

A Special Supplement to the

MONROE ★ COUNTY
HERALD

Monday, February 21, 2022 // 12 pages

NATIONAL
FFA **WEEK**
FEB. 19-26, 2022



**Dedicated to
the area
FFA Chapters
of Sparta,
Tomah, Cashton,
Brookwood & Bangor**

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!

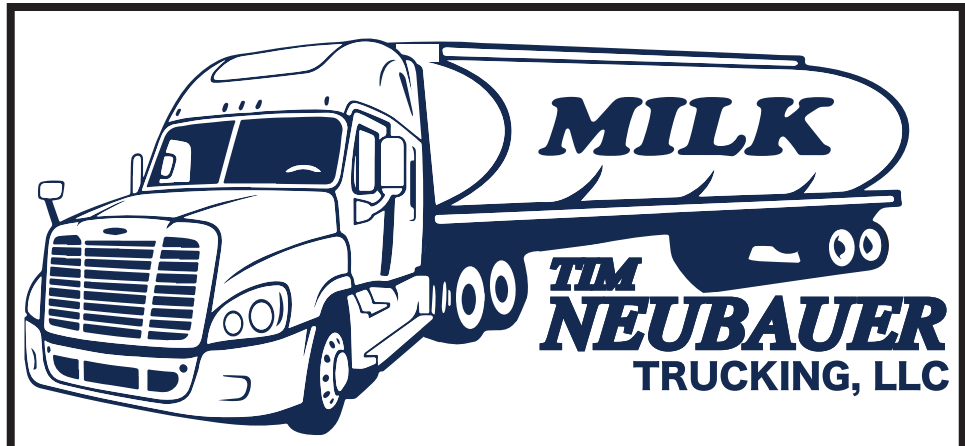
SALUTING... SPARTA FFA



We had our first card party this year. It was a huge success! We played Euchre and 500. Everybody had a lot of fun playing! Please join us for our next card party on February 25, 7PM in the SHS LMC. Contributed photo.



During the trip down to the National FFA Convention, we were able to go on many fun field trips! Here we went to a pumpkin patch, and we were able to go for a tractor ride to get a tour of all of their fields and patches. Top left; President Jaydon Lietzau, Greta Anderson, Reporter; Nathaniel Witherow, Hannah Bloyer, Secretary; Taylor Donskey. Contributed photo.



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We went out to Bangor to have a dodgeball tournament with other local FFA chapters. We beat our losing streak, and brought home second place. Contributed photo.



We are so proud of our FFA members that are advancing to Sectional competitions. Our quiz bowl team got second place. Shade Bunker placed first in Employability Skills and second in Prepared! Congratulations to all individuals! Left to Right are Willow Matson, Blayne Anderson, Shade Bunker, Haydn Leis, and Ella Hagen. Contributed photo.



In September, eighteen high school and middle school FFA members attended sectional leadership workshops. We really enjoyed learning more about agriculture, FFA, and our own leadership potential. Contributed photo.

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WHEN: Friday, February 25 at 7PM

WHERE: SHS Library

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SPARTA



Last fall, several of our FFA meetings were held outside. Contributed photo.



One of our favorite volunteer/community service activities is assisting with the set up of the Sparta Holiday Lights. Ten of our members helped in early November. We look forward to helping out again in the fall. Pictured: Macy Polansky. Contributed photo.



Addison Leis showing her Champion Holstein at the Monroe County Fair. Contributed photo.



FFA
WEEK
 FEB 19-26

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Saluting the FFA and
 All the Members

SALUTING... TOMAH FFA

Tomah FFA year in review

By TOMAH FFA OFFICER TEAM

FFA is an organization offered to grades six through 12, where students can be part of a group that gives back to the community as well as work side by side with them. FFA members have the opportunity to take part in leadership events where they also get to meet people around the country. Our advisers, Emma Huber and Nelda Bailey, work hard to help us gain opportunities and prepare us for the future. This year we have had more than 150 members participating in FFA events.

Events:

- In March we competed in Career Development Events. These events were held virtually due to COVID. We had many of our members in agronomy, ag mechanics, animal and poultry evaluations, vet science and wildlife. It is a great opportunity to learn more about these categories and it is always super fun!

- On May 23, we held our annual FFA Awards Banquet where we presented awards to those who have participated in events throughout the year such as a fruit sale, Leadership Development Events, Distinguished Service Award and Proficiencies.

- The Wisconsin FFA State Convention takes place every June at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. The convention consists of sessions, workshops and more. This event allows FFA members to learn more about FFA as well as meet other members from around the state. Lucas Salswedel and Josie Bailey competed in the Agriscience Fair. Erin Perry and Josie Bailey served as our chapter delegates. Keith Clark, Cody Hall and Emily Powell received their State Degrees. We also had students recognized for their Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs) through proficiency awards. Emmalyn Brandvig was recognized in Ag Sales. Kendyl Hericks was recognized in Sheep Production. Jordan Kuehl was recognized for her SAE in Vegetable Production and Whiney Kuehl was recognized for her Swine Production SAE. Cody Hall was recognized in Forage Production. It was a great week with many of our students being recognized.

- Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull: Many alumni and FFA members sold 50/50 raffle tickets during the tractor pull sessions. In addition, Monroe County FFA chapters were recognized in the truck parade before the session on Friday afternoon. This was a great way to display agriculture to the community and spectators of the tractor pull.

- The Monroe County Fair was July 21-25. A lot of work was put into preparing the fairgrounds. FFA members displayed projects that projected their hard work over the past year. Projects ranged from plants and art to sewing and animal exhibits. Members showed goats, sheep, swine, beef, dairy, chickens, rabbits, llamas and horses. The



Tomah middle school and high school FFA members who attended the Fall Leadership Workshop at Adams-Friendship High School in September. Members attended a series of workshops to learn more about FFA and plan events for the year. Contributed photo.

theme for our FFA chapter last year was, "We are FFA." FFA members decorated their fair boards with the famous blue and gold colors of FFA and agriculture facts. The fair was a great success, with everybody involved having a great time, and gaining a valuable experience.

- Other summer trips included a Milwaukee Brewers game, the Wisconsin State Fair, National Night Out, canoeing down the Kickapoo River, touring New Chester Dairy and Alsum Farms and Produce, and Wilton Bike Trail.

- Members volunteered at the Monroe County Mobile Food Pantry. Volunteers from all over come to the fairgrounds to help the Tomah Lions Club pass out food and help customers get their items to their vehicles. It is a great way for FFA members to get community service hours and help them out when it comes time for scholarships and applications!

Fall activities:

- Twenty-four middle and high school FFA members attended the Sectional Leadership Workshop in Adams-Friendship hosted by the Wisconsin State Officer team. We learned how to communicate more effectively, build leadership skills and serve others. Overall, we learned many abilities that will help us make our FFA chapter better, and it was a very beneficial experience for everyone who attended.

- World Dairy Expo is held every year in Madison. This event displays dairy

TOMAH FFA cont. on pg. 6



Cale Ollendick, Josie Bailey, Kylie Moake, Addy Gerke, Carter Ollendick, Brad Granahan, Lucas Salswedel and Mrs. Huber at the Wisconsin FFA State Convention last July after placing as the State Runner Up for the Conduct of Chapter Meetings Contest. Contributed photo.



Cally Von Haden, Cale Ollendick, Josie Bailey, Brad Granahan, Kylie Moake and Carter Ollendick at the District 8 Leadership Development Event where their Parliamentary Procedure Team took 1st place. They will be moving onto Sectionals in March. Contributed photo.

TOMAH

Continued from pg. 5

production around the world, and helps the community learn more about Wisconsin's leading industry. People from around the world travel to Madison for this educational event to show their cattle and learn about technology coming to the industry. Eleven FFA members participated in judging events from forages to dairy cattle. Erin Perry, Kennedy Noth and Josie Bailey placed as the top Brown Swiss team with Erin Perry being the top Brown Swiss individual. Josie Bailey placed fourth overall in the dairy judging event. This event allowed us to learn more about the dairy industry and how it influences not only our home state, but the rest of the world. Our members that participated in judging dairy products and forages had the opportunity to see products that farms are producing and get a taste of the opportunities the industry offers.

- This year, 10 FFA members (Brad Granahan, Skylar Pierce, Josie Bailey, Kennedy Noth, Kendyl Hericks, Cally Von Haden, Abby Dohman, Carter Ollendick, Lucas Salzwedel and Erin Perry) attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. On our way to Indianapolis, we had the opportunity to visit the Indianapolis Zoo, Epiphany Farms Restaurant, Beasley's Orchard and Dull's Tree Farm. This year receiving their American Degree was Colby VonHaden, Jordan Kuehl and Whitney Kuehl. Lucas Salzwedel placed second in the nation for his cranberry irrigation systems Agriscience Project. While at the National Convention, we had the opportunity to attend

sessions led by the national officer team as well as hear motivational speakers. We met FFA members from all over the nation, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The convention also featured a career show that housed many agricultural businesses and colleges. This was a great way to network with other members and agricultural businesses around the nation. It was a great experience for the members and showed them the impact of FFA across America.

- On Nov. 12, 10 members attended the Mission Impact Conference (Josie Bailey, Kole Peterson, Sandra Hess, Kaden McDonald, Brad Granahan, Morgan Jenson, Carter Ollendick, Maddy Ely, Matthew Coffee, Lucas Salzwedel). Students who attended explored what makes them unique and learned strategies to become a more confident and capable version of themselves. They were exposed to values, strengths, decision-making skills and examples of self-confidence. The Mission Conference culminates in students developing their personal mission statement. The Impact Conference empowers students to define what their impact will be. Students will explore challenges that they face in their communities and strategies they can use to help. In addition, students will explore their values, practice innovative thinking and determine how they can inspire others. The Impact Conference encourages students to create an Impact Plan to inspire change in their community.

- Parli Pro Workshop: Schools attended this workshop to gain more knowledge about parliamentary procedures. Tomah High School hosted this workshop and University of Wisconsin-River Falls set up areas for

students to learn at different levels about what goes into parliamentary procedure. This was a great workshop for students to gain more confidence when competing.

- On Dec. 19, we held a potluck at the Tomah High School where we served food to FFA members and their family members. Officers also talked about their Supervised Agricultural Experiences and hosted a cookie decorating event. The cookies were dropped off at local nursing homes.

- Two FFA members (Erin Perry and Maddy Ely) attended Halftime Conference in Stevens Point. This two-day event was hosted by the State Officer team and featured a variety of workshops. The workshops taught valuable leadership.

- On Feb. 3, Tomah FFA members attended the District 8 Leadership Development Event at Cashton High School. Students competed in speaking events which helped them to step out of their comfort zones and practice public speaking. The Parliamentary Procedure team placed first. Members included Brad Granahan, Kylie Moake, Josie Bailey, Cally Von Haden, Carter Ollendick and Cale Ollendick. The Quizbowl team placed first. Members include Addy Gerke, Kieralynn Tupper, Michael Zastoupil, Brennan O'Rourke and Aidan Hernandez. Other members who competed include Hannah Walters, Madalyn Ely, Izabell Hayes, Kennedy Noth, Morgan Jensen and Taylor Frank.

- On Feb. 18, four members (Kennedy Noth, Kendyl Hericks, Cally Von Haden, Taylor Squires) were to attend the Farm Forum conference to learn about agriculture careers and the new technology that businesses are introducing to farming.

- National FFA Week celebrates the FFA mission: premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. This week is filled with events such as FFA Assembly, leadership activities and dress-up days. This week is a great way to promote FFA in our school and community. Our annual Pancake Supper is our largest event of the year. FFA members were to deliver donuts to local farmers and alumni members as a thank you for all that they do for us on Monday. Join us Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 4:30-7 p.m., for our all-you-can-eat Pancake Supper in the high school cafeteria. We will host a blue and gold lunch for all of our FFA members to end the week of celebration on Feb. 23. On Friday, Feb. 25, we will hold a breakfast for our teachers for appreciation.

FFA is a great opportunity for all students, not just students who are interested in agriculture. There are opportunities to volunteer in the community, develop leadership and speaking skills, and create great friendships with members from across the nation. If you are interested in helping or joining FFA or the FFA Alumni & Supporters, contact Nelda Bailey at 608-372-7964 or Emma Huber at 608-374-7889. You do not have to be a previous FFA member to be an alumni member. You just have to have an interest in helping kids in agricultural education and supporting our youth. All help is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of our advisers and officers, we would like to send out a huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported our chapter in the past year. Thank you for all that you do, you helped make this last year successful, and we can't wait to see what our next year brings.

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SALUTING... BANGOR FFA



TOP Bangor FFA members working at the Community Garden, where everything harvested gets donated to WAFER Food Pantry in La Crosse. Pictured: Logann Sackmaster, Alycia Felch, Rebecca Schaub. MIDDLE LEFT Bangor FFA members at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison while we were at the FFA State convention. Pictured are Alycia Felch, Logann Sackmaster, Dustin Heitkamp, Raeanna Keuler, Alexa Heitkamp. BOTTOM LEFT Bangor FFA members line up to take a shot during FFA Donkey Basketball. Contributed photos



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BANGOR



Jetta Smith suits up to teach 4th graders about dairy farming at our annual Food for America Program. Contributed photo.



Three Bangor FFA members were nominated to perform in the State FFA Honors Chorus. Pictured is Raeanna Keuler performing her solo. Contributed photo.

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**FFA
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SALUTING... BROOKWOOD FFA

Busy year for Brookwood FFA

By SARAH SCHMITZ

Brookwood High School FFA adviser

The Brookwood FFA Chapter moved to an affiliated membership this year, meaning all students in grades nine to 12 who are enrolled in an agriculture course are automatically FFA members. This has provided more in-class opportunities for students to expand their premier leadership, personal growth and career success! Some of the highlights of Brookwood FFA members this year include:

- Attending World Dairy Expo in Madison
- Fall Crops Fair
- Winning the spirit award at Fall Leadership Workshop
- Students attending National FFA Convention in Indianapolis
- Successful Fall Fruit Fundraiser
- Teaching second-graders about dairy farms and dairy products
- Leadership Class assembled and delivered 30 gift buckets to dairy farmers in the NOW School District
- FFA Members delivered fruit baskets to the elderly
- Six FFA members participated in District Leadership Development events
- Numerous Red Cross/Brookwood FFA-sponsored blood drives
- For FFA Week, students will have the opportunity to participate in dress-up days, buy snacks at lunch and compete in agriculture games at an assembly. The FFA will also be sponsoring a staff appreciation breakfast, with the hopes of serving around 100 staff members a delicious and well-deserved breakfast!



Hunter Zimmerman, Caston Gosda, and Braeden Pasch teach 2nd grade students about milking cows. Contributed photo.



Jaden Dreier, Cora Brandau, Emily Powell, Alexis Pasch, and Tim DeWitt attend National FFA Convention where Emily received her American Degree. Contributed photo.



Skylar Hanson, Emily O'Rourke, Payge Clark, Alexis Pasch, Cora Brandau, and Franklin Wildes compete in District Leadership Development Events. Contributed photo.

BROOKWOOD



TOP PHOTO Back Row - Ruth Rivera, Annabelle Brandau, Ava Gruen, Mallory Wallace, Anna Peterson, Miranda Arndt, Johnson Grace, Amiyia Zimbauer, Jocelys Pacheco-Pastrana, Havana Peterson, Tamara Norman; 6th Row - August Rueckheim, Caston Gosda, Carter Arubuckle, Landon Zimbauer, Ty Zinke, Wyatt Hanson, Tyler Winchel, Kylie Brooks, Isabellajean Palladini; 5th Row - Skylar Hanson, Jaqueline Hernandez, Krista Small, Ethan Long, Logan Schaub, Tim DeWitt, Wyatt Maurhoff, Hunter Zimmerman, Maggie Muehlenkamp; 4th Row - Tyana Kaufmann, Ashley Reneau, Mackenzie Powell, Jaden Drier, Matthew Schmitz, Evan Kilinkner, Brady Hansen, Jaydon Koltermann; 3rd Row - Emily O'Rourke, Payge Clark, Caelin Calkins, Alice Weedmeyer, Emily Cunitz, Hannah Myers, Emma Elder, Chance O'Rourke, MaKenzie Woods, Jouse Alcantar, Nate DeWitt, Derek Erdman; 2nd Row - Margarita Silva, Mackenzie Schlafer, Lily Witt, Mikayla McGinnis, Katie Gruen, Autumn Brandau, Kymber Kaiser, Tierra Kaiser, Kristin Berg, Haley Nevin, Payton Havlik; 1st Row - Cora Brandau, Payne Clark, Claire Slattery, Franklin Wildes, Alexis Pasch. Contributed photo.



LEFT PHOTO Front: Alice Wiedmeyer, Emily O'Rourke, Payge Clark, Hannah Myers, Jackie Hernandez Back: Caston Gosdam Braeden Pasch, Hunter Zimmerman, Adam Kinserdahl, and Skylar Hanson delivered gift buckets to area dairy farmers. Contributed photo.

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SALUTING... CASHTON FFA

Cashton FFA: Our Past Year

FFA members at Cashton Middle and High School have once again been busy developing their premier leadership, personal growth and career success. The 2021-22 Cashton FFA is being led by President Emma Leis, Vice President James Hundt, Secretary Kate Gronemus, Treasurer Dylan Kaduc, Reporter Anna Hundt, Sentinel Colton Lee and adviser Kori Blank. Throughout this past year, our chapter has had a lot to be proud of!

In early July, a dozen Cashton FFA members traveled to Madison for the State FFA Convention. While there, our chapter had the following recognition:

Rachel Klinker competed in the Prepared Speaking contest that she had qualified for earlier in the year.

Alyssa Carpenter, Megan Culpitt and Reba Flock participated in the State FFA Honors Chorus.

Our Chapter received a gold rating and qualified for Nationals with our National Chapter Application.

Bonita Hanley, Izzi Mason and Megan Culpitt received their State FFA Degrees.

Megan Culpitt was a finalist in the Star Agribusiness where she received second runner-up.

Izzi Mason received eighth gold in the Dairy Placement Proficiency award.

Megan Culpitt was fourth gold in the Agribusiness Proficiency award.

In October, eight of our members had the opportunity to travel to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Students toured agricultural businesses, some of which included an apple orchard and a Christmas tree farm. Members also participated in workshops, watched sessions and collaborated with other FFA members from around the U.S. While there, Emma Leis and Hailey Compton, represented our chapter on stage to receive our two-star National Chapter Award!

Throughout the year, we have also had the opportunity to attend state leadership conferences, participate in county and state fairs, attend local FFA chapter gatherings such



FFA members are in the process of making tie blankets to donate to the Cashton Cupboard and Closet, pictured are Kate Gronemus, Hunter Kabat, and Colton Lee. Contributed photo.

as Bangor FFA's dodgeball tournament, and host our annual big buck contest, just to name a few. Our chapter also had the opportunity to participate in and host the District 8 FFA speaking contest. Hailey Compton of Cashton

CASHTON FFA cont. on pg. 12

"Cashton Soils Contest"
James Hundt is pictured competing in Cashtons Soil's Judging Contest.
Contributed photo.



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We salute the local FFAs and their members.



Pictured here are our High School FFA Members, L-R, Row 1: Mrs. Kori Blank (Advisor), Colton Lee, James Hundt, Kate Gronemus, and Anna Hundt. 2nd row: Brody Warthan, Gavin Anderson, Dylan Kaduc, Lauren Huntzicker, Marlee Schroeder, Sarah Schroeder, Isabell Korn, Rachel Boisen, Katie Leis, and Lane Klinge. 3rd Row: Hunter Kabat, Chelsie Paulsen, Maddie Schendel, Hailey Brownell, Maria Acosta, Naomi Mason, Grace Leis, Keona Mickelson, and Reba Flock. 4th Row: Brett Hemmersbach, Connor Butzler, Brady Hemmersbach, Grayson Schmitz, Hudson Bethke, Cooper Miller, Henry Brueggen, and Thomas Cummings. 5th row: Zack Mlsna, Colin O'Neil, Esden Schroeder, Jacob Huntzicker, Austin Culpitt, Lincoln Klinge, Chase Olson, and Zach Hirschfield. Contributed photo.

CASHTON

Continued from pg. 12

received first place in the Discussion Meet and will be competing at sectionals in March!

Our members have been busy with community service projects this past year as well. In June, members served ice cream sundaes to our community members in honor of June Dairy Month. In December we donated fruit to our local Angel Trees for families in need. Members are currently working on making tie blankets that they will donate to our local Cupboard and Closet.

As we are inching closer to the end of the school year, we still have a lot of exciting events coming up! Some of which include, Career Development Events, Sectional Speaking Contest, banquet, State Leadership Workshops, Ag Day, State Convention, our annual Casino Night and Action City end-of-year trip.

As we take the week to Celebrate National FFA Week, not only do we take time for our annual fun events such as kiss the mystery animal, pancake breakfast, and donuts for dairy farmers, we also look back and reflect on how thankful we are for all the support we receive. We cannot thank our supporters enough! From purchasing fruit from our annual fruit sale to donations to help fund our events, to helping judge a contest or supervise a trip! We truly appreciate each and every person that has helped us in any shape or form.



Cashton FFA members participated in Bangor FFA's dodgeball tournament. Teammates include: 1st row: Alexa Kabat and Maycee Schmitz 2nd Row: Evelyn Weber, Sophie Lukaszewski, and Payten Pederson. 3rd Row: Rory Mlsna, Brady Wells, Marshal Dunnum, Melodie Johnson, Lauriel Gnewikow, Eugene Gnewikow, and Noemi Velasco-Garcia. 4th Row: Drew Butzler, Trent Gretebeck, Colton Lee, Yubal Vazquez Cenil, and Brent Hemmersbach. Contributed photo.

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FFA Officers Kate Gronemus, Dylan Kaduc, Colton Lee, and Emma Leis pose with their FFA Fall Fest Display honoring 9-11. Contributed photo.



Emma Leis, Anna Hundt, and Kate Gronemus are pictured with one of our Ice Cream Sundae Giveaway Stations in honor of June Dairy Month. Contributed photo.



FFA Officer Team: L to R: Colton Lee - Sentinel, James Hundt - Vice President, Dylan Kaduc - Treasurer, Mrs. Kori Blank - Advisor, Emma Leis - President, Anna Hundt - Reporter, and Kate Gronemus - Secretary. Contributed photo.




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