

Vision of Virginia

FALL 2022



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by Jordan Petrie – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

The State Officer Team poses with the Hokie Bird.

On the morning of October 15th, the State Officer team had the opportunity to help Virginia Farm Bureau with their Hokie Village booth before the Miami vs. Virginia Tech football game. During Hokie Village the State Officer team was able to talk to fans about Virginia agriculture and its importance to the state and country. Fans learned more about Virginia agriculture through maps of where top Virginia agriculture products are grown, VR videos that show the production of different agricultural commodities, and interactive games. Although Virginia Tech lost the game the State Officers believe Virginia won by increasing people's knowledge about Virginia agriculture.



State officers led/lead a station about Virginia Agriculture and spoke/speak to children and adults about the importance of understanding the "roots" of food and fiber. (Pictured: National FFA President, Andrew Seibel, State Officers: Elizabeth Bates, Jill Reiter, and Savannah Goodwin)



Hokie Village is a great way to connect with FFA Alumni. (Pictured: Past State Vice President, Jackson Lohr, and Past National Eastern Region Vice President, Tess Seibel)

VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

115 Hutcheson Hall - 0908
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 540-231-3823

www.VaFFA.org
Email: gseibel@vt.edu

Emily
Jenkins
President

Makenna
Garrett
Secretary

Jordan
Petrie
Vice President

Jill
Reiter
Vice President

Elizabeth
Bates
Vice President

Gabriella
Martin
Vice President

Carly
Thomas
Treasurer

Savannah
Goodwin
Reporter

Katie
Powell
Sentinel

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Down on the Farm AT THE VIRGINIA AG EXPO

by Jill Reiter – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

The hot summer day of August 4th was a big day for the agriculture industry in Virginia. Virginia's largest agricultural field day, the Virginia Ag Expo, was held at Mill Creek Farms in Port Royal, VA. The Expo highlights the agricultural diversity of Virginia by moving locations each year. The Virginia Ag Expo has been a staple in Virginia's ag industry for many years and is looked forward to by agriculturists across the state annually.

The Ag Expo features many different sectors of the industry and offers something for everyone. From research plots of corn and soybeans to college displays, the Expo makes for an educational and fun-filled day. Many agriculture businesses and companies have booths set up to show off their products and support for the ag industry. From equipment dealers to seed dealers, there is an abundance of cool exhibits to check out. State Treasurer Carly Thomas stated "it was wonderful to connect with professionals in the industry" through the Expo.

Virginia FFA was able to play a role in the Ag Expo this year. The Virginia FFA Foundation had a booth at the Expo where attendees could learn about FFA, reminisce about their time in FFA, pick up some cool stickers, and meet and speak with the 2022-2023 Virginia

FFA State Officers. The State Officers had many tasks at the Expo, including helping with vendor registration and running the FFA booth. The officers were also able to explore the expo and interact with many different industry professionals and stakeholders. Members of the team were able to learn about agricultural practices and new technologies that are being utilized as well. State Sentinel Katie Powell, who attended the Expo for the first time, said "we had the opportunity to meet new companies and businesses who support the agriculture industry" and she also stated, "the highlight of my day was seeing someone from my hometown giving a soil science presentation in the biggest corn field I

The State Officer Team poses with the Ag Expo Banner.

have ever seen!" The icing on the cake for the State Officers was meeting the Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Matt Lohr. Secretary Lohr, a former State and National FFA Officer, is a huge supporter of the FFA and he was able to share some stories and words of wisdom with the team.

The Virginia Ag Expo was made possible by many people, businesses, and organizations. The Virginia Grain Producers and the Virginia Soybean Association sponsor the event in cooperation with Virginia Cooperative Extension. The many vendors, businesses, organizations, and companies that participate in the Expo also made the event a success.



State Reporter Savannah (left) and State Treasurer Carly Thomas (right) met a former Virginia FFA member (middle).



by Katie Powell – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Sentinel

From early summer to late fall, people all over the state gather together for fair season. Whether you drive a couple of hours or walk down the street, chances are you have experienced the bright lights, delicious smells, and community feeling that comes with attending a county fair. From small towns to highly populated areas, there is always something fun and exciting to do at these local events. This year the Virginia FFA State Officers had the opportunity to attend both the Rockingham County Fair and Highland County Fair. Despite being next door neighbors, these fairs are very different from each other!

In the middle of August, the entire state officer team traveled to Rockingham County for the Rockingham County Fair, one of the largest county fairs in the state and one of the leading agricultural fairs. During their tour of the fair and fairgrounds, they were able to visit the FFA chapters selling concessions, walk through the show barns to see the local agricultural students and their projects, and meet with some Rockingham County natives who deeply influenced the local and state agricultural community. While this was all exciting, the highlight of the night for the team, as well as the many people in attendance, was Governor Glenn Youngkin, First Lady Suzanne Youngkin, and several other local and state officials. Virginia FFA State Vice President Jordan Petrie described how “it was such a wonderful experience because the Governor and First Lady are big supporters of Virginia Agriculture as well as Virginia FFA and 4H.” The team wrapped up their adventure at the fair with some delicious fair food and a Dustin Lynch concert to end the evening.

While Highland County may be the least populated county in the state, their county fair is sure to impress much like Rockingham. Whether you watch the demolition derby or try the “world famous baked potatoes”, there is truly something for everyone. State Vice President Jordan Petrie and State

The Virginia FFA State Officers had such an amazing time meeting with Governor Youngkin, First Lady Youngkin, and Secretary Lohr!

Sentinel Katie Powell joined State Treasurer Carly Thomas in her hometown to attend the fair for the first time. They had the opportunity to assist in playing music for the Baby Show, judge the Livestock Costume Contest, and make milkshakes with members of the Highland County FFA Chapter. Walking away with very sticky ice cream hands, Jordan and Katie felt like they were a part of the Highland County community with the inviting nature and kindness of the people they met. Carly described that Highland’s small size and closely knit community feeling enables the livestock show and sale to be very well supported by the local small businesses in the area “which creates amazing opportunities for students to pursue higher education or technical training after their high school graduation.”

No matter whether you attend the county fair of the large county of Rockingham or the least populated county of Highland, you will find some amazing foods that reflect the county’s traditions, fun rides, and activities, and, of course, a dose of agriculture and livestock from the student shows and sales. These fairs help to bridge the gap between agriculture students, the agricultural industry, and community members in a fun and exciting way. Be sure to visit your local county fair as well as the many others offered around the state!



The sheep dressed up as an Oreo stole the show with first place in the Highland County Sheep Costume Contest!

TAKE ME OUT TO *the Ball Game*



The Evening View of the Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Stadium. (Photo credit: Virginia FFA Officer Team)

by **Elizabeth Bates** – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

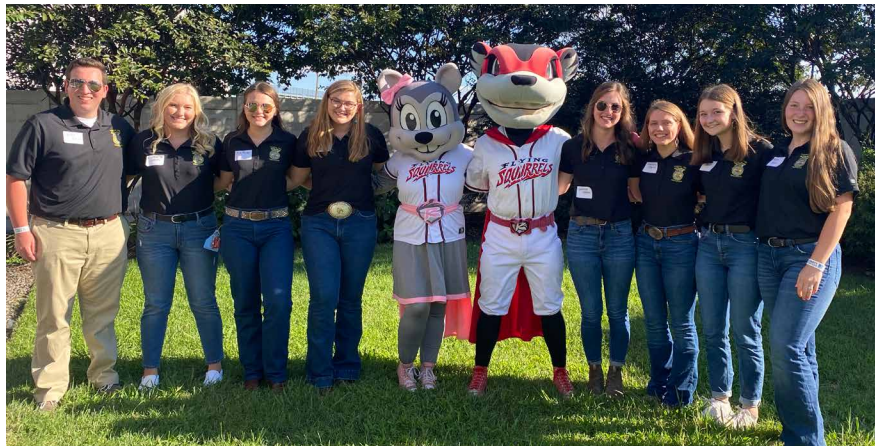
The warm summer evening of August 16th brought many supporters out to enjoy one of America's favorite pastimes, a friendly game of baseball. The Richmond Flying Squirrels minor league baseball team holds different events throughout the season at their home baseball stadium, commonly known as "The Diamond". However, this particular night was special to Virginia's agricultural industry and the 2022-2023 Virginia FFA State Officer team. It was Ag Night at the Diamond, celebrating some of Virginia's finest peanuts.

This special evening was supported by the Virginia Agribusiness Council. Before the baseball game began, the FFA officer team helped set up for the Central Virginia Council Connection. Which gives many individuals, industry professionals, and invited legislators

the opportunity to network and enjoy an all you can eat buffet. During the networking event, attendees were able to purchase a customized Virginia Ag T-Shirt. Which was created by both Virginia FFA and Virginia Agribusiness Council, all of the proceeds of the

T-Shirts went directly back to VA FFA and the VAC. Attendees of this event were also given the opportunity to bring in a jar of peanut butter to the Council Connection, to receive a raffle ticket for prize drawings sponsored by the Virginia Peanut Growers Association. All the donated jars of peanut butter went to FeedMore Richmond, which is a local food bank that distributes food to over 30 cities and counties in the central Virginia area.

As the networking event came to a close, the attendees and Virginia FFA State Officers headed to their seats as they waited for the game against the New York Binghamton Rumble Ponies. When asked about his experience at the Ag Night at the diamond, Virginia FFA State Vice President Jordan Petrie said, "It was really amazing being able to interact with sponsors and those involved with Virginia agriculture as well as showing them that they have a large community that supports them and is there for them". The night ended with fans cheering and the classic baseball tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". We would like to thank the Richmond Flying Squirrels for holding the Ag Night at the Diamond and Virginia Peanut night. As well as the Virginia Agribusiness Council for hosting the Central Virginia Council Connection.



The Virginia FFA State Officer team poses with Mr. and Mrs. Flying Squirrel. (Photo credit: Jennifer Armstrong)



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

2022 AREA C.O.L.T.s



by Gabriella Martin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

During the fall, each of the six areas hold their own Chapter Officer Leadership Training (COLT). This training helps prepare chapter officers in their roles and helps them to be confident serving their home chapters. There were a variety of workshops held by the state officer team and other leaders from the areas. The state officers worked to create workshops that would help chapter officers work together and put their skills to use in their communities. These workshops help them to grow as leaders to serve their chapter's members to the best of their abilities. There were many wonderful members that attended the conferences. These members will serve and represent the organization well!

The South Ride Area COLT was held on September 1st at Falling Creek Park in Bedford County. The members were

able to meet other members from their area and interact with them. The state officers presented workshops on Finding Common Ground and Keys to Communication. Chapter officers were broken up into groups based on their role so they could meet other members in their position.

The Appalachian Area COLT was held on September 9th at Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap, VA. There were two workshops presented by the state officers, Service and Advocacy. The Appalachian Area Officers and other leaders from the Appalachian area presented workshops of their own as well. After the workshops state officers and area officers were able to meet chapter officers from around the area.



State officers pause for a photo with members from the Appalachian Area in Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

The Northern Area COLT was held on September 13th at Skyline High School in Front Royal, VA. State officers presented three workshops which included Keys to Communication, Finding Common Ground and FFA 101. FFA 101 was presented for middle school members to help them learn more about FFA!

The Southeast Area COLT was held on September 21st at Dinwiddie High School in Dinwiddie, VA. There were three workshops presented by the state officer team which included Keys to Communication, Finding Common Ground and Advocacy. Members gained knowledge of advocating effectively through different types of communication and found common ground to relate between other chapter officers.

The Central Area COLT was held on September 28th at Fluvanna High School in Palmyra, VA. State officers led four workshops of Advocacy, Service, Keys to Communication and Finding Common Ground. The chapter officers learned new skills to help them in their officer roles and community. The state officers cannot wait to see these chapter officers use their new skills!

The Blue Ridge Area COLT was held on October 11th at Buffalo Gap High School in Swoope, VA. The state officers presented FFA 101 and Keys to Communication. Other leaders in the community also presented workshops for the members. These chapter officers will be able to use the skills they learned to become better communicators in their chapters and community!



The VA FFA 2022-2023 State Officer Team.



Members from across the South Ridge Area gathered in Bedford for the annual COLT conference.



THE Eastern STATES EXPOSITION

by Makenna Garrett – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Secretary

On September 15th, Virginia FFA members from across the commonwealth began their journey to Springfield, Massachusetts to compete at The Eastern States Exposition, also known as The Big E. This trip would allow members to compete in their respective competitions at a multi-state level, and while not competing, they had the opportunity to experience many of the northern states' lifestyles as well as enjoy the fair. States like Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island had houses stationed on the avenue of states to showcase their claims to fame. Whether that was lobster rolls or maple syrup, each state had vendors stationed throughout their buildings showing off their state pride.

At the fair, there were also opportunities to try new foods, like dill pickle pizza, cream puffs, the Craz-E burger, and clam



Broadway FFA members after the awards banquet at The Big E!



Mechanicsville FFA & Tunstall FFA members with the 2021-2022 National Southern Region Vice President, Erik Robinson.

chowder. You take a quick stroll through The Big E's history at the Eastern States Exposition Museum and even catch a glimpse of the Eastern States Exposition Heritage horse show. With opportunities like these, there was something for everyone to enjoy and never a dull moment at The Big E.

Our members competed in many career and leadership development events, such as, Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Nursery and Landscape, Tractor Operators, Farm Business Management, Dairy Cattle Handlers, and many others. After competing, our members had the opportunity to be recognized for their hard work at an awards ceremony Saturday night.

Members like Katie Payne, from the Broadway FFA chapter, had the opportunity to compete at The Big E. Katie competed in two contests, Milk Quality and Parliamentary Procedure. Katie said her favorite part of the Big E was “getting to meet new people from the fellow east coast states and getting to learn about their states and the competitions they did.” She has competed in the Milk Quality CDE for three years and the Parliamentary Procedure CDE for one year, when asked to sum up her experience at The Big E she said, “it was an amazing experience I’ll never forget.” We are so proud of all Virginia FFA members who competed at The Big E this year!

“This was my first time attending the big E and I had the pleasure of competing in milk quality and parliamentary procedures. I’ve been competing in milk quality for 3 years and I got involved with this contest through talking to my advisors about different contest opportunities and decided I wanted to try it out. Additionally this was my first year competing in parliamentary procedures and I got involved in this competition from being in the conduct of meetings competition, and wanted to continue on doing a contest I love! My favorite part of the big E was getting to meet new people from the fellow east coast states and getting to learn about their states and the competitions they did. To sum up my experience at the big E, I would say it was an amazing experience I’ll never forget.”

Makenna Garrett – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Secretary



The 2022 Virginia FFA delegation at The Big E!

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2022 State Fair OF VIRGINIA

AG DEMONSTRATION

by Jill Reiter – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

On September 26th, FFA members flooded the Farm Credit Barn at the State Fair of Virginia to compete in the ag demonstration contest. Contestants arrived with their prepared presentations on any agriculturally based topic that they were passionate about or interested in. During the contest, students presented their step-by-step demonstrations and answered questions from a panel of judges. Students were judged on their content, delivery, and interactiveness with the judges. Through this contest students were able to further their knowledge on agricultural topics and strengthen their public speaking skills. Thank you to all the judges who volunteered and to Dr. Hannah Scherer for coordinating this contest! Congratulations to all who competed!

JUNIOR:

- 1st - Jenna Moore and Addison Vaughn
Rappahannock High School
- 2nd - Cepeini Ayden
Franklin County B
- 3rd - Leslie Linton
C.L. Payne B

SENIOR:

- 1st - Chloe Phillips and Allison Rhodes
Fort Defiance
- 2nd - Kayden Belverio and Lily Hix
Louisa
- 3rd - Siyonna Hawkins Dixon
Halifax

CAREER APPLICATIONS IN HORTICULTURE

by Makenna Garrett – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Secretary

On September 26th, FFA members from across the Commonwealth took a trip down to the Farm Credit Show Ring at the Virginia State Fair to compete in the Career Applications in Horticulture contest. Competitors would tackle plant identification, parts of plants identification, seed pack evaluation, safety hazard identification and one demonstrative practicum relevant to the horticulture industry. A huge thank you to James River Equipment for sponsoring this event. Virginia FFA would like to congratulate all who participated.



SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

- 1st - Braeden Gable, *Franklin County*
- 2nd - Brad Smith, *Mechanicsville*
- 3rd - Nathan Veach, *Mechanicsville*

CROPS JUDGING

by Katie Powell – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Sentinel

On September 29, 85 eager FFA members walked into the Blue Ribbon Tent to tackle the Crops Judging Contest. During this contest, students identified 25 different types of crops and weeds by their plant or seed. They also judged seven classes, consisting of corn, barley, wheat, red clover, tall fescue, orchardgrass, and soybeans, by analyzing the quality of the seeds within each sample. Thank you to Mr. Tom Hardiman and Mr. [unclear] for his help coordinating this contest. Virginia FFA is so proud of each of these individuals and team for their hard work!



Congratulations to the State Champions in the Crops Judging Senior Division from Randolph Henry!

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS:

- 1st - Anthony Lane
- 2nd - Wyatt Campbell
- 3rd - Chloe Dejong

JUNIOR TEAMS:

- 1st - Nelson County Middle
- 2nd - Appomattox
- 3rd - Charlotte Central Middle

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

- 1st - Justin Higginbotham
- 2nd - Ben Geesaman
- 3rd - Jordan Dorrier

SENIOR TEAMS:

- 1st - Randolph Henry
- 2nd - Nelson County
- 3rd - Buckingham



The second-place team in the Crops Judging Senior Division was from Nelson County!



The top nine individuals from the senior division of the State Fair Crops Judging contest did an amazing job!

DAIRYMEN'S CONTEST

by Savannah Goodwin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Reporter

On Friday, September 23rd students braved the windy, cold weather to compete in the Dairymen's Contest at the State Fair of Virginia. During this contest, students worked through a set of ID stations, a written test, and a judging class. Thank you to Mr. Dave Winston and the entire Dairy Science Department for their help in coordinating this contest. Congratulations to all who competed!

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Luke Jordan - Wilson Middle School FFA A
2nd - Maddy Schweigert - J. Frank Hillyard FFA
3rd - Trey Daubert - Rockingham 4-H

JUNIOR TEAMS:

1st - J Frank Hillyard FFA - Gracyn Arbogast, Rylie Floyd, Averie Keller, Maddy Schweigert
2nd - Wilson Middle FFA A - Landon Drewry, Karleigh Howdyshell, Luke Jordan, Beckett Ryder
3rd - Wilson Middle FFA B - Alexis Davis, Crimora Davis, Hailey Grandstaff, Kenneth Warham

HIPPOLOGY

by Elizabeth Bates – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

A little bit of rain and wind didn't stop students from eagerly arriving to compete in hippology on September 30th. Equipt with pencils, clipboards and scantrons, members began working on a written exam, identification of tack, breeds, and feed, and finally judging two classes of both halter and performance horses. A big thank you to Ms. Sandy Arnold with Virginia Cooperative Extension for helping make this contest possible!

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Marya Martin - Country Kids A
2nd - Kate Batman - Wilson Middle
3rd - Emma Sazonov - Country Kids A

JUNIOR TEAMS:

1st - Country Kids A - Marya Martin, Emma Sazonov, and Emma Willey
2nd - Wilson Middle - Kate Batman, Claire Batman, Moriah Sprouse, and Crimora Davis
3rd - W.R. Legge Middle - Emily Boswell, Alexis Brown, Marleigh DeHaven, and Molly Maynard

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Kayden Shomaker - Sherando FFA A
2nd - Rebecca Stout - Sherando FFA A
3rd - Herschel Hoffeditz - Broadway FFA A

SENIOR TEAMS:

1st - Sherando FFA A - Eddyn Molden, Kayden Shomaker, Rebecca Stout
2nd - Broadway FFA A - Herschel Hoffeditz, Ayla Janney, Stephanie Schweigert, Maggie Toothman
3rd - Sherando FFA B - Chloe Boyd, Jericho Turman, Emma Wisecarver

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Olivia Lapanta - Orange FFA
2nd - Hailee Perdue - Orange FFA
3rd - Alexis Mussleman

SENIOR TEAMS:

1st - Orange FFA - Olivia Lapanta, Hailee Perdue, and Kailey Woodcock
2nd - Hoof n Woof 4-H - Alexis Mussleman, Josie Galvin, and Rebecca Hoemann
3rd - Fauquier High FFA - Jessica Tillman, Davis Smith, Brooke McColl, and Taylor Parker

HORTICULTURE JUDGING

by Savannah Goodwin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Reporter

On Monday, September 26th FFA students from across the state came together at the State Fair of Virginia in order to compete in the Horticulture Demonstration contest. This event is broken down into six categories covering anything from live to edible arrangements and everything in between. Students give a small presentation that demonstrates their horticulture skills and afterwards are given the opportunity to answer questions from a panel of judges. This year, students presented on a variety of different subjects and came up with several beautiful arrangements. Congratulations to all who competed this year!

CATEGORY A:

1st - Madison Adams - *Sherando*
2nd - Franklin County
3rd - Millbrook
4th - Tunstall
5th - Buffalo Gap

CATEGORY B:

1st - Jodie Saunders and Sawyer Jackson - *Nelson County*

CATEGORY C:

1st - Mackenz Henshaw - *James Wood*
2nd - C.L. Payne
3rd - Northern Neck
4th - Eastern View
5th - Rappahannock High School

CATEGORY D:

1st - Paige Painter - *C.L. Payne*
2nd - Bassett FFA
3rd - Fauquier
4th - Kettle Run
5th - Eastern View

CATEGORY E:

1st - Bailey Hamilton - *Appomattox*
2nd - Gloucester
3rd - Magna Vista

CATEGORY F:

1st - Hollace Jackson - *Nelson County Middle*

JUNIOR FORESTERS

by Katie Powell – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Sentinel

Many Virginia FFA members branched out for the first time in the most popular State Fair of Virginia competition: Junior Foresters. With an attendance of almost 150 members, the barn was packed. Students began with a written test on numerous topics within the forestry industry. They also identified tree diseases, insects, tools, and species. Finally, a measurement activity relating to boards, logs, trees, or land area was conducted by the students. Virginia FFA would like to thank Mr. Dave Slack for coordinating this contest. Congratulations to all these students for a job well done!

JUNIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Alexand Morris
2nd - Jacob Burcham
3rd - Sarah Bryant

JUNIOR TEAMS:

1st - Buckingham
2nd - Carroll County B
3rd - Nelson County

SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

1st - Jordan Dorrier
2nd - Daniel Worrell
3rd - Jacklyn Corl

SENIOR TEAMS:

1st - Buckingham
2nd - Magna Vista High
3rd - Randolph Henry

LAWN TRACTOR OPERATORS CONTEST

by Jordan Petrie – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

Numerous FFA Members competed in the Lawn Tractor Operators contest on Friday September 23. This contest is composed of 3 separate parts which are a written exam on the knowledge of the landscaping industry as well as the safe operation of lawn tractors, a section of identification of various parts of a lawn tractor, and finally the operation of a lawn tractor through an obstacle course.

RESULTS:

1st - Carter Heirhman - *North Fork Middle*
2nd - Bryson Funk - *Broadway*
3rd - Jay Harris - *Appomattox*
4th - Nick Dewitt - *Liberty*



SMALL ENGINES

by Makenna Garrett – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Secretary

On September 23rd, area winners in the Small Engines competition made their way to the Best of Show Tent to compete in the State Small Engines Competition. During the competition, FFA members will begin by completing a written test consisting of 20 multiple-choice questions, one measurement question, five tools to identify and one replacement part look-up. Then, they finished up their competitions with a practical test where they had to find and fix malfunctions in their engine to make sure it would start. A huge thank you goes out to Jeff Wilt for organizing the contest and James River Equipment for sponsoring the contest. Virginia FFA would like to congratulate all contestants.



SENIOR INDIVIDUALS:

- 1st - Jesse Lang - *Luray*
- 2nd - Carter Swanberg - *Appomattox*
- 3rd - Nicholas Doolin - *Chatham*
- 4th - Lincoln Moore - *King George*

TRACTOR TROUBLESHOOTING

by Elizabeth Bates – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

On Friday, September 30th FFA members from across the state competed in the Tractor Troubleshooting contest at the Virginia State Fair. The competition consisted of a written test, evaluating members knowledge of tractor maintenance and the fundamentals of machine operations. Each team was then given 15 minutes to diagnose the problem on each machine. The competition would end with teams drawing a tractor and then resolving the problem to the best of their ability. Virginia FFA would like to congratulate all of those who competed! A big thank you to Mr. David Balderson for assisting in running the contest and James River Equipment for providing the tractors.



1st - Sherando FFA - Cody Ridings and Clarke Heffern



2nd - Orange County FFA - Seth Wilbanks and Everette Kennon



3rd - Lee FFA - Jake Mullins and Aaron Barto

A Toast to VIRGINIA'S AGRIBUSINESS INDUSTRY



The Virginia FFA State Officers pose with First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin.
(Photo Credit: VA FFA Staff)

by Elizabeth Bates – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

On October 12th, the 2022-2023 Virginia FFA State Officer team embarked on a special journey to Barboursville Vineyards to attend a celebratory unveiling party of the limited-edition wine created by a collaboration between Barboursville Vineyard and the First Lady of Virginia. Earlier in the month of October, First Lady Suzanne S. Youngkin announced the partnership with her limited-edition wine, Cornus Virginicus, and both the Virginia FFA and Virginia 4-H programs. Proceeds from the release will go to both of the programs. The wine was made available to the public during the 34th annual Virginia Wine month and is a toast to Virginia's Agribusiness Industry and skilled vineyards and winemakers.

At the celebration of the wine release the officer team was given the opportunity to mingle with other invited guests, legislators, and members of the Virginia 4-H cabinet. While mingling with others, guests were also taken by the beauty of hosts, Barboursville Vineyards and their sprawling landscapes and rich Virginia history. Later, in the evening guests gathered to hear special remarks from the First Lady, learning about the history and meaning of the Wine. Specifically, with the name and label, "Cornus Virginicus" is Latin for "Flowering Tree of Virginia" and the tree on the label is tribute to the Commonwealth's state flower and tree the Dogwood. Also speaking at this event was Barboursville Vineyards Winemaker, Mr. Luca Paschina, as he explained the process of making the wine and his journey of becoming a winemaker all the way from Italy to Orange, Virginia. Virginia FFA State Secretary, Makenna Garrett gave remarks on behalf of the Virginia FFA Foundation and indulged the audience about agriculture and education.

The state officer team wrapped up the evening speaking with Virginia Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Matt Lohr. As well as

taking photos with First Lady Youngkin. When asked about the importance of the First Lady's decision to support both Virginia FFA and 4-H, State Reporter Savannah Goodwin said, "I thought it was such an honor that the First Lady of Virginia chose Virginia FFA as one of her charities because it showed her understanding of the impact that FFA has on young people's lives. The Barboursville wine event allowed us to see just how much impact Virginia FFA has on our Commonwealth while also allowing us to truly thank those individuals who made the wine fundraiser." The Virginia FFA State Officer team would like to express their sincere gratitude to the First Lady for choosing both Virginia FFA and Virginia 4-H to donate proceeds from the wine. It was a wonderful evening for anyone in attendance and events like this continue to show the bright future of Virginia's Agriculture.



The Virginia FFA State Officers pose with Virginia Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Matt Lohr. (Photo credit: Jay Paul)

member SPOTLIGHT

HALEE SCOTT

PULASKI COUNTY FFA PRESIDENT



by Gabriella Martin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Vice President

This year, we are spotlighting FFA members across Virginia. We chose to spotlight Halee Scott. Halee is from Pulaski County and is currently serving as her Chapter's President. Halee was inspired to join last year by her friends and Advisors who told her of all the opportunities FFA has to offer. "My SAE project is working on a dairy farm, where I do servicing to robots, collect cows, push cows through, clean beds, and scrape around the robots to keep the cows safe." Halee even takes care of a calf she purchased from her old farm earlier this year.

When asked about what Halee enjoys most about being a chapter officer she responded, "getting to be even more involved with the chapter and talking to and learning more about the members, who they are, what excites them, and how to keep them involved in their next steps in life." Halee's favorite FFA experiences have been her Chapter's end of the year banquet and National Convention. "Our banquet was

when I really started to see and understand how close and like a family being in FFA really is and what it has to offer," Halee told us. At the National Convention Halee realized how many opportunities there are and how far FFA could take her.

We asked Halee if she could give some advice to new members. She replied, "If there is any advice I would give to new members the first piece of advice I would give is if you are considering joining don't hesitate, just do it. I hesitated and didn't do it my freshman year and I regret it. The second would be don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try new things even if you are scared, because there is a high chance that most of the other people are a little nervous too. Most of the time whatever it is, it's not as bad or scary as you think it is going to be." We are excited to see the many adventures and accomplishments Halee will make in the future of the organization. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

FALLING INTO *Fruit Sale* SEASON



by Savannah Goodwin – VA FFA 2022-2023 State Reporter

For most of the world, Autumn is full of colorful pumpkins, falling leaves, and the beginning of the holiday season. However, for many FFA members Autumn signifies all this and the beginning of Fruit Sale Season.

The fruit sale fundraiser is an annual tradition that has been going on for generations in many chapters throughout the state. Buyers choose from a catalog of options and can expect their delivery in time for the holidays. Apples, oranges, and grapefruits are among the most popular choices and many chapters even offer additional products such as cheesecakes or sampler boxes.

For many chapters, the fruit sale serves as their main fundraiser. Dinwiddie FFA member, Colton Reiter says often their sale “helps the chapter to fund events throughout the year that can build our chapter membership and participation.” “This is the fundraiser that sends members to state convention, funds our spring semester activities, and helps pay for our banquet where

we get to honor our members and their accomplishments,” says Abbie Hopkins of the Louisa FFA chapter. These funds are critical to many chapters’ successes during the school year.

In addition to providing chapters with comradery and funding, Fruit Sale also provides students with opportunities to practice many of the soft skills that they learn in class. These are things such as eye contact, clear communication, and knowledge of the product. Reiter described how he often encourages sellers by telling them that their funds benefit him as well as their chapter. Hopkins enjoys telling buyers specific causes that Fruit Sale funds support and the importance of “the tradition of the fruit sale.”

As the holiday season continues to grow closer, keep the Fruit Sale in mind for many of your gift needs. “I think my community enjoys being able to have fresh fruit that helps support the youth in FFA to have a brighter future full of wonderful opportunities,” says Reiter.

Help to support chapters across the state and their students by purchasing a box of fruit this holiday season.



Dr. Larry & Joy Case

LEGACY FUND



For the betterment of Virginia FFA

navigate Virginia FFA through tough times. Because of the leadership and support from the Case family over the years, Virginia FFA emerged stronger than ever. After the passing of his beloved wife, Joy and in honor of everything he and Joy have done for Virginia FFA, this legacy fund was created. Once fully endowed, this fund will benefit the general operations of the Virginia FFA Foundation.

When you support Virginia FFA, you change the lives of our future leaders. In a fast-paced world with disconnect from the farm to table, one organization has remained steadfast in its dedication to developing the next generation of leadership for our nation's pinnacle industry—agriculture. The FFA Organization is guided by the phrase - "Learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live, living to serve" and its members live out hands-on service in their daily lives. The largest youth leadership organization in the world began right here in Virginia in 1927. Won't you be a part of it today?

by Hope Showalter – VA FFA Intern

Today, we're focused. Our mission and cause are clear. We have a vision that is inspired and designed by those we serve, and those that serve with us every day. Our focus on deepening a culture of philanthropy and developing principled student leaders is still at the core of our work and serves as the common thread throughout the history of FFA's efforts in the commonwealth, and throughout the country. Legacy funds are crucial to providing our members

with opportunities to grow as leaders for years to come. Each fund was created to honor those who have left a lasting legacy on Virginia FFA. Keep reading to learn more about one of the Legacy Funds you can give a gift to, today!

For more than 50 years, Virginia FFA Dr. Larry Case's long-time support of Virginia FFA through mentorships, contributions, and service on the Foundation Board have helped to

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