

# Missouri FFA TODAY

August 2009



Corn  
Dogs,  
Cotton



Candy  
& FFA



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# This Issue...

## ABOUT THE COVER:

The Missouri State Fair runs August 13-23 in Sedalia. Learn how you and your FFA chapter can get involved in the State Fair FFA Building. See story on Page D.

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# Samantha says...

## By Samantha Warner State FFA President

It was a hot, humid day in August, and it was my first day of high school. I was so excited that I would finally be able to take an agriculture class and be in FFA. I had heard so much about it from my older friends.

One of the very first activities we did that day in my ag science I class was to make a list of goals that we had for our FFA career. I had no idea at the time what an important step this was for me. After we wrote our goals, we put them in an envelope and sealed it. We would be able to open them up several years down the road. The point was not to write our goals down and forget about them. The point was to write down



our goals, remember them and constantly work towards accomplishing them.

On that first day of my ag I class I made several goals; some short term and some long term. One of my long

**Continued on Next Page**

terms goals  
was to be a  
state FFA  
officer. I knew  
that to  
accomplish  
that goal I  
would first  
have to set

and reach some short term goals. I set a goal to be an officer in my FFA chapter and at the area level. To accomplish these goals I knew that I had to take that first step and get involved with my chapter's activities. That first step was the hardest, but it allowed me to continually grow from my experiences.

FFA members, I know that goal setting may sound like a daunting task. However, my advice to you is to develop short term and long term goals.

*"A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."*

*-Lao-tzu*

This way you are always working towards a goal, but you are also accomplishing your short term goals that will help you reach your long term goal. After you set your goals, you must then find a way to follow through with your plans.

Once you set your goals it may be hard to figure out where to start. Take the advice of Lao-tzu, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." That first step will be the hardest, but it is a starting point. From there you can strive to reach any goal

that you set for yourself.

You can accomplish any task you set your mind to; do not let anyone tell you otherwise. As long as you are willing to work hard, you will be successful. I have worked hard to accomplish my goals, and my work has paid off. I have reached one of my long term goals. I have the honor of serving as your 2009-2010 Missouri State FFA President. FFA members, anything is possible. Let your imagination run wild, but never stop setting goals!

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BY BEVERLEY KREUL

Corn dogs, cotton candy and carnival rides draw people across the state to Sedalia every summer. The Missouri State Fair is a time-honored tradition for many families and FFA members. Yet, aside from the ferris wheel and funnel cakes what is there to do? When the August days of the fair grow hot and humid, many people find their way to the FFA building.

“What is cool about the FFA building is that it is cool,” says Jim Bellis, Southwest District FFA Supervisor and coordinator of the State Fair FFA building. “The air conditioning is often a blessing during the summer months to many fair goers.”

# Corn Dogs, Cotton Candy & FFA

While families may come in for the air conditioning, they stay for the FFA exhibits. Inside the FFA building are displays from members of every corner of Missouri. Students have the opportunity to show off their hard work they put into their SAE projects by displaying their crop, fruit and vegetable, and horticulture developments. Forty judges spend six to eight hours a day judging these projects and ranking them with gold, silver and bronze awards. After exhibits are ranked all the

gold winners are compared to establish a champion and reserve grand champion. Once the champions are determined those displays are placed in the center of the building for all visitors to see.

In addition to the exhibits from SAE projects, students can also enter their agricultural mechanics projects. Just outside of the building, members display projects that are either homemade or built in their school shop class.

Visitors who do not have an agricultural background or basic knowledge of the industry and FFA are not left wanting. The FFA building is also home to educational and horticultural booths created by entire

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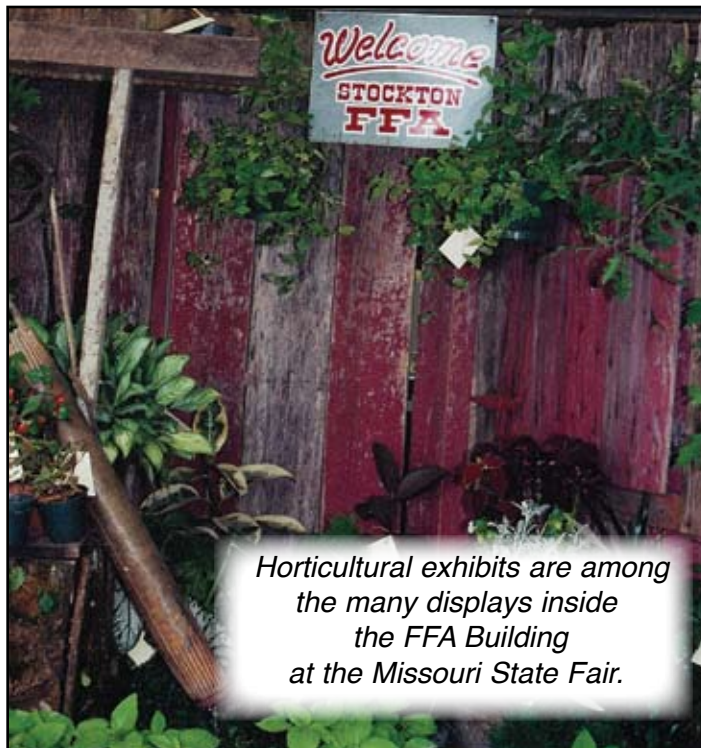
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chapters. Educational booths are created to teach viewers about agriculture, their hometown or the particular chapter. Horticulture booths are exhibits created by students to construct an eye-pleasing environment. This might feature a waterfall incorporated with various plants.



*Horticultural exhibits are among the many displays inside the FFA Building at the Missouri State Fair.*

Students who are involved in agri-science projects also have an opportunity to display their

findings in the FFA building. In a science fair atmosphere, these students build exhibits to present their hypothesis and

scientific finding for all to see. These students are interviewed by a panel of experts and rated for their work.

The FFA Wall of Fame competition invites chapters to showcase their achievements. These include state winners in career development events, the Stars of Missouri, and other unique accomplishments for the year.

While the Missouri State Fair is a tradition for many families, the FFA building is surely a tradition for FFA members as well. Give the Missouri State Fair FFA Building more than just a glance while you're in town for the fair!

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# How Should We Measure Success?

**C**an true success really be measured?

For many people in life, including myself at times, success has just been about chasing after another trophy or plaque or form of recognition.

Success should be measured by



come from where you started."

One of my biggest learning experiences came when I was just an FFA Greenhand. I wanted to start FFA off with a bang so I memorized the FFA creed and became the chapter creed speaker. I eventually became the district winner and advanced to state.

how we react to the things that come our way and how we deal with them. My dad often says, "We must be able to turn our lemons of life into lemonade." Success comes from working hard. Work is not just physically working hard, but doing our homework, chores, or whatever else it may be. Our FFA chapter once had a t-shirt made that said, "The dictionary is the only place where SUCCESS comes before WORK." - Mark Twain

Here are some questions for you. Where do you want to be tomorrow, 10 years from now, and 20 years from now? Set your goals high, but not too high. Take time to enjoy life along the way because you do not want to burn yourself out - trust me.

"Success should not be measured by where you are, but rather by how far you've


There were 16 of us at state—15 girls and me. I did not make the final four, but I can jokingly say that I was the "top guy at state creed speaking contest." Although I did not make the final four, my creed speaking experience was a stepping-stone toward many other accomplishments in the FFA. A loss can be a mere step toward something more important in the future. Remember, if you learn from a defeat, you haven't really lost.

If we follow what the FFA creed and motto, and Bible say, success will come naturally for us. Each person has his or her own niche in creating a successful journey. You just have to find yours. I encourage you to get out and try some new things and set some new goals in your life and the FFA.

**Stay involved with ag...**

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# Life— How You Take It



BY TAYLOR HUHMANN  
STATE V.P., AREA 8

“Life is 10% what you make it, and 90% how you take it.”

My agriculture teacher put this quote on my Agricultural Sales team banquet plaque. Every year, he gives members of the team a plaque with a quote that defines the team.

My senior year, I was a member of the Tipton FFA Agricultural Sales team. Our team was strong, we worked hard, and our hopes for winning state looked promising. We went into districts a little nervous, but we walked away with the first place prize.

In the weeks before state, we ran through presentations and practiced tests. By April 17<sup>th</sup>, we were ready to compete. We remained cool and confident throughout the contest, and it paid off. When we walked out of the competition, we knew we were the team to beat. We had all done our best. The only

obstacle we thought that could keep us from being state winners was the test. When the results were posted, we found that we had placed second, which is a great accomplishment, but it wasn't the goal we set out to meet.

The real irony in this story is that we got second place by only 7/10<sup>th</sup>s of a point, and the difference between first and second came down to two test questions. However, even though we placed second, and didn't meet the goal we wanted to achieve, we knew that we had done our best, and that second place was an amazing accomplishment. We could have been negative, but we decided that we were just not

## THE OUTLOOK

### DID YOU KNOW?

FFA members are academic achievers with 73 percent intending to pursue further education after high school.

meant to be the state winners.

Throughout life, there will be setbacks, disappointments and even success. The important thing to remember is that attitude and how you handle life is what matters most. Remember that “life is 10% what you make it, and 90% how you take it”. Embrace the opportunities you have in the FFA, and show others what it means to be a part of this great organization, and always keep a positive and open minded attitude.

## FFA CALENDAR

### August

- 1.....The Leadership Adventure - Springfield
- 2-4.....Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wife Summer Tour -Alma
- 7-17.....Missouri State Fair - Sedalia
- 13.....MU Greenly Research Center Field Day - Novelty
- 14.....FFA Swine Judging Contest - Missouri State Fair - Sedalia
- 22.....Junior Dairymen Judging Contest - Missouri State Fair - Sedalia
- 25.....MU Graves-Chapple Farm Field Day - Corning
- 26.....MU Hundley-Whaley Center Field Day - Albany

### September

- 1.....2009 BOAC Grant Project Completion Deadline
- 2.....MU Delta Center Field Day - Portageville
- 10.....Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Southwest Center - Mount Vernon
- 12-19.....SEMO District Fair - Cape Girardeau
- 15.... Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Bradford Research & Extension Center - Columbia
- 21-26.....Delta Fair - Kennett
- 24.....Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Hundley-Whaley Center - Albany
- 25.....Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Graves-Chapple Farm - Corning

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Kyle Knuth, Adrian

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