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Farming in Northwest Missouri has been quite a challenge in 2018. Mother nature has thrown almost everything at us. We started off the year somewhat normal, then, as spring progressed, the rain stopped. Our hay crop was almost half of what it should be. As fall got closer, we started to get some rain which helped the beans and fall pasture.

Corn harvest progressed quicker than usual due to it yielding half to two-thirds of a normal crop. As bean harvest was starting, the heavy rains showed up. Our farm doesn't consist of much bottom ground, so we didn't suffer from very much flooding. Just a few miles south of us near Chillicothe, was a different story. It was pretty sad to see crops going under water this late in the season. Then on October 15th we had a measurable amount of snow. To top it all off, once we got started in beans, we found that the really drought stricken ones had a lot of damage and some were not sellable. To say the least, I'm ready to finish out 2018 and see what 2019 has to bring.

A great way to start off 2019 would be to attend the 50th Young Farmer's State Convention in Columbia on January 26th! We would love to see as many people as we can to help us celebrate this milestone. We will have a good variety of workshops as in years past. We always try to come up with new hot topics in ag, plus some past workshops that have been a hit. The planning committee always appreciates any feedback and ideas of possible workshops and presenters as well. See you in January!
I was raised on a farm near Centralia, which has been passed down through the generations in my family since 1845. Prior to settling in Missouri, my family traveled from Ireland to escape the Great Potato Famine, seeking a better life in America. Soon after his arrival in the United States, my great-great-great grandfather joined the US Cavalry, reaching the rank of colonel. For his service to the country, he was granted a 40 acre parcel of land by President Polk which would become the Stanton homestead. From that point the family began to acquire surrounding land which my grandfather was able to purchase from other family members in the early to mid-1900’s.

The family farm today is still a very traditional Missouri farm, with over 100 head of cross bred cattle, row-crops of milo, soybeans and wheat on rotation, with mixed hay baled for the cattle. I am currently attending the University of Missouri, studying Agricultural Systems Management. When not in class, I am working on the farm, as I plan to farm full time after graduation. In order to diversify the farm, my brother Dustin and I own and operate Stanton Brothers, a business which consists of raising cage free chickens and producing brown eggs which are sold to more than 60 outlets weekly. As with nearly every farm today, we are constantly looking to expand, diversify, and vertically integrate the operation so as to be sustainable and enable us to pass the farm on to the next generation. I have been expanding the operation by producing and selling various fresh items such as potatoes, radishes and honey ice cream. Since taking part in the tour in Mexico a few years ago, we are also raising hogs to sell locally as fresh pork and have recently purchased a small herd of hair sheep to help maintain some small brushy areas, as well as a couple of small lots of grass.

I have grown up in The Young Farmers and Young Farm Wives organization as my parents were both state officers and active members in the Centralia chapter and I was there when the Young Farmers and Young Farm Wives organizations voted to merge. I have always enjoyed helping my local chapter with a concession stand during a local festival to raise funds for scholarships for FFA members seeking to further their education and planning to return to production agriculture after graduation. Each summer I looked forward to the annual summer tour where we travel to other parts of the state to observe other farming and agribusiness operations. I have enjoyed many of the events I have been fortunate to attend through the Young Farmers. The year Missouri hosted the National Institute in Kansas City was a great experience for me. We did many interesting tours in the western part of the state including my favorite stop, the Shatto Dairy, in Osborn. I remember how delicious the bubble gum milk and root beer were and that memory always makes me smile. I have enjoyed the opportunities to educate others about agriculture and the importance of it in everyone’s life. In addition to farming, I also enjoy collecting toy tractors. My collection consists of many different brands, but with the majority of it being JI Case tractors, with the emphasis on the 1/16 scale.

I was recently blessed by receiving the honor of being chosen as the American Star Farmer at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. As my brother and I plan to continue to stay on the farm and to raise families of our own on the land, I will use the benefits gained from that honor as well as knowledge gained from my experiences in FFA and Young Farmers, to continue to grow and sustain our family farm for generations to come.
2019 YF/YFW District Meetings

**Northwest District meeting is**
Saturday, January 12th at 6:30 pm at the Litton Center in Chillicothe.

**Northeast District meeting is**
Saturday, January 12th in Monroe City. 
RSVP to Keriann Brandt by January 5th. kbrandt@monroe.k12.mo.us 
or 573-735-4626 Ext 1119

**Central District meeting will be**
Monday, January 7th at Santa Fe High School Commons. 
Meal and Program start at 6:00 pm

**Southwest District meeting - TBA**

**South Central District meeting is**
Wednesday, November 28th at Fatima High School in Westphalia starting at 6:30 pm.

**Southeast District meeting - TBA**

Looking Back: A Piece of MYF History
Enter the 2019 MYF/YFW Photo Contest

Join the 2019 MYF/YFW Photo Contest! This is a fun way to show off your day to day life on the farm or rural community. Below are the contest rules and instructions.

Categories: Landscapes People Rural Workday Animals Bad Day on the Farm

SPECIAL ****50th Anniversary YFW Photo*****SPECIAL

Entry Criteria:
1. The Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives photo contest is open to all members who are amateur photographers (one who receives less than half of their disposable income from photography).
2. All photos must be taken by the entrant.
3. Entrants may submit multiple photos per category.
4. Entrants may enter all four categories if desired.
5. Photos must be taken within the last two years.
6. Color and black and white photos are eligible.
*8. If identifiable persons are included in a photo, a release must accompany the entry.
9. Youth entries must include the signature of a parent or guardian on the entry form.
10. All photos must be submitted digitally, as well as in print at the state convention. Photos must be 4x6 or larger and displayed in a frame when submitted.
11. All entries submitted become the property of Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives, giving MYF/YFW permission to use them in publications, promotions, calendars or displays, with proper credit given to the photographer.

To Enter: You must deliver your photo to the State Convention held in Columbia.

Judging:
1. Judges will be members of the Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives Executive committee.
2. Judges may move a photo to a new category if it is more suitable.
3. A photo can be disqualified if it does not meet all the requirements.

Deadline: Entries must be delivered by 12 noon on January 26th. No late entries.

Winning Notifications: Winners will be announced at the Missouri Young Farmer and Young Farm Wives Annual Convention, January 26, 2019, in Columbia.

Contest Contact: Derek Lowrey: 660-654-1643 or email at dslowreyfarms@gmail.com

*Note: Photo release(s) may be required (see above). The release(s) should state: “I, ____________________________, do hereby acknowledge that the individuals in the photos understand the sponsoring organization claim the rights to all photos, including the rights to publish, upload on the internet, or televise, for use in promoting a positive message for agriculture and that their name, likeness, or image may be used. I agree to release and hold harmless the sponsoring organization from and against any claim, expense or liability arising from or related to submission, participation in the contest, and appearance on the program and/or acceptance of any prize,” followed by a signature and the date.

Missouri Young Farmers/Young Farm Wives 2019 Photo Contest Entry Form

Name: _____________________________ Phone: _____________________________

Address: _____________________________

Select Photo Category: Landscapes People Rural Workday Animals Bad Day on the Farm

50th Anniversary MYF/YFW Photo

Entry Fee: $5 per photo for the “Bad Day on the Farm” category. Winners chosen by popular vote of attendees. 50% payback (other 50% goes to scholarship fund.) All other categories will be judged with certificates awarded.

Description of your photo with date, location, persons, season, etc:

Deadline: Entries must be received/delivered by 12 noon on January 26, 2019. No late entries.
The Chillicothe Young Farmers and Young Farm Wives planning committee has been working hard to bring you a top-notch tour in 2019! Put it on your calendar to join us from August 4-6 in Chillicothe, MO. There will be something for everyone as tour stops include everything from conventional family farms utilizing the latest in precision agriculture, to diversified operations that are custom feeding dairy cattle, to a farm that raises sheep, working dogs and operates a pumpkin patch. Commercial tour stops will take in a local cooperative expanding their custom fertilizer operation, TransOva genetics working with cattle and embryo transfer, an Old Order Mennonite machine shop that makes specialty parts, and the new MFA rail facility at Hamilton.

The ladies will be treated with a day of touring downtown Chillicothe, the rapidly growing Missouri Star Quilt Company of Hamilton, Amish shops in Jamesport and then back to join up with everyone for an evening of entertainment by Jake McVey at the Black Silo Winery.

Come on up to see what north Missouri has to offer! We’ll keep you fed, entertained and you’ll learn something new and probably meet up with some old friends. Can’t wait to see you next August.
Dig out your favorite farm toys from those days in the dirt, or from the display case in the office. The annual farm toy exhibits will take place at the 2019 MYF/YFW State Convention on January 26th in Columbia, Missouri. Entries will be accepted until 12 noon.

**Toy Show Time**

**Farm Toy Classes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Comers — Open and Custom Class</td>
<td>This is an open class—anything from bought to home-made or modified, any make, any model, any size.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original 1/64 Scale</td>
<td>This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original 1/32 Scale</td>
<td>This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original 1/16 Scale</td>
<td>This class is toys out of boxes, no modification, any make or model.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandbox Special</td>
<td>This class will be toys that were used hard by the cutest lil' farmers, any make, any model, any size.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Missouri’s electric cooperatives are proud to sponsor the activities of the Missouri Young Farmers. Electric cooperatives were founded 80 years ago when existing electric utilities refused to bring service to the farm because they could not make a profit from the few people living beyond the city limits.

In most cases, the original incorporators of these cooperative utilities were farmers. That tradition continues today as farmers and ranchers make up a good portion of the directors who lead their electric cooperative today.

In the eight decades since electric cooperatives brought power to Missouri farms, the quality of life has improved dramatically. Farmers quickly learned how to use this newfound “wiredhand” to increase productivity and profits. As demand for electricity increased, so too did our efforts to ensure you have all of the electricity you need at a price you can afford.

Today’s electric cooperatives are deeply ingrained into the communities they serve, so much so that a new cooperative principle — Concern for Community — was added to the list of guiding principles under which cooperatives operate. You will find your local electric cooperative helping out wherever a community need exists. This community involvement comes naturally, because electric cooperatives are a part of the community. Its employees live in the area and its directors are members of the cooperative too.

Nationwide, electric cooperatives power 1 out of every 8 Americans. They serve 42 million people on farms, small towns and bustling suburbs. Electric cooperatives generate more than $45 billion in revenue, employ 71,000 people and create an economic impact of nearly $57 billion.

And while we energize the countryside, we actually get our power from you.
(AEOTM) program continues to expand, with a mission to share the important message of agriculture with young people. As efforts grow, there are opportunities for those who are passionate about agriculture education.

Ag Education on the Move™ is a ten-week third grade education program that teaches students about crops, livestock, nutrition, soil, and how agriculture impacts their everyday life. Through member's resources and collaboration, passionate educators share the important story of Missouri farm families, while incorporating fun and interactive hands-on activities.

The program's lessons meet standards and objectives in the classroom, while integrating technology, STEM activities and virtual farm tour experiences. Participants plant soybean seeds, make butter, calculate feed rations and more.

In addition to in-classroom programming, AEOTM™ teams up with the Department of Education to offer unique career in agriculture tours for local counselors and educators. This day of Professional Development offers a glimpse into animal and plant sciences, engineering, marketing, trade and more. Tours also highlight entrepreneurial opportunities in rural communities and gives educators a chance to visit agribusiness employers in their region.

Last year, AEOTM™ reached over 110,000 Missourians and hosted 20+ events to offer agricultural literacy activities. The program continues to seek volunteers and offers limited regional educator roles.

To learn more about the program or to explore ways you can get involved, please contact Luella Gregory, at info@agmoves.com

AEOTM™ is an educational effort through Missouri Farmers Care, funded partially by Missouri soybean farmers and Missouri beef producers and their checkoffs.

Missouri Farmers Care is a joint effort by Missouri's farming and agriculture community to stand together for the men and women who provide the food and jobs on which our community depends. Missouri Farmers Care implements activities to promote the continued growth of Missouri agriculture and rural communities through coordinated communication, education and advocacy.
50th Anniversary Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives
State Convention Tentative Schedule
Friday & Saturday, January 25-26, 2019

Friday, January 25th
1:00 pm - ? Pre-convention mini tour – TBA – meet at hotel
4:00 pm – 11:00 pm Gathering room for interested – games and fellowship – Room 138

Saturday, January 26th
7:30 am – 6:00 pm Registration – Conference Center Foyer
7:30 am – 9:00 am Buffet Breakfast - Salon
7:30 am – 12 noon Photo Contest/Toy Show Entries accepted – Conference Center Foyer
50 Anniversary memorabilia pictures etc check in
8:30 am – 4:00 pm Child Activity Room – McNair Board Room
8:30 am – 9:45 am Seminars and Workshops
Salon A
Salon B
University
9:45 am – 10:15 am Break
9:45 am – 7:30 pm Silent Auction (bidding will close at 7:00 pm)
10:00 am – 12:00 pm FFA Speaking Contest - University
10:15 am – 11:30 am Seminars and Workshops
Salon A
Salon B
11:30 am - 12:45 pm Luncheon – Salon C & D
12:45 pm – 2:00 pm Seminars and Workshops
Salon A
Salon B
University
2:00 pm – 2:20 pm Refreshment Break
2:20 pm – 3:35 pm Seminars and Workshops
Salon A
Salon B
University
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm Delegate Session – Salon A
- Minutes of 2018 Delegate Session
- Financial report
- Election of State President
- 2018 NYFEA Institute/Delegate review
- 2019 Ag's Promise preview
- 2019 NYFEA Institute Preview – Lancaster, Pennsylvania
5:30 pm 50th Anniversary Celebration & Banquet– Salon C & D
- Outstanding Service Awards
- FFA YF/YFW State Winning Speaker
- Honorary Membership Recognition
- Retiring State Officer Recognition
- Entertainment
Join us at the 2019 Missouri Young Farmer/Young Farm Wives Convention on January 25-26 in Columbia. This is our 50th Anniversary Celebration. In addition to the traditional workshops, a half-day tour will be held on Friday afternoon. We will also have some special activities at convention to celebrate our past 50 years. Look for information in this newsletter about tours and workshops.

Friday

On Friday, Members will meet at the hotel lobby for the mini tour at 1:00 pm. (See website for tour details – coming soon)

Saturday

Saturday registration will be available from 7:30 am to 6 pm in the Conference Center Foyer. There will be a hot buffet breakfast available from 7:30 – 9 am. As in past years, Saturday events will include the photo contest & toy show, the FFA speech contest finals, several diverse seminars and workshops, and the delegate session.

The social starts at 6:00 pm and Saturday awards banquet begins at 7:00 pm. At the banquet, the state winning FFA speaker will present their speech and we will honor members and retiring officers.

Hotel Reservations:
Courtyard by Marriott
3301 Lemone Industrial Boulevard
Columbia, MO 65201

Reserve your hotel room by January 11th for special rates. The room block will be released after that time and a room may not be available. The rate is $94 for any size room. Below are three ways to register:

1. Register online at www.marriott.com/coucy
   In the space for the group code, enter MYFMYFA for a King with sofa sleeper or MFYMYFB for a double queen.

2. You may also call 1-800-MARRIOTT and give the above group code.

3. Or, you may call the local hotel and make the reservation directly at (573) 443-8000. Tell them you are with the Missouri Young Farmers block.

*If the code does not work, that means the room type you requested is sold out, or it is after the cut-off date.

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50th ANNIVERSARY MYF/YFW CONVENTION REGISTRATION
January 25-26, 2019 at Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia, MO

Mail Registration to: Lisa Evans, Agricultural Education, DESE, P.O. Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102

Adults:  Chapter:  
Children:  
Address:  Phone:  
oremail:  

Please circle all events you are attending:

1. Friday Mini Tour? Yes No  Are you a delegate? Yes No
2. Friday night Social? Yes No  Are you a past State officer? Yes No
3. Saturday Workshops? Yes No

Entire Convention Registration Paid by Jan 17:

Adults - $40 x = $ 
Kids (ages 6-12) - $20 x = $ 
Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x = $0

On Site Registration (after Jan 17)

Adults - $55 x = $ 
Kids (ages 6-12) - $27.50 x = $ 
Kids (ages 5 & under) - no cost x = $0

Sat. evening banquet only: $20 x = $ 
Sat. evening child’s plate: $10 x = $ 

Total Amount: $
Champions aren’t born. They’re made. It takes the right genetics, the right care and the right diet. New Ring Leader Show Feeds from MFA are a trusted source of premium nutrition for your champion in the making.

Each ration is consistently formulated for performance, and all feeds in the Ring Leader line contain Shield Technology—a proprietary blend of essential oils and additives to help keep animal healthy under the stress of showing.
Star of the Show
MFA Launches New Ring Leader Feeds for Livestock Exhibitors
By Allison Jenkins, MFA Today's Farmer Magazine Editor

With the introduction of MFA’s own Ring Leader Show Feeds, livestock exhibitors will have new options in high-quality rations for their show animals.

Although MFA has offered show feeds for swine, cattle and goats in the past, the Ring Leader brand will be the company’s first complete line formulated specifically for show animal nutrition and performance, said Mike Spidle, MFA Incorporated strategic feed specialist.

“Show animals are different from production animals, and that’s why we have different feeds for them,” Spidle said. “We’re looking at what’s best for the animal, what will help them perform best in the ring and what will give them the best appearance—the whole nine yards. Ring Leader is all-encompassing nutrition.”

First to be launched in the Ring Leader line are swine feeds, which replace Ralco products that MFA previously carried. The two companies ended their business relationship in 2018, and Ralco feeds are no longer available through MFA Incorporated.

Instead, the MFA Ring Leader swine feed lineup will provide comparable products with superior formulations, Spidle said.

“We wanted make sure that our producers are still able to get show feeds from MFA that will keep them competitive in the ring,” he said. “They don’t have to worry about going someplace else to get a different product. Ring Leader feeds will perform as well or better.”

Ring Leader swine feeds will be available in eight different formulations for various stages of a show pig’s life, including starter feeds, grow-finish feeds and gestation-lactation feeds.

“We’ve made huge improvements in swine diets over the last few years,” said Tom Lattimore, MFA Incorporated senior swine specialist. “With our Evolution feeds, we’ve seen increased performance in average daily gain, number of pregnancies and overall health of the animals. Ring Leader feeds are based on Evolution, but they’re the next step up with all the bells and whistles.”

MFA’s Ring Leader Show Calf and Superb Goat feeds will be available under the new brand in early 2019, Spidle said. The Feed Division also plans to add poultry, rabbit and sheep feeds under the Ring Leader umbrella.

All Ring Leaders feeds will contain MFA’s proprietary Shield Technology, a proprietary blend of essential oils and additives to help keep animal healthy under the stress of showing.

“Shield is important for keeping animals healthy in the show circuit,” Spidle said. “By moving animals around, getting them out of their habitat and exposing them to other animals, there’s always a risk of them getting sick or going off feed. Having Shield Technology in these show diets will help minimize those problems.”

Like other MFA premium feeds, Ring Leader formulations will be “locked in” for quality and consistency, Spidle added.

“When you look at value-added products, you want performance,” he said. “These show diets are set up for performance and to enhance the genetic capability of those animals. The formulas will stay consistent, so that you’ll get the same thing from any MFA feed mill.”

Ultimately, the development of the Ring Leader brand of show feeds is an example of MFA’s commitment to building long-term relationships with its customers—in this case, young livestock exhibitors and their families, Spidle said.

“We have a whole group of young people out there showing, and we want to help them win,” he said. “More than that, we want to help them understand the concept of raising an animal, taking care of an animal and getting the most performance out that animal. Those skills will help them later on in life, especially if they go back into farming.”

Ring Leader show feeds are available at any MFA or AGChoice location. For more information, visit with your local feed specialist or online at mfa-inc.com/Swine.
Call to State Convention

Following a rough year in Missouri agriculture where we’ve experienced a summer drought, a wet fall, hay shortages, low grain prices and chemical controversies, this year’s YF/YFW State Convention will follow a theme of risk management and recovery. We hope to feature workshops on such topics as soil and crop health, feed quality and stressed livestock, equipment maintenance and marketing. In addition to those topics we plan to offer a variety of sessions of interest to everyone on such topics as gardening, greenhouses and new technology. We will be updating the website as speakers are confirmed, so please visit [www.moyoungfarmers.org](http://www.moyoungfarmers.org) for more information and an up-to-date list of topics as they become available.