

Vision of Virginia

SUMMER 2024



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UPCOMING *events*

DECEMBER

2-7: NAAE Convention

JANUARY

7-10: VACTE Conference

JANUARY

24-26: Young Farmers of Virginia

FEBRUARY

4-7: VCE Conference



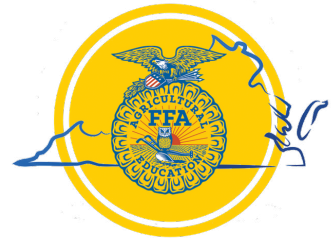
Eddie poses for a photo in his official FFA Jacket.

C.L. PAYNE FFA MEMBER *Claim to Fame*

Submitted by the C.L. Payne FFA Chapter

C.L. Payne FFA member Eddie Rodman has a unique connection to the National FFA Organization, and some may say is his claim to fame in the organization. What could be so significant? The FFA jacket's birthplace, Fredericktown, Ohio was home to Eddie's Mom and her family. Agriculture educator J.H. (Gus) Lintner commissioned a jacket for members of the local FFA chapter to wear to the 1933 National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo., as part of their FFA band uniform. The design was so popular that it was adopted as the Official Dress of FFA

members. "Getting my FFA jacket had a deeper meaning to me because of where it came from. I am proud to wear the jacket that originated in my family's hometown", said member Eddie Rodman.



VIRGINIA FFA ASSOCIATION

115 Hutcheson Hall - 0908
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 540-231-3823

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

Grayson Long
President

Blair Rutherford
Secretary

Allison Rhodes
Vice President

Keller Cooley
Vice President

Braelyn Durbin
Treasurer

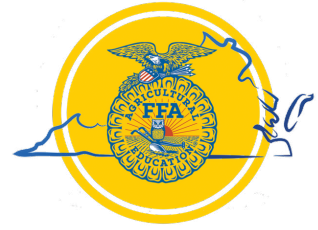
Jackie Diaz
Reporter

Ryan Livesay
Sentinel

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THE 'Mane' Event

VIRGINIA FFA TAKES ON EQUISMARTZ



by Jackie Diaz – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Reporter

On April 5th and 6th, Virginia FFA members competed in the annual EquiSmartz educational contests at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington. Open to both 4-H and FFA teams, the Hippology contest involves a written exam, projected slides, identification, horse health, and measurement stations, a judging phase, and a team problem, and the Horse Judging contest consists of judging classes and reasons. Ten junior and senior teams competed in Hippology with thirteen junior teams and seventeen senior teams competing in Horse Judging. Congratulations to Wilson Memorial High for placing first in junior Hippology (team members include Kate Batman, Claire Batman, and Crimora Davis) and S Gordon Stewart Middle for placing first in junior Horse Judging (team members include Sara Tinsley, Faith Morrow, Sadie Talley, and Brendan Gutsall). In the senior division, Broadway was the state winning team in Hippology (team members include Karley Sonifrank, Haelyn Keller, Gabbie Garlock, and Avery Caffrey) and Stuarts Draft High was the first-place team in Horse Judging (team members include Analise Eddis, Hailey Preuss, Meredith Gebhardt, and Emma Vance). Thank you to the Farm Credit Knowledge Center and the Virginia Horse Industry Board for sponsoring EquiSmartz- we are *neigh*-ful for your support!

HIPPOLOGY JUDGING

TOP 3 JUNIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Katie Batman**
Wilson Memorial High
- 2nd - Alexis Davis**
Wilson Middle Team A
- 3rd - Claire Batman**
Wilson Memorial High

TOP 3 SENIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Carrie Miller**
Massanutten Technical Center
- 2nd - Reagan Loker**
Clarke County
- 3rd - Karley Sonifrank**
Broadway High

HORSE JUDGING

TOP 3 JUNIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Dixon Heard**
Floyd T. Binns Middle
- 2nd - Sara Tinsley s**
S. Gordon Stewart Middle
- 3rd - Ava Hashagen**
Stuarts Draft Middle

TOP 3 SENIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Casey Felts**
Giles
- 2nd - Michelle Bates**
Clarke County
- 3rd - Carrie Miller**
Massanutten Technical Center



A FARMER'S Driving Course



The 1st Individual was the winner of the 4-H Tractor Operators Competition with the rest being the top 4 in the FFA Tractor Operators Competition.

by Keller Cooley – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Vice President

The State Tractor Operators contest was on April 17, 2024, at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. Each individual has to operate a tractor with a two-wheel trailer attached and a tractor with a four-wheel wagon attached through their respected courses. Additionally, they must take a 50-question exam on basic tractor safety and knowledge. At this state competition, competitors were allowed to enter as an FFA, 4-H individual, or dual purpose for this contest. This competition helps grow individuals' skills on the proper handling technique of operating a tractor correctly, safely, and efficiently.

TOP 5 OF THIS EVENT:

- 1st - Colten Reiter**
Dinwiddie
- 2nd - Emory Seal**
Buffalo Gap
- 3rd - Brennan Welch**
Page County
- 4th - Samuel Vaden**
Giles
- 5th - Wyatt Morris**
Greene



Colten Reiter will be representing and competing at the National tractor operators competition held at the Big E in Massachusetts. A big thank you goes to Mr. Herb Hoffeditz and Mr. John Welsh for helping run and officiate the course, Rockingham Fairgrounds for use of their facilities, and Rockingham New Holland and Mint Spring Equipment for use of the tractors that made this contest possible.



The top individual of the FFA Tractor Operators Competition, Colten Reiter from Dinwiddie.



The top individual of the 4-H Tractor Operators Competition, Keller Cooley from Sherando.

PROFESSIONAL Cattle Wranglers



The team from Rural Retreat High school and their coach after winning the Virginia FFA State Cattle Working Contest.

by Keller Cooley – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Vice President

The State Cattle Working Competition was held on April 19, 2024, at the Rockingham Fairgrounds. This consists of each team consisting of 3 people to first, create their medicine sheet of what they are medication they are giving, what type of medication is it (MLV, Killed, Combo, Neither), the active ingredients, the route of administration, the dosage, withdraw time, serial number, expiration date, and finally have to draw and place where each medication will be given. After they complete their plan, an official checks over it to make sure there are no mistakes and gives the plan back to the respected team before the 2nd part of the contest starts. For the 2nd part of the contest, each individual team will work three head of cattle through the shoot and administer the medication that is on their own planning sheet. The types of shots that could be given are

an implant, ear tag, and 4 more shots of any type of dewormers, antibiotics, or vaccines making 6 in total for 2 types of medication for each person. Each team is judged on proper safety rules and procedures when administering the shots as well as holding effectiveness and efficiency to as high of a standard as possible. There is a total of 11 minutes for each team to complete this task, any time over is deducted points.

A big thank you goes to Ms. Katherine Carter and the Youth Animal Science Team from Virginia Tech for helping make sure this competition ran smoothly, Dr. Currie for being the on-hand vet, Rockingham County Fairgrounds for letting us use their facilities for this event, and Rockingham Cooperative for allowing us to use the chute and tub for the competition.



The team from Rural Retreat High School looking over their medication plan and going over their strategy one last time before the timer starts.



The Team from Broadway FFA preparing their medication table and getting their game plan before working the 3 head of cattle.

VIRGINIA FFA STATE CATTLE WORKING COMPETITION

Winners!

RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL TEAM:

Isaac Miller, Grant Grubb, and Jen Collins with Coach Brian Alexander



Members evaluate trees for tree value; just one of the many practical skills needed to be successful in the forest products industry.

by Ryan Altis – VA FFA Association

The Virginia FFA State Forestry Contest was held on April 24th at Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge. The contest included tree identification, determining tree value and volume, equipment identification, and topographic map reading for junior teams. Senior teams also competed in forest products, a compass section, Tree/Forest disorders, timber stand improvement, and a fifty-question exam. Eleven junior teams and six senior teams competed. Carroll County placed first in both the junior and senior contests. Members of the junior team included Natalie Culler, Madelyn Caviness, Caleb Vernon, and Logan Bond with coach Alan Webb. The senior team was also coached by Alan Webb and included members Jacob Burcham, Samuel Brown, Aidan Hill, and Ethan Sechrist. Natalie Culler was the high individual of the junior contest and Jacob Burcham was the high individual of the senior contest. The state winning senior team from Carroll County will compete in the national forestry contest at the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis this October. The second-place senior team from Broadway will compete at the Big E in West Springfield,

TOP 3 JUNIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Natalie Culler**
Carroll County
- 2nd - Ryland Carter**
Buckingham
- 3rd - Joseph Arnold**
Powhatan Middle

TOP 3 SENIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Jacob Burcham**
Carroll County
- 2nd - Samuel Brown**
Carroll County
- 3rd - Aidan Hill**
Carroll County



Senior high individual, Jacob Burcham (left) from Carroll County, works to identify common tree disorders and pests.



Billy Newman and past Cumberland FFA member and current MGCC Forestry Student, Celeste Mitchell pose for a photo after the contest. Celeste learned about the program by interacting with Mountain Gateway students at various Virginia FFA Forestry events during high school.

Massachusetts this September. We would like to thank Mr. Billy Newman and the students and staff at Mountain Gateway Community College for hosting the event.

Poultry

IN PRODUCTION



Students candle eggs to grade the interior quality based on air pocket size.

by Allison Rhodes – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Vice President

The State 4-H/FFA State Poultry Evaluation Contest was held on April 26th at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. During this contest, students evaluated live laying hens, identified retail cuts, graded ready-to-cook carcasses as well as the interior and exterior of eggs. Some 4-H students even evaluated the yolks and whites of broken eggs. This contest provides students the opportunity to learn about industry regulations of eggs, poultry carcasses, and further processed products such as chicken wings, nuggets, and patties. The Poultry Evaluation CDE is a wonderful opportunity for students to get a glimpse into the poultry industry past raising the chickens and eggs on the farm. This year, fourteen teams competed in the senior division with twenty competing

in the junior division. Broadway took the first place title in the senior contest and J Frank Hillyard in the junior division. The state winning senior team from Broadway will compete in the national poultry judging contest at the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis this October. The second-place senior team from Fort Defiance will compete at the Big E in West Springfield, Massachusetts this

September. We would like to thank Rockingham County Fairgrounds for hosting the event and the Virginia Poultry Federation for providing National FFA Convention travel scholarships and awards for the winning teams. To learn more about this CDE, see the Virginia Poultry Federation Facebook page or website to learn more about the importance of poultry in Virginia!

TOP 3 JUNIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Quinn Garber**
J. Frank Hillyard
- 2nd - Averie Keller**
J. Frank Hillyard
- 3rd - Olivia Fauber**
Wilson Memorial

TOP 3 SENIOR FFA INDIVIDUALS

- 1st - Romney Ritchie**
Broadway
- 2nd - Allison Rhodes**
Fort Defiance
- 3rd - Gabbie Garlock**
Broadway



Turkey carcasses are hung up for competitors to look for cuts in skin or missing parts.



Hens are evaluated on bleaching in their comb, eye ring, earlobe, and beak to determine their level of production.

FFA CAMP



Serving Smiles



by Allison Rhodes – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Vice President

From July 7th - July 12th, Virginia FFA members met at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia for the Annual Leadership Camp. As the week is filled with friendship building, advocacy training, and lots of laughter, one day of camp is set aside to focus on something greater than the members. On the Thursday of camp, a grant from the National FFA Organization made it possible to prepare 2,400 snack packs for the Culpeper Senior Center. With a little bit of musical encouragement and more than 175 inspired members, the kits were packed in less than an hour. As members made the rounds to collect items in their bags, the smiles on their faces weren't as big as those of the employees at the senior center as the shopping carts full of snacks were unloaded. We would like to thank National FFA, Camp Directors Mr. Turner Trice and Ms. Tess Seibel, and all the members for making this event possible with funding and support. To learn more about FFA camp, take a look at the article on this year's leadership camp. The gratitude expressed by everyone involved is why Virginia FFA continues *living to serve*.

"Day of Service" is a term coined by National FFA that appears on the annual camp t-shirt and serves as a constant reminder of our mission.



Members work together to fill meal bags. Even though it was hot, spirits were high with sing-a-longs and countdowns.



The service project was a delightful experience for all involved and was reflected by the enthusiasm from every member.

Linking Arms AT LEADERSHIP CAMP



The last night at camp, past state officers and new state officers giving their reflections around a bonfire!

by Braelyn Durbin – VA FFA Association

The Virginia FFA State Leadership Camp was held July 7th through July 12th at Graves Mountain Lodge in Syria, Virginia. During the week, over 210 FFA campers got to know each other, explored various interest classes, participated in flag raising, swim olympics, and the talent show! Each meal, FFA members united for fellowship and fun activities that encouraged campers to break the ice. During mealtimes, FFA members had the opportunity to sign up for officer interviews, and activities that interested them. The leadership classes were hosted by the 2023- 2024 past state officers. These activities included electrical wiring, survival skills, lineman demonstrations with Rappahannock Electric, show chicken washing and poultry carcass evaluation, peanuts, and career coaching. The National FFA's National Day of Service, students packed over 2,4000 snack bags that were donated locally to the Culpeper Senior Care Center. After a long week of workshops and leadership development members got to exhibit their strengths at the swim olympics where all participants at camp had fun with a little bit of competition. Members cheered each other on by showcasing their team chants they had created in the beginning of camp.



FFA campers giving a try at electrical wiring with Rappahannock Electric!

The talent show is held under the pavilion where campers and new state officers showcase their amazing acting, singing, and dance moves. The annual Leadership Camp banquet was hosted in the evening on the last day of camp where FFA campers got to showcase their officer positions they earned and were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments during camp. After

a fun filled day at camp each day was reflected on by coming together and reflecting. We would like to thank Mr. Turner Trice, Ms. Tess Seibel, and staff at Graves Mountain Lodge for hosting this event and making it possible. We would also like to thank anyone who pitched in to help make our LARGEST FFA Camp ever possible!



(L to R) 2023-24 President Elect Lindsay Tomlinson, 2023-24 Secretary Dakota Stroud, 2023-24 Past President Melessa Suder, 2023-24 President Sarah Jo Jones, and 2024-25 President Elect Elizabeth Duncan

by Ryan Altis – VA FFA Association

This summer, the Virginia Association of Agricultural Educators (VAAE) held its annual Summer Conference at Eastern View High School. From July 14 through the 18th, Virginia Ag teachers participated in professional development workshops and attended multiple dinners and banquets celebrating the past and present of agricultural education. The early teachers conference was held on July 14th and 15th for teachers entering their first year of teaching and those with up to three years of experience. These educators participated in trainings on funding opportunities, curriculum, professional standards, and work-based learning, among many other topics.

The main conference started on the afternoon of the 15th. Attending teachers participated in a business session and a workshop on SAE For All. The evening ended with an agricultural trivia night. On Tuesday, the attending teachers participated in professional development workshops led by fellow educators and industry leaders. Some of the workshops allowed participants to walk away with a certification. On Tuesday afternoon, the teachers participated in a CDE fair where they competed in teams to complete multiple mini-CDE contests. This fair was designed to inform ag teachers on the basics of many of the CDEs offered by Virginia FFA. Tuesday evening ended with the Retired Teacher Dinner. Former Ag teachers from across the commonwealth attended along with the conference participants. The retired teachers were recognized for their many years of service. Attendees also heard remarks from current Virginia FFA State President

Grayson Long. An auction was held, with proceeds going towards future VAAE professional development conferences. Additionally, a Virginia FFA Foundation Legacy Fund was announced for former Ag Teacher and Virginia FFA Executive Secretary Randy Trivette. Thursday began with more workshops. During the day each area held meetings to discuss nominating VAAE Officer and FFA Board candidates, as well as discussing area business. Thursday evening ended with the annual VAAE Banquet where educators were recognized for their efforts over the past year and a new officer team was announced.

The following educators received awards at the banquet:

Outstanding Early Career Teacher:

Michelle Fincham, Rappahannock County High

Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher:

Matthew Nanny, Rappahannock High

Outstanding Program: Appomattox High

Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship:

Dakota Stroud, Signal Knob Middle

Ideas Unlimited: Mandy Curry, Millbrook High

Teacher Mentor: Dr. Jessica Jones, Tunstall High

The following teachers were recognized for recently retiring:

Carole Brown, Tunstall Middle

Andrew Schmitt, Buckingham Senior

Amy Stevens, Read Mountain Middle

2023-2024 VAAE President Sarah Jo Jones from Carroll County High School was recognized for her year of service. President-elect Lindsay Tomlinson from Liberty High School will step into the position of VAAE President for the 2024-2025 year. Elizabeth Duncan from Appomattox County High School was announced as the president-elect and will serve as VAAE President for the 2025-2026 year. Jacob Lewis from Fort Defiance High School was announced as the 2024-2025 VAAE State Secretary.



Recipient of the Teachers Turn the Key award - Dakota Stroud from Signal Knob Middle School.



Recipient of the Ideas Unlimited award - Mandy Curry from Millbrook High School.



Recipient of the Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher award - Matthew Nanny from Rappahannock High School.



Recipient of the Teacher Mentor award - Dr. Jessica Jones from Tunstall High School.



(L to R) Recipients of the Outstanding Program Award - Elizabeth Duncan, Cassie Long, and Ed McCann Jr

Do you want to #TeachAg in Virginia? Scan the QR Code Below to check out the Teach Ag page on the Virginia FFA website!



#TeachAg



98TH VIRGINIA FFA STATE CONVENTION 2024: *In the Moment!*



At the Career and Opportunity Expo, students hear from industry professionals.

by Grayson Long – VA FFA 2024-2025 State President
and Blair Rutherford – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Secretary

The 98th Virginia FFA State Convention took place June 24th–27th at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. This year’s theme was “In the Moment” and the members of Virginia FFA truly took that to heart. Over the course of five sessions, four workshops, three contest days, two keynote speakers, and one convention, almost 2,000 Virginia FFA members came together to truly live ‘in the moment.’

State Convention offers members from across the state the opportunity to join together once every year. It is a time where memories are made, and friendships are formed. State Convention challenges members to step outside of their comfort zone and experience the many facets of FFA. From contests to the FFA Dance, and everything in between, State Convention provides every member with endless opportunity and an impactful experience.



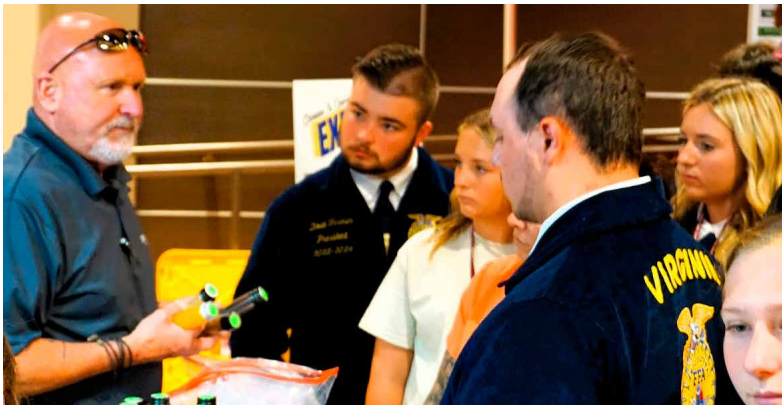
State Officers Nate Zerker and Adam Hawkins arrive at session in style.

Governor Youngkin delivers his keynote speech at Session 4.



That moment when hard work pays off!

To enrich our members' state convention experience, this year marked the 3rd offering of the Annual Career and Opportunity Expo. In Squires Student Center, members met with industry professionals and college representatives to learn more about agricultural opportunities and ways to set them on the road to career success.



Students attend the Career and Opportunity Expo in Squires Student Center.



Talia Graham, Rappahannock FFA, Talent winner, sings the National Anthem at the beginning of Session 4!

Close to 3,000 members and guests filled Burruss Hall each session as we recognized the accomplishments of our incredible members. Once in a lifetime moments were created on stage as 209 members received their State FFA Degree, 38 members were declared State Proficiency Winners, and numerous teams and individuals were awarded. We heard retiring addresses from the 2023-24 state officer team and impactful keynote speeches from National FFA Western Region Vice President, Emily Gossett, and the 74th Governor of Virginia, Glenn Youngkin.



Sherando Meats Judging Team places 2nd Overall.



2023-2024 State Secretary, Grace Walbroehl, delivers her retiring address.



Grayson Long, Massanutten Technical FFA, Talent runner-up, clogs during Session 4.



The 2023-2024 State Officer Team listens to teammate, Kirin Miller's retiring address



National FFA Western Region Vice President, Emily Gossett delivers her inspiring keynote speech on the importance of kindness, forgiveness, and extending grace to everyone!



State Officers Kirin Miller and Liberti Sell whip up some excitement leading into session!



VIRGINIA

ORDER YOUR OWN VIRGINIA FFA LICENSE PLATE AT SUPPORTFFA.ORG

#SUPPORTVAFFA #DRIVEFOR1000

SupportFFA.org

Believing in the Future of Agriculture Since 1917
We are the birthplace of the FFA

The complex block features a blue background with a faint, repeating pattern of the FFA logo. On the left is a graphic of a white Virginia license plate. The plate has "VIRGINIA" at the top, a small FFA logo on the left, and five empty oval shapes for numbers. Below the plate is the text "SupportFFA.org" and a quote: "Believing in the Future of Agriculture Since 1917 We are the birthplace of the FFA". To the right of the plate is the main text: "ORDER YOUR OWN VIRGINIA FFA LICENSE PLATE AT SUPPORTFFA.ORG" in white, and "#SUPPORTVAFFA #DRIVEFOR1000" in yellow.



WELCOME NEW Officers!

by Ryan Livesay – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Sentinel

On June 27, 2024, seven new officers were elected to serve on the 2024-2025 Virginia FFA State Officer team. Let's learn a little bit about each officer!

Question Guide

1. What is your SAE project?
2. What are some of your hobbies outside of FFA?
3. What are you most looking forward to this year?



1. My SAE project is in sheep production entrepreneurship. I am the proud owner and operator of Long's Rockingham Dorsets, Southdowns and Commercials located in Rockingham County, Virginia. My flock consists of roughly 50-75 head whom I am responsible for their care, breeding, finances and management decisions. Lambs I raise that are not shown or kept as replacements are sold to other FFA and 4-H showmen in my area and the rest are loaded up and sold at my local stock sale.
2. I enjoy spending my time traveling up and down the East Coast as a competitive clogger, showing and raising livestock, and sewing (especially with wool)!
3. Serving the nearly 15,000 FFA members across Virginia and helping them reach their full leadership potential. I wish to show others the impact agriculture and FFA have had on my life and encourage them to take advantage of every opportunity life presents them.

1. My SAE is a floriculture placement project at Deacon Valley Farms in Meadowview, VA. My responsibilities vary throughout the seasons, but my primary job is to plant and maintain a variety of flowers to be used for arrangements. I assist at weddings, designing and arranging bouquets, corsages, arches, and other decorations.
2. I enjoy clogging, playing softball, and band. In my free time, I like hanging out with friends, watching tv, and going on sweet treat runs.
3. I am most looking forward to meeting members, getting to hear everyone's story, and seeing how FFA and agriculture has impacted the lives of so many.



1. My SAE project is all the work I do on my family's beef cattle farm. From hay production, working on equipment and buildings, feeding cattle, and giving them the proper vaccinations.
2. I love going to tractor and truck pulls in my down time. It has to be the antique pulls though; they are a lot cooler to me.
3. Seeing different parts of the state and who I can connect with and hopefully leave an impact.



Allison Rhodes
Vice President

1. Poultry production placement: working on my family's commercial turkey operation and Ag processing placement: working on my family's maple syrup operation.
2. Showing livestock, thrifting, playing the banjo, and spending time with friends and family.
3. I am most excited to have the opportunity to instill passion into the members of Virginia FFA. I have been able to grow myself tremendously through this organization and am looking forward to giving members that same opportunity so that they too can discover their potential and their purpose.

1. My SAE project is in Poultry Production.
2. I play instruments! Including: guitar, mandolin, piano, and harmonica.
3. I'm looking forward to connecting with the members and making lasting long memories and friendships!!



Jackie Diaz
Reporter

1. My SAE project is a Paid placement at Once Upon a Child.
2. I am a singer (will be studying music ed) and I also act in my spare time!
3. I am most looking forward to seeing the wonderful diversity of our organization reflected in each and every student. <3

1. My SAE project is in Beef Production. I am a 5th generation cattle farmer. We have about 120 head of black angus cattle that I help take care of and raise.
2. In my free time I like to go hunting, fishing, and I play baseball.
3. This year I look forward to going to chapter visits all throughout Virginia and make connections with Virginia FFA members.



Braelyn Durbin
Treasurer



Ryan Luzzo
Sentinel
2024-2025

GOODBYE OLD *Officers!*



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

by Ryan Livesay – VA FFA 2024-2025 State Sentinel

Throughout 2023-2024 year Kelcey Weston, Grace Walbroehl, Nate Zerkel, Kirin Miller, Anne Kathryn Martz, Jadyn Smith, Liberti Sell, and Adam Hawkings have done many chapter visits, advocated for agriculture, and impacted the lives of many members. Thank you for everything you have done for and the impact you have left on Virginia FFA.

Question Guide

1. What was your favorite memory during your year of service?
2. What are your future plans?



Kelcey Weston

1. My favorite memory from my year of state office took place during our FFA Week Goodwill Tour. We had the opportunity to visit so many chapters across Virginia and it was so refreshing to see how passionate each member was about FFA no matter their situation. It really stood out to me that the members from the smaller chapters with less funding and opportunities took so much pride in their ag programs and were so excited to tell me about their shop projects etc.
2. I am currently in the process of looking for jobs within the agriculture industry.

Grace Walbroehl

1. Traveling to every corner of the state during FFA week and getting to hang out with so many members!
2. I'll be attending the University of Virginia to Study History & Youth and Social Innovation and ultimately will become a history teacher.

Nate Zerkel

1. One of my favorite memories from my year of service was during state convention. The whole week was so much fun for me because we got to interact with so many amazing FFA members and they were all there to have a good time. One of my favorites from that week specifically is one night I was walking around outside of the dorms talking with people. Then 2 boys from Spotsylvania challenged me and Adam to a foot race... we lost. Both times. But it was so much fun to interact with members in a casual setting and have a lot of fun with them!
2. I am attending the University of Northwestern Ohio studying automotive/light duty diesel. I plan to graduate, come home and get more years of on-the-job experience, and eventually open my own shop!

Kirin Miller

1. My favorite memory was definitely VICE! I got to be a group leader and help members understand ag econ. It was also a lot of fun setting up the karaoke and dance party.
2. I'm attending Virginia Tech this year studying international trade and development and am a part of the Corps of Cadets! I plan on being an army civil affairs officer, serving in the Peace Corps and working for foreign affairs.

Anne Kathryn Martz

1. I have too many to choose from! My favorite memories are meeting all the awesome people this past year :)
2. I'm going to be an ag teacher! I want to go back and teach at my home school, Rappahannock, in Warsaw!

Jadyn Smith

1. One of my favorite memories from this past year was the VALE Conference that happened in February. During this conference, I made so many new friendships and learned new leadership skills through our National FFA facilitators that hosted this conference. VALE is definitely one of my favorite memories!
2. This spring, I will graduate with my associates degree from Wytheville community college. I plan on transferring into Virginia Tech's college of agriculture and life sciences this upcoming fall. I hope to have a career involving agriculture. And that's pretty much all I got planned. I'll just go wherever the wind blows me.

Liberti Sell

1. FFA Week and getting to visit all the different schools and visiting with all the members.
2. I am attending Virginia Tech and majoring in Sports Media and Analytics and Agriculture Education.

Adam Hawkings

1. My favorite memories were running all of the different contests that happen throughout the year.
2. I will be entering a career in law enforcement.



by VA FFA Staff

Scott and Sally Shomo are life-long residents of Augusta County, and both grew up on farms. Scott grew up near Staunton on his family's dairy, beef and sheep farm. Sally grew up near Bridgewater on her family's dairy and poultry farm. Both were involved in FFA during their high school years and are lifetime members of the FFA Alumni and have received their Honorary American FFA Degrees. Sally continued her love of agriculture at Stuarts Draft, Wilson Memorial, and Beverly Manor Middle from 1982-2013 in the classroom. Scott worked in the insurance industry, but returned to his love of farming in 2012, with Shomo AG LLC, a farm

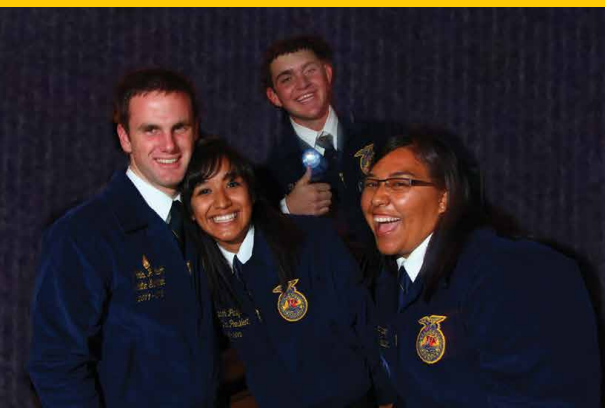
specializing in raising beef cattle and growing corn, small grains and hay near Staunton.

Their love of agriculture and the FFA allowed Scott and Sally Shomo to start a Legacy Fund to share with others the importance of agricultural education and the FFA, the future for the FFA organization and its members.

The Shomo Legacy Fund helps purchase FFA jackets and official dress for State FFA Officers each year.

“The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.”

~ FFA Mission Statement



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