



FFA Showcase:
Missouri State Fair

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This Issue...

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FFA members from across the state will be in action as the Missouri State Fair kicks off Aug. 11-21 in Sedalia. —Photos by Jocelyn Butler. See story on Page D

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The President’s Position

BY BRADY JAMES STATE FFA PRESIDENT

The summer after my sophomore year I got the incredible opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for Washington Leadership Conference. I knew I would meet people from all over the United States and see some of our nation’s monuments, but outside of that I really did not know what to expect.

During the first day we were split into groups. Little did I know that the people in my group would become some of the best friends I have ever made. It seems crazy to think that within a week you can become so close to some people, but this did not happen on accident. In our groups we were encouraged to really open ourselves up to each other and show who we really are. This was something I really wouldn’t have done before because it wasn’t in my comfort zone. I was made to show my true personality and people accepted me for who I was.



This created some of the truest friends I have ever had.

Being comfortable is a good thing to be while sitting in a recliner or laying on a couch, but in life sometimes it is better for us to push our comfort zones and try something new. There are times when we have to step outside of what we are familiar with and try something new. Often times we are glad that we did take that leap. Stop waiting for that “someday” to come, and make that “someday” today.



State Advisor Retires

BY JOANN PIPKIN, EDITOR

As a sophomore in high school, Terry Heiman knew then he wanted to be an educator. He didn't know, though, he'd dedicate more than 30 years to the industry.

State FFA Advisor since 1984, Dr. Terry Heiman retired from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on July 1st.

Heiman taught agriculture education at Princeton and Trenton Junior College before

Retiring State FFA Advisor Dr. Terry Heiman meets with 2008-09 State Officers Jacob Thompson, Daniel Kahre and Rachel Carter during State FFA Camp.

coming to DESE in 1978. His list of accomplishments —both state and national—during his tenure is phenomenal and all helped shape the face of Missouri agriculture education.

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Get Involved: Missouri State Fair

BY PAIGE JENKINS

It's fair time! The Missouri State Fair runs August 11-21st in Sedalia. From livestock to mechanics to field crops and fresh produce, the fair is a place for FFA members to showcase their hard work.

Members of the Bowling Green FFA chapter have been preparing for months. Members might receive ribbons and monetary prizes for their exhibits,

but Bowling Green Advisor Brock Bailey says, "The greatest rewards are the skills and experiences the students gain."

FFA member Brett Waddell



has been showing pigs and goats at the State Fair since 2002. "The responsibility of having to take care of another living thing and seeing its progress throughout the summer is rewarding enough," Waddell notes.

Exhibiting at the State Fair also helps FFA members from all corners of the state and everywhere in between meet one another. It's a perfect tool for members to interact with fairgoers who might be removed from agriculture.

FFA member Austin Bailey considers showing his cattle, sheep and hogs a hobby that he has enjoyed since he was eight years old. "When people walk through the barn you have to be aware that they may not know much about what you are doing," Bailey says. "You have to set a good example for FFA as a whole."

In addition to the livestock pavilions, FFA members display their works in the FFA building on the state fairgrounds. Chapter booths, horticulture entries, produce, and student-made machinery encompass the building, which opens its doors daily to fairgoers.

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UP TO THE CHALLENGE

BY PAIGE JENKINS

Missouri's own West Plains FFA is the winner of the nationwide FFA Chapter Challenge!

West Plains was announced as the winner on May 16th and wins the grand prize of an all-expense-paid trip for seven to National FFA Convention. The chapter won the pilot competition sponsored by Monsanto in which over 360 FFA chapters participated. West Plains took top honors with 469 farmer votes; the next closest competitor was Lawrence County FFA in Moulton, Ala., with 416 votes. The chapter earned the votes in less than two months time.

In addition to West Plains, 80 other FFA chapters represented Missouri. To win this award

entrants went onto the FFA Chapter Challenge website and registered their chapter. Then with tips from Monsanto and National FFA, chapter members contacted local farmers encouraging them to vote for their chapter. The chapter that received the most farmer votes was the winner. The challenge provided a way for future agriculturists to connect and learn how to communicate with former generations. The challenge encouraged FFA members to visit with farmers about their current operations and learn new techniques with the hands-on approach.

The top 10 challenge winners from each state received \$1500 of credit from Monsanto and National FFA that may be used for FFA activity-related expenses

THE OUTLOOK

DID YOU KNOW?

Only two National FFA Presidents have hailed from Missouri — Leslie Fry (1930-31) and Zach Kinne (2007-08).

in the following year, and 55 prizes went to top winners from each state that did not fall into the top 10.

By having chapters participate, Missouri FFA also receives a \$1500 grant. Seven states participated in the challenge including Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Missouri.

Next year's FFA Chapter Challenge contest kicks off next March; will your chapter make it?



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Smiles Without Reason

BY SAMANTHA WHITTAKER
STATE V.P., AREA 9

Sunday May 22nd, 2011, a tornado hit Joplin, Mo. This tornado literally pulverized 30% of the town. As I sat watching the news the next morning, I found myself overcome with emotion and grief for those suffering so close to home. While watching the news I realized that I needed to be there helping. All Monday, I gathered supplies to take to Joplin with me. All day I just hoped and prayed that I would be prepared for what I was going to see, yet nothing could

have ever prepared me for what I saw.

Being in FFA, we all are met with many opportunities to volunteer and help others. Missouri FFA members are not afraid to get a little dirty to get a job done, and this is what sets us apart. Our ability to be selfless and truly have a deep concern for those less fortunate, or those experiencing strife is what truly makes us great. FFA prepares us for life with so many skills, but FFA prepares us for life by developing us into extraordinary people.



Although I wasn't prepared for what I saw in Joplin, because of FFA I was prepared to help. I spent days talking, comforting and helping people. FFA was known in Joplin, and people often said they knew that I would get the job done because of FFA. There is nothing sweeter in life than the smile of a person, who has no reason to smile at all.

"A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that he cannot get along without it and none is so poor that he cannot be made rich by it. Yet a smile cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give." ~Author Unknown

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Face Your Fears

BY LANE HOWARD
STATE V.P., AREA 13



The fall of my freshman year brought about a new era in my life: I was an FFA member. I did not realize it, but this would bring many new and exciting changes. I was pretty nervous going into my first day of class because I had to say the FFA Creed in front of the whole class. Despite my fears, I said the entire Creed on the first day, and I felt better because of this. I knew that this would be the beginning of the most amazing four years of my life.

Since I stepped out of my shell on that first day, I decided no harm could come from trying to do a fall speaking contest.

However, I did not do as well as I had hoped. I was last in my particular contest. I did not let this get me down, though. I worked harder on preparing for my speech and I tried again the next year. This time I achieved a goal: I was first place at Area contests.

This event taught me to never give up on something you want. You may not get it the first time, but there will be more opportunities to come.

Sometimes you just have to work harder. Had I not tried my first day, I might never have overcome my fears and achieved my goals. FFA members, work to overcome your fears so that you can live life to its fullest.

STATE ADVISOR RETIRES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE C

From technology to student interests to rural Missouri, changes have been evident throughout Heiman's three decades in agriculture education. Yet, he says there's been one constant—the three components to ag education which include classroom work, leadership development and supervised agricultural experience.

"A lot of students lived on farms when I started at the department in the mid 1980s. Now, a good percentage of students are still from rural areas, but more and more are from small towns and even cities."

Heiman points out that technology and information have also changed dramatically. "Students today are much more attune in a broader world today than they were at the time I started in ag education."

Rewards for Terry Heiman have come by seeing students who have gone through ag education programs become successful in their chosen fields...and then become supporters of ag education after they've gone through the program.

State FFA Executive Treasurer Leon Busdieker says, "There is a direct correlation between today's high quality ag education programs across the state and the 33 years of Dr. Heiman's work at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education."

Despite his retirement from DESE and Missouri FFA, it would seem that Heiman's plate will be as full as it's ever been. He says he's looking forward to continuing his interest in both row crop and beef cattle farming.

According to Missouri FFA Executive Secretary and former Chillicothe Ag Ed Instructor Keith Dietzschold, "Dr. Heiman has been a steady, consistent, and fair voice for agriculture education and FFA in Missouri and the nation. His leadership has kept Missouri agriculture education and the FFA in strong position locally, in the state, and throughout the nation."

FFA

CALENDAR

August

11-21 Missouri State Fair -Sedalia

September

2 MU Delta Center Field Day
Portageville

8 MU SW Center Field Day
Mount Vernon

10 Fall Classic Yth Trap Tourney
Linn Creek

10 Meet Mizzou Day
Columbia

10-17 SEMO District Fair
Cape Girardeau

13 Ag Ed/FFA Day Bradford Ctr.
Columbia

15 Hundley/Whaley Center FFA Day
Albany

16 Graves-Chapple Farm FFA Day
Corning

18-24 National Farm Safety/Health Wk.

21 Thompson Farm Field Day
Spickard

24 MU South Farm Showcase
Columbia

26-30 Delta Fair - Kennett

30 SC/SE District Grasslands Wkshp
Alton



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