

National FFA WEEK

FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024



Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve.

Each year, FFA chapters around the country celebrate National FFA Week. It's a time to share what FFA is and the impact it has on members every day.

What better way to show your support of FFA than to get involved in FFA Week? Whether it's in person, on the phone or via social media, be sure to share your FFA stories during #FFAweek!



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The FFA Creed

I believe in the future of agriculture, with a faith born not of words but of deeds – achievements won by the present and past generations of agriculturists; in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years.

I believe that to live and work on a good farm, or to be engaged in other agricultural pursuits, is pleasant as well as challenging; for I know the joys and discomforts of agricultural life and hold an inborn fondness for those associations which, even in hours of discouragement, I cannot deny.

I believe in leadership from ourselves and respect from others. I believe in my own ability to work efficiently and think clearly, with such knowledge and skill as I can secure, and in the ability of progressive agriculturists to serve our own and the public interest in producing and marketing the product of our toil.

I believe in less dependence on begging and more power in bargaining; in the life abundant and enough honest wealth to help make it so—for others as well as myself; in less need for charity and more of it when needed; in being happy myself and playing square with those whose happiness depends upon me.

I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task.



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Several members attending State FFA Convention. It included members enjoying a day trip and members that have been competing.



Madison Myers practicing skills of being a heavy equipment operator with Capital Academy helping guide their learning.



Students that competed in Fall Speaking include: Nora Mitschele, Ryder Meckem, Alayna Meckem, Emily Hopkins, Elisha Dickens and Brynn Kasten.

The Lebanon FFA Chapter:

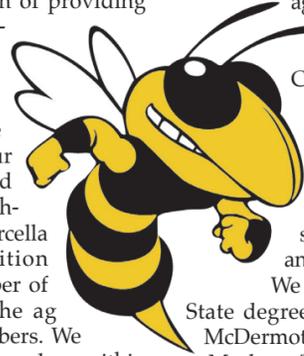
LEBANON FFA

The Lebanon FFA chapter has continued its long tradition of providing students with opportunities to develop skills in leadership, agriculture, and community service this past year. We have been able to expand our program by adding a third full time agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Marcella Cadle. With that addition we have a record number of students enrolled in the ag program and FFA Members. We currently have 229 FFA members within our program.

We kicked off 2023 with a bang heading to Oklahoma and Northern Texas on our Industry Tour Trip. We were able to take several students to see the historic downtown Oklahoma City Stockyards and the Cattlemen's Congress which is a large cattle show where producers from all over the United States bring cattle to compete. We traveled to Texas to tour Terry Bradshaw's Quarter Horse Ranch which was an amazing experience in itself. We had a huge surprise when Terry Bradshaw and his wife made an appearance. It was great to see them interact with the kids and open to answering their questions about his involvement in the cattle and equine industry along with football.

Last Spring we had several members participate in Career Development Events which showcase their knowledge learned in ag classes. We had seven teams compete at district level which includes: Dairy Cattle, Livestock, Poultry, Farm Management, Floriculture, and Meats. Three teams qualified for State Competition. These teams included Livestock Evaluation team, Ryder Meckem, Reed Milliken, Stephine Self, and Kaden Rob-

erts, poultry team including Marissa Gress, Alayna Meckem, Jaylie Williams, and Jayden Williams and the Farm Management Team, Ella Johnson, Tory Miller, Hayden Starnes, and Hannah Curtis.



Students track their FFA involvement, their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) and leadership throughout high school to earn their State and American FFA Degrees.

We had 4 students earn their State degree: Lanie Milliken, Kaylee McDermott, Gracie Uder, and Ryder Meckem. This fall we had 6 students earn their American FFA Degree which is the highest degree a student can earn in FFA. Those earning their degree are: Haley Bakeberg, Emma Beal, Selby Miller, Taylor Miller, Mary Looney (Uder), and Emily Waterman. Students also showcase their SAE through Proficiency awards. Kaden Roberts was able to compete on the state level with his Swine Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency award this past spring.

A few members showcased their speaking talents at the Fall area contest: Brynn Kasten, Elisha Dickens, Nora Mitschele, and Ryder Meckem, with Emily Hopkins and Alayna Meckem moving on to compete at the district level.

We welcomed new members with an ice cream social and trip to Ozark Farm Fest. Our fall activities included parade participation, hosting a softball tournament, and our major Labor Auction fundraiser, which raised over \$20,000 this year. We appreciate everyone that supports our chapter through our largest fundraiser of the year. These funds help pay for events and trips that we have students attend throughout the year. We appreciate the continued support of all community members and partners!

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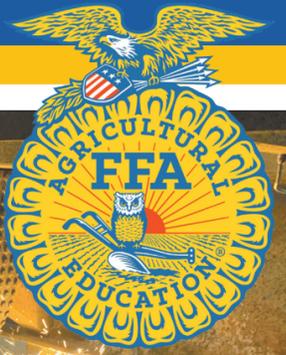
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Gunner Williams, Drew Bowling, Thomas Wrinkle, Wes Chaffin, Ryder Meckem and Kaden Roberts, are seniors who have completed the agricultural mechanics pathway during high school.



Thomas Wrinkle works on a 54 foot semi trailer installing a hydraulic dovetail to use on his family farm, Wrinkle Farms.



Senior Ryder Meckem welds on horseshoe projects in the Joker Welding shop to earn money to fund his senior capstone project, which is building a trailer.

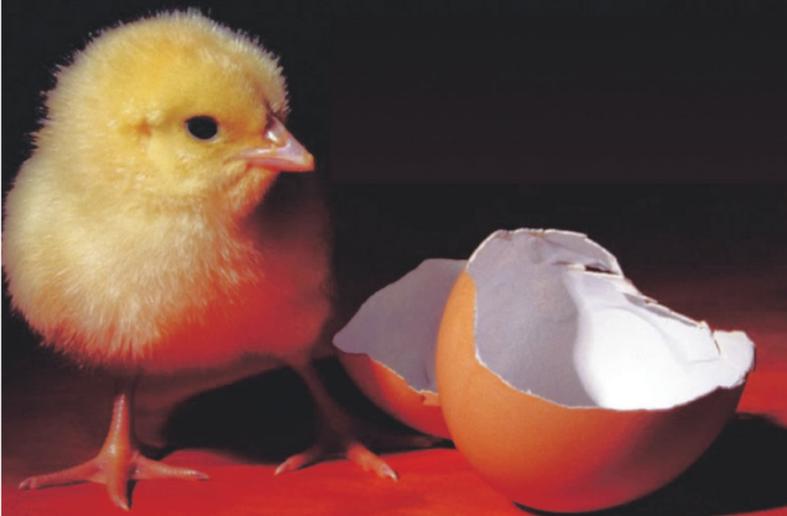


Junior Oakley Ragland is working on his racecar and getting it prepared for the season. This is Oakley's passion and his SAE project.

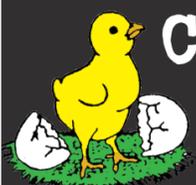


Andrew Bowling shows his senior capstone project. He plans to attend MSU's construction management program.

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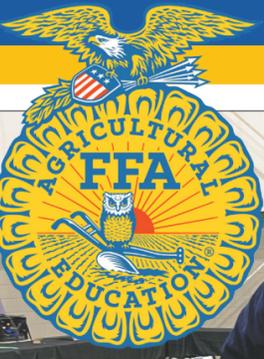
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A handful of students help at the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet. They helped run games, sell items, and helped hold items during the auction. Nolan Milliken is pictured selling raffles to a table where FFA member Gunner Williams is sitting. In the background is Cash Vickers, Jaylie Williams, Cody Jones and Maya Blackmon who also helped with the event.



Cash Vickers, Daniel Roberts, Wyatt Shumate and Dylan Russell, are seniors who have completed the agricultural mechanics pathway during high school.



Gunner Williams with his senior capstone project, a 36 foot bale trailer made from the ground up. He will be using that on his family farm and custom work.



During the National FFA Convention, we took students to see a fertilizer plant named Nutrien Ag Solutions where they got to tour the facilities.



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Our 23-24 FFA Officer Team: Sadie Douglas, Hannah Curtis, Jaylie Williams, Nolan Milliken, Cash Vickers, Ryder Meckem, Reed Milliken and Hayden Starnes with advisers Hayley Miller, Marcella Cadle and Tommy Inman.



Lanie Milliken, Kayelee McDermott, Gracie Uder and Ryder Meckem earned their State FFA Degree.



Students in the Wildlife & Conservation Management class had a fishing trip to Maramec Springs at the end of their Fish unit. (Left Photo) Pictured are Kolton Tucker, Alayna Meckem, Abby Cones and Aerika Wilson. (Right Photo) Pictured are Bre Collar, Kacie O'Neal, LeAnna Case and Harrison Schmitt.

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Gracie Gilby clips her show steer, prior to the Laclede County Fair, which is part of her SAE project.



Greenhouse students organize supplies to prepare for the planting season which will lead to their Plant Sale at the end of the school year.



Students in the Nursery/Landscape class learn how to press holiday wreaths using fresh Eastern Red Cedar. Pictured here are Madison Rodden, Jaylie Williams, Oakley Ragland and Jaila Thompson.



Agriculture Science classes participated in a firearm carousel at the end of their Hunter Education course. This carousel gave them deliberate practice with each action of firearm before their skills session. They demonstrated muzzle control, loading/unloading, and working the action and safeties.



FFA members Emma O'Quinn and Mady Wilson practice the hinge/break action firearm during the Hunter Education Unit.



FFA members Kylor Pruitt, Lane Stephen and David Legan practice loading and unloading the semi-automatic action firearm during the Hunter Education Unit.



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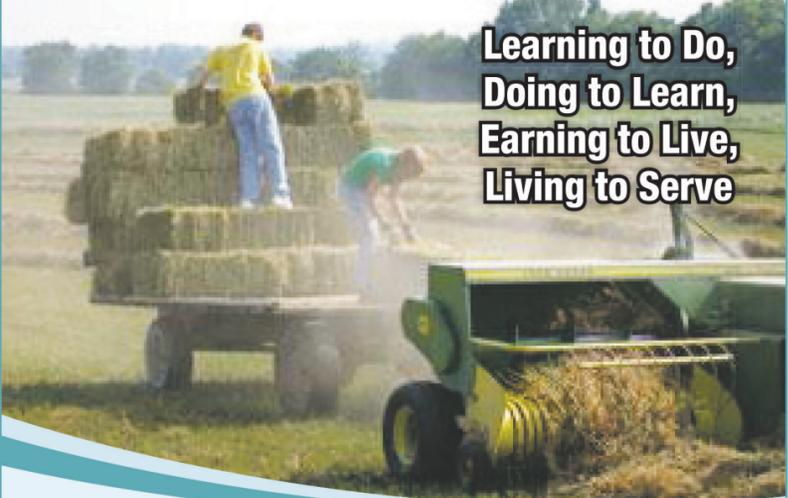
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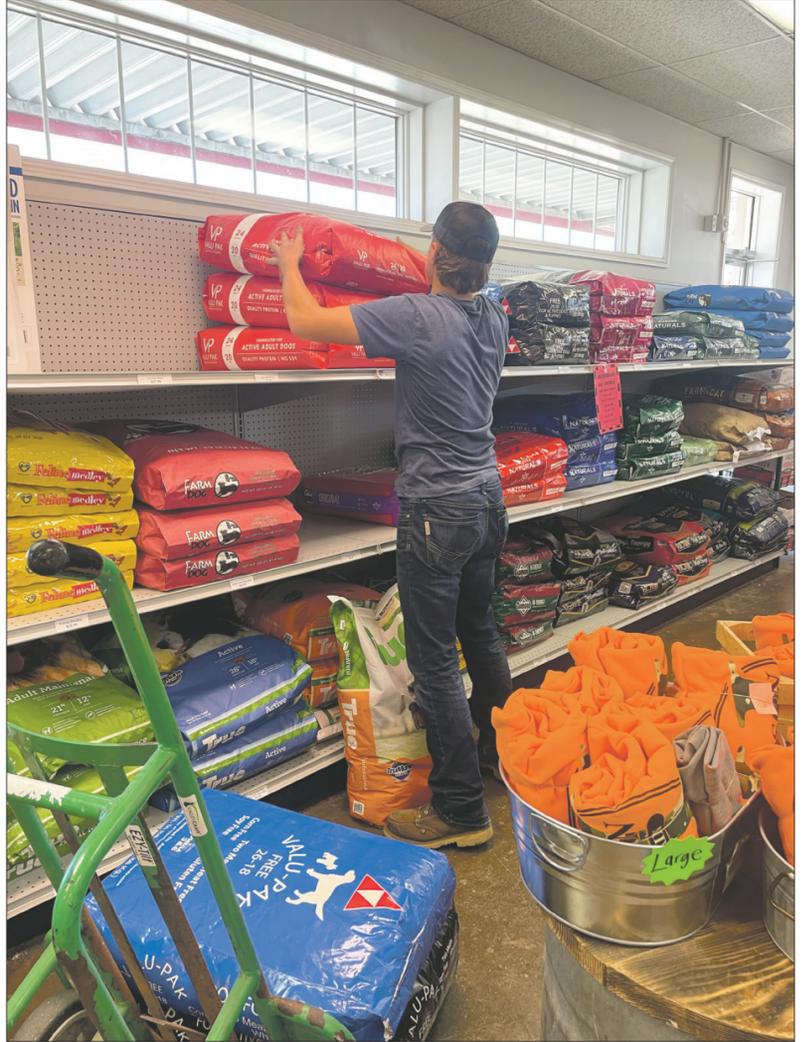


HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING






Agriculture students pull weeds and clean up landscaping around the FFA Barn. Pictured are Madison Kreuer, Christy Miller and Maya Blackmon.



Senior Kaden Roberts works at Noble Hudson & Sons Feed Store in Lebanon as one of his SAE projects. He learns about the various feed products and helps customers understand feed labels.



Jaila Thompson is pictured working at Eastburns Vet Clinic as her SAE Project. She has the opportunity to watch operations, handle animals and maintain a clean facility.



Seniors had the opportunity to work with community mentors at Livestock Marketing Day. Students got hands-on experience of a cattle auction and competed to see who would make the most profit.

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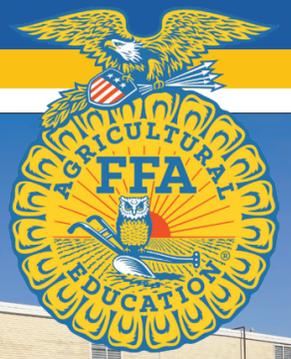
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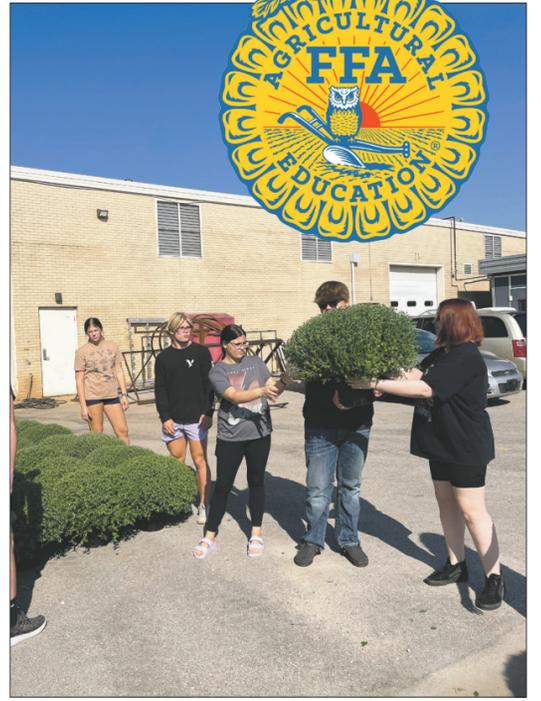
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Animal Science and Agriculture Science students help clean out the barn and stall to prepare for steers. Pictured are Jackson Snyder, Tristin Cox and Charlie Windsor.



A handful of FFA members help run Farm Day for our Early Childhood students. Our High School students brought tractors, skid steers, cattle, chickens, ducks, horses and working dogs. Pictured are Drew Bowling and Cash Vickers holding horses and teaching a group of young Yellowjackets.



Greenhouse students place numerous mums out in the fall that they sold as a fundraiser to raise money for spring plants. Pictured: Ethan Phillips, Ava Hughes, Jax Glendenning, Maddison Rodden, Toby Page and Leslie Jones.



Three of our officers ran an FFA table for freshmen to learn more about the chapter and agriculture classes they have the opportunity to take. The officers running the table are Hayden Starnes, Hannah Curtis and Cash Vickers. A few first year agriculture students in this picture are Hudson Starnes, Jag Goforth and Jackson Snyder



Some of the greenhouse students, (Jaylie Williams, Leslie Jones, Bailey Moore, Mary McGinnis, Ethan Phillips, Oakley Ragland and more) bleach out the greenhouse to eliminate any pests, algae or anything that could cause our incoming plants harm.



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Daniel Roberts, a senior, is restoring a Super-C that was donated to Lebanon FFA.



Members tour Terry Bradshaw's Quarter Horse Ranch. They were able to meet Terry and his wife!

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The National FFA group that was brought to the National FFA convention.



The Nationals group with our American degree recipients. We are proud that they achieved such a great accomplishment.



The seniors that went to Nationals, (left to right) Megan Elinstine, Shawn Manes, Ethan Claiborn, CJ Butteris and Hanna Glawson.



Megan Elinstine with her new FFA officer polo.

The Stoutland FFA Chapter:

STOUTLAND FFA

The Stoutland FFA members have had a great year so far and plan on it being very eventful in these next few months. We have so many more events planned for the rest of the year like the annual Stoutland FFA contest, the Labor auction and many more.

At the end of last year we had the Stoutland FFA Banquet where we gave out awards, everyone got to meet the new FFA officers, we can see what all we have accomplished throughout the year, and we also had an amazing dinner. We had 3 seniors that graduated and ready to take their FFA skills into their lives.

Every year we have a mum sale and depending on how many mums you sell you can help get things paid for. For our first year members, if they sell 25 mums or more they get a free FFA jacket and for everyone else it can help pay for the nationals trip. If you sell mums you get to go on a trip and for this year we went to Andy B's. We bowled and then played lazer tag and other games. Lazer tag with the group is always a big hit and the trip makes for a good way to give back to the FFA members who helped fundraise for the year's annual expenses.

The agriculture classes are learning different contests and getting ready to do amazing on the contest team they decide to be on. Contest teams are always an area we strive to do our best and demonstrate our knowledge that we learn throughout the year. Our 2023 season of contests was a hit. The forestry team got 12th place at Districts but plan on making a push to state this year. The livestock team got 18th place at districts and are also looking for a strong push this season. The Dairy foods team got 5th in Area and got 7th in Districts and were state qualifiers. Nursery and Landscape got 1st in Area and 2nd at Districts and were also state qualifiers. The Poultry team got 1st in Area and also 1st in Districts and made it to State. Mallory Shaw was able to get a group 1 gold rating at state. This year we plan on all of our teams making it to State.

The Stoutland contest had over 800 students and we hope to have more this year. We have a total of 9 different contests hosted and we are one of the smallest schools to host such an event. This year's contest will be on March 1st. Our officers are getting ready to start setting up. We have a few agriculture teachers, community members and supporters helping us and we are very thankful for their help. Without everyone's support this event would not be possible.

Every year we have a labor auction. Last year we had a very successful year and we hope this year is just as successful. You can buy some assistance to help you work for 6 hours per person you buy. You can also buy some delicious desserts that our FFA members make to sell as well. It is a great fundraiser for our FFA chapter and we are very appreciative of the members as well as the community.

To start this school year off, our officers got together at the lake and

did some team building activities, swimming, and POA planning to make this year a success.

Our FFA officers are; President Aliyah Jones, Vice Presidents Megan Eilenstine and Hanna Glawson, Treasure Myli Ratterree, Secretary Mallory Shaw, Reporter Savannah Chaffin,

Sentinel Shawn Manes, Historian Harlee Mathews, Parliamentarian Mckinley Morrow, Chaplain Michael Kincaid, and Advisor Zane Lowrance. Our officers were so excited to be able to be leaders for Stoutland FFA and the community.

We had an ice cream party to get everyone together and let the greenhands have a little bit of an experience as an FFA member. We also had a barnwarming and a bonfire that were very successful. It was such a great bonding experience and everyone had a great time. We talked by the fire, we played games, and we had some food. These are just some events that we have done so far this year and we plan on having many more like it.

Everyone that went to the National FFA Convention had a great time. We went to the FFA expo and had a great time meeting new FFA members and exhibitors, learning new things, and buying apparel. We went to Fair Oaks Farm and we learned how a traditional large scale dairy looks and operates. We watched a cow give live birth and we explored the dairy and pig adventures. The Final day at convention we went and watched some of our own American degree recipients. Our three recipients were Rylee Allee, Madisen Morrow, and Madison Cooley.

Our grasslands team had a very successful season and missed going to state by only one place and with a young team we are looking forward to a successful fall contest.

Every year the FFA members get together and have a Christmas party. We exchange gifts and eat and have a great time connecting but this year we did things a little differently. We did it the normal way but instead of playing games afterwards we had a nerf gun war. Everyone had a great time and it looks like we may have started a new Christmas tradition.

Wreaths across America is all about honoring our veterans and is done nationwide. Every year we go to the cemetery and get the opportunity to listen to an amazing speech spoken by Ralph Butteris. After the speech we honored all the veterans by saying their names aloud and placing a wreath on a hanger beside their grave. The wreaths were sponsored by local community members for \$17 each, a small price to pay for their service and sacrifice. We hope to continue this tradition and community service project for years to come.

We have had an amazing year so far and we can't wait to have many more memories together as an FFA family. We are excited to finish this year with more events and fun opportunities and would like to thank all of our community members for their support in making our chapter a success.



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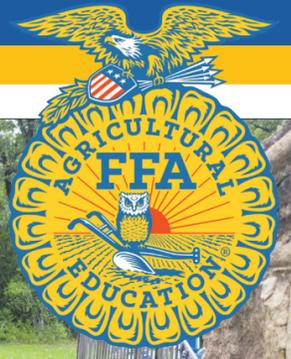
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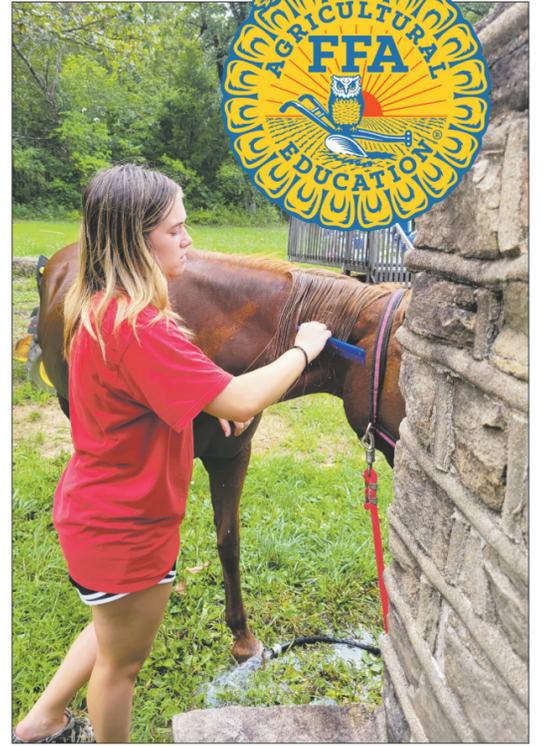
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Stoutland FFA at our Christmas party. We had a nerf gun war and we think that will become a new tradition.



Hanna Glawson brushing her horse's mane for her SAE.



Ethan Claiborn on the ropes course during the Fair Oaks trip while we were at the National FFA convention.



Our advisor, Mr. Lowrance, had an amazing time on the ropes course at Fair Oaks.

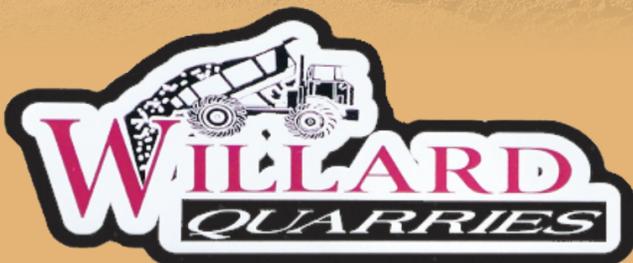


Kaydence Stubblefield was scared to be on the ropes course but later had so much fun.

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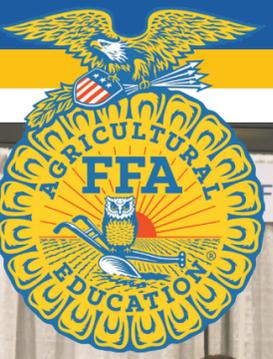
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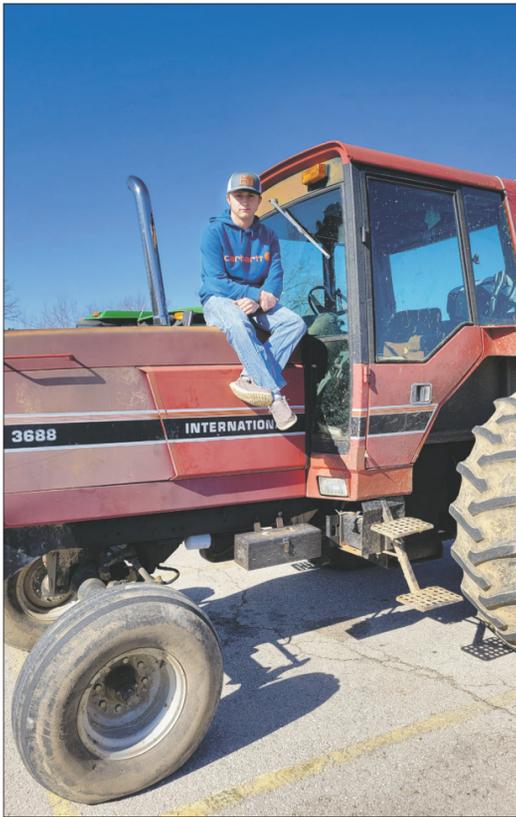
Madisen Morrow and Madison Cooley receive their American degree at the National FFA Convention.



The group that went to the National FFA convention at Fair Oaks explore the dairy cattle.



Shawn Manes and Ethan Claiborn on a boat on a pond while they were at Nationals.



Justin Crabtree brought his tractor for FFA week.



Megan Elinstine teaches kids about tractors during FFA week.



Mallory Shaw is tilling the garden for her cornrows.



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Mallory Shaw and Michael Kincaid participated in the Wreaths across America by placing a wreath on their great grandpa's grave.



Stoutland FFA was proud to take part in Wreaths across America.



Will Morrow sorting beans at Bradford farms for an experiment.



Savannah Chaffin stuck her hand in a cannulated cow at Bradford farms.

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The Nationals group enjoying themselves at the rodeo.



Aliyah Jones cuts the capped honey off the frames to extract her honey.



Some of the FFA members learn how to inseminate a cow.



Harlee Mathews at a grasslands contest.



Shawn Manes at a grasslands contest.

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