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North Montgomery FFA

Family in Need

Part of the FFA motto is “Living to serve.” How is the North Montgomery FFA living to serve? Well as a chapter we participate in various different service projects. One of those being shopping for Families in need. We shopped for ingredients for a Christmas dinner meal for two families in our county.

Members gathered to plan out a menu and grocery list for their families Christmas dinner. Once the menus were planned we went shopping at Kroger for the Christmas meals. It was a fun experience for our members and really got them thinking about how we can impact our community. FFA member Corbin Meadow says, “it you lend someone a helping hand they can always lend you a hand back.” I think what Corbin means by this is if we are willing to help our fellow community members one day they will help us in return. Helping the families even if its buying them a meal shows that there are people out there who care about what they are going through and are here to help the best we can.

While we were shopping for families in need, members still had fun. They worked together planning, shopping, and packing, these members learned service and helping the community. As member Cayden Richmond said, “Our chapter is made up of kind hearted people who are always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.” Our chapter strives to be the best version of ourselves we can be. Whether that’s through community service or simply holding the door, our members are very caring people.

Lucy Smith
Chapter Reporter

Members: Reece Goings, Logan Ireland, Lucy Smith, Dawson Bell and his sister Ainsley Bell, Carter Rosen, Austin Goings, and Cayden Richmond shopping for the families in need.

Dawson Bell and Austin Goings filling there cart with some delicious goodies for the families.

National FFA Convention

Our chapter gives the opportunity to go to the National FFA Convention every year if you go to State FFA Convention and are a junior or a senior. This is always a great time and you learn a lot while you are there. It’s a very busy couple of days but while we have multiple things to do we get to grow and bond as an officer team and as a chapter. This past year we took 5 of our 6 officers and one other member. We did multiple events, like sessions, National Day of Service, and we got the opportunity to go to the rodeo. We love the opportunity that we are given to spend a couple of days together and have the opportunity to meet new people and see new things. One of the people that got to go said “It was a fun experience and we got to meet lots of new people from all over the country,” Kaden Parks.

Krestyn Bradford
FFA President

County Ag Days

County Ag Days is something that every FFA member looks forward to each year. County Ag Days is when some of the FFA members take a trip to Montgomery 4-H fairgrounds. All of the members work very hard presenting knowledgeable facts about FFA, and fun games to keep the young kids excited about learning. When we do county Ag Days we are teaching 4th graders from all over the county about Careers in Agriculture. We are teaching all about the importance of why we need farmers, what Agriculture is, and why it’s important. We always love seeing the thrill in the kids’ eyes, because they are so amazed by all the facts we tell them about Agriculture. We spend the day as a teacher talking to young kids about Agriculture that we are very passionate about and love to talk about. We teach kids about careers and how every career has something that deals with Agriculture from greenhouse temperature and the different types of plants that live in the greenhouse to a semi-truck driver driving products to



Walmart. When we all work together as a chapter we all provide great information to the kids about how we all work in some way to provide for other people with the Agriculture industry. County Ag Days is just a great way to prompt what we do through FFA and how to have great public speaking skills as you are talking to a school of young kids.

“County Ag Days are a great way to teach young kids about Agriculture. I love experiencing it and being able to teach them,” said Kaden Parks.

Claire Grimes
FFA Treasurer

Leadership Development Workshop

Every year at the end of January our FFA chapter takes a weekend trip to the FFA center in Trafalgar. Our chapter takes all of the officers and anyone that is interested in becoming an officer in the upcoming year. LDW is a Leadership Development Workshop, which is a weekend camp, where we spend the weekend learning to work with others in different situations. Everyone is learning to become a better leader, and take the knowledge and skills we have

learned and use it in our FFA chapter. All of our ideas that everyone has to improve our FFA chapter is heard and everyone has the chance to talk about what they feel is important for our FFA chapter in the near future. As we spend the weekend together we gain strong friendships and a tight bond between each other. As we cope with one another we go through the learning and emotions and learn how to work with everyone without having anyone feel left out or their ideas not being heard. We all love meeting new people and getting ideas that we can use for our FFA chapter. When beginning to be an active member in FFA it’s important to be a good leader and encourage others to follow our lead. When you have good leadership skills and great communication skills you’ll work very well with other people. The skills that people can learn through FFA are skills that they will use for the rest of their life.

“LDW was a really cool experience. I think I came back home being a better listener and a better leader,” said freshman Joe Zuk.

Claire Grimes
FFA Treasurer

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Indiana State FFA Convention

Every year the North Montgomery FFA Chapter sends members to the Indiana State FFA Convention in the summer at Purdue University. While there members attended general sessions held by the State FFA Officers, voted for the 2024-2025 FFA District Officer team for District IV, and received individual and chapter awards. In addition our chapter received a Gold Emblem National Chapter Award. We also received two different living to serve awards.

During the last State FFA Convention, North Montgomery had three members get their Hosier Degrees: Julia Shea, Grace Mosely, and Maggie Ireland. The minimum qualifications for this award are that you must be an FFA member in the state of Indiana for two years, be in good standing in your FFA Chapter, and hit the benchmark for community service hours and with your Supervised Agricultural Experience. Additionally, the Chapter received a Gold Chapter award and a Superior Chapter award.

Within the general FFA sessions members heard speeches and retiring addresses from State FFA Officers. In addition, two delegate members from our FFA chapter voted on District Officers and Section Leaders.

Caden Ireland
Vice President



Chapter Retreat

The North Montgomery FFA chapter retreat is one of the favorite activities that we do as a chapter. Every year in March our chapter packs up and heads to Trafalgar to the FFA retreat center and stay there for a weekend. We do all sorts of activities to grow closer as a chapter like playing various games, completing team exercising skills, and interacting with a couple of the state officers.

The FFA retreat is an experience that everyone enjoys when they go there. Everyone loves all the fun we get to have and activities we get to do.

“Retreat is an experience that every FFA member should do,” said freshman Joe Zuk. “I enjoyed all the activities that the state officers had us do. But the games that you and your fellow

members get to do like playing kickball and other games inside and outside of the cabin.” Here is just one of the many examples that there are of all our members having a good time.

“The retreat is such a fun way to spend your time with friends,” sophomore Paige Yarger said. “Also going to retreat is a great way to make new friends and strengthen your bonds with old and new friends.”

After she had said this it had reminded me about how much fun that I personally had there at retreat. I got to grow closer to everyone that went, not knowing most of them on a deeper, more personal level.

After hearing what my fellow FFA chapter members have to say and how they feel you can now understand the amount of fun and excitement our chapter retreat holds. Once again like

normal everyone can't wait to go again this spring and make memories that will last.

Adam Riehle
Secretary

Riley Blankets

North Montgomery FFA is big on helping our community in every way we can. We do many service projects throughout the year, one of our larger service projects of the year is our Riley blanket meeting. There FFA members with the help of friends, family, NHS, Key club, and Student council work to make no sew blankets for sick kids at Riley children's hospital.

This year we made 63 no sew blankets in 45 minutes. We had over 50 people helping tie the no sew blankets. We were so blessed to have the turn out

that we did and hope that our blankets will be able to put a smile on the sick kid's faces.

For middle school member Emily Semen she finds these blankets to bring a large impact to those in Riley hospital.

“The Riley Blankets Impact the sick boys and girls in the hospital more than any of us may think,” Semen said. “When you are lying sick in one of those hospital beds knowing they feel nothing like home, it gives you a sense of home. While it might not be the same as being home, it makes everything just a little better.”

Even though we don't see the results of our work first doesn't mean it doesn't affect these children. Many children who received riley blankets while in the hospital still have them today.

While this service project benefited a lot of people, it was also quite enjoy-



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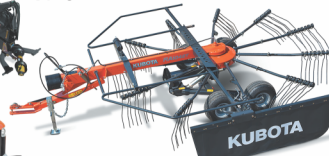
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able. While making blankets we made new friends too. Connecting with the other clubs of North Montgomery high school and bonding over the shared joy of helping others.

As middle school member Addison Sabo said, "What makes it fun is just being able to be with friends and also help out the community in the process."

I agree with Addison many of our members and community members enjoy getting to hang out with their friends while helping.

While we may have all been from different clubs we all had one common goal. We wanted to help people, so we tied, we laughed, and most importantly we made memories that will last a lifetime. Tied together by our love of helping our community.

Lucy Smith
Chapter Reporter

Students: Audrey Cain, Sarah Hopper, Savannah Crowe, Ben Oppy, And Ava Mershon working hard to finish their no sew blankets.

FFA members and friends having fun making tie blankets together for children at Riley children's hospital.

National FFA Week

National FFA week is one of the favorite weeks by FFA chapters across the country. Our chapter does not fail to partake in this amazing week. Every year our officers and Ag board plan out unique events to host school wide to share the excitement of agriculture with everyone in the school. Many students look forward to the new activities along with some of the classic activities repeated every year.

We host many kinds of events for FFA week. Some of the simpler events are dress up days. Every day in National FFA week we have a different dress up day for students. Some examples are western, show gear, Carhartt, and FFA colors. Many students enjoy these activities because they can wear something outside of the typical dress code that shows off their dedication to agricultural activities. However most students enjoy the dress up days because they can wear their hats to school.

While many students enjoy the dress up days most prefer the activities hosted by the FFA through the week. These



activities are either hosted during the day, or during lunch. The main activity we hosted that spans the entire school day is our scavenger hunt. For the scavenger hunt teachers will hide cows in their rooms and students will search for them. When students find a cow they can take it to the Ag room where the Mrs. Bell will exchange it for a prize.

The events hosted during lunch are the Ag Olympics and the kiss the pig fundraiser for Kids Against Hunger. The Ag Olympics are a set of games put on by our chapters officers. We have different events from trivia to bucket races. However the favorite is by far the straw bale stack. In this event students will stack straw bales to attempt to make the largest tower possible. During this time there will also be the fundraiser for Kids Against Hunger. The chapter fundraises by allowing students to donate money towards their favorite teachers throughout the week. On Friday whichever teachers has the most money in their bucket will kiss a pig during lunch.

"I can't wait for kiss the pig day," said Cayden Richmond. "It's going to be so

funny because who likes to kiss a pig."

As you can see many students are looking forward to the many events hosted for National FFA Week.

Logan Ireland
Chapter Sentinel

Cain's Day

Cain's Day is a fun and awesome project that the officers of the chapter get to do along with a couple of other chapter FFA members. We spend a full day of fun teaching fourth graders about how different types of systems work, for example erosion and the climate around us as the students take a journey of water molecule. It's always one of the more fun projects that we get to do during the beginning of the year in August.

Junior Taelyn Stephens said, "It was fun hyping up the kids and getting to give them all high fives when they came running from their previous station to ours. It was just an overall fun experience to teach the kids." Just seeing the excitement on their faces as they ran

towards us was really cool and fun to know they were excited for the day's activities and to learn about conservation.

After sharing the fun that we get to have with sharing our knowledge and education you can understand how much of a fun event and activity this is that we get to do every year. I personally enjoy it very much and rank it pretty high as some of the events that our FFA officer team gets to do for the year.

Adam Riehle
Secretary

Kids Against Hunger

The North Montgomery FFA chapter partakes in many community service events from year to year. However the best event we participate in every year is the Kids Against Hunger food packaging event in April. Students from the school will meet in the cafeteria of North Montgomery and pack meal bags to be sent to those in need.

This event is very large and expensive and part of the reason our chapter can handle such an important event is



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because of all the clubs involved. Many of the clubs at our school participate to help package all the meal bags. These clubs help us raise money to buy the supplies and offer assistance when packaging the bags. The clubs are also supported by sponsors helping by donating money.

This event is all made possible by Kids Against Hunger. Our chapter has worked with them for numerous years packaging meals for others. They host many events just like ours all across the country. They host these events to package food for children and their families in 70 countries around the globe. Through KAH our chapter has been able to package 50 or more boxes for children and their families each year. Our FFA Chapter has been packaging meals since 2013.

We have a simple method for packaging the food for this event thanks to KAH. They have predetermined proportions in order to create a balanced meal. All we have to do is measure the ingredients and seal the bags. Many members love the simplicity that gives them the ability to help.

Joseph Zuk said, "The Kids Against Hunger event is a good experience to be in as I believe that you should help families that can't access their personal necessities." Many members from our chapter agree with Joe and love helping others even if it is just in little ways. Last year's sponsors for 2024 were AHW, Adam & Heather Hampton, Bane-Welker Equipment, Cargill, Farm Credit, Keystone, Land O Lakes, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Perry Equipment and Tymeless Farms. We cannot thank our sponsors enough for their donation to our Kids Against Hunger event each year. Looking forward to working with these business for 2025 Kids Against Hunger event.

Logan Ireland
Chapter Sentinel

Petting Zoo

The petting zoo is one of the most favorited activities that our chapter does at the high school. All the kids always have such a great time learning about the animals and what they do as well as what type of goods that they can produce. It always brings a smile to my face knowing that everyone is having

a good time and enjoying learning all about the different farm animals.

Freshman Brody Wright said, "It's really fun getting to teach the kids all about the animals and seeing the smiles on their faces after the day. Also it's fun being able to skip class to teach the kids for the day and educate them on farm animals."

I couldn't agree with Brody much more as it is refreshing knowing that the kids had a fun time learning about the farm animals and getting to pet them throughout the day.

I asked another student, Paige Yarger, what she thinks about the overall experience of the day and she said, "You're able to see all the neat animals that the members of our FFA chapter have and get educated about them and teach the smaller kids about them too."

I think this is another great way to look at our petting zoo day because it's neat seeing all the animals that our fellow chapter members have and what they have to teach us about them.

The big points that I keep seeing through this activity is that the children love learning about the animals and their unique differences. Also we as a chapter get to learn and teach each other about our animals and then just the overall joy that it brings to kids when they get to come and learn about the animals. Our FFA petting will be March 20th from 8:30-3:00pm in the Ag room. We will be hosting around 600 students that day from preschool to third grade. If any preschool has not signed up please contact Mrs. Bell at the high school to schedule your time.

Ella McManomy added, "The Petting Zoo is a great time for the elementary students to see and experience animals they might not have seen before."

Hope Delp also said, "The Petting Zoo is a fun field trip for the elementary students who enjoy being around friendly animals."

Adam Riehle
Secretary

Farm Safety Day

North Montgomery FFA Farm Safety Day is our FFA way to give back to our fifth grade students of the North Montgomery Community School Corporation. Our FFA Farm Safety Day program



was scheduled for March 20, 2024, and sponsoring our event this past year was WCI Family Farms. We all know school can be quite a bore, but a day spent outside the classroom and learning about awesome components of living on a farm while being safe.

Some of the topics that will be talked

about are: food safety, chemical safety, mower safety, grain safety, fire safety, animal safety, PTO safety, and health safety. This event is a partnership with the FFA members and the North Montgomery Ag Advisory board members as we all saw a need and wanted to fill that void of "safety." The FFA chapter here

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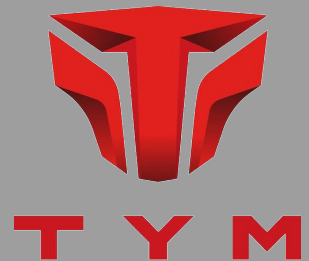
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at North takes the fifth graders and tries to teach them how to be safe with many different farm equipment and household items.

Krestyn Bradford
President

Spring and Fall Fundraisers

The North Montgomery FFA Chapter like many other after-school activities has a lot of fundraisers to help fund events and meetings throughout the school year. Let's take a look at a few of our fall and spring fundraisers.

The North Montgomery FFA chapter is currently working on our spring fundraisers. In our greenhouses we raise a variety of flowers, fruits and vegetables. We are offering our favorites like Boston Ferns, Lantanas, and a variety of tomatoes and peppers. Be sure to check out our offerings as all funds raised help support our chapter leadership activities that we all participate in.

FFA member Ryan Hess said, "The spring fundraiser is a great way for our chapter to raise money for our activities" and he "enjoyed running around getting people to buy our plants."

In the fall, the FFA members also participate in another fundraiser. Not only do we sell poinsettias, but we also work with Florida fruit to sell fresh fruit.

FFA member Kelby Coon said, "I like calling around to different family members and friends, catching up with them and seeing what they would like to buy."

If you miss your opportunity to order fruit, we always make sure to order extra just in case more is needed.

Did you know that both the spring and fall fundraisers help educate FFA members and ag students alike as they help participate in the growing of the plants? Recently the Principles of Agriculture class learned how to propagate Spider Plants and Wandering Jews. These plants will also be offered during our spring plant sales. The FFA members also help in the greenhouse by placing orders and transporting the plants. The poinsettias are also grown by the FFA members. If a student manages to sell 100 items they will be eligible to take a trip to Holiday World; providing an even greater incentive for members to sell more items throughout



the year.

The next fundraiser is a community breakfast on Feb. 28. We will be hosting our FFA Community Breakfast in the Ag room. FFA members will make a breakfast of sausage, eggs, bacon, and pancakes. People from the community, and from inside the school can come into the Ag room and buy a meal for just four dollars a plate. Our breakfast will be from 7-8:30 a.m. enter door #6 which is the Ag room door. You may dine in or we do have to go boxes available.

Support of our NMFFA fundraisers is greatly appreciated. Please be sure to contact an FFA member or Mrs. Bell for more information.

Caden Ireland
Vice President

Nourish

A couple times a year the North Montgomery FFA chapter ask FFA members to volunteer to help with packing back pack bags for the Nourish Program. It is a way for any FFA member to get some community involvement that helps our local families. When volunteering to help out with the

Nourish Program we pack anywhere from 30-70 bags for local kids in Montgomery County. Every Friday, kids that qualify for the back pack get one of the Nourish Program food bags to have for over the weekend. In every one to four students out of 10 in Montgomery County, go hungry over the weekend. The Nourish Program tries to feed as many of those students as they can. This is all made possible by canned or dried food donors, churches, money donations, and of course the volunteers that help pack the bags. Our FFA chapter will also donate 8-10 boxes of fresh fruit every year around Christmas, then we also help out with the packing the back packs.

We not only get to help others, but we also help ourselves. Through the Nourish Program we are helping pack bags to feed others. Not that many people know that we have a Nourish Program in Montgomery County, so it helps us students to know that not everyone is fortunate to have food on the table for them. The kids that get the bags get a variety of different foods every week. The Nourish Program does their bags in terms of week letters. Each week has a different letter and that letter deter-

mine what they will get. Some weeks, the students will get oatmeal, ramen noodles, spaghetti, canned soups, or macaroni and cheese and so much more. They receive seven to 11 items in each bag, some are small things like graham crackers and other things are bigger such as a box of oatmeal.

The Nourish Program is also a great way for us to grow as a community. The Nourish Program allows community members to get together, not just clubs or organizations like FFA. Some churches and organizations collect money to give to the Nourish Program so they can afford to give food to all the students. The Nourish Program has so many great supporters that they do not have to pay for very much. They work in an old Mill's School building provided to them, and this way they do not have to pay money for rent, electricity, or water, etc. If you are interested in helping contact Cathy at Nourish and she will get you all locked in to helping as many times as you and your groups would like to help.

Krestyn Bradford
President

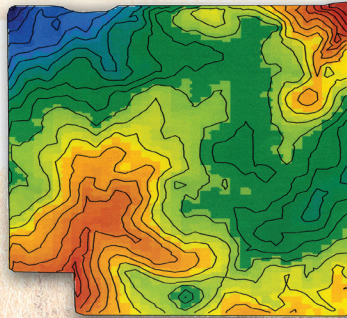
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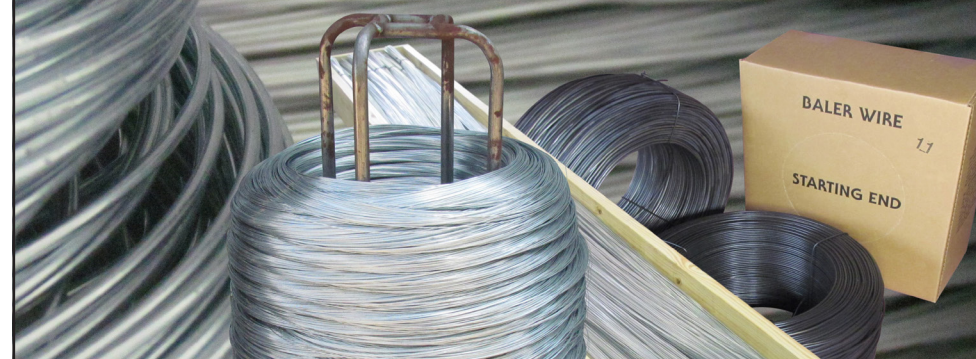
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For the Journal Review

Located in rural Parke County, the Parke Heritage High School FFA chapter is dedicated to engaging students through diverse events and activities. With over 60 members from varied backgrounds, the chapter offers numerous opportunities for personal growth, community service, and leadership development.

Leading the chapter this year are the officer team of President Carson Rolison; First Vice President Brayton Myers; Second Vice President Treyton Burgess; Secretary Ella Norman; Treasurer Destinee Stevenson; Reporter Hayden Holcomb; and Sentinel Julia Kelly.

A cherished annual event is the Feed a Farmer program. During the harvest season, FFA members prepare, pack, and deliver over 200 meals to local farmers and agricultural businesses. This initiative is a heartfelt way to express gratitude for the hard work and dedication of these essential community members.

The chapter organizes two livestock shows each year, serving both as fundraisers and promotional events for local livestock enthusiasts. These events enable members to raise funds for attending state and national conventions, where they can network with other FFA members and celebrate their achievements.

In 2024, the chapter had five members earn their Hoosier Degrees as a part of the State FFA Convention. They also had five who competed in state events and one member earned third place in the Veterinary Science Proficiency. This summer, a member will be competing in the Entrepreneurship Goat Production Proficiency.

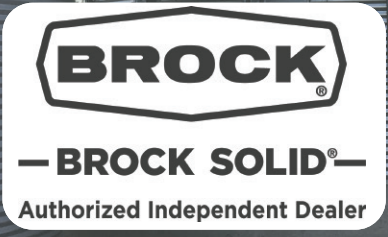
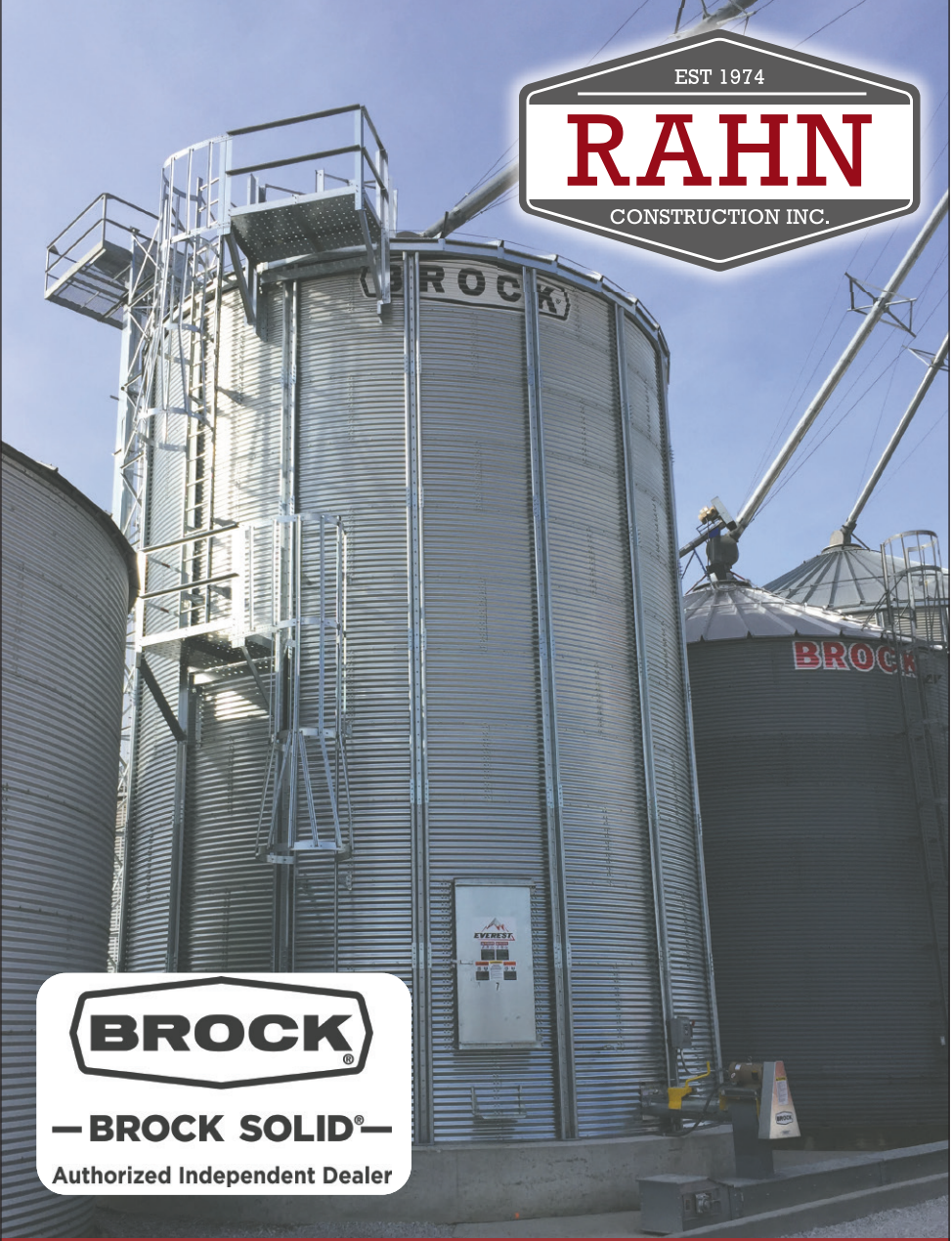
Attending the National FFA Convention in October is a remarkable opportunity for members to broaden their horizons and connect with peers from across the nation. This annual

gathering serves as a vibrant platform for networking, allowing members to forge meaningful relationships with other chapters. A highlight of the National Convention is the extensive trade show, which offers attendees a firsthand look at the diverse facets of agriculture. Members have the chance to explore exhibits featuring a wide range of agricultural businesses, organizations, and communities. The National FFA Convention also features inspiring keynote speakers who share their experiences and insights on leadership, agriculture, and personal growth. These speakers motivate attendees to pursue their passions and make a positive impact in their communities.

During FFA Week, the chapter hosts dress-up days and special events to raise awareness and promote their activities. A particularly meaningful event is "Hats for Howie," which collects donations for a former member's memorial fund. This fund supports life-saving equipment for fire departments, as well as scholarships, and support to local agricultural groups.

Each summer, the group also prepares meals for Colten's Convoy, which is also a fundraiser for his memorial fund. Local families ride





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around the county in honor of Colten and make stops along the way. Members providing meals is a way to remember Colten and to see the impact this event has on the community.

The chapter actively participates in various competitions, including:

- **Livestock Judging:** The team achieved third place in the FFA Division and fourth overall at the livestock skillathon, qualifying for the state contest.

- **District Chapter Meeting Contest:** The PHHS Black Team finished second in and advanced to the section contest, where they proudly earned sixth place.

- **Cob and Cog:** This event is hosted by Ivy Tech. The chapter earned first place in livestock management; second places- in horticulture, whatever floats your boat, and crop consulting. The quiz bowl team finished third.

- **Leadership Development Events:** The 2025 event will be held on March 7. In 2024, the chapter had two first place awards with those advancing to state. Five entries earned second place awards and four finished in third

place.

- **Welding Contest:** The beginner team placed eighth and the advanced teams placed 10th and 12th.

- **Small Engines Contest:** To be held this spring

- **Working with our local electric company,** the chapter participates in a friendly food drive competition with our rival county high school. This competition is another way to promote the chapter and to assist our local food pantries who are serving families with food insecurity.

The Parke Heritage FFA chapter is guided by four dedicated advisors, who provide a wealth of experience and expertise. Their leadership ensures that members have access to a broad range of experiences, fostering growth and development throughout their FFA journey.

Through these activities and initiatives, the Parke Heritage High School FFA chapter continues to make a positive impact on its members and the broader community, inspiring future leaders in agriculture.





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Southmont FFA

Putting the 'Unity' in Community

Being rooted in agriculture and using your FFA involvement to feed your community are opportunities worth taking advantage of.

In New Market, Southmont FFA members work diligently alongside Crossway Covenant Church to cook and prepare homemade Thanksgiving meals for community members. Southmont FFA has helped with this event for three years.

Bright and early on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, FFA members help cook and prepare enough food in just one day to feed more than 300 people. They cook chicken and noodles, potatoes, green beans, stuffing, desserts and more. This event is something the entire community looks forward to.

The beauty of a small town is the unity found within its community. This event not only sheds light on the deep roots within the community but also allows for a time of gathering to give thanks.

Additionally, Southmont FFA members get to meet with people of all different ages, backgrounds, and contributions within the community. During this time, members get to see who their community includes and learn to appreciate everyone for who they are. Making these connections with each person also allows the chapter to discover opportunities to continue to give back.

As we work to emphasize the meaning of "Living to Serve," recognizing the community for its support is something Southmont FFA finds extremely important.

Chapters share goal of increasing sustainable ag awareness

Montgomery County is no stranger to understanding the importance of sustainable agriculture.

For 26 years, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District has teamed up with Cain's Homelike

Farm to host a field day for every fourth grader in Montgomery County. Nearly 450 students experience the importance of sustainable agriculture each year through the event.

The North Montgomery FFA Chapter and the Southmont FFA Chapter partner to teach participating students about the water cycle. To help explain how water moves through the earth, attendees play a game where each student gets to become a water molecule traveling through the cycle. They have the opportunity to be in bodies of water, the sky, plants, and animals. Afterward, they take time to reflect on what they learned. Finally, the members leading the activity emphasize all the different

paths water can take and how no two molecules are the same.

When asked about her biggest takeaway from the event, North Montgomery FFA Advisor Nancy Bell said, "Making sure fourth graders understand what conservation is and how valuable it is to be aware of our natural resources."

Southmont FFA Advisor Erin Gilley shared a similar thought: "This is a great event, as it promotes the importance of soil and water and why we need to conserve both to some of our youngest community members."

Many of the participating fourth graders came into the session not knowing the basic principles of the water cycle. Within 20 minutes, however, they thor-

oughly understood the path water takes on our earth.

The fourth graders are not the only ones learning something new from the experience. FFA members from both chapters also have the opportunity to grow their leadership skills. They do this through teaching and guiding students through the day and strengthening their public speaking skills. Learning how to work with younger students from different backgrounds can also broaden members' outlooks on life.

Individuals ages 9 to 35 in Montgomery County schools have experienced this learning opportunity and, in turn, developed an understanding of agriculture in Montgomery County.



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Practice makes permanent

Creating a legacy since 1972, Southmont has many accomplishments upholding its name. These winnings are unmatched anywhere else within the industry. What has allowed us to win 61 state titles in the past 52 years? The answer to that is simple, we practice.

Practice is preparation. As we build repetition our minds turn it into habit. Southmont FFA chapter is no different than any other school but establishes difference through our efficiency and dedication. Harboring an environment of ongoing hard work and undivided attention, dreams are turned into reality. Proving if you work hard enough anything is possible, FFA creates some of the most devoted people. Don't overlook the saying "Practice like you want to perform" as Southmont FFA has seen the truth of that statement through wins and losses.

Unlike most sports, your FFA team has no impact on the other team's ability to perform. We all come into competitions playing offense. It's a matter of who is more prepared. Who has a stronger team? Who is simply better? All of which is determined through practice. Separating the good from the great, preparation determines so much.

Understanding the importance of practice has kept Southmont FFA uniquely competitive over the years. There is a level of dedication passed down from older members to younger ones. When an expectation of excellence is held, you quickly become driven to succeed. Using practice time as efficiently as possible to recreate a competitive environment will produce success and dedicated people. It will always hold that practice makes permanent.

365 Days: Growth, leadership and accomplishments

Over the past year, Southmont has accomplished amazing things. Our members have excelled in all areas through leadership, contests, and community service. From 2024 FFA week until now there is so much for you to get caught



up on!

Leadership: Our chapter officer team consists of Kylee Reeves as President, Sophia Shannon as Ag Education Vice President, Cole Rhoads as Ag Business Vice President, Daniel Simpson as Secretary, Kelsey Thompson as Reporter, Ethan Smith as Treasurer, and Lennon Woods as Sentinel. Kylee Reeves and Sophia Shannon are District 4 officers filling the role of Vice President and Reporter. Caden Sixberry ended his time as Indiana FFA State Treasurer in June. Clair Simpson and Naomi Plunkett are Indiana Band and Chorus Officers where Clair is Chorus President and Naomi is Vice President. Kelsey Thompson is an FFA in the USA Reporter working with National FFA.

Contents: Southmont achieved state titles in soil judging, crop judging, floriculture, and ag sales. Southmont placed 5th in the nation in the floriculture contest. We also had high accomplishments in skillathon, welding, livestock judging, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, demonstrations, job interviews, proficiencies, etc.

Community service: Anything from fixed meals to physical labor Southmont FFA has lent a helping hand in many different situations. Our community service activities include but aren't limited to the Thanksgiving meal at Crossway Covenant Church, organizing



clothes with Lords Clothes Closet at the New Market Baptist Church, setting up chairs and tables at numerous events, landscaping the FFA Pavilion at the Indiana State Fair, serving breakfast at the Montgomery County 4-H Fair, cleaning a 2-mile stretch of Highway 47, and educating the youth about agriculture.

Chapter events: Throughout the year we hold many events as an officer team and chapter. Our officer team attended a Leadership development workshop, Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District annual meeting, Ag advocacy day at the state house, Montgomery County Field days, and Montgomery County Ag days. As a

chapter, we host seasonal parties, go on an annual 10-mile canoe trip, attend chapter retreats, host a blood drive, host pedal tractor pulls, and play our annual kickball game against North Montgomery FFA.

We look forward to what the future has in store and look forward to continuing to grow FFA members into leaders.

Southmont FFA goes to nationals

The Southmont FFA chapter has had a long line of successful judging teams

since its founding in 1972 including over 30 state titles in Crops Judging and over 25 state titles in Floriculture Evaluation. Southmont has also been very fortunate to have hardworking and dedicated FFA members over the last fifty years and this year was no different. This year both the floriculture team and soils team were able to continue that tradition of working hard and reaping the benefits.

In the spring of 2024, the Southmont FFA Senior Floriculture team of Cole Rhoads, Natalie Rhoads, Amarah Shannon, and Kelsey Thompson were named state champions. Winning the state contest allowed the team the opportunity to travel to the National Floriculture Contest in Indianapolis in October of 2024. The team worked extremely hard and put in countless hours of practice.

The floriculture team was able to walk away from the national contest, having placed 5th in the nation. Only six points separated them from placing in the top four and getting to walk across the stage. There were 43 states

represented at the contest and over 170 competitors. Kelsey Thompson led the team and placed 16th individually. Cole placed 17th, Amarah placed 24th, and Natalie placed 46th.

In addition to the floriculture team being named state champions, the soils judging team was also named a state champion in October 2024. Team members of this state winning team included Caden Allen, Ethan Smith, Daniel Simpson, and Clair Simpson. Winning the state contest allows the team the opportunity to go and compete at the national contest in Oklahoma City in May of 2025.

The soils team has been practicing rigorously, in hopes of finding success once again at the National Land Judging Contest. In 2023, Southmont's Soils Judging Team placed 3rd in the nation and this team is anxious to carry on that success.

Both teams would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the community sponsors, supporters, and school administration and staff that helped make both trips possible.



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