

Sowing Seeds:

*Sweet Springs' Sweet Success
Begins Right at Home*

See Page D



2010/2011 STATE OFFICERS

Area	Officer
1	Colton Lee East Buchanan
2	Jon Black - President Chillicothe
3	Nancy Jackson Macon
4	Sarah Ray Paris
5	Christopher Hudson Silex
6	Rachel Thornton Sweet Springs
7	Kerry Elbel Holden
8	Jessica Kueffer California
9	Austin Steele - 1st Vice Miller
10	Sonja Gjerde Fair Play
11	Erin Woody Mount Vernon
12	Quaid Taylor Ozark
13	Tiffany Pemberton Richland
14	Mareta Sherman - Secretary Belle
15	Austin Smith East Prairie
16	Michelle Johnson Couch
7	Samantha Warner - Past Pres. Archie

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This Issue...

ABOUT THE COVER:

Learn what goes on inside the FFA Building at the Missouri State Fair. — *Photos from Missouri FFA Assoc.*

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- Getting Ready for Life — Page G

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'10 National FFA Convention News

Proficiency Award Finalist

Emily Borgmann, Steeleville
Small Animal Care & Production Ent/PI

Zach Tormey, Polo
Turf Grass Management Entr./Plcmnt.

Lance Snodgrass, Polo
Vegetable Production - Entr./Plcmnt.

Proficiency Awards Gold Rating

Carah Hart, Carrollton
Ag Communications - Entr./Plcmnt.

Montgomery Co. FFA -
National Chapter Award
Models of Innovation Finalist

Kyle Croy,
Gallatin
Ag Sales -
Entrepreneurship

Ryan Gettle,
Pleasant Hope
Dairy Production -
Entrepreneurship

Jacob Shrable,
Bakersfield
Div. Horticulture - Entr./Placement

Chase McGahan, **Bakersfield**
Forest Management & Products
Entrepreneurship/Placement



83rd NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION
October 20-23, 2010

Chapter Development
2010 National Chapter Award
Program Three Stars
Centralia, Clopton, El Dorado
Springs, Montgomery Co.
Savannah, Sweet Springs, Troy

Jon's Journal

BY Jon Black
STATE FFA PRESIDENT

My fondest memory of National FFA Convention was the ride to Indianapolis. In the SUV I was riding in there were six other Chillicothe FFA members, my Ag teacher Mrs. Schreiner, and myself.

We were on the interstate minding our own business when a big orange road barrel flew out into the road right in front of the SUV we were riding in. One of the students started yelling and Mrs. Schreiner just drove right over the orange barrel. It was quite an exciting event in our trip, but we still

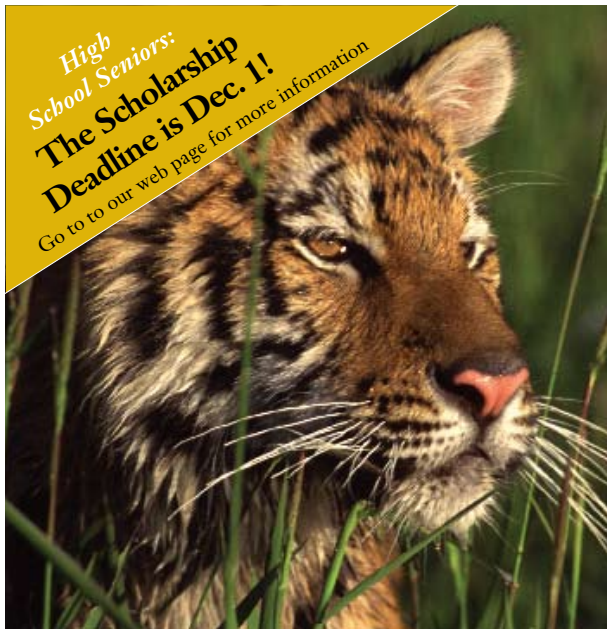


made it to National Convention in one piece.

Once we made it to

National Convention and were able to see the huge sessions with thousands of fellow FFA members I was very impressed. The lights, noise, attendance, and performance of the National Officers blew me away. I now understood why the FFA is the largest, most enthusiastic student organization.

During your time in FFA you will have that orange road barrel fly out in front of you, but you can't let it stop you, "just keep on truckin'". When you find yourself stuck behind an obstacle, just go right over it like Mrs. Schreiner. FFA members don't let anything stop you on your road to success in this great organization.



Explore Our Majors!

- Agribusiness Management
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- Agricultural Education
- Agricultural Journalism
- Agricultural Systems Management
- Animal Sciences
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- Food Science and Nutrition
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Sweet Springs' Sweet Success

BY BEVERLEY KREUL

Michael Jordan. Neil Armstrong. The Sweet Springs FFA Chapter. What do they have in common? Each is number one in his field. Michael Jordan is the most famous basketball player in history. Neil Armstrong will forever be remembered as the first man on the moon. The Sweet Springs FFA Chapter has been the number one chapter in the state of Missouri for the past three years.

Sweet Springs FFA Advisor Brent Neimeyer credits the chapter's success to the amount of participation from its members. Over 70 percent of the local high school is an active member in the FFA.

"We have always been a good chapter but we are finally being recognized and now we feel like we have been a topnotch program," said Neimeyer. "We try to stress community service and are always looking into new things — even the little things. You can tell the kids these are the kind of things that make the difference."

While the chapter is well rounded in student, chapter and community development, chapter president Taylor Logus says community involvement is the strongest area. The Sweet Springs chapter is involved in community cleanup, blood drives, coat and winter clothes



collections among other activities.

"I think that is one of the main reasons why people join our organization," said Logus. "They want to feel like they are a part of something bigger than our high school."

Neimeyer also credits the members' attitude toward community service for much of the chapter's success.

"They don't look at it as we are doing community service for the sake of doing it, but we are doing it for the charity we are working for. We are doing

it for the betterment of the chapter,” said Neimeyer. “There are very few places where you are not in the minority if you are not a member. That helps us find kids who find their niche. Everyone seems to find something that allows him or her to be successful.”

Another thing that separates Sweet Springs from other chapters across the state is participation in career development events. Every chapter member is required to compete on a contest team. In fact, the chapter has a team for every event that can advance to state competition.

“We have someone compete in every single contest every year,” said Neimeyer. “We obviously don’t win them all but on average we have roughly six teams to qualify for state. The kids take a lot of



pride in that they can say if there is a contest we are going to have someone compete in it.”

Student involvement is key to making this chapter successful. Whether it is community service, contest teams, or other activities,

Neimeyer has one piece of advice for other chapters.

“I think the key thing is to get the kids to buy in and take ownership of the chapter,” said Neimeyer. “They need to have the attitude that they are going to do things to the best of their ability.”

WE GROW TOGETHER



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Be **BOLD**...Earn the **GOLD**

I am honored to be serving as your 1st State Vice-President. Our state officer theme this year is to: be BOLD; wear the BLUE, and earn the GOLD.

I have been blessed with parents and advisors who have encouraged me to stand BOLD and step outside my comfort zone. My first chapter officer interviews was one of those times I was encouraged to stand BOLD. My parents interviewed me with sample questions, told me to stand tall, and speak with confidence. Easy for them to say; they weren't me! I was sure I did not possess the abilities to achieve an office. I was elected as assistant reporter, not the office I wanted, but I



was an officer. In our chapter it was always emphasized that you were an officer and not a position.

I have learned through years of WEARING THE BLUE corduroy jacket that it has opened many doors for me, doors that I might not have

had the courage to knock on, let alone walk through. The knowledge and experience I have gained through participation in Career Development Events, public speaking, workshops and conventions are immeasurable. However, what I have learned the most is that the more I became involved, the more success I had. I experienced success not only in CDE's, but also in building lifelong friendships, learning to set goals and finding the paths to achieve them. I have EARNED THE GOLD!

I promise if you step outside your comfort zone you will not regret it. Be BOLD, wear the BLUE, earn the GOLD!

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by MO_FFASStudent | 5,274 views

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NOV. 5, 2010

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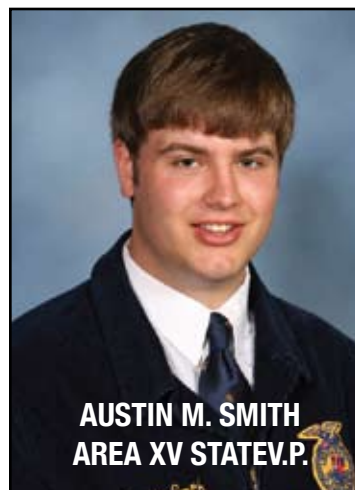
YOU'RE RIGHT!

My agriculture class began like any other day with a question that my advisor, Mr. Nordwald, posted on the board. I found my usual seat among friends in the back of the classroom and read the question, "What are your personal goals for FFA?" Around me was the scratching of pen on paper as the other students scribbled down their answers.

I was only a freshman and had not put much thought into the future nor my goals. Many aspirations began to surface, from earning a jacket like the ones in the cases in the front of the room that only national qualifying contest teams received, to obtaining my State FFA Degree. These were vast

feats to accomplish, but I still sought for something more. I wanted to be a State FFA Officer.

Four years later I found myself on stage at the 2010 State FFA Convention about to be inducted as the Area XV State Vice President. With the help of my advisors and many hours of work, I had accomplished the goal I had set for myself. I have heard many quotes throughout my years in FFA. There is one that I value above the rest. "Whether you



AUSTIN M. SMITH
AREA XV STATE V.P.

believe that you can or that you can't, you're right." FFA members, believe that you can, have ambition, and achieve your goals!

FFA CALENDAR

October

- 1-3.....Ozark Fall Farmfest - Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, Springfield, Mo.
- 7.....Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Wurdack Farm - Cook Station, Mo.
- 20-23.....National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, Ind.
- 20-31.....American Royal Livestock Show & Rodeo - Kansas City, Mo.

November

- 3.....Southwest Regional Envirothon
- 4.....Northwest Regional Envirothon
- 4-6.....State PAS Conference - Crowder College, Neosho
- 6.....Central District FFA League Shoot
- 9.....South Central District Fall Speaking Contests - Rolla
- 10.....Central District Fall Speaking Contests - UCM, Warrensburg
- 10.....Southeast District Fall Speaking Contests - Bloomfield
- 11.....Southwest District Fall Speaking Contests - MSU, Springfield
- 15.....United Sportsmen Wildlife Conservation Grant Apps. DUE
- 16.....Northeast District Fall Speaking Contests - South Shelby
- 17.....Northwest District Fall Speaking Contests - Cameron

December

- 1.....University of Missouri Scholarship Apps. (new freshmen) DUE
- 3.....2011 BOAC Grant Apps. DUE
- 3-4.....Missouri Livestock Symposium - Kirksville
- 5.....Mo. Farm Bureau FFA Speaking Finals - Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach
- 5.....Mo. Sheep Producers State Speaking Finals - Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach
- 5-7.....Mo. Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach
- 17-18.....Mo. Cattlemen's Assoc. Annual Meeting - Columbia

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|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Brianne Abramovitz | Brendan Borman | Garrett Gutshall | Kasondra Kruse | McKenzie Reagan | Kenneth Schwent | <i>not pictured</i> |
| Kelsey Arnold | Kayla Bridgman | Landon Heid | Darcy Long | Allison Renkoski | Thomas Slayden | Nathan Bloss |
| Travis Ball | Katlyn Constable | Hillary Henke | Cassandra Myers | Allison Riepe | Austin Steele | Whitney Coats |
| Melanie Barnett | Nathan Eagleburger | Christopher Hudson | Rebecca Nelson | Karen Rohlfing | Brett Varner | Kayla Frederick |
| Brent Boland | Brady Gifford | Sara Kahrs | Andrew Perry | Craig Schneider | Amanda Yung | Toby Prussman |
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