

Missouri FFA TODAY

October 2008



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P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102
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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:

Columbia FFA member Andrew Perry brushes up on his judging skills during a recent workout. The chapter's dairy judging team will compete at National FFA Convention this month in Indianapolis. Photo by Christi Miller—Story on Page D

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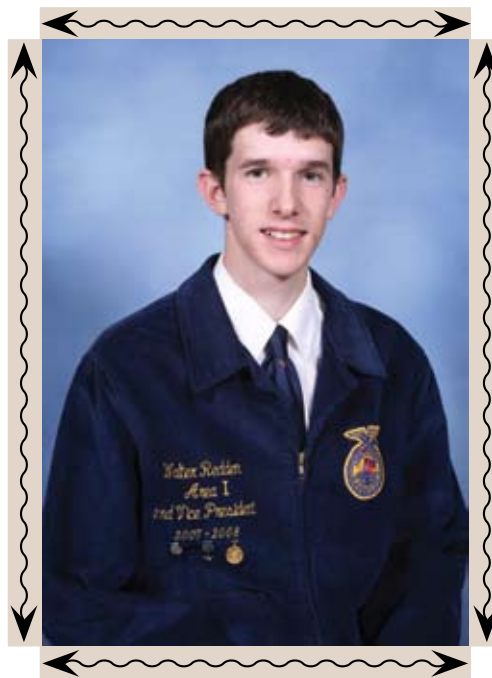
REDDEN'S ROUNDUP

By **Walter Redden**
State FFA President

As I boarded the Boeing 717 aircraft in Kansas City I was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. I was about to make my first flight to Washington D.C. I was going to the Washington Leadership Conference. Once I landed at Ronald Reagan International Airport, I boarded the Metro and traveled to my hotel still full of excitement. As I took in the new scenery and packed my luggage to the hotel, in the distance was the Washington Monument. It was amazing how tall it was in person.

Our days in Washington D.C. were full of leadership training and community service projects. One of the projects we got to participate in was picking broccoli out of a field and loading it on trucks. It went to deserving families in the local area. We got to see several of the monuments and memorials. Like the Lincoln,

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the Vietnam War, the Thomas Jefferson Memorials, and one of the best sites of all—Arlington National Cemetery.

As we walked the streets

FFA members were at the tomb we got to watch the changing of the guard ceremony. This was one of the most patriotic events I had ever witnessed. As the guard

same sense of pride that they do while guarding the tomb. I challenge you to step up and stand out as FFA members to serve our great organization. Service can be done in many

LIVE A LIFE OF SERVICE

of Arlington Cemetery it made me feel a great sense of pride to live in the United States of America. Every marker was aligned with the next one to make a sea of white tomb stones. Every marker represented a service member who defended our rights and freedoms as Americans. As we continued to walk through Arlington Cemetery we made our way to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Once all the

paced back and forth in front of the tomb about to hand the duty to the next guard, something clicked inside of me. The guards were serving their country by receiving one of the highest ranking opportunities of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

As FFA members we need to be more like the guards that protect the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We can serve our organization with the

different ways—like helping a fellow member out on a project at school or running for a chapter office. By living to serve in the FFA you can make a positive difference in your life and in the lives of others.

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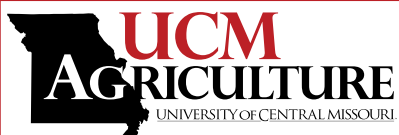


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BY KATIE ALLEN

**Judging Teams
 Prepare for the Main
 Event in Indianapolis**

Members of the Columbia FFA chapter hope a summer of polishing their judging skills will pay off this fall and set them up to bring home the organization's top award in their particular judging areas. Columbia's recent national win in grasslands evaluation, a team coached by Larry Henneke, makes the chapter notable for bringing forth tough competition on a national scale. The

dairy team, coached by Chuck Miller and poultry team,

coached by Kevin Duncan.

Two members of those teams anticipate taking home yet two more national titles this year and share their thoughts on what it takes to compete nationally.

Dairy: really not so black and white

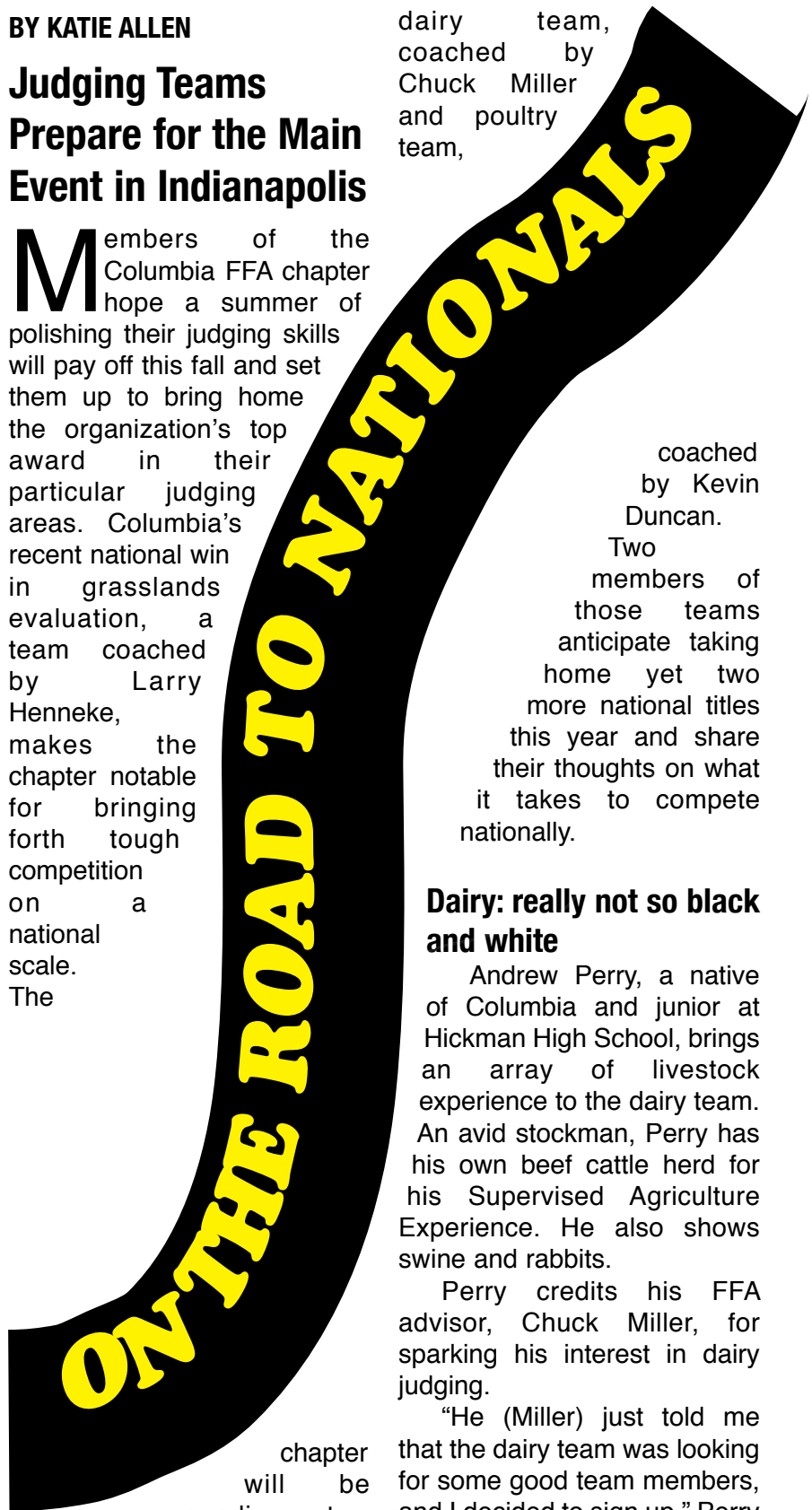
Andrew Perry, a native of Columbia and junior at Hickman High School, brings an array of livestock experience to the dairy team. An avid stockman, Perry has his own beef cattle herd for his Supervised Agriculture Experience. He also shows swine and rabbits.

Perry credits his FFA advisor, Chuck Miller, for sparking his interest in dairy judging.

"He (Miller) just told me that the dairy team was looking for some good team members, and I decided to sign up," Perry says.

Looking back, Perry

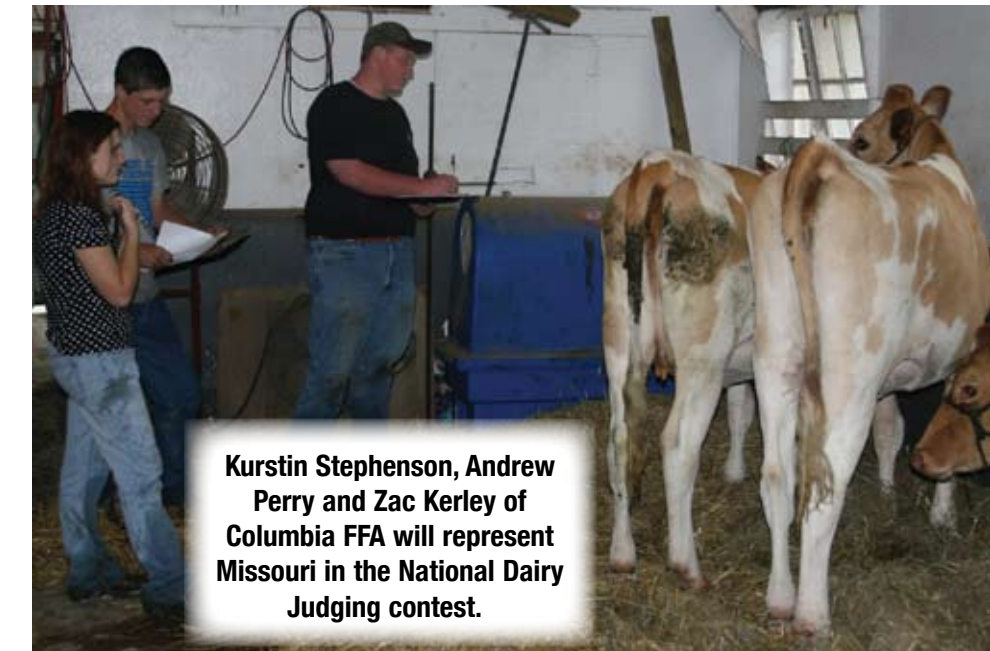
chapter will be sending two more judging teams to the national contest this fall: a



believes joining the team is one of the best decisions he's made. He, alongside fellow Hickman juniors Zac Kerley and Kurstin Stephenson, will compete in the dairy judging contest at the National FFA Convention in October. Perry says judging is a time commitment, especially if you want to do well.

"Every week, we would meet after school at the MU Dairy Farm," Perry says. "Mr. Miller would help us with the likes and dislikes of each cow."

Past judging the actual live animals, Perry and his teammates also prepare for a written exam on the dairy industry, dairy sire selection and presenting oral reasons on each of the classes. The various areas require the group to spend a great deal of time



Kurstin Stephenson, Andrew Perry and Zac Kerley of Columbia FFA will represent Missouri in the National Dairy Judging contest.

together and learn from one another and their coach.

Perry says that's why belonging to a judging team teaches a person more than just how to find the ideal dairy cow.

"You really learn a lot about teamwork and how to get along with others," Perry says. "We really bonded as a team and had a lot of fun. I'd encourage anyone who's never been

Continued on Page F

She sees a future in agriculture

So can you

MFA is working hard to ensure you'll have a place in agriculture. From help with FFA projects to scholarships and careers in agribusiness, MFA supports today's agricultural youth.



To find more about scholarships or job opportunities with MFA Incorporated, go to www.mfa-inc.com.

The Road to Nationals

Continued from Page E

involved on a judging team to step up and try it out," he says.

Poultry: more than meat and eggs

Cooper Martin, a Hickman High School sophomore from Rocheport, likewise is not a stranger to the livestock show ring. A member of the Columbia FFA poultry team this year, Cooper also has experience in raising and showing hogs and goats. His involvement in the FFA judging program grew from family tradition.

"My brother and sister judged when they were in high school, and we figured we'd keep the family in it," Martin says.

Martin calls his anticipated

trip to the National FFA Organization's poultry contest "exciting" and something he's really looking forward to. He joins fellow FFA members Brianne Abramovitz, Laura Matera and Kelsey Robinson on the team.

Martin says poultry judging requires that he and his teammates understand the entire production chain. The contest involves evaluating live chickens, including meat birds and egg layers, ready-to-cook products, further processed products and eggs. Then the participants are required to give two sets of oral reasons to contest officials.

"I really like how judging helps me with public speaking through reasons," Martin says. "But you also get to meet new people from all over the place, and it really helps you with your

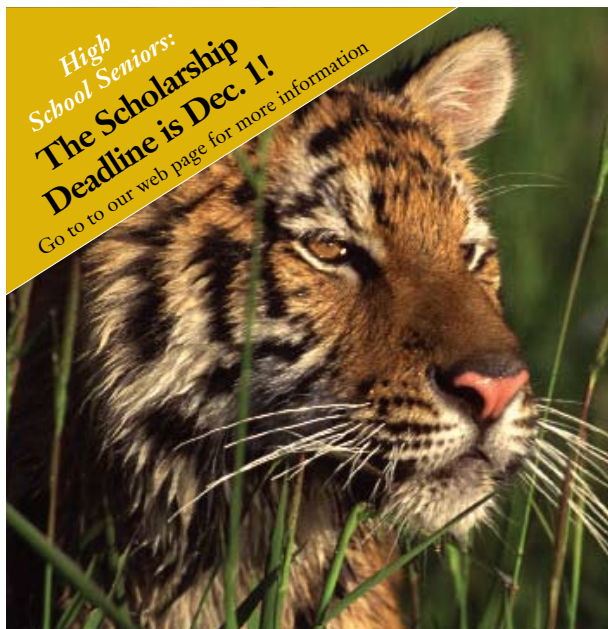
people skills and confidence." Like Columbia's dairy team, the poultry team had a busy summer preparing for nationals. Martin says the biggest challenge was working out a schedule fitting for all team members.

"Over the summer, we practiced for about three hours each time we met and went over all that the contest will cover," Martin says.

Martin says he likes the idea of competition, and his competitive nature has made him want to learn more and do well.

"You have to have faith in yourself and your abilities," he says. "Get the motivation to do something and actually want to win."

The 81st National FFA Convention is set for October 22-25, 2008.



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Get Out What You Put In

BY JACOB THOMPSON
STATE V.P. AREA 5



I remember my first day in Ag. Class. We walked in the room, sat down and my advisor, Mr. Kerpash, took roll. After he did that, he stood up and talked to our class about conventions, trips, contests, meeting new people and, of course, agriculture. As I sat listening I decided this sounded like an organization I wanted to be a part of. As Mr. Kerpash ended, what I found to be his yearly first day talk, I decided I wanted to do as much as I could with the FFA.

Several months later I attended our Area's Leadership Conference. While there, I ran into several people I knew from our community serving as area officers, After talking with them there, hearing their encouragement and sitting through that conference I made my decision: I was going to run for area officer my sophomore year and be Silex's first area

officer. A little over a year later I stood outside an interview room, wondering if as a sophomore I could contend for area office. My advisor noticed this and came up to me and said, "You'll get out of this what you've put into it. Try your best and you'll make Silex proud". With that, I headed into the waiting room and went through the interviews.

That day I was selected to serve as Silex's first Area FFA officer. If it hadn't been for my advisor's advice and earlier encouragement, I would have never succeeded in my FFA career.

THE OUTLOOK

DID YOU KNOW?
Missouri has had only two National FFA Presidents—
Leslie Fry, 1930-31, and
Zach Kinne, 2007-08.



FFA CALENDAR

October

- 2.....Ag Ed/FFA Day - MU Wurdack Farm, Cook Station
- 3-5.....Ozark Fall Farmfest - Springfield
- 4.....Open/CD District FFA Trap Shoot - UCM, Warrensburg
- 4.....NE District Trap Shoot - Katonka
- 6.....Preview Mizzou - University of Missouri-Columbia
- 8.....SEMO Field Day - Cape Girardeau
- 9.....NWMSU Fall CDE's - Maryville
- 11.....SC District Trap Shoot - Pacific
- 16.....State Grassland Evaluation Contest - Columbia area
- 18.....Chestnut Roast - MU Research Center, New Franklin
- 22-25.....National FFA Convention - Indianapolis, Ind.
- 28-Nov. 2American Royal Livestock Show - Kansas City

November

- 1.....'09 Mo. Agribusiness Academy Apps. Available Online
- 1.....Central District FFA League Shoot - UCM, Warrensburg
- 5.....Central District Fall Speaking Contests - UCM, Warrensburg
- 5-7.....State PAS Conference - St. Louis
- 11.....SC District Fall Speaking Contests - Rolla
- 11.....NE District Fall Speaking Contest - South Shelby
- 13.....SE District Fall Speaking Contests - Bloomfield
- 13.....SW District Fall Speaking Contests - MSU, Springfield
- 19.....NW District Fall Speaking Contests - Cameron

When You Put Your Best Foot Forward...

BY DANIEL KAHRE
STATE V.P. AREA 9

When I started as a green hand in the Miller FFA Chapter, I did not really have or know a place to be successful. I tried different activities to see what I was good at, and always put my best foot forward.

Later that year at the banquet, my FFA advisors were giving out the YOGOWYPI Awards which stands for "You Only Get Out What You Put In" and I just knew that since I had worked so hard that year to be successful that I had put in

enough to get an award.

Well, a few freshmen got that award, but I did not and I was going to be an officer next year! Then, they start handing out the Star Awards, and I was named Star Greenhand. My advisors said that because of my work ethic and determination to succeed I was the Star Greenhand. I did not know it, but my advisors had been watching me all year, even when I thought I was the only person around doing any work at all. I thought they were picking on me, making me do all the work others would not



do, but at the banquet I realized they picked me because they knew I would do what needed to be done and do it right.

FFA members, I challenge you to be active and when you are asked to do tasks, do them right. Have a great year!



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