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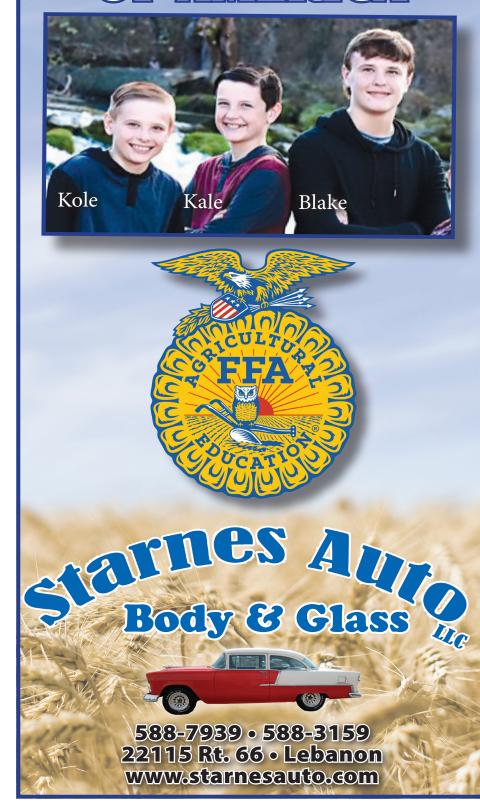




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Lebanon FFA gets a new advisor, teacher

Hayley Miller shares her passion for agriculture with her students

STEVE SMITH SSMITH@LACLEDERECORD.COM

For Hayley Miller, agriculture is a passion that she wants to share with her students at Lebanon High School.

Miller is one of three agriculture teachers who also serve as FFA advisers. She has been teaching for five years and this is her first year with the Lebanon R-3 School District.

Miller has wanted to be a teacher since childhood.

"I told my mom and dad I wanted to be a teacher," she said. "So dreams are coming true for me, and I'm helping kids make their dreams come true."

Lebanon's agriculture program allows students to experience many different aspects of the field, according to Miller.

"We actually have classes that range from kids being exposed to all parts of agriculture, whether that's animals, plants, the business, mechanical or building side of things, and I teach a lot of those classes," she said.

Once students take an introduction class, they're able to take a variety of agriculture classes on topics including business, animals, nursery/landscape/



the school with 170 FFA members taking agriculture classes, according to Miller.

COVID-19 has cut down on the amount of activities FFA has been able to do, but they have worked on a few events and done some observances in class, Miller said.

"This spring we're getting to do some have what's called a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE), which is a project hands-on, outside of school that is agriculture related and then based on that there are different awards they can earn," she said. "We have four kids, based on how active they are in FFA and their SAE programs, they are earning their state FFA degree, which is pretty prestigious, and then we have two kids apply for the Proficiency Award, which is mainly based on the SAE projects they do outside of school and have one who qualified that will compete at the state level."

things. The kids have

Students are preparing to attend some FFA competitions this spring.

"As long as the weather starts cooper-



Lebanon FFA advisor and agriculture teacher Hayley Miller, far right front, poses for a picture with FFA members.

ating, the first weekend of March is our first contest we will travel to and compete in, which is super exciting," she said.

Miller said she wanted to remind people that FFA is about more than "plants and cows."

"The leadership opportunities that the kids learn is phenomenal," she said. "Even if the kids have no desire to stay with agriculture as a career, if they want to be a doctor or lawyer or such, there are so many things, like networking, that these kids can benefit from. There's people I met in high school while I was

an FFA member that, I was like, yeah, I won't know them, no big deal, and they see you walking in with your FFA jacket and they're like, 'Yeah, I was a part of that,' and they tell you stories about when they were in FFA, it's neat to see how those connections are made."



mechanics.

"As FFA advisers, we take those kids that want to be super-active in it," she said. "We do competitions where they take what they learn in class and get to travel across the state to compete and could become eligible to compete at the state level, depending on how well they do there they can move on to nationals. They get to meet kids from around the state and even around the United States."

Miller said these activities help develop leadership and personal skills.

"We're just there to push them outside their comfort zones and reach the goals they have," she said.

There is a lot of interest in agriculture at

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annual production sale. Their duties included shuttling people to and from the sale from the parking lot helping wherever they were needed. Left, this is our new and upcoming FFA members who are proudly representing their new FFA jackets. They will receive a greenhand pin for remembering the FFA Creed which includes five paragraph commitment throughout their FFA career.

Top, Lebanon FFA members had the privilege of helping Wall Street Cattle Co. with their first

LACLEDE COUNTY RECORD | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021











Top left, Lebanon FFA advisor Tom Inman with senior Cameron Moore. Cameron built a 14-foot flatbed trailer in Inman's Ag Construction II. Bottom left, Garrett Wood who is currently a senior in the Lebanon FFA works at Woods Service Center in Lebanon during the Agricultural Cooperative Program. His plans after graduation are to attend Missouri Welding Institute. Garrett Wood applies himself to the task set before him, he enjoys working on his truck and hunting. Above, Lebanon FFA member, Mary Uder, is showing her steer at the Laclede County Fair. She is also the Treasurer of the Lebanon FFA.



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Top left, senior Taylor Decker exhibited the Carcass Champion hog at the 2020 Laclede County fair. Taylor has been an active member the past four years in FFA. Top right, Hunter Henry and Griffon Bakeburg, who are both seniors in the Lebanon FFA program in the process of restoring a Super C Farmall tractor in Ag Construction II class. Hunter loves working and training bird dogs, and shooting clays. Hunter plans on attending State Tech in Lynn Missouri after graduation to become a mechanic. Right, Lebanon FFA Advisor Tom Inman uses his stock dog to demonstrate purpose, obedience, and respect to students at the LTCC.



















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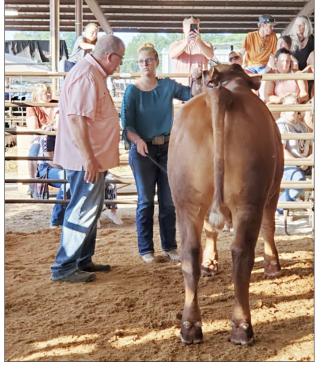






Top left, Lebanon FFA advisor Hayley Miller works with exhibitors at the Laclede County Fair. Top right, Lebanon FFA member, MacKenzie Wrinkle, showing her market hog, Poncho, at the Laclede County Fair. Far right, Lebanon FFA member Kaylee Mcdermott visiting with the judge at the Laclede County market steer show. Right, sophomore Brook Harrill shows her steer at the Laclede County Fair.







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The 2020-2021 Stoutland FFA officer team

Stoutland FFA has productive year

STOUTLAND FFA

From chapter barnwarming to state-ranked speakers, we at Stoutland FFA have had a productive and growing year, despite the pandemic and the troubles that have come with it.

We at Stoutland FFA are optimistic that even despite trying times, we will continue growing as leaders, have events as we used to and create a fun-filled environment for students to increase their passion for agriculture.

This past fall greenhand Faith Allesch went to state for the Farm Bureau fall speaking topic. She is the first in recent memory to do so. We are very proud of her success this year and hopeful for more success from her and others in the coming years in our FFA speech competitions.

We had a very successful

mums sale this fall ending with an incentive trip to our top 15 sellers.

To welcome our greenhands, we had a bonfire, where we ate, played fun games and were able to bond more as a chapter.

Our own vice president Madison Cooley was elected as area historian this year.

Due to covid affecting our state conventions last spring, many things were pushed back or canceled altogether. Luckily, we were able to compete in a couple Career Development Events last year and prepare a couple teams for competition.

Once virtual contests opened in September when we returned to school, the Nursery and Landscape team competed in the virtual contest and finished 4th in the state contest. Three of the members on the contest received a group 1 rating: Kristin Jones, Karsyn Biggers and Madison Cooley.

We are very excited to start the 2021 contest season and are expecting a very successful year from all students in various CDE areas.

We will be hosting our second annual Stoutland contest this year. We expect to have well over 400 students across seven CDE areas.

Last year's President and Vice President Carli Morrow and Skylar Shepherd were awarded the state FFA degree during the 2020 virtual FFA convention.

Due to covid we have been unable to do many things. Although this has been difficult, it has helped us increase our passion in agriculture and be thankful for the things we were still able to do. The future is bright for Stoutland FFA.



Greenhand Megan Eilenstine showing her steer for her SAE project.





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Top left, Stoutland FFA members pose with their tractors on Tractor Day last year. Above, junior Abe Stamper welds a kayak rack. Far left, junior Abe Stamper shows off his 1486 International Harvester tractor. Left, the Agriculture I class learns the cuts of a chicken.





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Top left, the Stoutland FFA officer team members pose for a picture in front of a lake at the officer retreat. Middle left, the Stoutland FFA chapter held a Greenhand welcoming bonfire. Bottom left, the Grasslands team members attended the Spring Forage Conference. Bottom right, Chaplin Bradley Shaw rakes hay on his family's farm.







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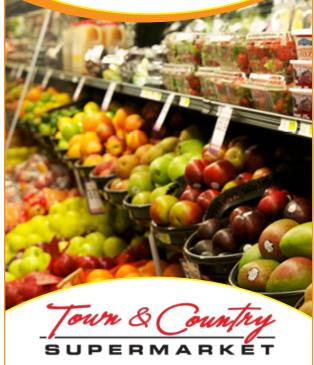
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The pandemic can't stop the Conway FFA

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Even through the changes brought about by COVID, our FFA members have found ways to reach success.

Our year started with several community service activities. Members collected items to make travel care packages for truck drivers and wrote thank you cards to health care workers. They were able to assemble over 50 care packages and mailed out 50 thank you cards. Members also helped distribute over 200 meals to families in Niangua.

During the 2020 Virtual State FFA Convention, we had three members finish second in their proficiency areas: Hunter Lindley- Ag Mech Design and Fabrication Placement, James Shockley- Environmental Science/Natural Resources and Jarred Spradling- Forage Production. Other finalists were: Ethan Reid- Ag Sales Entrepreneurship, Jozie Jensen- Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, Natalie Mackey- Diversified Horticulture, Skyler Storie- Diversified Livestock, JJ Sanwald-Poultry Production, Paige Walker-Sheep Production. Seven members received their State FFA Degrees: Hunter Lindley, Simon Livingston, James Shockley, Jarred Spradling, Skyler Storie (Area 10 Star Farmer), Cassie Vestal and Jada Webster.

During COVID Break, members were able to work with their SAE projects. These efforts did not go unnoticed during SAE visits and lead to the opportunity to interview with Matt Brechwald of "Off-Farm



Income" podcast. We had several students selected for this opportunity and are extremely proud of their projects.

Other activities we participated in over the summer included showing at local, state and national shows, participating in rodeos, working a Cowboy Mounted Shoot, and sharing their knowledge of agriculture with Ezard Elementary Summer School students. Our dairy kids brought home the Dairy FFA Sweepstakes from the Missouri State Fair. This is awarded to the FFA chapter that acquires the most points during the FFA show. Congratulations to Whitney Yerina and Jackson Gunter for having an outstanding show and earning this prestigious award!!

Taylor Whitehead was selected as Area 10 FFA officer and has been instrumental in offering different opportunities for area members to participate in. She has represented our school and community very well!

This fall activities have been hit and miss. The Conway Truck and Tractor Pull to benefit the Conway FFA was the most successful to date. We had a record number of sponsors, a record number of people in attendance and netted over \$18,000 to provide FFA members opportunities and recognition for their accomplishments in the Conway Ag Department. We are incredibly thankful for the support of our community that believe in our FFA members!!

Every member in our chapter was able to "attend" the National FFA Convention and participate in the virtual events from October 27-29. They were also able to watch the American FFA Degree ceremony where thirteen of our members received the highest degree in the National FFA Organization. These members were: Makayla Caselman, Dakota Cushing, Lane Doing, Riley Earls, Hayden Graves, Cooper Keesling, Emily Livingston, Blake Officer, Bud Triplett, Shea

Conway FFA

Walker, Riley Ward, Lauren Whitehead, and Hunter Wissbaum.

We were able to have our Annual Point Chart Auction/ Christmas Party, a favorite of our members. Those in attendance got to "buy" items, eat, laugh and just enjoy some fun for a couple of hours. They definitely deserved this chance this year- they've been great through all of this and have not complained about the things they haven't got to do. This shows the quality of kids we have in our program- they really are the best of the best!!

This past week we had 11 State FFA Degree candidates pass Area Screening. They are: Taylor Cossey, Cragar Harris, Tater Hawkins, Racheal Leer, Emily Lewis, Natalie Mackey, Ethan Reid, JJ Sanwald, Tanner Simpson, Haley Williams, and Hayden Wright. We also had fourteen members compete with their proficiencies at the area level, three advancing as state finalists. Results are: State Finalist: JJ Sanwald-Diversified Agricultural Production, State Finalist: Haley Williams- Diversified Horticulture, State Finalist: Kason McBride- Turfgrass Management, 2nd: Ethan Reid- Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication, 2nd: Taylor Whitehead- Dairy Production Entrepreneurship, 2nd: Kerstin Morlock-Equine Science Placement, 3rd: Whitney Yerina- Dairy Production Placement, 3rd: Maggie Sheets- Goat Production, 4th: Caleb Graves- Landscape Management, 4th: Jace Jensen-Wildlife Management, 5th: Troy Replogle- Ag Mech Repair & Maintenance Placement, 5th: Emily Lewis- Beef Production Entrepreneurship, 5th: Reagan Perryman-Forest Management, and 5th: Breanna Thompson-Veterinary Science.

We are looking forward to this next year and the opportunities it will bring for our students to develop skills that will have a positive impact on their lives for many years to come!



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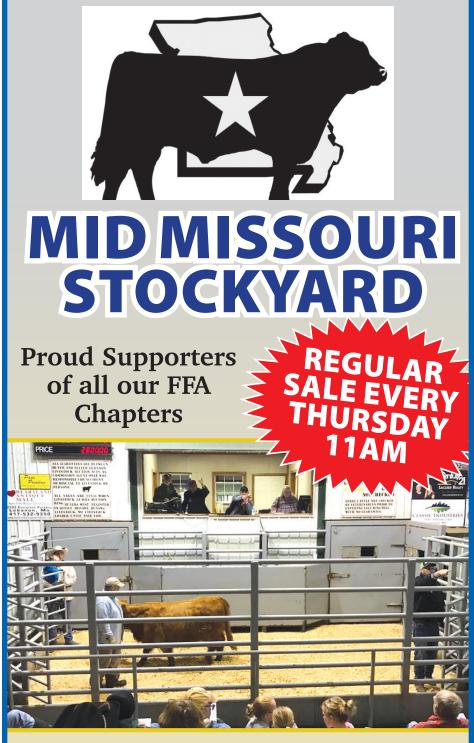






Top left, State FFA Degree Candidate Cragar Harris is a senior and four-year member of Conway FFA. He is the son of Levi and Sabrina Harris. His SAE is Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship where he rents his own bay in his family's business Harris and Sons. Cragar has been a State Finalist in the Ag Mechanics Repair and Maintenance, Placement proficiency area. Middle top, State FFA Degree Candidate Emily Lewis is a senior and four-year member of Conway FFA. She is the daughter of Gary and Jodi Lewis. Emily's SAE is Beef Production, Entrepreneurship. Top right, Area 10 Star Agribusiness and State FFA Degree Candidate Ethan Reid is a four-year Conway FFA member and served as an officer for three years, currently serving as Sentinel. Ethan is the son of Ben and Kim Reid. His SAE is Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication. He has been a State Finalist in the Ag Services proficiency area. Bottom left, State Finalist in Diversified Horticulture and State FFA Degree candidate Haley Williams is a four-year member of Conway FFA and has served as an officer for two years; she is currently serving as Treasurer. She is the daughter of BJ and Christi Williams. Haley's SAE is Diversified Horticulture. She has her own garden, assists friends and family with the care of their plants when they are away, and works with Walmart customers with their plant and plant supply purchases. Left, State FFA Degree candidate Hayden Wright is a senior and four-year member of Conway FFA. He is the son of Josh and Tonya Wright and Cody and Lindsi Jones. Hayden's SAE is Outdoor Recreation. He participates in various levels of rodeos as a bull rider. He has been a member of the Dairy Cattle, Livestock and Soils Career Development Events.







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-Jaclyn Ryan, 2015 Virginia Teacher of the Year, FFA Advisor

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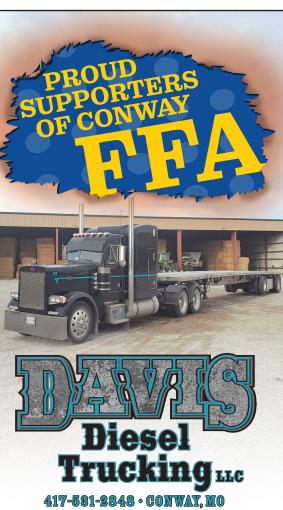




Clockwise from top left: State Finalist in Diversified Ag Production and State FFA Degree candidate JJ Sanwald is a senior, four-year Conway FFA member and is currently serving as our Chapter President. He is the son of John and Tonya Sanwald. JJ's SAE is Diversified Agriculture as he does a whole lot in several areas. State Finalist in Turfgrass Management Kason McBride is a senior and four year member of Conway FFA. He is the son of Paul and Kristi McBride. Kason's SAE is Turfgrass Management. State FFA Degree candidate Natalie Macket is a 2020 graduate and four-year member of Conway FFA. She is the daughter of Josh and Christina Mackey. Natalie's SAE is Diversified Horticulture. State FFA Degree candidate Racheal Leer is a senior and four-year member of Conway FFA. She is the daughter of Shane and Rabecca Leer. Her SAE is Diversified Livestock. State FFA Degree candidate

Tanner Simpson is a senior and four-year member of Conway FFA. He is the son of Tommy and Tiffany Simpson. Tanner's SAE is Ag Services where he works for Conway MFA and for his grandmother doing a variety of agricultural related tasks. State FFA Degree candidate Tater Hawkins is a senior, a four-year member of Conway FFA and served as an officer for two years- currently serving as Vice President. He is the son of Wes and Holli Hawkins. Tater's SAE has included Beef Production, both Entrepreneurship and Placement, and Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication. State FFA Degree candidate Taylor Cossey is a senior and four year member of Conway FFA. He is the son of Terry and Teressa Cossey. Taylor's SAE is Beef Production, Entrepreneurship where he owns over 30 momma COWS.











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