Josh Eckert and Seth Hansen, while the full creed was presented by Claire Ripley.







Claire Ripley - Creed



Top: Seth Hansen - Division II Speech  
Bottom - Josh Eckert - Division I Speech

The Greenhand creeds were presented by the following: Griff Bonderer, Emma Boyd, Chloe Clements, Ruger Cox, Carter Crawford, Chase Emmons, Porter Ficken, Gavin Funk, Glen Holt, Ella Johnson, Trent Keith, Kelsi Kirkpatrick, Reagan May, Ryder Rempel, Lucas Reynolds, Lilly Stedem, Emma Thompson, Max Wagers, Claire Walker, Eli Warren, Spencer Washington, Emily Wilford, Serene Wilson, and Landon Winder.



Naveah Klein, Serene Wilson, Kelsi Kirkpatrick, Gavin Funk, Ryder Rempel



Claire Walker, Lilly Stedem, Emma Thompson, Emily Wilford, Porter Ficken

The Greenhands received their FFA jacket as well as their Greenhand Degree pin. The Chapter Degree recipients received their Chapter Degree pin.



Landon Winder, Max Wagers, Chase Emmons, Lucas Reynolds, Carter Crawford



Emma Boyd, Eli Warren, Glen Holt, Chloe Clements, Spencer Washington



Reagan May, Griff Bonderer, Ella Johnson, Ruger Cox, Trent Keith

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## Kiwanis' Shop with a Cop Donation

October 2, 2019

On October 2, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter presented the Chillicothe Police Department and the local Kiwanis with a check for \$1200 to support the Kiwanis' Shop with a Cop program. The Chillicothe FFA members raised these funds from their annual [mud volleyball tournament](#) held this September.



The shopping event is for children in the community whose families could benefit from an extra boost during the Christmas season, not only for themselves but to experience the joy of giving gifts to loved ones. The children are partnered with adult members of the Chillicothe Police Department, the Livingston County Sheriff's Office, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The following local businesses sponsored a pit during the mud volleyball tournament: Trans Ova Genetics, Farm Bureau Insurance Joe Neptune, FCS Financial Mitzi Winder Crop Agent, Hale Variety Store, Sydenstricker John Deere Chillicothe, T&R Soil Service.

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### Chillicothe FFA Barnwarming!



On Saturday November 9, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA held its annual Barnwarming festivities. These festivities included a dance, games, and the coronation ceremony. This year's 2019 Barnwarming King and Queen are the freshmen Carter Crawford and Emily Wilford (pictured).

The Freshman class candidates, Emily Wilford (Brad and Amanda Wilford) and Carter Crawford (Reece and Shelby Crawford), raised \$17,860.78 with an average of \$223.26/person; the Senior class candidates Madelyn Wilford (Brad and Amanda Wilford) and Clayton Walker (Brice and Tiffany Walker), raised \$6,522.00 with an average of \$181.17; the Junior class candidates Makenna Campbell (Derek and Teresa Campbell) and Tucker Burtch (Tony and Nancy Burtch), raised \$7,098.00 with an average of \$177.45; the Sophomore class candidates Abby Burton (Travis and Ashley Burton) and Carson Crawford (Reece and Shelby Crawford), raised \$8,661.26 with an average of \$157.48. The chapter raised \$40,142.04 this year for the chapters' operations that averages out to \$192.07/member. We would like to thank all the member of the community for the long time support of our organization.





Candidates - Back L to R - Clayton Walker, Madelyn Wilford; Front L to R - Abby Burton, Carson Crawford, Carter Crawford, Emily Wilford, Tucker Burtch, Makenna Campbell

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The Chillicothe FFA has selected its King and Queen Candidates for the 2019 Barnwarming. These individuals will lead the charge in the fund raising efforts of the Chillicothe FFA members. The FFA members are now available to do your odd jobs around the house and farm. Give them a call, and they will organize a work team to help you in your fall cleanup activities. The class that averages the most money per member will have their candidates crowned King and Queen on November 9, 2019, at the annual Barnwarming Dance.



The candidates are as follows: Seniors, Madelyn Wilford (Brad and Amanda Wilford) and Clayton Walker (Brice and Tiffany Walker); Juniors, Makenna Campbell (Derek and Teresa Campbell) and Tucker Burtch (Tony and Nancy Burtch); Sophomores, Abby Burton (Travis and Ashley Burton) and Carson Crawford (Reece and Shelby Crawford); Freshmen, Emily Wilford (Brad and Amanda Wilford) and Carter Crawford (Reece and Shelby Crawford). The chapter has set a goal to raise \$30,000 this year for chapter operations. If you have any type of job, please give an FFA member a call or call one of the advisors at the Litton Agriculture Campus at 660-646-3131.

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## Chapter Assistant Officer Retreat

September 14, 2019

On September 14, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA officer teams attended their annual assistant officer retreat held this year at MOERA Mozingo Lake Recreation Park in Maryville, MO. The retreat focused on activity planning, communication skills, teamwork, and leadership. The officer team set goals, planned activities for the chapter, worked on team building skills, and had a little fun. All in all, the officers enjoyed their time together and have some new and fun events planned for the year.

Photo below left - Front Row L to R - MOERA Staff; Middle Row L to R - Claire Ripley, Clara Leamer, Josh Eckert, Owen Oesch, Abby Burton; Back Row L to R - Selby Miller, Allee Hein, Ellie Barnett, Abbey Hayen, Carson Crawford



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## Mud Volleyball - One "Set" At a Time

September 11, 2019



On September 11, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter held its sixth annual Mud Volleyball Tournament. The tournament consisted of a 30 teams with a double elimination event. There were 385 members and spectators present at the tournament with pork burgers and chips provided for all. The team members consisted of FFA members, FFA Alumni, parents, and staff. The tournament encourages a fun atmosphere for freshman members to become more acquainted with upperclassmen and fuel a little friendly competition. A freshman parent meeting assists parents with the working of their child joining FFA.



This year members decided to support their fellow FFA members who have been affected by the hurricane. The following local businesses sponsored a pit during the tournament - Trans Ova Genetics, Farm Bureau Insurance Joe Neptune, FCS Financial Mitzi Winder Crop Agent, Hale Variety Store, Sydenstricker John Deere Chillicothe, T & R Soil Service. All proceeds from the event will go to the Kiwanis' Shop with a Cop program. The shopping event is for children in the community whose families could benefit from an extra boost during the Christmas season, not only for themselves but also to experience the joy of giving gifts to loved ones. The children are partnered with adults members of the Chillicothe Police Department, the Livingston County Sheriff's office, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The tournament raised \$1,200 for this program.

1st Place Team (Mud Pits)

L to R - Betsy Hoerr, Robert Long, Abbey Hoerr, Angila Vance, Ben Vance, Caleb Vance



This year's winning team was the Mud Pits which consisted of Samantha Figg, Betsy Hoerr, Abby Hoerr, Robert Long, Angila Vance, Ben Vance, and Caleb Vance. The second place team was the Gold Diggers which consisted of Mack Anderson, Kennedy Corzette, Alayna Mason, CJ Pfaff, Mrs. Schreiner, and Clayton Walker. The third place team was the Beef Tips team which consisted of Britney Adam, Josh Campbell, Levi Campbell, Samantha Graves, Evan Kempker, and Stanton Warren.

The members would also like to thank the parents who helped prepare food as well as the parents and staff who participated in the tournament.



2nd Place Team (Gold Diggers)

Back L to R - Alayna Mason, Mack Anderson, Kennedy Corzette; Front L to R - Mrs. Schreiner, Clayton Walker, CJ Pfaff



3rd Place Team (Beef Tips)

Back (L to R) - Evan Kempker, Stanton Warren; Front L to R - Josh Campbell, Sam Graves, Beau Graves, Britney Adam, Levi Campbell



## Chautauqua Petting Zoo

June 25-27, 2019



This year, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter sponsored the petting zoo at the Chautauqua in the Park for our 17th year participating in the event! Our FFA Chapter took this opportunity to share information with community members about agriculture. Approximately 45 members assisted with the petting zoo, which is enjoyable for people of all ages! The petting zoo contained all sorts of animals such as a calf, puppies, pigs, goats, turkeys, kittens and horses.

The Chillicothe FFA Chapter also provided a coloring contest for the local youth. Prizes were given to each youth who completed the coloring contest. Winners in the 3-5 year old division were Jayce; in the 6-8 year old division, Hudson; in the 9-11 year old division, Emily; and in the 12-year-old and up division, Lilly. Congratulations to all the winners.

We would like to thank our local supporters Chillicothe Orscheln's Farm and Home for the use of the gates and the Livingston County Farm Bureau for assisting with the coloring contest, signs, and hand sanitizer. Thanks to all of the individuals who visited the Chillicothe FFA Chautauqua Petting Zoo!

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## September Area II Trapshoot

September 7, 2019

On September 7, 2019, the Chillicothe FFA Chapter attended the area trapshoot held at the Trenton Trap Range. The first place overall team was the Chillicothe team. The students enjoyed the day and learned a lot about competition.



L to R - Clayton Walker, Sam Meservey, Mack Anderson, Trace Rardon, Bryce Wolf

The Chillicothe Chapter had 4 teams/26 individuals shoot on Saturday; Bryce Wolf A 36, Clayton Walker A 46, Mack Anderson A 45, Trace Rardon A 48, Sam Meservey A 40, Kale Campbell B 30, Chase Neptune B 41, Brooke Horton B 31, Morgan Anderson B 47, Keegan Valbracht B 43, Colby Gillespie B 26, Josh Meservey C 31, Carson Crawford C 35, Wade Horton C 49, Landon Baker C 11, Spencer Cairns C 13, Lance Clark D 41, Caleb Cothorn D 35, Carter Crawford D 26, Carson Rhodes D 26, Seth Summers D 13, Randy Plattner (FFA Advisor), Tony Burtch (volunteer coach), and Brice Walker (volunteer coach) who traveled to Trenton. The Chillicothe Team A received first place, Team C received fifth place, Team D received fourth, and Team B received sixth (tie) in the team competition. Individuals with Top Ten honors overall were 1st Wade Horton, 2nd Trace Rardon, 3rd Morgan Anderson, 6th Clayton Walker, 7th Mack Anderson, and

9th Keegan Valbracht. Individual with Top Five honors in the female division was 2nd Brooke Horton. The members of the team are looking forward to more events.

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## **HYPE**

June 25-27, 2019

Missouri's top 30 FFA high school seniors completed the fifth annual Helping Youth Prepare for Excellence (HYPE) FFA Academy June 25-27, in Columbia, MO. Chillicothe FFA member Montana Plattner was one of those top 30 attending the program. The three-day intensive program is designed to inform and empower students to effectively engage on pressing agriculture topics. Since 2015, the Missouri Corn Merchandising Council has sponsored and facilitated the academy in conjunction with Missouri FFA. This year's academy was hosted at the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources.



Over the three-day conference, students participated in sessions promoting advocacy training, social media, communication, and stakeholder collaboration. In addition, topics included overcoming adversity, developing a personal brand, and engaging those with opposing viewpoints. Students learned from farmers, industry representatives, social media experts, and others on how to effectively advocate about issues facing the industry. The group explored the Missouri Soybean Bay Farm and its innovations in crop production, research, and soybean biotechnology.

In culmination, participants testified on key issues during mock hearings with legislators at the Missouri State Capitol. This year's topics included tariffs and trade, eminent domain, lab-produced meat labeling, river management, and the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. Missouri Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R-Jefferson City) and State Reps. Rusty Black (R-Chillicothe), Barbara Washington (D-Kansas City), Don Rone (R-Portageville), Jeff Porter (R-Montgomery City), Kent Haden (R-Mexico), Louis Riggs (R-Hannibal), and Tracy McCreery (D-St. Louis) interacted with and challenged the students. Missouri Corn CEO Gary Marshall provided the closing keynote, empowering participants to use their newfound skills as they continue to represent Missouri's number one industry.

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## **HYMAX Academy at Camp Rising Sun**

June 14-16, 2019

Kaiser, MO - One hundred members from across Missouri attended the Annual HYMAX Academy from June 14-16, 2019. HYMAX, Helping Youth Maximize their Agricultural eXperience, is a prestigious State Leadership Academy sponsored by the Missouri FFA Association and held at Camp Rising Sun located within the Lake of the Ozarks State Park. The 2019 HYMAX Academy provided extensive leadership training focusing on developing self, working on teams, agriculture advocacy, and learning how to enhance their Supervised Agricultural Experience. FFA members attending HYMAX 2019 were taught by agriculture and leadership experts along with touring non-traditional agriculture businesses. The members from the Chillicothe FFA Chapter who attended were Josh Eckert, Clara Leamer, Selby Miller, and Owen Oesch.





These 100 high school entering sophomores were selected from numerous applicants to attend this specialized academy based on their FFA leadership involvement, community engagement, and academics. The HYMAX Academy members were mentored by MO State FFA Officers, college student aged Small Group leaders, Agricultural Educators and MO FFA State Staff. Students learn how to advocate for agriculture, overcome obstacles and develop their communication and personal skills. The National FFA Organization makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Nationally there are over 500,000 FFA members. Missouri ranks 4th in the nation with over 25,000 FFA members.

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## LEAD

May 28-31, 2019

Over 1200 local Chapter FFA officers and 186 advisors from 138 chapters attended the annual LEAD training. The LEAD (Learn, Educate, Advance, and Develop) training is designed to help prepare each officer team for their term of service for the 2019-2020 school year. There were 15 members of the Chillicothe FFA Assistant and Chapter officer teams who attended. The officers were provided team-building and bonding opportunities, the opportunity to increase their knowledge about advocating for agriculture and agricultural education, time to work on their chapter's Program of Activities, guidelines for leading a chapter meeting, and help with planning an FFA event. They also had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on leading a meeting, planning events, and more in-depth knowledge on advocating. The choice to become active team members and make a positive difference in the lives of local FFA members, school, and community was evident at each site. These conferences are sponsored by the Missouri FFA Leadership Fund and were held May 28-31, 2019 throughout Missouri.



Back L to R - Macy Gutshall, Warren Meservey, Connor Keithley, Matt Hawkins, Keagan Valbracht, Caroline Warren, Claire Ripley; Front L to R - Josh Eckert, Ellie Barnett, Montana Plattner, Madelyn Wilford, Abby Burton, Clara Leamer, Rachel Holt, Abbey Hayen

The facilitators consisted of past state officers divided into a north team and a south team. The trainings were held at eight different locations throughout the state: Paris High School, North Central Missouri College Ketchum Center, Trenton;

State Fair Community College, Sedalia; Polo High School, Crowder College, Neosho; Logan-Rogersville High School, Rolla Junior High School, Rolla; and Cape Girardeau Technical School, Cape Girardeau. Through interactive workshops, the facilitators encouraged the officer teams to reach outside their comfort zone to provide leadership opportunities for their local chapters.

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## Livestock Extravaganza!

May 11 and 12, 2019

On May 11 and 12, 2019, the Litton Agriculture Campus- MW Jenkins Expo Building hosted three swine shows and three lamb shows. There were approximately 1,030 head of hogs shown during the two-day event and 220 head of lambs.



On Saturday morning, the Wolf Showpig Bonanza was sponsored by the Chillicothe FFA Alumni with 369 head of hogs at the show. The sponsors were **Platinum Sponsor** - Show Stock Outfitters; **Gold Sponsor** - American Family Insurance-JR Reid Agent (Concordia, Sweet Springs, and Sedalia), BTC Bank, Chillicothe Area Chamber of Commerce, Chuck's Pest Control, Grand River Technical School - Jayme Caughron, Director & Adam Wolf, Assistant Director, Farm Bureau Insurance - Joe Neptune, Investors Community Bank, Keenan Auction Service, Lance Martin Show Pigs, Sydenstricker John Deere-Chillicothe, Wolf Brothers Show Pigs, Wolf Farms Show Pigs, Woodworth Manufacturing; **Silver Sponsor** - Chillicothe Animal Hospital, Chillicothe State Bank, Chula Farmers Coop, Copeland Development & Construction, Curtis Show Pigs, DQ Precision Planting & Tillage, Comfort Inn & Suites Chillicothe, Farmers Electric Cooperative, FCS Financial Crop Insurance - Mitzi Winder, Friends of Rusty Black MO State Representative, Genter Show Stock, GFG Ag Services, LLC., Hutchinson & Company, Trans Ova Genetics; **Bronze Sponsor** - Butterfield's Grain & Associates, Inc., Friends of the Livingston County Library, Grand River Livestock Market, Price & Johnson Insurance, Remington & Riggins Isaacs.

The results of the show were Supreme Gilt, Tate Welch, Reserve Supreme Gilt Rachel Grimes, 3rd Overall Gilt Remington Isaacs, 4th Overall Gilt Remington Isaacs, and 5th Overall Gilt Kylie Koechner. Supreme Barrow Riggins Isaacs, Reserve Supreme Barrow Peyton Niemeier, 3rd Overall Barrow Colton Ogle, 4th Overall Barrow Kaycee Vandiver, and 5th Overall Barrow Brylee Williams. Showmanship results are Champion Novice Showmanship Truman Wilson, Reserve Novice Showmanship Clara Copenhaver, Runner-up Novice Showmanship Lynnox Harrison, 4th Runner-up Novice Showmanship Macie Rodenberg, 5th Runner-up Novice Showmanship Crosby Humphreys; Champion Junior Showmanship Elliot Cooley, Reserve Junior Showmanship Waylon Nolting, Runner-up Junior Showmanship Ty Murphy, 4th Runner-up Junior Showmanship Tate Mikes, 5th Runner-up Junior Showmanship Kalli Parrish; Champion Intermediate Showmanship Carlee Long, Reserve Intermediate Showmanship Ryan Rounsavall, Runner-up Intermediate Showmanship Chezney Early, 4th Runner-up Intermediate Showmanship Baylee Wade, 5th Runner-up Intermediate Showmanship Annika Riekhof; Champion Senior Showmanship Marlena Long, and Reserve Senior Showmanship Payden Nolting, and Runner-up Senior Showmanship Eli Henke, 4th Runner-up Senior Showmanship Kaycee Vandiver, and 5th Runner-up Senior Showmanship Tayler Cope.