

Fall
2011

Better Ways

a newsletter for North Carolina FFA members



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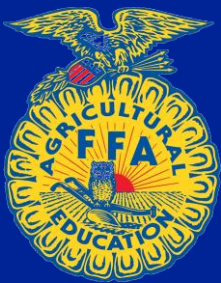
Greetings from your State Officer Team

As you know with a new school year comes many new opportunities. Included in those opportunities is the opportunity to grow yourself and excel in something new, something great something like the FFA. The other state officers and I are looking forward to an exciting year and what new and exciting things await us and all of you this year. We are ready to serve you and cannot wait to get to know each and every one of you. We look forward to a fun filled year and seeing how you will be making an impact in your community and “I Believe” in you!

Sincerely,
John Stewart, State President



2011-2012 State FFA Officer Team



Upcoming Events

January 13	Honorary State & American Degrees Due
February 2	State Truck and Tractor Skills CDE
February 10	State FFA Board Meeting
February 18-25	National FFA Week
March 7	Ag Sales, Farm Business Management Marketing Plan & WLC Scholarship Interviews
March 9	Middle Grades Rally
March 15	Camp Registration Opens
March 24-25	MEGA Conference
March 27	Livestock Judging
March 30-31	Land Judging



Is community service a major part of your chapter's program of activities? If so, you should consider participating in Building Our North Carolina Communities award program. Understanding the principles and fundamentals of community development and being directly involved in planning and implementing a community service project helps develop a knowledge and skill of community leadership. For more information on this project visit www.ncffa.org



We are excited to release the North Carolina Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant application. This project will provide at least 32 grants valued up to \$5000 each to improve and enhance local agricultural education programs and FFA chapters all across North Carolina. These grants will fund innovative, sustainable and relevant projects to assist the local agricultural education program in meeting the current needs of the agricultural industry.

The project is funded by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission.

Please visit www.ncffa.org for the application and the necessary information and instructions for completion. Please note that the entire application is due to the Agricultural Education/FFA State Office by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 2, 2012. Grant recipients will be announced by May 31, 2012.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and look forward to the positive outcomes this grant program will have to help strengthen agricultural education and fulfill our mission of student success.

National Convention Highlights

- The Chatham Central FFA Chapter placed 1st in the Nursery Landscape and Floriculture CDE's
- John Stewart, State President and Knightdale FFA Member placed 2nd in Extemporaneous Public Speaking
- Alexandria Loflin of the High Rock FFA Chapter was the third high individual in the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE.
- Richard Brooks, Dr. George Naderman, David Overcash and Fred McPherson received the Honorary American FFA Degree.
- The North Carolina FFA Association was recognized as being the 3rd fastest growing state association in the nation for membership growth.
- Sixty North Carolina FFA Members received their American FFA Degree.
- The North Carolina Hall of States Exhibit placed second. Thank you to the Crossroads Christian FFA Chapter for their hard work in designing, building and hosting the booth.



Conducting Community Service Programs

A Legacy of Community Service

FFA can be found all across our great country...from rural farming communities of several hundred people to the big cities of New York and Chicago. What does FFA have in common in every community in which it lives and breathes? The answer is simple – it makes a difference. For over 75 years, FFA has been shaping the lives of young people. With this, entire communities have been affected by the efforts of local FFA chapters in developing community service programs.

It was Eleanor Roosevelt who said, “When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die.” What level of contribution to your community are you as a chapter FFA officer going to make? You have the unique opportunity to develop meaningful activities, which will impact your local community for years to come. In this article, we will examine the need for community service, characteristics of effective activities and how to plan your community program.



Undoubtedly, having a community service program is good for many reasons. Students benefit from the civic pride and responsibility they develop. The image of an FFA chapter in the community improves as more people understand the aims and purposes of FFA. People in the

community will be more likely to support your school and FFA chapter if they see you doing positive things locally. Finally, the community has an important need met by its own youth. It is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

What makes an effective community service activity? Consider this:

Tied to the Classroom: An effective activity is one in which students learn, rather than just performing labor. Work with your FFA advisor to design activities that are tied to classroom learning. For example, maybe your school offers an environmental science course, and you decide to collect trash from a local stream or waterway. Do not quit there. Analyze what you find and possible sources of the pollution. Share the results and suggestions for reducing pollution with residents. This type of activity is what many people and schools refer to as “service-learning.”

Meets a Specific Unmet Need: Why collect money for the homeless if your community does not have a homelessness problem? Why have a coat drive if you are living in south Florida? Why host a food drive if three other clubs are already doing that? Your chapter FFA officer team should work closely with local civic clubs and town council to identify needs of the community. Do not attempt to know what is best for the community without doing your research.

You may be wondering, “How can we get our community service program up and running?” Try these seven steps:

1. Identify community needs:

Build partnerships with groups that could use some help. Find out who is in charge and go to them. People love to hear the words, “How can we help you?”

2. Determine how your FFA chapter “fits in”:

Will the FFA provide financial backing, manpower, management, or all of the above? These issues should be agreed upon by both parties.

3. Set common goals: What is it that we both want to accomplish? Be clear, specific and realistic.

4. Establish a plan of action: Set a very specific timeline with who is in charge and the action steps it will take for goals to be accomplished.

5. Develop recognition programs for outstanding service: Reward those students and partners who assist with community efforts with a nice token of appreciation.

6. Publicize, Publicize, Publicize:

Take pictures, write the local newspaper and include a story in the school newsletter. Let people know about the positive things FFA is doing!

7. Evaluate and make

recommendations for next year: Answer the question – what can we do better next time? (By the way, there is always something!)



SO Spotlight – Beverly Hampton

Beverly Hampton is a 2011 graduate of West Rowan High School. Her advisors were Mr. Jason Chester, Mr. Clark Adams and Ms. Heather Wade. She is the youngest of four children and the daughter of Cynthia and Henry Hampton. Beverly is a freshman at North Carolina State University studying Poultry Science in hopes of one day becoming a large animal veterinarian.

Throughout high school, Beverly was active in several student organizations including Relay 4 Life, National Honor Society, Environmental Club and the FFA. In the FFA, she served as a chapter officer three years as well as served as the Southwest Region Vice President. She competed in numerous Career Development Events and placed 1st in Agricultural Marketing, 2nd in Agricultural Sales and 3rd in Prepared Public Speaking. Beverly has attended many leadership conferences and workshops including Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Also, she has earned her Greenhand, Chapter and State Degree and continues to work toward her American Degree.

Being raised on her parents' agritourism business, a drive thru exotic animal park, Beverly has had the opportunity to work with animals ranging from beef cattle to reticulated giraffe. From a young age she developed a passion for the care, management and husbandry of all animals, large and small. With this she began spending time with her older sister who is a large and small animal

veterinarian. In the seventh grade Beverly showed two registered Dorset ewes at the Rowan County Fair. From that show, Beverly sparked an interest in showing livestock. Today, she owns a herd of 50 registered and commercial meat breed sheep as well as 20 registered boar goats. Beverly participates in livestock shows throughout North Carolina and Louisville, Kentucky. She has won numerous showmanship, grand and reserve champions over the last 7 years. Her hard work has earned her much success. Beverly has been recognized as a North Carolina FFA state proficiency winner in Equine Science Placement, Specialty Animal Production and Veterinary Sciences. She also has been honored as the 2010 State Star Farmer as well as the 2011 Star Farmer in both entrepreneurship and placement.

Beverly holds the FFA and all it stands for close to her heart. She truly believes that FFA members are more than just high school students but are talented, dedicated, amazing young agriculturalists who have the potential to achieve the impossible. Beverly is extremely excited and honored to serve the North Carolina FFA Association as a State Vice President and encourages FFA members to ponder the words of Walt Disney: **“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”**



Favorites

Food: Strawberries

Movie: A Walk to Remember

Color: Purple

CDE: Poultry Judging / Public Speaking

Singer: Eric Church

Animal: Zebra



SO Spotlight – Hannah Russell

Hannah Russell is a 2010 graduate from Southwestern Randolph High School. Hannah has been an active member at her local FFA chapter since the 9th grade. Hannah's FFA advisors were Everett Sheffield, Kenneth Rogers, and Jarrett Elliott. She has served as the chapter Chaplin, Vice President and President. She has also had the honor to serve as the Secretary and President in the West Central Region. She is now a sophomore at North Carolina State University, majoring in Extension Education.

Within Hannah's high school career she participated in many different Career Development Events which included forestry, poultry judging, agriculture sells, parliamentary procedure and food science. In 2010, while participating in the food science Career Development Event, her team placed first in states and received silver at the national level. Hannah also has a strong Supervised Agriculture Experience project in poultry production placement. Hannah works on her family farm helping her parents raise chickens in six poultry houses. In 2009 she placed first in the poultry production proficiency award at state level. Hannah has received her Greenhand, Chapter, and State degrees and plans on receiving her American Degree in the years to come. She has also participated in many FFA leadership workshops and conferences including WLC. Hannah was also a member and officer in the Beta club, FCA, NTHS, Randolph Livestock and Poultry Association and the FFA. She is also an

active member at her church, Grace Baptist Temple, where she plays the piano and she is a team leader in the teen program.

Hannah comes from a large family! Her parents are David and Wanda Russell. She has one older brother, two older sisters, and one younger sister: Ben, Kim, Chasity, and Jocelyn. Hannah enjoys being outdoors, fishing, riding four-wheelers, and spending time with her family and friends. Hannah has worked at Russell Farms Inc. for nine years, where she works in poultry houses and helps work in the fields during planting and harvesting seasons. She has a true passion for service and agriculture.

Hannah is blessed, honored, and excited to serve as one of the 2011-2012 North Carolina State FFA Officers! She hopes that she can encourage FFA members to reach their highest potential, goals, and gain leadership skills through the FFA this upcoming year. As FFA members we need to impact others, believe in ourselves, and have faith in others.



Favorites

Food: Ice Cream

Movie: The Little Rascals

Color: Blue

CDE: Food Science

Singer: Josh Turner

“The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.”

-Walter Bagehot

