

Thursday, February 22, 2024

# National FFA Week 2024

## Whitman



## County

# Colfax

## Harley Hennigar, Colfax FFA President

Hi, my name is Harley Hennigar, I am a senior at Colfax High school and I am our Colfax FFA Chapter President! Growing up in Whitman County, I have been surrounded by agriculture my entire life. I have grown up raising and showing calves, and later market steers at the Palouse Empire Fair every year. I have also grown up riding in my dad's truck hauling hay with him each summer; so I have been around agriculture for as long as I can remember. I was always in a 4-H group since I was of age, so I knew when I got to be a freshman I would participate in FFA. Since my freshman year I have shown market steers in FFA and competed in many contests. I have been involved in Creed speaking, Veterinary Science, Apple Evaluation, Potato Evaluation, Agricultural Communications, Citizenship Contest, Equine Entrepreneurship Proficiency, and my favorite competitions; Prepared Public Speaking and Agricultural Sales. I have always loved public speaking so I was not surprised when I really enjoyed Creed speaking and Prepared public speaking. The contest that I have learned the most from and had the most fun doing was Agricultural Sales. I started sales my sophomore year and after I won 5th high individual in state, along with my team placing first at the Washington FFA State Convention, we qualified to represent Washington at nationals the next fall. I have been fortunate enough to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, IN twice.

Once to compete in Ag Sales where I was a gold ranked team; and again the following year where I received a silver ranking on my Equine Proficiency.

FFA has taught me so much, from gaining agricultural knowledge and awareness through competing in Career and Leadership Development Events, to knowledge and skills that will help me not only in my future career but in many aspects of my life. Throughout being in FFA, especially competing in Agricultural Sales, I have learned that I would like to pursue a degree in Agricultural Business so that I can have a career in agricultural sales and real estate. FFA has not only taught me so many important skills, but also given me some amazing memories. I have made life long friends and memories through being in FFA these four years and for that I am so thankful. My last three years in FFA have flown by and I am excited to enjoy and make the most of my last year in the blue jacket. All in all, FFA has given me a lot, and I am thankful that I have been given the opportunity to be a member of Colfax FFA.

Our chapters and members' success is due not only to our members being passionate about agriculture and working hard in contests, but also due to the hard work and dedication our advisor, Mr. Heitstuman. Heitstuman does everything to help our members not only be successful in competitions, but to learn a true knowledge of agriculture and help them develop skills and tools that will help them in their future, which is really what FFA is

## A Word From Our Advisor, Michael Heitstuman



HEITSTUMAN

Thank you for taking the time to read the articles that many of our Colfax FFA agriculture education students have written for the FFA Week insert. Our hope is that you gain insight into our program and the agricultural diversity we currently represent within our membership.

Members are currently hard at work on their Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs) of choice, along with their Supervised Agriculture Experiences (SAEs). All students in Colfax's ag department complete a SAE project, and our students have been able to complete a diverse set of projects this year already.

Throughout the students' written excerpts, you'll see the success the 96th National FFA Convention and Expo brought to our chapter last November. Our very own graduate, Derek Repp, was recognized as the nation's high individual on stage at convention for the Agricultural Sales CDE; and Colfax's Ag Sales team represented the community at the highest level on stage placing 3rd in the nation. Colfax FFA also competed in state Soils and Land Evaluation in November, having two teams finish in the top eight and also finishing in the top eight in state at the Potato Evaluation CDE. Additionally, five members of the Colfax FFA chapter were able to place 6th in state for the first time in the Apple Evaluation CDE.

As we head into spring, members are currently writing speeches and learning the process to facilitate an agricultural sale with a customer. If you follow Colfax FFA, then you've seen how the Ag Sales CDE has positively impacted our small chapter over the last five years. The greenhouse currently has over 1500 plants that the plant science class has been potting and tending to in preparation for our annual plant sale.

I will again take the opportunity to thank the community for supporting our young FFA members. Our students' success wouldn't occur without the support and assistance of those who help our agriculture students and FFA members throughout their high school experience.

about. We are thankful for our advisor, who goes above and beyond everyday to help us be successful in learning what it truly means to wear the blue corduroy jacket and enjoy being a part of the National FFA Organization!

## Marchele McNeilly, Colfax FFA Vice President

My name is Marchele McNeilly, I am a Junior at Colfax High School and

this is my third year in FFA. I am an active member, holding the Chapter Vice President position, showing livestock, competing for my chapter and playing an active role in the community. I have so far competed in many competitions including Land and Soil Evaluation, Apple Evaluation, Creed Speaking, Agricultural Communications, as well as Agricultural Sales. My favorite contest is Soil Evaluation, however I am most proud of my accomplishments within

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# Colfax FFA

Ag Sales. In October of 2022 I got the opportunity to compete in this competition at the national level. My team and I traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to compete and we were fortunate enough to get to go to Nashville, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky during our time as well. Some of my favorite memories from FFA were made on that trip. It was an incredible experience and my team and I placed 6th in the nation. Another of my favorite contests was Creed Speaking. It is a freshman-only competition, so I did it two years ago, and I learned a lot from it. You must memorize the FFA creed, recite it for the judges and then answer questions regarding how those words apply to your life. This competition helped me to develop my public speaking skills as well as take a deeper look at what the future of agriculture means to me. I got to evaluate my own, as well as others, values and morals surrounding the agricultural industry. A

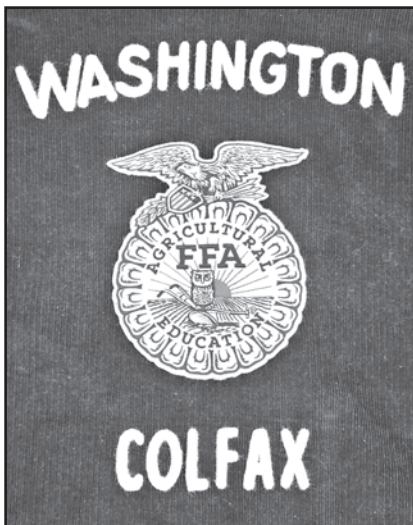
contest I am looking forward to this year is Veterinary Science. Although I don't have plans to go into that profession, it is an interest of mine. I'm excited to explore my interest in animals through this Career Development Event. Some goals I have within FFA are to continue to hold a Chapter Officer position in order to be a leader for younger members within my chapter. Additionally, it is a goal of mine to win another State contest for the chance to go to the National Convention again. My FFA experience has been full of important lessons and amazing opportunities, however the most important thing I have learned is you can take yourself anywhere you want to go in life- it just depends upon how much work you want to put in for yourself. I am incredibly grateful for the chance to be a part of an organization as great as FFA; this experience has made me who I am today!

**Karly Wigen,  
Colfax FFA Secretary**

My name is Karly Wigen, I am a junior at Colfax High School and I have

been in FFA for three years. I am on the Colfax FFA officer team serving this year as our Secretary. My biggest accomplishment in FFA is competing in Agricultural Sales at the National level. My team placed first at state and I was the 6th high individual in state. We then traveled to the National FFA Convention and Expo in October where we were tasked with selling corn and soybean seed. My team placed 3rd in the Nation last fall, and I was the 18th placed individual. The highlight of the trip was getting awarded a plaque on stage at a session in Lucas Oil Stadium. I gained many skills and some of my favorite FFA memories from that experience. I also compete in many other competitions at the local and state level including Land and Soil Evaluation, Potato Evaluation, Apple Evaluation, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Marketing Plan. My favorite individual competition is Ex-

temporaneous speaking. From this competition I've gained life skills and public speaking skills that I am able to use every day. Last year I placed 5th at state convention, and was also recognized for other competitions at state on stage too. Besides competitions, I am very active in the leadership side of FFA. I have been a chapter officer the past two years and this year am serving as the District VI Sentinel. I have learned many great leadership skills from being on both officer teams but especially when I am working with other officers from different chapters on my district team. I made a bunch of memories with my district team from our District Officer Training trip, and also when we got the opportunity to work with the chapter officers in our region. My favorite part of FFA in Colfax is Ag Day. We plan and run a fun community event with our grade school students to help introduce them to agriculture. Our goal on this day is to get the elementary students excited about what agriculture is and what ag does for the community; but also to have a fun day with animals and projects. I am very happy and thankful I got to



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# Colfax FFA

try new events and leadership positions this year in FFA, and I can't wait to see where the blue jacket takes me my senior year.

## JP Wigen, Colfax FFA Treasurer

My name is JP Wigen, and I am a senior at Colfax High School this year. This year I was elected as our chapter Treasurer. Over the course of the school year I've been tasked with keeping track of the finances in our FFA chapter and approving expenditures and deposits. So far I have enjoyed it and learned a lot throughout the process. The Colfax FFA chapter, along with our advisor Mr. Heitstuman has created plenty of opportunities and memories for me over the past few years, and it is sad to have to leave it behind this upcoming year as I move onto college. As I head off to my next adventure at Walla Walla Community College next fall, I look forward to what is to come, but won't ever forget the experiences Colfax FFA brought me.

## Isabella Huntley, Colfax FFA Reporter

Hi, my name is Isabella Huntley. I am a sophomore at Colfax High School and currently our Chapter's Sentinel. During my freshman year, I participated in several Career and Leadership Development Events including Land and Soil Evaluation, Agricultural Sales, First Year Member, Creed speaking, and Farm and Business Management. After completing my first year in FFA, I wanted to become even more involved in our chapter resulting in my current Sentinel position. This year, I have also participated in new competitions such as Apple Evaluation, Veterinary Science, and Prepared Public Speaking while continuing to compete in the same events as last year. My favorite competition that I have participated in was the Creed Speaking Leadership Development Event last year. I won sub-districts and districts allowing me to advance to the state level where I placed 2nd. In this event, you must memorize and recite the FFA Creed in front of a panel of judges and answer three follow up questions. In preparation for the competition, I was able to become more informed about agriculture, including past achievements in FFA and current issues that we face as agriculturists. Additionally, I was

able to improve my public speaking skills and learn how to present myself professionally which can be easily applied to my future career. In my years to come in high school, I hope to continue to compete in several competitions, become even more involved in my community, and learn new life skills that will assist me in bettering my future.

## Darin Repp, Colfax FFA Sentinel

I'm Darin Repp, a junior at Colfax High School. I have been in FFA for the past three years and have been an officer the past two years. I have been in many different FFA competitions and have made it to State for multiple competitions. My team which consisted of Karly Wigen, Cadence Monson, Derek Repp and myself were fortunate enough to win State for Agricultural Sales last spring and represent Washington in Indianapolis at the National FFA Convention and Expo this last fall. We placed third in the Nation as a team, and my brother placed first individually in the Nation. I would like to go back to Nationals in the future to represent Washington again in a different competition.

I have learned many things in FFA. It has been a great leadership experience and has taught me many valuable lessons. I have learned the importance of hard work and dedication through many late night practices and long days getting ready for competitions. I learned that focusing on the small details can be important and may be difficult, but will pay off in the long run. FFA has had a great impact on me and is continuing to give me many opportunities that will help me in the future.

## Colton Kneale

Hello my name is Colton Kneale and I am part of the Colfax FFA chapter. I am a Senior and this is my fourth year in FFA. I was involved in 4-H before I was in FFA. Since I have been in FFA I have shown pigs every year at the Palouse Empire Fair. This was my 11th and final year showing pigs. I have greatly enjoyed my experience showing. I have competed in Livestock Evaluation, and Land and Soil Evaluation. I am excited for the Washington FFA State Convention this year. FFA has taught me many life lessons and skills; and has taught me to be a more well rounded person. I think that anyone and everyone can join FFA because there is a little bit of something for everyone.



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

First Year Member Team: Mr. Heitstuman, Addy Watkins, Riley Hennigar, HAiley Vandebark, Ainslee Imler, and Isabella Huntley.

## Paige Claassen, Senior

My name is Paige Claassen, I am a senior at Colfax High school. Through FFA I had the opportunity to show pigs. I learned a variety of skills throughout the showing experience. As a senior in high school that was only in FFA for a

year, I experienced how to judge livestock at the Palouse Empire Fair. I had the opportunity to place at the top of my class for fitting and showing, and had two callbacks at the fair last year. If you are thinking about joining FFA I highly recommend it. I had such a fun experience this past year being involved.

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# Colfax FFA

## Tanner Senter

My name is Tanner Senter and I am from the Colfax FFA Chapter. I have been in FFA for four years now. I have competed in Agricultural Sales, Agronomy and Farm Business Management at the state level. I have also competed in the Creed and Livestock judging CDEs. At state convention I had the opportunity to be a part of teams that placed 7th in Agronomy and 5th in Farm Business Management. These two competitions have taught me a lot about how and what makes a farm function properly; something that is vital for the next generation of agriculturalists. I come from a long line of FFA members from my great grandfather. I plan on furthering my knowledge of agriculture by attending college for agricultural education just like my mother and brother. The FFA program has made a positive effect on my family and myself, and our nation as a whole.

## Grace Jones, Junior

I have been in FFA for three years now and so far my favorite accomplishment has been qualifying for state last year in the Marketing Plan Career Development Event (CDE). My future goals in FFA are to become more involved and participate in more events, such as the Agricultural Sales CDE. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is how to work with people and work hard to achieve my goals. This year I hope to improve my public speaking skills and hope to win state with my Proficiency Award Application.

## Miranda Phillips

My name is Miranda Phillips, I am a junior at Colfax High School. I've been active in FFA for just over three years now. I've spent countless hours working hard and late nights in and outside of the FFA room throughout competing in Potato Evaluation, Land and Soil Evaluation, Veterinary Sciences, Apple Evaluation, and Livestock Evaluation. I've also had the opportunity to compete at the Palouse Empire Fair each September with my SAE project being how to grow and maintain a healthy herd of goats to show and sell locally to FFA and 4-H kids. FFA has had a big impact on my life and I am thankful for that.

## Ainslee Imler

My name is Ainslee Imler and I am a sophomore at Colfax High School. Some of my achievements in FFA are winning the First Year Member Career Development Event at state convention last year, qualifying for the state Creed speaking contest, and having the Grand Champion market steer at the Palouse Empire Fair. One of my goals this year is to be on an Agricultural Sales team. We have just begun practice, and we will be selling bees this year. I hope to strengthen my knowledge in FFA and continue to grow as a leader.

## Hailey Vandebark

My name is Hailey Vandebark, and I am a sophomore at Colfax High School. This is my second year participating in the Colfax FFA Chapter. I am currently practicing Ag Sales in preparation for districts in March. Last fall I participated in Potato and Apple Evaluation. During the 2023 Washington FFA State Convention, my First Year Member team won state. My team of five included Ainslee Imler, Isabella Huntley, Addison Watkins, Riley Hennigar and myself. My future goals are to be successful in Ag Sales and other events that I will do throughout my next few years in FFA. Even though I have been in FFA for only a year, I have learned a lot of valuable skills that I can use for the rest of my life.

## Addison Watkins

Hi, my name is Addison Watkins and I am a sophomore at Colfax High School. This is my second year in FFA and so far my greatest accomplishment has been winning the First Year Member CDE at the 2023 Washington FFA State Convention. I hope to compete at state in both the Agricultural Sales Career Development Event, and in Extemporaneous Speaking. I will also be showing a sheep at the North Central Washington Junior Livestock Show in March. Being in FFA has given me fun, lifelong memories and taught me the importance of working hard for your goals.

## Riley Hennigar

Hi my name is Riley Hennigar, I'm a sophomore and this is my second year in FFA. I have done Soils Evaluation, Potato Evaluation, Ag Sales, First Year



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

National 3rd Place Ag Sales Team: Darin Repp, Karly Wigen, Cadence Monson and Derek Repp.

Member, Farm Business Management, and am currently preparing for the Agronomy Career Development Event. I got the opportunity to go to the state





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# Colfax FFA

convention last year as a freshman and was a member of our state winning First Year Member team. I enjoy FFA because it's a very fun thing to be a part of, and gives you a lot of real life experience. I have really enjoyed my years in FFA so far, and am excited for the memories to come!

## Tyler Hinnenkamp

Hi, my name is Tyler Hinnenkamp and I am part of the Colfax FFA chapter. I am a Sophomore and this is my second year in FFA. I have been showing in 4-H five years prior to FFA. I have participated in Livestock Evaluation and Soils Evaluation, and I plan to be involved in FFA for the next two years of my high school career. I have shown pigs in FFA at the Palouse Empire Fair so far, and I plan to show more pigs and possibly goats. FFA has helped me improve my livestock skills and helped me become a more intelligent person when it comes to animals. Some of my goals to achieve in FFA are to be active in more competitions and eventually make it to state.

## Cooper Watt, Sophomore

I'm Cooper Watt and I am a student at Colfax High School. This is my second year of FFA and it's helped me in so many ways. Being a part of FFA has taught me valuable skills like leadership, teamwork, and responsibility. I've had the opportunity to learn about agriculture, raise animals, and compete in different events such as Soils Evaluation, Potato Judging, and Apple Evaluation. It's given me a sense of community and a group of supportive friends who share the same passion. It's been a very fun and rewarding two years; and I can't wait to see what else I can learn.

## Cooper Phillips

Hi, my name is Cooper Phillips. I am in 10th grade and this is my second year in FFA. I joined FFA so that I can show animals at the fair. My future goals for my FFA career is to keep showing pigs and place high in competitions. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is that it is fun

to spend time with friends and to make new friends.

## Brayden McNeilly, Sophomore

My name is Brayden McNeilly and I am a sophomore. I just started FFA at the beginning of this school year. The biggest accomplishment so far has been making the state Soils Evaluation team. I haven't decided what I want to do in FFA in the next couple years yet, but I have learned a lot about apples and soil judging during my time in FFA. I look forward to the next couple years and I am excited to see what I end up doing.

## Jacob VanTine

My name is Jacob VanTine and being a part of FFA for the past two years has been an incredible experience. Being in FFA has shown me how to improve my responsibility skills in life. It has been amazing to see the growth and progress of the animals I have raised, and shown. FFA has taught me to be a harder working person and I am grateful for the opportunities it has provided me.

## Garin Monson

Hi my name is Garin Monson. I'm a 9th grader at Colfax High school and this is my first year in FFA. I am involved in many competitions. I am currently practicing for Creed. Last fall I showed my lamb at the Palouse Empire Fair in FFA and did very well. After the fair I competed in Land and Soils Evaluation to gain more knowledge for the next year. In Creed, I am competing for a place in our sub-district event, and eventually trying to making it to state. Other future competitions that I plan to compete in are Potato Judging and Ag Sales, as well as continuing to show my animal at our county fair.

## Stella McNeilly


Hi, My name is Stella McNeilly from the Colfax FFA chapter. This year is my first year participating in FFA. I have shown steers my whole life, and have been involved in my family's cattle operation from a very young age. This year I took my first FFA market steer to the Palouse Empire Fair, as well as participated in Soil and Land Evaluation, Potato Evaluation and the Gar-Pal Creed invitational. I am currently preparing for the FFA Creed speak-



The Colfax FFA Potato Judging Team.

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# Colfax FFA

ing Leadership Development Event in March. This year I also plan to participate in the First Year Member Career Development Event at the Washington FFA State Convention, and to continue working with my steer in preparation for the 2024 Palouse Empire Fair. FFA has taught me life skills that I can utilize throughout high school and my life after.

## Ty Scott, Freshman

My name is Ty Scott and I am a freshman in the Colfax FFA program. My biggest accomplishment so far is raising a pig to take to the Palouse Empire Fair. My future goal is to win grand champion while showing pigs. The most important thing that I have learned is how to improve my showing skills in the ring.

## Gage Aune, Freshman

Hi, my name is Gage Aune. I am a Freshman at Colfax High School and I participate in FFA. This is my first year in FFA and I love it. There are so many nice people and so many groups to work with for the competitions. My

biggest accomplishment was at the last fair I took a hog to the Palouse Empire Fair and got called back for both Market, and Fitting and Showing. This is something I have really enjoyed doing over the years and I will keep doing it until I graduate. Some of my future goals are to improve my public speaking skills and further my knowledge of agriculture on many different levels.

## Winona McGraw, Freshman

Hi, I'm Winona McGraw, although many of my peers call me Nona! This is my first ever year in FFA and I'm excited to say that it has been a blast. I participated in Potato Evaluation and Apple Evaluation last fall, but I'm looking forward to First Year Member in the Spring and showing my pig at the fair in the fall. I hope to take my knowledge and experiences from FFA and integrate it into my life to live a happier, healthier future. Spending time to learn the importance of agriculture and how much it affects us truly is important. I can't wait to spend the rest of my FFA experience surrounded by my friends!

## Vivian Riley, Freshman

Hi, my name is Vivian Riley. I'm a freshman at Colfax High School. This is my first year as a part of the Colfax FFA Chapter. So far, I've participated in Potato Evaluation and Creed Speaking. This past year I placed 3rd in the Gar-Pal Creed Invitational for Spanish Creed Speaking. As I continue to practice for future Creed Speaking competitions, I plan to be a part of our First Year Member Team. Even though I've only been a part of FFA for a short amount of time, it has already taught me to work hard at all that I do. I'm looking forward to the coming years of FFA.

## Caleb Lustig, Freshman

Good day, my name is Caleb Lustig and I am a freshman at Colfax High School. I have shown animals all of my life. This year I had the opportunity to show a pig at the Palouse Empire Fair. My biggest accomplishment so far in FFA has been selling my pig at this year's auction. One of my future goals is to be more involved in my high school chapter.

## Austin Campbell, Freshman

Hi, my name is Austin Campbell.

I am a freshman, and this year is my first year in FFA. The only thing I have done is show pigs at the fair for the past three years through FFA and 4-H. I am hoping to do events in the spring of 2024. I'm not quite sure what I want to do yet. My goals for FFA is to do more events next year and to make more friends. My favorite thing to do in FFA is spend time with my fellow FFA members and do fun things with the chapter. What I am hoping to gain from FFA is life skills that I will use in the future.

## Sunisa Dail, Freshman

My name is Sunisa Dail. I'm a freshman at Colfax High School, and this is my first year in the FFA program. As of right now, I'm currently practicing the FFA Creed for future events that I will compete in. I am looking forward to hopefully being given the chance to compete in the First Year Member CDE. As I continue on in the FFA program here at Colfax throughout the next few years, I plan to engage in several other events and competitions. FFA has, and will continue to teach me many different skills that will positively impact my daily life. I am thankful to be given the opportunity to be involved in Colfax FFA, and continue throughout high school.

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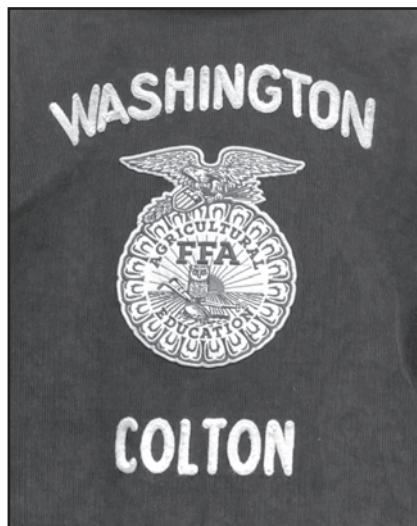
## Kaydee Heitstuman, Chapter President

I have been active in FFA since freshman year. Some of my biggest accomplishments since being in FFA have been placing 7th in the Agronomy state competition, placing 8th in the state Ag Sales competition, and earning my state degree. Goals I have within FFA before graduation include placing at state in each competition I am participating in, as well as placing in the top 10 individuals. After high school, I will be attending the University of Idaho. I am unsure of what I will be studying at this time, but I have looked into ag business, ag management systems, and more. One of the most important things I have learned while being in FFA is that it can present you with many opportunities. FFA has helped me meet new people, learn more about myself, and given me the chance to travel across the country.

## Clair Moehrle, Chapter Vice President

I have been a member of the Colton FFA chapter for three years now. One of my most memorable experiences in FFA was attending the 2023 National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis last fall. It gave me a unique opportunity to explore a different side of FFA and learn about agriculture in other parts of the country. My future goal in FFA is to win

a state-level competition and qualify for the National FFA Convention next year. Through FFA, I have learned the importance of hard work and its impact on every aspect of life, from raising cattle to competing in various FFA competitions. I have also realized the significance of working with a community and how it can influence one's success. This has been especially evident in my FFA journey, as I have had the



chance to work with a diverse group of individuals and witness the positive influence of the Colton community on our FFA chapter.

## Kyndra Stout, Chapter Secretary

I have been active in FFA for four years. My biggest or favorite accomplishment so far in FFA has been placing in the top eight for ag sales and livestock judging at the state level. My post high school goal is to have a career in finance so that I can help agriculturists keep their generational farms or ranches in operation. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is how to publicly speak and be outgoing.

## Holly Heitstuman, Chapter Treasurer

I have been active in FFA for the last three years participating in multiple competitions like Prepared Public Speaking, Employment Skills, Ag Sales, Livestock Judging, and more.

My biggest accomplishment so far in FFA has been the achievements I've made while showing and raising lambs. While showing lambs, I have been the overall FFA lamb showman and round robin showman. Learning to work with my lambs has been exciting and I'm looking forward to continuing showing throughout the rest of my time in FFA. My future goal in FFA is to win a state competition and have the opportunity to compete at Nationals. The most important thing I have learned in FFA

is that hard work will pay off. You have to put in effort and be dedicated to get to where you want to be.

## Ella Nollmeyer, Chapter Reporter

I have been active in the Colton FFA chapter since I first started high school in 2021. I would say that my big-

## A Word From Our Advisor, Ali Hennigar

This is my first year teaching agriculture and advising the Colton FFA Chapter. I grew up in Colton, Washington and was involved in FFA and raising livestock for local fairs and stock shows. I knew I wanted to continue to be involved in agriculture when I graduated high school, but it wasn't until my ag teacher Nathan Moore asked me if I had thought about being an ag teacher during my senior year that I chose to pursue a career as an ag teacher. My favorite aspect about teaching agriculture and advising FFA is seeing students step out of their comfort zone and trying new things and accomplishing things they never imagined possible for themselves. I really enjoy being able to provide opportunities for students to learn about different parts of agriculture and try new things through FFA.

Currently our chapter is prepar-



HENNIGAR

ing for Career and Leadership Development Events that are coming up this Spring. Students have been busily practicing speeches, the FFA Creed, Agronomy, Livestock Evaluation and many others. Some students are also currently raising different livestock for the Junior Livestock Show of Spokane. We are also preparing for our spring plant sale that will take place in April. My goals for our chapter is

to continue to get more student involvement, and try new things, and provide different opportunities for my students to find their passions and continue to grow as individuals to be able to achieve their dreams. Advice that I would give to students interested in FFA is to just join and try something new. FFA is so unique and a very tight knit group and everyone can find their place within it. There is truly something for everyone to try.



The Colton FFA Chapter.



# Colton FFA

gest accomplishment in FFA has been winning overall in showmanship this year at the fair. Last year my goal was to do that and I managed to accomplish that. Some of my future goals in FFA are to continue to show my best, try out new competitions by stepping out of my comfort zone, and also to meet new people through FFA. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA is that it is important you do your duties, whether it is within your chapter, or in a competition. I am our chapter's reporter and I have many responsibilities that I need to maintain, and it has really taught me how to step out a bit more and follow my duties even if I'm not exactly comfortable with it.

## Rori Weber, Chapter Sentinel

I have been in FFA for two years. My biggest accomplishment in FFA was getting my Star Greenhand Award. My future goals in FFA are to compete in various public speaking competitions, meet new people, and overall, have fun. The most important thing I have learned during my FFA time was communication. With being an FFA officer and member I have learned that communicating to the community or friends is very important when hosting different events or meetings.

## Troy Keller

This is my first year in FFA. My favorite accomplishment so far in FFA is I just went to my first FFA competition. My future goals in FFA is to join a few more FFA competitions. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is you need to be fast and work hard.

## Leah Musson

I have been in FFA for 2 years. My favorite accomplishment in FFA is my goats and achievements won through goats. My goals in FFA are to learn more and more each year, and expand my knowledge. I've learned a lot about responsibility and also knowledge. I've learned so much about lots of animals and everything about them through FFA.

## Isis Luke

I have been in FFA for about a month. In that time I've learned some things, mainly because I haven't been to all things in FFA. However, being in FFA has brought me happiness because there are other kids in there who are similar to me. My favorite accomplishment so far in FFA is joining FFA last month, there are still so many things I still have to learn, and I am excited to keep learning more. Things I want to continue to learn in FFA is how to be successful in life and learning things I never knew before. I don't have any specific goals for FFA except for learning more. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is how to be active in a group by participating fully and to the best of my ability.

## Kate Schultheis

I have been active in FFA for 4 years. I would say my favorite accomplishment would be competing at state and placing 7th for agronomy. Leaving for college I will be attending Gonzaga and pursuing a major in dental hygiene and business so I can continue to take part in the farm. I would say that FFA has taught me to work hard and contribute what I have to a team.

## Mere Bell

This is my first year in FFA. My biggest accomplishment in FFA so far has been winning the Gar-Pal invitational creed contest. My future goal for FFA is to become an officer. The most important thing that I have learned in FFA so far is learning how to be and look more confident while public speaking.

## Hayden Purnell

This is my 1st year. One goal I have is doing livestock judging, and to do more activities. The most important thing I've learned this year in FFA is everyone is like family in FFA. We all help each other.

## Payton Laney

I have been participating in FFA activities for one year. My biggest/favorite accomplishment so far in FFA has been improving my skills and participating in Livestock Judging, Potato Judging, Creed speak, and more. My future goals in FFA is to learn more, participate in more things, and achieve in all things that I can do. To me the most important thing that I have learned is how to judge different things like animals or potatoes.

## Aubri Kerr

This is my first year in FFA. My goals in FFA are to learn more life skills that I can use in the future for jobs, events, etc. The most important thing FFA has taught me is that being a leader is about serving the people around you.

## Justin Walsborn

I have been participating in FFA for my 1st year. My biggest accomplishment has been livestock judging and having a blast while judging. For my future goals I want to make money and travel to more fairs to show more. The most important thing I have learned in FFA so far is learning what is best for these animals during livestock judging. -Justin Walsborn.

## Kiya Soza

I have been active in FFA for 2 years. My future goals in FFA is to get my agronomy to state. The most important thing I have learned is that FFA is a second family. You can rely on your FFA group to fall back on.

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# Garfield-Palouse



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

The Garfield-Palouse FFA Chapter Members at the 2023 Palouse Empire Fair.

## Preston Olson, Vice President

My name is Preston Olson and I am the Vice President of the Garfield-Palouse FFA Chapter. I have been in FFA for two years and I am a sophomore in high school. My favorite accomplishment in FFA would be becoming the Vice President of my chapter. This experience allowed me to get involved and has helped me become a great leader with skills in new careers I never thought I could have. I live by higher expectations and have goals beyond what most FFA members set for themselves. I want to be a District VI Officer in the next two years, and run for Washington State FFA Officer. I expect greatness out of myself and those around me. My past experiences in FFA have helped me succeed and become the person I am today.

## Camryn Blankenchip, Sentinel

My name is Camryn Blankenchip I am the sentinel of the Garfield-Palouse High School. I have been in FFA since my Freshman year. My favorite accomplishment was in the sophomore year going into my junior year I ran for District 6 office. Even though I didn't get it, it was an amazing experience for me because it pushed me out of my comfort zone even more and I got to meet new people from across the district that I never met before and made a few new friends there. My future goals would be to try and get my State Degree and my swine proficiency award as a Junior and then work towards my American De-

gree. The most important thing that I have learned in FFA is how to come out of my comfort zone even more and try new competitions like Extemporaneous Speaking and Agronomy. Extemporaneous Speaking has brought me the most out of my comfort zone because I get really nervous in front of people that I don't know and it helped me with talking clearer and more smoothly and made it easier for interviews for running for office.

## Isaiah Walters, Treasurer

My name is Isaiah Walters; I am the current treasurer of the Garfield Palouse Chapter. I've been active in FFA since my freshman year of high school. My proudest accomplishment thus far in FFA was becoming a chapter officer; looking ahead to my future in FFA, I would like to run for district office and maybe even state office. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is that teamwork is essential for success.

## Bryce Pfaff

My name is Bryce Pfaff and I have been in the Garfield Palouse FFA program for 3 years now. My favorite accomplishment in FFA was in my

## A Word From Our Advisor, Ryan Burchett



BURCHETT

This will be my 14th year of advising FFA. I have advised or helped advise programs in Cle-Elum, Medical Lake, Tekoa and currently Garfield-Palouse's FFA program. My high school Agriculture Education experience led me to want to become an Agriculture Teacher. Specifically seeing the difference agriculture and FFA made in students' lives sparked my passion to want to become an Agriculture Teacher. My favorite aspect of teaching Agriculture is the hands-on experiences and life experiences Agriculture does provide for students.

## A Word From Our Advisor, Glory Dickerson

I am a first year advisor at Garfield-Palouse High School. Growing up on a farm and ranch, agriculture has always been important to me; I knew from a young age that I wanted to cultivate that love and leadership in others. Being an FFA advisor is the most effective way for me to achieve this. Watching students grow into leaders and leave their comfort zone is the most gratifying aspect of advising.

Our chapter is currently working on planning multiple experiences for FFA week. We are also preparing for multiple CDE's and LDE's this spring. This program has had a few accomplishments this year. We placed 4th in State Land Evaluation. Lyman Olson from our chapter placed 6th individually in State Land Evaluation. We received a \$40,000 grant to purchase a tractor and implements for the FFA. In addition we received a \$2,500 grant to purchase new equipment for our barn. Our goals are to continue to work hard and do well in the CDE's and LDE's we have focused on for the year. Long term we would like to build our program and up active membership.

The advice I would give students who are interested in FFA is to jump in and try it. Having advised for 14 years many students are nervous to step out of their comfort zone and try the activities FFA has to offer. When they finally take that leap they find out it is usually pretty fun and they grow as leaders and a person.



DICKERSON

sophomore year during a FFA trap meet when I shot a perfect 25. And I came very close to getting a 50 straight but missed the one. My future goals in FFA is to go to state in trapshooting because I have been doing trapshooting for 5 years 3 through the FFA and now I want to get to the next level at FFA

trapshooting. The most important thing I have learned in FFA so far is that patience goes a long way. My freshman year I tried to rush through things and the end result was not very good. So my sophomore year I slowed things down and things went much better.

## Alyssa Olson

I have been in FFA for 2 years. Raising and showing my sheep is my biggest accomplishment so far. My future goals are to explore different CDE's and LDE's that are available to me and participate more to learn new things. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is how much agriculture is used in everyday life and how there is so much more to agriculture than I originally thought.

## Maverick Anderson

I've been active in FFA for 4 years. My biggest accomplishment in FFA Was getting Grand Champion market with my lamb at the Whitman County Colfax Fair. My post high school plans are either going into the army or getting a good job. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is what it means to be a good leader.



# LaCrosse

## Cooper Schwartz

I have been involved with FFA for the last two years. My biggest accomplishment so far in FFA has been making it to State for Tractor Driving. My future goal is to make it to Nationals. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA so far has been that the skills I can learn here, will help give me a better future.

## Judge O'Riodan

I joined FFA three years ago. So far, my favorite aspect of FFA has been Ag Mechanics. I plan on focusing on Ag Mechanics and getting better in that field in the future. There have been many life skills that I have learned during my time in FFA.

## Ashton Leisham

I started doing FFA two years ago. My favorite thing so far that I have done is working on Ag Issues. In the future, I hope to win at State for Ag Issues. The most important thing I have learned so far has been that teamwork is crucial.

## Garrett Kane

It has been two years since I started doing FFA. Being able to go to State has been my biggest accomplishment so far during my time in FFA. My future goal is to go to Nationals to compete. The most important things I have learned so far have been teamwork and dedication, which are used a fair amount.

## Emily Thompson

This is my first year doing FFA. My biggest accomplishment so far has been the progress I've made being able to talk with people. In the future I hope to experience more and learn more about what our team does.

ience more and learn more about what our team does.

## Erica Puckett

I have not been in FFA very long. Joining FFA has been my biggest accomplishment so far. Since I have not been in FFA long, I am not sure what the most important thing I have learned so far is.

## Brody Fleming

I have been involved in FFA for two years so far. My biggest accomplishment has been being able to make it to State for Ag Mechanics. In the future, I hope to obtain a State Degree. Leadership has been the most important skill I have learned in my last two years with FFA.

## Lilly Dawson

I started in FFA this year. So far, my favorite aspect is going on field trips. In the future, I hope to go compete at State for CCM. The most fun thing I have done so far is doing concessions.

## Scarlett McGregor

This is my first year participating in FFA. Since I am new to FFA, I have not accomplished any of my big goals, but hope to in the future. One of my goals is to compete at State at least once during my time in FFA. I have learned how to work with others better since joining FFA.

## Gracie Schwartz

I have been doing FFA for the last two years. My biggest accomplishment so far during my time has been going

## A Word From Our Advisor, Weston Kane

I have been advising FFA for the last 12 years. Growing up on a farm north of Tekoa, I have always been around farming and agriculture. Since then, I have been able to keep involved while teaching. I taught for the first 10 years in Potlatch, ID, and I was able to work for a local farm family every summer. When I decided to leave teaching, I worked a year in construction and then came back to the same farm to work full time for three years. In both of those jobs, I was fortunate to work for friends whom I could learn a lot from.

I proceeded from there to work for the Rock Lake Conservation District. While the work was still in the Agriculture, it was from a completely different view. Working for the Conservation District was very interesting to see the world from more of an environmental basis instead of production. I worked with great people and enjoyed learning a lot more about conservation topics around our area.

After these years of working in industry, I felt it was time to come back to teaching. I feel that I have a lot better understanding of the industry after working in it for a few years than I did when I was a younger teacher straight out of college. I wish to teach more to what I saw in the industry than what the books told us in college.

My favorite aspect of teaching FFA is the wide variety of topics and activities I get to work with. The day changes each hour when the class changes in topics from public speaking to welding. With this much variation it rarely gets boring.

Currently, we are working on several things. First, we are working on Career Development Events. This year we have an Agriculture Issues Forum team that has qualified for state level contests. We are also working on Conduct of Chapter Meetings, Agriculture

Mechanics, FFA Creed and Prepared Public Speaking.

Our other big project is setting up our new concessions trailer. We were fortunate enough to receive a \$40,000 grant from the Washington State FFA

Foundation for the purchase of chapter equipment. With this money, we were able to purchase a utility trailer that is set up with on board plumbing, stainless steel tables, and catering equipment. The plan is to use this trailer for fundraising for chapter travel to National FFA convention and the Washington Leadership Conference. This trailer will be managed and maintained by chapter members as a class project to learn about maintenance, repairs, food

handling, and business management.

LaCrosse FFA members had a successful year at the fair, the ag. issues team qualified for State level competition, and students also competed in the state Tractor Driving CDE.

LaCrosse has traditionally had a great agriculture program, so our goals are to continue this while changing curriculum and upgrading shop tools and equipment to include more technology, mechanics, and building skills to meet the needs of our community. We are also working at integrating the concessions trailer into the curriculum so that the students get more hands on opportunity to learn business and technical skills.

A piece of advice I would give is that students should just sign up for ag classes and come see what they are about. Younger students such as junior high school students don't know what options are out there so they should just join these classes and see what we are doing and what types of experiences they can have by being FFA members.



KANE

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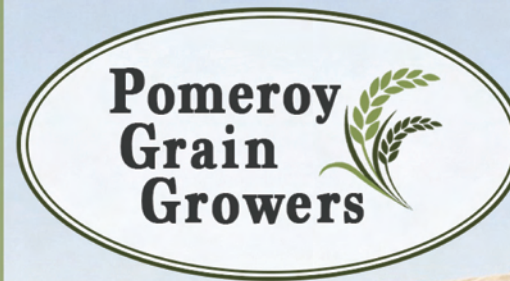
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# LaCrosse FFA



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Back row, Rory O'Riordan, Zayla Mason, Lily Dawson, Ellie Pierson, Julia Guska, Olivia McGregor, Chase Harder, Danny Hunt, Jake Hone, Garrett Kane, Erika Puckett. Front row, Lillian Jacobs, Emily Thompson, Scarlett McGregor, Brianna Camp, Judge O'Riordan, Ty Pierson, Cooper Schwartz, and Brody Fleming.

to State for CCM. I hope to go to State again to compete in the future. The most important thing I have learned so far is how to work with a team and use everybody's skills.

## Rory O'Riordan

I got involved with FFA two years ago and so far, my biggest accomplishment has been being able to make it to State. In the future I hope to make it past State, maybe to Nationals. "Practice Makes Perfect" is the most valuable lesson I have learned so far.

## Brianna Camp

I am going on two years since joining FFA. My favorite accomplishment so far has been being able to go to State for CCM. My goal is to keep going to State. Working with a team to accomplish things has been my most valuable lesson so far.

## Zayla Mason

This is my first year participating in FFA! Being able to learn how to talk to different people has been the biggest thing I have accomplished so far. In the future, I hope to learn more about what we do as a team.

## Lillian Jacobs

I have been in FFA for the last two years. My favorite accomplishment so far has been winning the CCM contest and going to State. In the future, I hope to go to Nationals for CCM. The

most important thing I have learned is that confidence is key and you can accomplish anything you put your mind to.

## Chase Harder

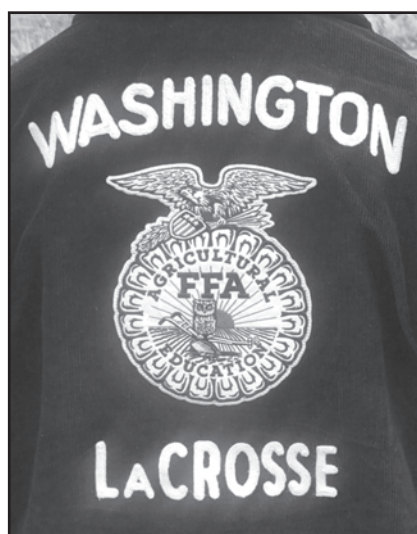
I have been active in FFA for two years. My greatest accomplishment so far was going to WSU's meat camp. My goal is to make it to State to compete. Commitment is the most important thing I have learned so far in FFA.

## Landen Miller

I started doing FFA six years ago. My biggest accomplishment has been making it to State to compete for Ag Mech. I plan on going to college after graduation. The most important thing I have learned so far is to be involved.

## Tucker Taylor

I started FFA six years ago. In my time with FFA I have been able to make it to State to compete in multiple events. In the future, I hope to have a successful career in the Navy. The most important thing I have learned is to strive for success and greatness.



## Olivia McGregor

I have been in FFA for four years. My biggest accomplishment has been placing 5th overall in State ENR during my 8th grade year. I hope to be able to make it to State this year. Public speaking has been the most important thing I have learned so far in FFA.

## Avery Fleming

I started FFA five years ago. My biggest accomplishment has been making it to State for ENR. I hope to go to State again this year to compete. The most important thing I have learned has been public speaking.

## Julia Guske

I have been involved with FFA for six years. My greatest accomplishment is getting to Judging. My goal is to get my State Degree. The most important thing I have learned is public speaking.

## Ty Pierson

I have been active in FFA for four

years. My favorite accomplishment so far was during my 8th grade year when I placed 4th in State for Livestock Judging and I placed 16th individually at State Livestock Judging. My future goal in FFA is to get my State Degree. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA is leadership. Something that helped me learn leadership has been being an officer for two years. During these two years, I have learned so much about leadership and I hope to keep learning more from my experience in FFA.

## Ellie Pierson

I have been in FFA for five years. My biggest achievement so far has been finishing 4th overall at State for Livestock, my freshman year. In the future I hope to get my State Degree. Learning how to effectively speak in public has been the most valuable take-away from FFA so far.

## Johnny Hone

I started in FFA about two-three years ago. My biggest accomplishment has been making it to State for Ag Issues. I hope to participate in more competitions in the future. During my time in FFA I have learned that hard work does pay off.

Adam Scott, 8th Grade  
I have been active in FFA for 4 Months, as of February 2024. My best accomplishment in FFA so far has been Garfield County Soils. My biggest goal for FFA is to be State President. I have learned about the wonders of farming.

# Oakesdale

## Autumn Roper, 8th Grader

This is my second year in FFA. My biggest accomplishment so far is placing 2nd in State Agriscience. My future goal is to get a higher placing in Agriscience. The most important thing I have learned is that it is a lot of hard work, but it is worth it!

## Isabella Gamez, 7th Grade

This is my first year being a part of FFA and I plan on participating a lot in FFA and agriculture in general. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA is that it is more than just plants and animals, it is about how things within agriculture work.

## Cash Niehenke, 7th Grade

This is my first year in FFA. My biggest accomplishment is going to land evaluation. My future goal is to go to more soils contests. I learned how to make an agriscience project.

## Ellery Brown, 7th Grade

This is my first year in FFA. My biggest accomplishment so far was competing in Land Evaluation. The most important thing I have learned is how to complete an agriscience project.

## Ethan Wilson, 8th Grade

This is my first year in FFA. My greatest accomplishment was doing really well in Land Evaluation. My future goals are to go to state. The most important thing I learned in FFA was knowing how important life is with agriculture.

## Evelyn Goyke, 8th Grade

This is my 2nd year being active in FFA. My biggest accomplishment in FFA is yet to come. My future goals in FFA is to get grand champion in showing my pig and to go to state for something in FFA. The most important thing I have learned in my time in FFA is how to be a great leader by teaching me how to work in a team setting

## Jaime Carpenter, 8th Grade

This is my second year in FFA. My goal after high school is to work with my dad and be a logger. I have learned that there is more to FFA than just animals

and plants.

## Kasey McHargue, 8th Grade

I have been in FFA for two years. My favorite accomplishment that I have done is place first at the state Agriscience Fair in Puyallup, but my second favorite is when I went to the Spokane Junior Livestock Show and got a call back to finals for showmanship. My future goal in FFA is to place top 3 in one of my future competitions. The most important thing I have learned while in FFA is to always be responsible and to be a good role model.

## Logan Couch, 7th Grade

I have been in FFA for a year now. My biggest accomplishment in FFA was doing well in the agriscience fair last year. My goals in the future for FFA is to participate in more FFA events. The most important thing I have learned in FFA was how to soil judge.

## Lyla Kjack, 8th Grade

This is the first year that I have been in FFA. I do not have any accomplishments yet in FFA. I hope that I do well with my steers for the rest of my high school years. FFA has taught me how to take better care of animals.

## Maddie Schluneger, 8th Grade

I have been in FFA for two years. My favorite accomplishment in FFA so far was getting first place in state Agriscience last year. The most important thing I have learned is how to complete an agriscience project.

## Megan Crider, 8th Grade

This is my first year in FFA and I am looking forward to competing at State Agriscience. A future goal of mine is to place at state agriscience this year and eventually start competing in more competitions. I have recently learned a lot about livestock judging and more about the FFA Organization.

## James Rambo, 7th Grade

My name is James Rambo. I am in 7th grade. I have been active in FFA for 1 year. My most favorite accomplishment is doing land evaluation for the first time. My future goal is to do competitive trap shooting. The most impor-

## A Word From Our Advisors, Jessica and Nathan Moore

Hello, we are Jessica and Nathan

Moore, Agriscience teachers and FFA Advisors at Oakesdale Middle School and High School. Jessica is in her 17th year of teaching and Nathan is in his 29th year of teaching. Jessica grew up in Federal Way, Washington and was active in the Decatur High School FFA Chapter, Nathan grew up on a small family farm outside of Colfax and was active in the Colfax FFA Chapter. We both attended Washington State University and met while completing our Agricultural Education Degrees. To say FFA has impacted the Moore Family is an understatement, both of our sons, Lane and Luke were active in FFA, both received their American FFA Degree, Luke served as a Washington State FFA State Officer and both are employed in the agriculture industry and can often be found judging both local and State FFA contests. Our favorite aspects of being Agriculture Teachers and FFA Advisors are the students and communities that we represent. From attending Fairs to Conventions, FFA Advisors have the opportunity to spend many hours with students away from the classroom and build lifelong bonds with our students. Students in Oakesdale are currently preparing for a wide variety of Career



JESSICA AND NATHAN MOORE

and Leadership Development Events which range from Creed Speaking, to Public Speaking, and Meats Evaluation to Agriscience Fair. We also have members who are raising livestock for the Junior Livestock Show of Spokane and the Palouse Empire Fair.

We currently have 75 members in our chapter that range from seventh grade through twelfth grade. So far this year we have competed in Land Evaluation and attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, In, where one of our members, Jessie Reed competed in the National Prepared Public Speaking Leadership Development Event. Our Agriculture program has also received over \$100,000 in grants this school year to purchase new equipment for our classes and improve student learning.

The long term goals of our chapter are to continue to build the program by offering more classes and opportunities for our students and members. We have the opportunity to work in one of the most supportive school districts in the state of Washington, and will continue to strive to make our school district proud. Advice we would give to students who might be interested in FFA, is to try everything you can. FFA truly has so many opportunities, and there is a place for everyone. The skills you will learn range from financial management, to animal science, teamwork to public speaking and everything in between. These skills will truly pay huge dividends as you transition from high school to the workforce or higher education.

tant thing I learned was to take ownership of my own learning.

## Sam Dingman, 7th Grade

I have been in FFA for 1 year. I accomplished placing 3rd place in Oakesdale's Science Fair. My goal in high school is to place really well in the market class with my hog at the Palouse Empire Fair. One of the most important things I have learned is how agriculture is an everyday use.

## Ben Erb, 8th Grade

I just started FFA at the beginning

of the school year. My biggest accomplishment is yet to happen. I want to be in the top three in the Agriscience Fair. My biggest goal is to livestock judge and be very successful in the FFA.

## Dutch Klaveano, 8th Grade

This is my first year in FFA. I have not done anything in FFA yet because I just started but I will be competing in Agriscience Fair this year.

## Houston Jeffries, 7th Grade

This is my first year of FFA. I do not have the biggest accomplishment yet be-

# Oakesdale FFA

cause I have not done any competitions. I will be competing in Agriscience Fair this spring and am excited to travel to Puyallup for that competition.

## Jake Lisenbee, 8th Grade

I have been active in FFA for 2 years and my favorite accomplishment so far has been winning 1st place in the State Agriscience Fair. My future goals are to win state agriscience again or maybe go to nationals. The most important thing I have learned so far in FFA is that you never wear white socks or jeans as official dress.

## Kellan DeMeerleer, 8th Grade

I am currently in 8th grade with 2 years of FFA under my belt. Some pretty major accomplishments that I have done in my first year is, I made it to state in the Agriscience Fair and Land Evaluation. Those are two things that I have never done before and I practiced all the time and it paid off.

## Kellen Cooper, 8th Grade

I am going into my 2nd year of FFA. My biggest accomplishment so far is getting third in state at agriscience. My future FFA goals are to do better in agriscience competitions and hopefully win state and maybe go to nationals.

## Parker Davis, 7th Grade

This is my first year in FFA. I am planning on competing in agriscience and soil/livestock competitions. My future goals in FFA are being in as many competitions as I can because that can allow me to have great reputation, great relationships with different teachers and people, and lastly great things to put on applications for jobs and colleges. Another one of my goals is placing first with my partner in agriscience. I want to achieve this because I know I put all my effort into it. Also, having the confidence to go up in front of judges to speak is a very cool opportunity to have. Finally, the most important thing I have learned during my FFA experience is having great character, what great character helps you with is getting jobs, having others respect you and many other things. Also, I have learned about being respectful and grateful for everything you get because there is someone out there that is struggling more than you and you are lucky to have what you are able to have.

## Rye Niehenke, 7th Grade

This year is my year in FFA. I have only done Land Evaluation so far, but I hope to accomplish more activities.

## Samantha Holling

I have been active in FFA for 4 years. My biggest accomplishment so far in FFA has been qualifying for nationals in Livestock Evaluation, and receiving a bronze pin at the national competition. My post high school plan is to attend the University of Idaho for agribusiness. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA has been the ability to interact with people of all ages and develop those relationships and public speaking skills.

## Bradyn Henley

I have been active in FFA for 4 years, I have been involved since 7th grade. My biggest accomplishment so far in FFA has been qualifying for state in Creed Speaking, and placing 3rd at the state competition. My future goal in FFA is to make it to nationals in a public speaking event. The most important thing I have learned throughout FFA is how to communicate with others effectively and efficiently, and being able to do hard things independently.

## Paige Eads

I have been FFA for four years. I started in the 7th grade and it was one of the best decisions of my life. Ever since I joined FFA I have made many friends and learned so many things about agriculture, life and about who I am. My favorite accomplishment is when I got 3rd at the state Agriscience Fair last year. It was a fun experience and it made me learn a lot. My project was what is the safest way to heat your animals' water. It was a great learning experience. My future goals are to make it to state in Extemporaneous Speaking and in Livestock Evaluation. I also would like to become a FFA Officer. Some things that I have learned that are important is how to work hard. I have also improved my social skills a lot.

## Riley Fritsche

I have been in FFA for a year and my biggest accomplishment so far has been, getting third at the state Agriscience Fair my Freshman year. My future goals in FFA are to place first at the state Agriscience Fair and doing

## A Word From Our Advisor, Ms. Shattuck

My name is Ms. Shattuck, and I am currently a student teacher at Oakesdale High School, learning the ropes of agricultural education and FFA advising under the mentorship of Mr. and Mrs. Moore. My journey into this field began during my own high school years when I was very involved in FFA activities. From competing at national convention to forging friendships with peers across the nation, those experiences ignited my passion for agricultural education. As an FFA advisor, one of the most rewarding aspects is find-



SHATTUCK

ing each student's unique interests and passions and guiding them towards contests or projects that align with their strengths. Currently, our chapter is fully engaged in competing experiments for their Agriscience projects and gearing up for the spring CDE and LDE season. Upon graduating from WSU in May, I am eager to step into a teaching role and advise my very own FFA chapter. To aspiring FFA members, I urge you to get involved. You never know where the blue jacket might take you!

well in Ag Sales. The most important things that I have learned in FFA are teamwork, communication, how to manage my time and how not to be a troublemaker.

## Riley Richardson

I have been active in FFA since my 7th grade year. Picking one favorite accomplishment is hard. FFA has so much to offer, and I have only experienced some of those things. My greatest accomplishment this year would have to be becoming a state qualifier in Employment Skills, whereas my favorite accomplishment would definitely be serving as Oakesdale's FFA Chapter Secretary. Some of my future goals for FFA would definitely include being able to spread the word about FFA. I think that this is such a great organization. FFA has something for everyone out there, and I think that anybody who has the opportunity to be involved in this amazing organization is incredibly fortunate. There is so much to learn. In FFA, the most important thing I have

gathered is definitely communication. A life skill I will use for the rest of my life, and I have been lucky enough to start learning that at such a young age thanks to FFA. Another big thing FFA has taught me is friendship. The number of people I have met through FFA is amazing. Overall, I am so incredibly thankful to have the amazing opportunity to be in such an amazing community.

## Caleb Wagner

My name is Caleb Wagner, and I have been in FFA for about 3 years now. My favorite accomplishment so far in FFA was winning state agriscience two years ago and placing second last year. My future goals in FFA are to be a FFA Officer. The most important thing I have learned from FFA is how to speak in front of people. The most memorable experience was riding the bus home from Puyallup and staying in the hotel.



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# Oakesdale FFA

## Ryker Reed

I have been in FFA for three years. My biggest accomplishment is winning state agriscience two years in a row. My future goal is to be able to memorize the creed so I can compete in it in the upcoming month. The most important thing I have learned is how to talk to people in a more calm and easy way. And by far my favorite memory was when we went to Puyallup and stayed in a hotel and the bus rides.

## Brody Brown

I have been active in FFA for 3 years. My favorite accomplishment in FFA is winning agriscience in Puyallup. My future goals in FFA is to do well in soils. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is public speaking. My most memorable experience in FFA is showing my steer.

## Charley Lisenbee

I have been active in FFA for 2 ½ years. My biggest accomplishment in FFA was when my brother and I won the state Agriscience Fair for the power, structure, and technical systems category last year. I do not really know what my future goals are for FFA right now. The most important thing has been how to make a good presentation and how to talk about it. My most memorable experience was when we went to state agriscience in Puyallup last year.



## Grace DeMeerleer

I have been active in FFA for 3 years (since Freshman year), but I have been around FFA my entire life. My favorite accomplishment in FFA so far has been winning the State Agriscience Fair for my category and division. In the future, my goals for FFA are to make it to Nationals in Agriscience Fair and help as many members as possible in the chapter find something in FFA that can help them grow while they enjoy doing it. The most important thing I have learned while I have been in FFA has probably been improving my time management skills and being open to

meeting new people. The most memorable experience thus far in FFA would probably have to be getting to go to the National FFA Convention with my Chapter in 2022.

## Dane Booth, Dist. VI President

This is my 5th year in FFA, as I first joined in the 7th grade. So far, my greatest accomplishment has been becoming the District VI President. I worked hard in order to attain this position, as I had to practice and participate in interviews, submit a resume, and write short essay responses. In the future, I hope to qualify for Nationals in a competition. I have attended the National FFA Convention multiple times in the past, but now I want to actually go and compete. I think it would be really fun and a great learning experience. I believe I have learned a lot of different

skills through FFA, but some of the most important skills by far that I have learned are communication and employment skills. I have learned how to do interviews, write cover letters, give speeches, etc., which has greatly prepared me for my future career. Overall, I have really enjoyed all 5 years that I have participated in FFA, and believe it has had an immense impact on my personal/academic growth. While FFA has helped me grow as a person, it has

also provided me with a lot of amazing memories. One of my favorite memories is waking up at 4 in the morning at the State Convention to go on a miserable 2-mile run with one of my friends. We got attacked by geese and soaked by sprinklers, but it was definitely a fun memory looking back on it. Another great memory I have is line dancing before each session of the State Convention. It was always so much fun. Being in FFA throughout these last 5 years has been amazing, and I cannot wait for the future.

## Charlie Henning, Sentinel

I have been in FFA for five years. One of my greatest accomplishments was being elected as a chapter officer.



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

## Oakesdale FFA Members at Ag Expo on February 8, 2024

I am currently working on getting my State Degree, would like to get re-elected as a chapter officer, continue to compete in many different competitions and make the experiences memorable for me and others around me. One of the most important things that I have learned is the need to be organized and on top of things while in many different scenarios. I have learned that no matter what you are doing, if you have people around you that you enjoy being with they can help you get through tough situations and challenges especially at competitions. All my memorable experiences come from taking every opportunity my advisors give me to compete and I do so with friends that make everything so much more memorable and the hours of bus rides having the time of our lives no matter the outcome.

## Daxton Chappell

I have been participating in FFA for four years. I started when I arrived

in Oakesdale my freshman year. My favorite accomplishment so far would be how I learned about showing and selling my pigs when at first it was a scary thing. My goals for my future in FFA are to work on a farm if I need a part time job. I would also help my nieces and nephews and teach them more about animal showing at the fair with the knowledge I have gained. The most important thing I have learned while in the FFA program is responsibility and teamwork. At Oakesdale High School, the FFA is like a family and we thrive on helping each other when anyone has a problem that can be fixed. FFA taught me about responsibility, while taking care of my animals to show at the fair. It had me work with the animal as much as I could and take care of its needs like keeping it fed and watered. My most memorable experience so far in FFA has got to be working together at the Palouse Empire Fair to provide breakfast for the community.

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# Pullman

## Matthew Druffel

I have been in FFA for 3 years. In the summer of 2023 I got to attend the National FFA Convention with the Washington State FFA officers as a National Delegate. I got to vote on important issues within the FFA organization. My future goals in FFA is to place in the top 5 for parliamentary procedure. I have competed in this competition for 2 years and my freshman year my Conduct of Chapter meetings team placed 2nd in state. I would also like to run for a position on our district officer team. The most important skill I have learned in FFA is my public speaking skills. As I have gotten further into my high school career I have had to speak in front of crowds of people on many occasions, whether it be 8th grade visiting day or a booster club auction these skills have enabled me to be a better leader.

## Clover Matthews

I have been active in FFA for the last two years. My greatest achievement has been getting 16th place indi-

vidually at State Livestock.

In the future I want to participate in more competitions, and compete at Nationals! The importance of communication is the most important thing I have learned. Nothing would get done or be accomplished correctly without effective communication.

## Harper Gay

I have been in FFA for 3 years now. My biggest accomplishment in my FFA career is getting grand champion market goat at the Palouse Empire fair in 2023.

My future goals in FFA are to go to WLC and to go to state for a third year in a row.

The most important thing being in FFA has taught me is the importance of time management and communication.

## Liana Vanek

I have been in FFA for three years. So far, my biggest accomplishment has been getting 2nd for CCM. In the future, I hope to win at Sate and go to

## A Word From Our Advisor, Robert Matthews

I have been advising FFA for the last 21 years. I grew up in rural Pierce county near farms but not part of them. I joined FFA in 10th grade and loved it immediately and wished I had known of it sooner. I wanted to provide students with the opportunities I had and try to make sure everyone knew about it and didn't miss out. My favorite aspect of teaching my FFA students is seeing them grow as individuals not only through their skills, but as teammates, leaders and people.

Currently we are in full competition season with 12 different events, and conducting a Community service project during FFA week making tie blankets for the Whitman county Humane Society.

This year we competed at the UI Ag Days Livestock contest, earning 3rd place. We also placed 1st in the District Agricultural Issues competition in January.

In the future, we would love to be able to expand, adding another Agricultural teacher, and continuing to offer high quality and challenging classes to prepare our students for future careers.

I want to let kids know that there really is something for everyone if you are willing to give it a shot. From public speaking to welding and everything in between. FFA is a great opportunity to prepare you not only for a career but for a successful life.



MATTHEWS

Nationals for Ag Com. The most important thing I have learned during my time in FFA has been to never give up.

## Max Mayer

I have been in FFA for 2 years. My biggest accomplishment so far has

been achieving the Sentinel position. I hope to be an office for the rest of high school. I have learned that there are other great opportunities than sports to meet great people and have a fun time while in high school.

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# Rosalia

## A Word From Our Advisor, Brianna Duncan



DUNCAN

I have been advising FFA for seven years. I grew up in 4-H and FFA along with exposure to agriculture via hay production and livestock production. While in college, I fell in love with teaching and decided to pursue a career in agriculture education which led me to being an FFA advisor, as well.

I love it when things “click” for students, and they can recognize their learning. It is also great to see them grow as future members of society while building maturity and leadership skills.

Currently, our chapter is working in the greenhouse to prepare for our annual plant sale, preparing for some Leadership Development Events next month, planning for some upcoming conferences, and preparing to host our first contest in Food Science for multiple schools.

So far this year, we've placed in Land Evaluation at a couple contests, hosted a successful dinner fundraiser event, and have a record breaking membership year of 31.

Long term we hope to expand our contributions to our community through service, increase our competitiveness at Career Development Events, and continue to build our program to produce strong leaders, positive and successful members in society, and knowledgeable agriculturalists.

For students who might be interested in FFA, just try it! There is such a wide variety of opportunities that no matter your background or interests, you will likely find something that you will benefit from.

## Alyssa Babb

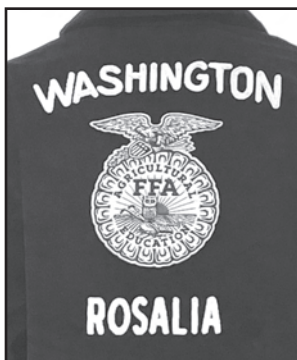
This is my second year being an active FFA member. My biggest accomplishment was getting 2nd place at the first land evaluation contest of the year. My goals in FFA are to place 1st in state soils. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is leadership skills.

## Abagale McGuire

I have been in FFA for 2 years. My biggest accomplishment is getting my discovery degree. I want to continue to be a representation of what FFA stands for. I have learned how to be a good leader and come out of my comfort zone and try new things.

## Samara Dickinson

I have been involved in FFA for 2 years. My biggest accomplishment has been goat showing. In the future, I to hopefully show my horse and ran flag poles. The most important thing I have learned so far has been respect and responsibility.



## Ashlyn Butcher

This is my first year in FFA. My favorite accomplishment in FFA so far is when I made it on the state soils judging team this fall. One of my future goals in FFA is to participate in public speaking. Another thing I want to do is to show goats at the Palouse Empire Fair as an FFA member. The most important thing I've learned during my time in FFA is how to act professionally and be confident in myself.

## Jorian Abdnor

I have been in FFA for 4 years. My biggest accomplishment has been getting 7th in state for Soils. My future goal is to place in food science. The most important thing I learned was how to be an officer.

## Briley Smith

I've been in FFA for 3 years. My favorite accomplishment so far was placing 7th in state soils. My future goals are to place high in food science. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is to step out of my comfort zone and be a leader.

## Kayla Eilertson

I have been in FFA for 2 years. My biggest accomplishment was our team placing 7th in state for soils



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Front, Briely Smith, Jorian Abdnor, Megan Maley, Capryce Robbins. Back, Tristan Harrington, Brian Place, Kayle Murray, Kayla Eilertson, Brianna Duncan.

last year. My goal in FFA is to become a better showman. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is to become a better leader.

## Megan Maley

I have been in FFA for 4 years. My favorite accomplishment so far in FFA

was our team placing 7th in state for Land Evaluation last year. One of my future goals in FFA is placing in another state competition.

The most important thing that I have learned in FFA is how to be a better leader.

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# St. John-Endicott

## Olivia Shawgo

I have been a member in the FFA for 3 years. I started out as a freshman as soon as I could join. My favorite accomplishment in FFA was placing 2nd at the district contest for Ag. Issues. It was my first time competing in this contest and I was very excited. My goal for FFA next year is to continue being an officer and work on getting better in the competitions I compete in. I have learned a lot of public speaking and leadership skills while in FFA. I am eternally grateful for this experience.

## Creighton Kauffman

I have been in FFA for 2 years now. My favorite accomplishment has to be meeting new people and learning more responsibilities. My future goal in FFA is to be successful and improve on the things I am involved with. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is how to change the way I look at things.

## Dakota Fox

My name is Dakota and I've been in the FFA for 2 years. My biggest accomplishment was placing in the State Potato Evaluation contest. I placed 8th individually and my team placed 6th. My future goals are to attend a community college and go into the STEM program. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is how to present professionally in front of judges and how to evaluate agricultural products.

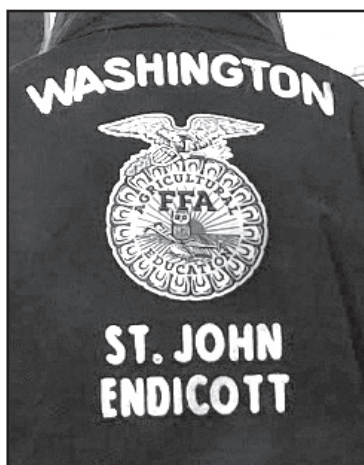
## Kate Hergert

This is my 3rd year in FFA. I joined my freshman year. My favorite accomplishment was placing 2nd in the Ag Communications contest at state convention last year. This was a really fun contest and I loved gaining experience in this field. Working with my friends to achieve this was a great experience. My future goals in FFA include becoming an FFA officer gain next year and participating in more contests. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is

that everyone can be involved in agriculture regardless of their background. There is more to Ag than just farming, and everyone fits in some way. FFA is not only for farm kids.

## Violet Dennis

I've been involved in FFA for about 5 months now. My biggest accomplishment so far was being able to say the FFA Creed in front of an audience. My future goals in FFA are to earn awards for showing my animals. Lastly, the most important thing I've learned is to enjoy my time in FFA and to try new things.



## Adrienne Logstrom

I have been in FFA for 5 months now. My favorite accomplishment is joining my chapters CCM (Conduct of Chapter Meetings) team. My future goal is to qualify for state in Parliamentary Procedure. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is that agriculture is very valuable for many.

## Keira Maloney

I have been in FFA for almost 2 full years. My favorite accomplishment was being elected as our chapter's Historian. In the future, I hope to earn my way to state in Prepared Speaking or Parliamentary Procedure. During my time in FFA I have learned how to become more confident in speaking in front of people.

## Cole Clements

I have been in FFA for 1 year. My biggest accomplishment has been qualifying for state convention in the Ag Issues contest. My future goals for FFA are to be more involved overall. The most important thing I've learned during my in FFA is time management.

## Warren Repp

I've been in FFA for 5 months. My biggest accomplishment is getting a perfect score on a site in the soils evalu-

## A Word From Our Advisor, Austin Miller



MILLER

I am currently in my 12th year of serving as an Agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor. I started my career at Cle Elum-Roslyn for two years, spent the next eight years down the road in Sprague, and am in my second year at St. John-Endicott.

My journey to becoming an FFA advisor can be credited to my older brother and my high school Agriculture teachers. Growing up I saw my older brother join our local FFA chapter and watched as he had a great experience. I couldn't wait until it was my turn. As a freshman I enrolled in Ag. Science taught by Nathan Moore and Woodshop with Dennis Reilly, I joined FFA and the rest is history. I had two great Ag teachers and FFA advisors that really directed me on this journey. I knew from early on that this was the path I wanted to take.

My favorite aspect of teaching my Agriculture classes is being able to build relationships with my students. Especially through FFA, you get to see students in a different light and they become like family. Late nights, weekends, road trips, and even trips across the country. There are points in the year where you feel like you see your FFA kids more than your actual family. I get to watch them grow from unsure freshman, to defined seniors and that is something I am very grateful for.

Currently our FFA chapter is getting ready for National FFA Week. This year it is going to entail an FFA emblem scavenger hunt throughout the high school, decorating classroom doors of high school teachers to show how FFA fits in all subjects, a chapter movie night, greenhand initiation night, and teacher appreciation breakfast. Alongside FFA week, members are also preparing to compete in a multitude of spring CDE's including Prepared Public Speaking, Creed Speaking, Parliamentary Procedure, Ag. Mechanics, Trap Shooting, and others. We also have members raising livestock projects for the upcoming St. John Community Fair and Spokane Junior Livestock Show.

One of our Chapters biggest accomplishments this year has been growing its membership and participation. We currently have 31 members in our FFA chapter and we have had an active start to the year. We have current and former students working to earn their FFA State and American Degrees. Highlights of achievements include the Agriculture Issues team placing 2nd at the District contest and Kate Hergert placing 3rd at Districts in Job Interview. Both Kate and the Ag. Issues team will compete at State Convention in May with other spring contests coming up in March.

My long term goal for the FFA chapter is to leave a positive impact on all students in the Ag. program and both the St. John and Endicott communities. FFA teaches life skills well, and even for those students who will not pursue a career in agriculture, the benefits of joining FFA are still undeniable. I hope that our FFA chapter can be a place for all students to grow and achieve and set them up for success after high school.

My advice for a student that is interested in joining FFA is to just jump in. We have many great Ag programs across the county and you cannot do wrong by getting involved. Their truly is something for everyone in FFA.

ation contest. My future goals in FFA is to place high with my livestock projects and win the Star Greenhand award. The most important thing I've learned in FFA is to evaluate soil properly.

## Vanessa Webb

My name is Vanessa Webb and I have been in FFA for 2 years now. So far my biggest accomplishment was being elected for a chapter officer. In the

future I would like to be elected as our chapter's President and help boost involvement in activities. I have learned many things in my time in FFA but the most important thing I have learned is how to communicate better with others.

## Daonte Johnson

I have been in FFA for 5 months and I think my biggest accomplishment

# St. John-Endicott FFA

## A Word From Our Advisor, Kaitlyn Wright

My background in Ag began during my undergrad where I studied Animal Science, and had the opportunity to work on various research farms, veterinary spaces, and a dairy farm.

My favorite aspect of student teaching FFA students is the opportunity to see them explore their current passions, while also engaging in new interests. Everyday is a new experience for students to learn new things, no day is the same! Some long term goals I have for myself as an educator is to always encourage kids to try new things whether it's new competitions or a new subject, because we learn most when we have to step out of our comfort zone from time to time. Advice I would give to kids who might be interested in FFA is to try it out because there is something for everyone! Whether you love animals, mechanics, art, public speaking, flowers, or something else, there is a place for you! FFA is a great opportunity to explore a variety of career fields and interesting topics, who knows what you might come across that you never knew you would enjoy.

was earning my way to the state soils evaluation contest. My future goals in FFA are to win a state competition and learn about agriculture to a better degree. The most important thing I have learned is that there is much more to FFA than farming.

### Morgan Shawgo

I have been in FFA since September 2023. My favorite memory has been attending the soils competitions this past fall. The most important thing I have learned is to never doubt yourself even when you think you can't do something.

### Cameron Mathia

This is my first year in FFA. My biggest accomplishment so far was earning a spot on team 1 for the state potato evaluation contest. My future goals include to compete in more state contests and earn my way to the National Convention. The biggest thing I've learned so far is that there is more to understanding soil than I thought.

### Conrad McGuire

I have been in FFA for 2 years so far. My favorite accomplishment would have to be placing as a top individual during trap shoots. My future goal is to be elected as an FFA officer for our chapter.

### Steven Campbell

I have been an FFA member for about 2 months now. I have not been able to attend many events yet, but one of my future goals is to improve at trap shooting.

### Birch Brown

I have been an active FFA member for all 3 years of high school. My favorite accomplishment is placing high with my First-Year Member team at state convention. My future goals are to make it on stage at state convention and qualify for national convention. The most important things I have learned in FFA is how to be responsible, time management, and leadership skills.

### Ashlynn Forest

My name is Ashlynn Forest. I'm a sophomore and this is my second year in the FFA. So far I've competed in quite a few events, but my biggest accomplishment was placing at a local land evaluation contest. I have a lot of goals that I would like to try to accomplish with my FFA career, some of which are trying to obtain a position on our chapter officer team, and to place first in an event. During my time in FFA I have learned a lot of important things. These things include, how to communicate with people in doing something difficult, how to problem solve, and to not second guess myself. FFA has been a really great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge base, and I can't wait to see what it has in store for me.

### Halee Berg

I have been an FFA member for 3 years. My favorite accomplishment so far was placing as the 6th place state team in potato evaluation. My future goals are to try new competitions. The biggest thing I have learned in FFA is that there is always room to improve.



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Above, the St. John-Endicott FFA Chapter, outside of Colfax High School. Below, the St. John-Endicott Agriculture Issues team places 2nd for District VI.



### David Logen

I have been an active FFA member for both of my high school years. My favorite accomplishment has been learning and improving in all FFA competitions that I participate in. My future goal in FFA is to become a better farmer using the experience and knowledge I have gained during my time in FFA. The most important thing I have learned in FFA is how to properly run meetings through Parliamentary Procedure.

### Catalina Torres-Rodriguez

My name is Catalina Torres, I'm a sophomore in high school and have been in FFA for a year and a half. In FFA I have made many new friends. My future goal is to get elected into being a chapter officer. I have learned that I can accomplish many tasks that I thought I couldn't do

# Tekoa



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Members of the Tekoa FFA Devlin Latkowski, Rubi Ramirez, Braxton Monroy, Kimber Sypher, Braydee Greenwalt, Ryan Kane and Torin Kane.

## Lulu Taylor, Reporter

Hi my name is Lulu Taylor and I am the Tekoa FFA reporter. As a part of this team it's so fun to watch them grow and come together. I'm so happy that I'm a part of this team and get to relay what our chapter is doing and seeing everyone work together to make their FFA dreams come true. As a reporter I have many jobs like taking photos, posting on our social media and making posters for upcoming events. As an Officer I have to lead by example and help our members become better. I have been a member of FFA for two years and I joined FFA to try something new and ended up loving it a lot, I felt like I found myself a tiny home away from home. Tekoa is really unique and different from other chapters in many ways. One way is our members are

different, holding different ideas and different drives from each other and always being there for each other. My favorite part of FFA would have to be my team, we all try our best to work together even if we have totally different ideas and trying to see them out, I feel like having that helps.

## McKinley Chase, Treasurer

Hi, my name is McKinley Chase and I am one of the officers from the Tekoa FFA Chapter. I will be sharing some information about me and my experiences with FFA. I have been part of my chapter for 3 years now and have been the chapter treasurer for the past 2 years. I have my discovery degree and I will be receiving my greenhand degree by the end of the year. I've always loved agriculture and wanted a

## About our chapter

The Tekoa FFA is a group of kids with so much character, the willingness to do good and just a big ole family. Our chapter does many things within our community selling plants during the spring, selling ornaments and reefs for Christmas, and selling beef sticks, before State Convention. With having all these sales we get our community involved and support their local FFA. As a chapter we do a lot together with our monthly meeting and staying longer to do activities and games to work on our team bonding and get to know each other better. Our FFA participates in Land Evolution, ENR, Food Science, Trap Shooting, First Year Members, Creed Speaking, Tractor driving.

Lulu Taylor, Reporter

## A Word From Our Advisor, Ashton Davis



DAVIS

Hello, I'm Ashton Davis and I am on my second year of teaching Agricultural Education. I decided to become a teacher during my second year of college. I had grown up on a small farm in Kennewick, WA and did FFA through high school, always thinking that I was going to do something this agriculture when I got older because I found my passion through the FFA. While I was at the University of Idaho I had started out as a pre-vet major but after volunteering my time helping coach softball and work with kids in other aspects I realized I really liked to work with them and wanted to combine my two interests of teaching and agriculture.

Getting to teach here in Tekoa has been amazing so far. I enjoy the community and the students that are here. Our FFA program has been doing some really interesting things through Career Development Events and community events. The kids seem to really enjoy environmental and natural resources and it has been a great learning experience for myself as well to learn about the contest. I've also really enjoyed building the knowledge of agriculture and getting the chapter more involved with the community. Last Spring we host a Grade School Ag Day where our grade school students got to come up to our ag shop and learn about some of the different areas of agriculture through hands on activities and our officers teaching lesson.

My goals as an advisor is to continue to learn new things and help students find their interests and leadership skills. I hope that we can continue to try out different career development events and continue to learn leadership through communication and confidence.

way to pursue my love for it so I joined FFA. My favorite part of FFA is competing in CDE's with my fellow chapter members. I am looking forward to state convention towards the end of the school year. What makes the Tekoa FFA chapter different from other chapters is that we are a smaller chapter so we know each other very well as well as we include our small community in many things that we do.

high school. My favorite part of FFA is Trap shooting and state convention. I am looking forward to state convention. One of my highest accomplishments is I got 3rd in the carcass contest in 2023. What makes our chapter different from others is the location. It has a pretty close knit members and we always have a lot of fun.

## Braydee Greenwalt

My name is Braydee Greenwalt. I have been part of the Tekoa FFA chapter since the beginning of the school year but before that I was always very interested in FFA and agriculture. I joined FFA to get more agriculture experience and to learn about more than just farming agriculture. My favorite

## Torin Kane

Hello my name is Torin Kane and I have been with our chapter for 3 years since the 8th grade. Also I have been an officer ever since then. I currently hold the position of Sentinel. I joined FFA because my dad was in FFA in



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# Tekoa FFA

part of FFA is trap shooting because I love to trap shoot and I can spend more time with family and friends practicing and traveling to competitions. I am really looking forward to the state convention this May. The Tekoa chapter is very unique because we are small but have a lot of competitions you can enter. I am part of the trap shooting team, first year member, and tractor driving. Next year I plan on doing all of these plus soils.

## Clare Wilkins

My name is Clare Wilkins, I attend Tekoa High School and I have been involved in the FFA for the past 4 years. Throughout my time in the Tekoa FFA I have served as the chapter sentinel, vice president and I am currently the president. I joined FFA because I love to show lambs and my older sister always talked about how fun the Career Development Events (CDE's) were. So when my eighth grade year rolled around I was encouraged by my advisor and sister to get involved in each CDE and event that the chapter did. My favorite part of FFA is going to all the competitions and creating a bond with the members in my chapter. I look forward to state convention this year because state convention is always my favorite part of the year and I love to show the younger members how fun it is! I also enjoyed going to the National convention in Indianapolis. Accomplishments that I have had in FFA are competing in every CDE offered for my age at our school. My team getting eighth in state my freshman year for Environmental and Natural resources and getting to walk across the stage at state convention. I have also received my discovery degree, greenhand degree, and I am going for my state degree this year. Tekoa FFA is different from most chapters because we have been faced with change, from getting a new advisor to younger classmen having to step up we have always been determined to do well and adapt to the changes. I think that through these changes it has really helped our chapter bond and look out for each other. My favorite thing about the Tekoa FFA chapter is that the members never fail to put a smile on my face and we are like a big family!

## Zeke Sanchez

Hello my name is Zeke Sanchez and this is my first year as an FFA member.



SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Tekoa FFA State Soils Teams: Front, Lulu Taylor, McKinley Chase, Alex Taufen, Rubi Ramirez, Libby Lehn, and Clare Wilkins. Back, Devlin Latkowski, Cale Haeg, Toby Monroy and Torin Kane.

I am in 7th grade. I am in food science and I am trying to earn my first year member badge. I joined the FFA at the beginning of the school year. I have been looking forward to joining the FFA because it was something that all my friends were doing and there was so much variety of activities to do. My favorite part of FFA is going to meets for certain FFA classes. I am looking forward to going to state conviction with my friends.

## Avery Blank

My name is Avery Blank. I am in seventh grade. I have been part of Tekoa FFA for one year and I am the seventh grade ambassador for Tekoa. My favorite part of FFA is the chapter



meetings. I am looking forward to the state convention. I joined FFA because I want to be further educated further in Agriculture.

## Libby Lehn

I'm Libby Lehn, I'm a Junior at Tekoa and have been an FFA member for 4 years. I have served the Tekoa FFA chapter as treasurer my freshman year, and was the chapter president last year as a sophomore. I also won our presidential election, however I do not currently have a position on our officer team. I have grown up working with my dad and uncle on their farm, raising cattle, hogs, and sheep, and loving agriculture. My 8th grade year I joined FFA and was encouraged by my sister and Mr. Burtchett to try every CDE possible. This made me find

my love for FFA. I compete in the Land Evaluation, Environmental and Natural Resources, and Food Science and Technology CDEs. These competitions have taught me how to be hard working and have helped me bond with the other members of the FFA. We are like one big family! I have also received my discovery, greenhand, and chapter degrees and am applying for my state degree this year. The Tekoa FFA chapter has been faced with lots of change the past couple years. Two years ago we got an Ag teacher that was fresh out of college, and we had no upperclassman members, this required our teacher Ms. Davis and myself to step up despite our lack of experience. This has led to us growing very close and kind of "Leaning" on each other. We make a great team and have accomplished so much together, including trying out new CDEs, applying for a state degree, and expanding our chapter so that we have more members than we've seen in the past. I'm very thankful to be part of the Tekoa FFA chapter and can't wait to see where else FFA takes me!



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