

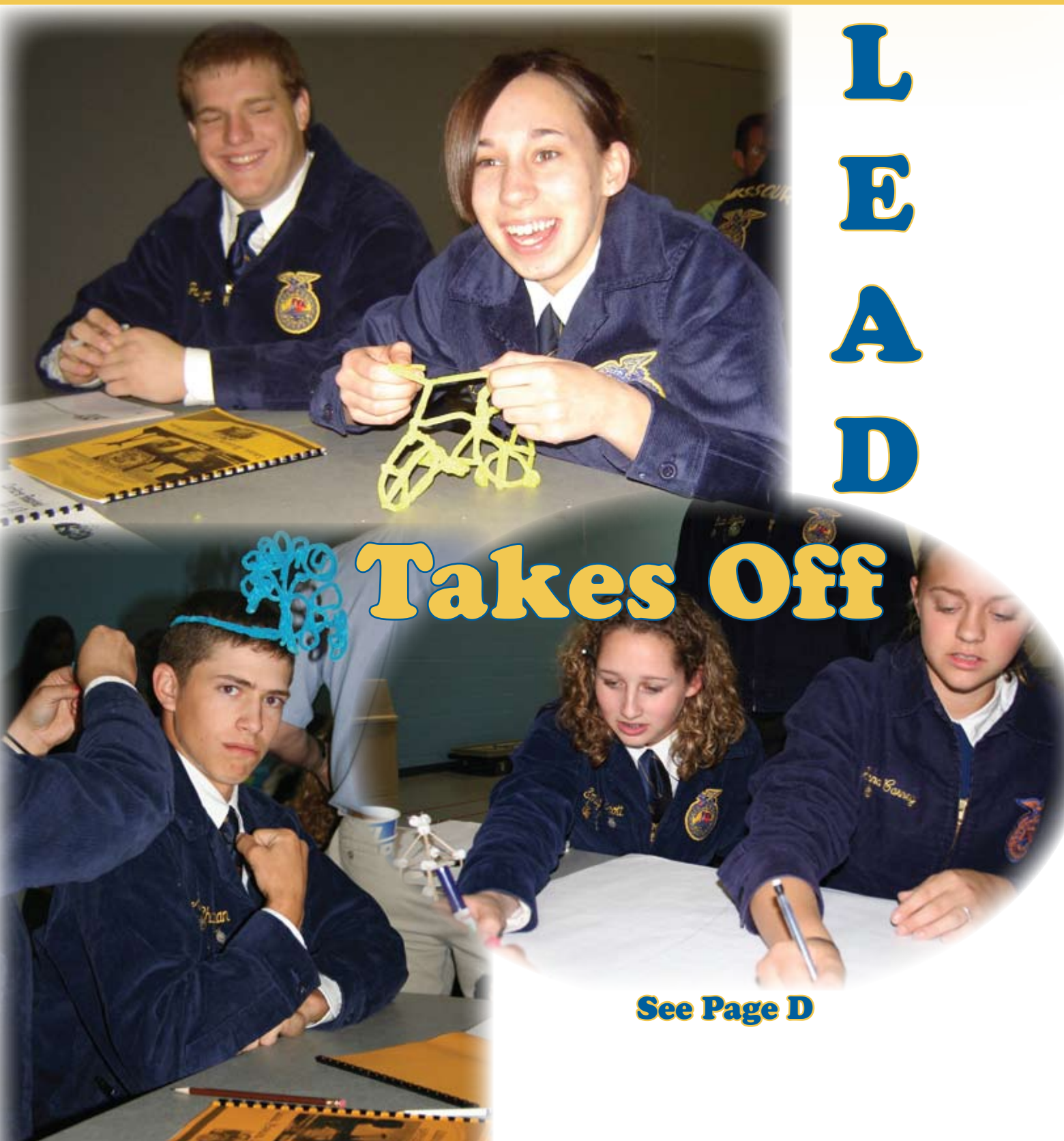
Missouri FFA TODAY

December 2008

**L
E
A
D**

Takes Off

See Page D



2007/2008 STATE OFFICERS

Area	Officer
1	Walter Redden - President Northeast
2	Aimee Gutshall Trenton
3	Megan Westhoff Memphis
4	Jared Henderson Salisbury
5	Jacob Thompson Silex
6	Brandon Thiel Marshall
7	Sarah Downing Crest Ridge
8	Jacob Bryant Macks Creek
9	Daniel Kahre Miller
10	Rachel Carter Ash Grove
11	Dustin Mareth Purdy
12	Beverley Kreul - Secretary Republic
13	Cody Smith - 1st Vice West Plains
14	Emily Bardot St. Clair
15	Katie Patterson Advance
16	Seth Lee Couch
2	Kabel Oaks - Past President Grundy Co.

State Department of Elem. & Sec. Ed.
P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: (573) 751-3544.
Director: Terry Heiman
District Supervisors: Nancy Alford, Jim D. Bellis, Leon Busdieker, Lisa Evans & Steven Rogers

Missouri FFA Today • Joann Pipkin, Editor
3674 S. State Hwy N • Republic, MO 65738
Email: j_pipkin@sbcglobal.net
Phone: (417) 732-8552

This Issue...

ABOUT THE COVER:

Members of the State Fair and Osceola FFA Chapters take part in the LEAD Conference for chapter officers. The program is already gearing up for its 2009 session. Photos submitted by State Fair and Osceola FFA Chapters. See story on Page D.

FEATURES

- Step Out of Your Shell — Page F

IN EVERY ISSUE

- Redden's Roundup—Page B
- Did You Know —Page E
- FFA Calendar - Page G

REDDEN'S ROUNDUP

By Walter Redden State FFA President

It was the spring of my sophomore year and I decided that I was going to give the Northeast Nodaway track team a second try. I didn't know about this decision at first. My freshman year didn't turn out so well for me. During my freshman year I started out in practice doing really well. I went to practice every day and did my workout for the mile. I had set my sights on placing first in the mile for my first meet. The sight was looking pretty good until about two days before my first competition.

I woke up one morning with a horrible pain in my heel. It got bad enough that I finally went to the doctor and he told me the worst news I could have imagined. "Well Walter, it looks like track will



be over for you this year. Your growth plate in your heel is growing faster than the rest of your foot and it is best to stay off your feet as much as possible."

There went the mile that I worked so hard for.

My goal for freshman year was still in my head and I was determined to cross that finish

line with no one in front of me. Track was going well and the first meet finally came. I was

on the track awaiting the sound of the gun. BANG! Off I went. I started out at my regular

about your goals.” As I approached the back stretch I decided I was going to start my extra kick early and give it my best at reaching my goal

GIVE THAT EXTRA KICK

going to see if the work I put in at practice would pay off. I got to the track and did my routine to get ready for a meet. Once I was done I waited patiently for the first call for the 1600 meter run. After waiting, my turn finally came and the announcer came across the loudspeaker making the first call for the run. As soon as I got to the bull pen to check in, I instantly got nervous. As I looked at all the other competitors they looked a lot better than me and they were telling each other how fast their mile time was.

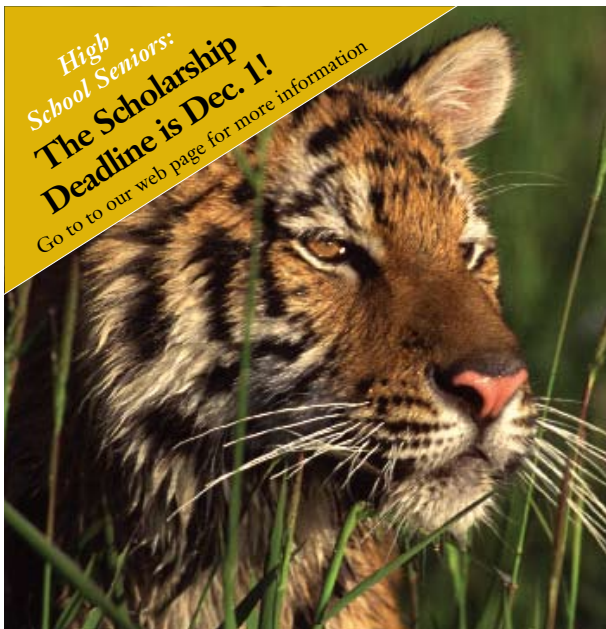
The time came and I was

practice pace. I decided as I was running that I was going to set my pace with the top three runners and then in the last 200 meters I was going to kick it up to a sprint to pass them and take first. I made the first two laps with ease.

As I was making my way around the third lap I began to wear out and at the start of the fourth and final lap I found myself two spots from last place. As I made my way around the first turn of the fourth lap, I thought to myself. “Walter you have worked too hard to show up and just forget

of first. I found myself on the other side of the track at the finish line with third place in the mile.

FFA members, sometimes it takes that extra kick to accomplish our goals. I didn't get first in the mile but, I didn't let that stop me from doing my personal best. Throughout the year as FFA members, there may come times when you think you can't do something but if you just give that extra kick you will be surprised of the outcome and how successful you will be.



High School Seniors:
**The Scholarship
Deadline is Dec. 1!**
Go to to our web page for more information

Explore Our Majors!

- Agribusiness Management
- Agricultural Economics
- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Journalism
- Agricultural Systems Management
- Animal Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Fisheries and Wildlife
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Forestry
- General Agriculture
- Hotel and Restaurant Management
- Parks, Recreation and Tourism
- Plant Sciences
- Soil, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences

MIZZOU

University of Missouri
**College of Agriculture,
Food and Natural Resources**

cafnr.missouri.edu 888-682-2367

Plan It and They Will —LEAD

BY JOANN PIPKIN

Build it and they will come—or so goes the saying from the popular movie, *Field of Dreams*. In this case, plan it and they will come. For at least two years, state agricultural leaders dreamt of a state-wide conference for chapter FFA officers. They planned, they sought funding and this past May their labors hit a home run as the first-ever LEAD Conference kicked off across the state.

Two key players in the development of the conference were Andrew McCrea and Dale Ludwig. From Maysville, Mo., and a former National FFA Officer, McCrea was

instrumental in developing the program for the conference, while Ludwig, executive vice president for the Missouri Soybean Association, assisted in organizing the leadership and funding for the event. LEAD—Learn, Educate, Advance, Develop—brought chapter leaders together with leadership specialists to enhance recruitment and retention of FFA members, foster good teamwork skills and develop programs of activities within chapters.

“We know that chapter officers are a vital link in building strong chapters, so we view this as a very important conference,” McCrea explains.

LEAD pitted two teams

of presenters into one-day conferences seven times at sites across Missouri. McCrea notes that conference presenters are past chapter and/or state officers from Missouri. “They use a variety of activities to help FFA members learn the skills necessary to be a great chapter officer,” he says.

State Fair FFA Vice President Karla Schuknecht attended the conference and says it was a great way for fellow chapter officers to learn team building. “Our officer team competed with other officer teams in the *Ultimate Challenge of Teamwork*, activities that made us work together in figuring out the five positions in basketball to the 10

College of the Ozarks® Agriculture Department Point Lookout, Missouri



Agriculture's Changed, But Our Mission Hasn't!
Learn About "A Tuition-Free Tradition That Works"

Majors: Agribusiness,
Animal Science, Horticulture,
Agronomy, Agriculture
Education, Conservation and
Wildlife Management and
Pre-Veterinary Medicine

FFA Workshop
March 7, 2009
agriculture@cofo.edu
www.cofo.edu

NorthCentral Missouri College

*New Ag Campus
Coming Soon!*



Agriculture & Natural Resources
two-year career & transfer degrees

Outdoor Labs Field Trips
Active PAS Club Internships

800.880.6180
www.ncmissouri.edu

main characters in the TV show *Gray's Anatomy*." Schuknecht also says they were taught how to resolve conflict in order to keep their officer teams running smoothly.

Clint Wehrman, State Fair FFA president, says the program will help his chapter generate new ideas, many through networking with other FFA chapter leaders.

"It was exciting to be among the first FFA members to take part in the LEAD Conference and help chart the course for future conferences," Wehrman says.

Schuknecht says, "The conference benefited our chapter because we made a "blue print" for our chapter, including activities we have done in the past and things we want to start doing. This was a great chance for chapter officer

to sit down and work together for the first time and it gives us real life situations we might have to face throughout the year."

According to State FFA Advisor Dr. Terry Heiman, the first LEAD conference brought in over 80 chapters and 800 chapter officers.

"Our hope is the FFA chapter officers will put into practice the skills learned through the LEAD Conference as they transition to leaders in their communities and careers," says Heiman.

— Reprinted with permission from *Missouri Ruralist*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 2008 LEAD Conference for Chapter Officers will be held May 18-21. For additional information, contact your chapter advisor.

THE OUTLOOK

DID YOU KNOW?

FFA membership in 2007-08 reached a 31-year high of 507,763 members with 7,439 chapters. Missouri was one of 26 states posting a membership increase.



MFA is your one-stop shop.

Look no further than MFA for all your farming and ranching needs today!

MFA can help with all things agriculture—whether you buy products by the bag or by the ton. From traditional ag to precision ag, from traditional livestock to multi-species livestock, MFA helps you compete in today's competitive markets.



Here's another stop for agricultural employment opportunities. Visit www.mfa-inc.com and follow the job opening link.



ME, THE SHY GIRL?

shyest girl around, often hiding behind my mom or dad, so I wouldn't have to talk to anyone. I was especially quiet in school only talking to a few select friends and the teachers. I was known as the "quiet girl." Yet, around home I was a different person and was the loudest kid around. I am the oldest of three girls and, being the leader of my little sisters, you would not have suspected that I was ever a shy person.

I started to grow out of my shyness little by little by getting involved in youth organizations, attending many activities, and leadership seminars in 8th grade. My teachers started to notice that I was becoming a leader and not a follower.

Consequently, all good things must come to an end. I soon left my little country middle school where everyone knows everyone, and entered big, scary, high school. I was terrified! In high school I took Ag Science 1 and I became very involved in the FFA. I even made friends with a couple of upperclassmen that gladly helped me adapt to high school and showed me how to have a good time in Ag class. Over time I made new friends from all over the state by attending FFA activities and joining a Career Development Event team. I was having the time of my life. Eventually, I

Continued on Next Page

If you would have told my mom six years ago that her oldest daughter would become a Missouri State FFA Officer she would not have believed you.

Since I was little, I never had the courage to speak to anyone I didn't know. I was the

Ag at UCM

- Business and Economics
- Ag Mechanization
- Agronomy
- Animal Technology
- Horticulture
- Agricultural Education
- Pre-Veterinary



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI
877-729-8266
www.ucmo.edu/agriculture

AGRICULTURE *Stay Involved!*

*Join the
Collegiate Farm Bureau
at the University
of your choice!*

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLUMBIA
MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI



Missouri Farm Bureau

1-800-778-6452

**Is Agronomy
Your Thing?**

**Missouri Corn
Programs offer
\$750 scholarships**
to Missouri high school seniors
planning to study agronomy or a
related subject at a Missouri
2- or 4-year institution.



MissouriCorn
PLANTING OPPORTUNITY

Check Out
Missouri Corn online at
www.mocorn.org
for an application

even began to speak in front of the class, several times! Just like everyone had told me, I “popped out of my shell.” I became a leader because my family and my friends, at different times in my life, put me out of my comfort zone, and challenged me to attain bigger goals. If it weren’t for those people pushing me to take a chance I would not be the person I am today.

I want to challenge you to get out of your comfort zone, take a chance and challenge yourself to be the best you can be. Challenge yourself and others to take what you have learned and motivate others to be the best they can be. Explore the possibilities life can give you, otherwise you’ll never know how much life has to offer you!

Greenhand Conferences Scheduled for January

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Jan. 6 8:30 a.m. • Area 1
MWSC, St. Joseph</p> <p>8:30 a.m. • Area 8
LU, Jefferson City</p> <p>9:00 a.m. • Area 7
UCM, Warrensburg</p> <p>11:30 a.m. • Area 1 & 2
MWSC, St. Joseph</p> <p>1:00 p.m. • Area 6
UCM, Warrensburg</p> <p>2:00 p.m. • Area 14
Sullivan</p> | <p>1:00 p.m. • Area 3
TSU, Kirksville</p> <p>2:00 p.m. • Area 11
MSU, Springfield</p> <p>4:00 p.m. • Area 16
TRCC, Poplar Bluff</p> |
| <p>Jan. 7 8:00 a.m. • Area 2
NCCMC, Trenton</p> <p>9:00 a.m. • Area 10
MSU, Springfield</p> <p>9:00 a.m. • Area 15
SEMO, Cape Girardeau</p> | <p>Jan. 8 9:00 a.m. • Area 4
MU, Columbia</p> <p>9:00 a.m. • Area 12
MSU, Springfield</p> <p>9:00 a.m. • Area 13
Houston</p> <p>2:00 p.m. • Area 9
MSU, Springfield</p> <p>4:00 p.m. • Area 5
Bowling Green</p> |

Missouri State University

Your Leader in
Agriculture

Since 1906



Ag Leadership Class

Thank you for
joining us at the
2008 Ag Expo

For more information
call 417-836-5638



or visit us at
<http://ag.missouristate.edu/>

FFA CALENDAR

December

- 1.....Building Our American Communities Grant Apps. DUE
- 1.....University of Missouri Scholarship Apps. DUE
- 5-6.....Missouri Livestock Symposium - Kirksville
- 6.....Central District FFA League Shoot - UCM, Warrensburg
- 7.....State Farm Bureau Speaking Contest - Tan-Tar-A
- 7-9.....Missouri Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - Tan-Tar-A
- 11-13.....Missouri Cattle Industry Convention - Springfield

January

- 10.....Central District FFA League Shoot - UCM, Warrensburg
- Greenhand Motivational Conferences - See above for dates & locations.

February

- 2.....2009 Missouri Agribusiness Academy Apps. DUE
- 11-12...Mo. Pork Association State Speaking Contest Finals - Columbia
- 13.....Mo. Youth Livestock Grading/Judging Contest Reg. Deadline
- 20-22.....Western Farm Show - Kansas City
- 21-28.....National FFA Week



Proud to Support Our Agricultural Future.

Apply for the FCS Financial Scholarship Today!

Each year, FCS Financial honors the dedicated young men and women continuing their agricultural studies. We award up to thirty-five \$1,000 scholarships to Missouri high school seniors whose parents or grandparents are current FCS Financial customers.

Visit myfcsfinancial.com to learn more details. Applications are available online and must be submitted by March 1, 2009.*

Experts in rural financing since 1916

*Applicants must meet all of the qualifications to be eligible for a scholarship.

Congratulations to the 2008 FCS Financial Scholarship Recipients

Erica Bussell
Sam Cope
Elizabeth Gayer
Laura Mooney
Kimberly Rohlfging
Rosalind Thiel

Alex Callow
Kate Crabill
Brett Jones
Micah Parker
Cayanne Schlueter
Rikki Thompson

Adam Casner
Aaron Earley
Andrew Kimbrough
Morgan Quinn
Lauren Smithey
Ryne Watts

Chelsea Chamberlin
Brett Fitchpatrick
Kyra McNeal
Lillie Raasch
Ashton Starbuck
Megan Westerhold

Adam Coats
Jamie Fitzgerald
Elizabeth Miles
Mason Ritter
Brandon Thiel
Dana White



FCS Financial is an Equal Opportunity Provider.
Ag & Business is a registered trademark of FCS Financial, ACA. [33341-FCS-10/08-FFA(SW)]

